



The Alliance



Conservation Progress

March 2011

Alliance Annual Meeting September 24

Mark your calendar for September 24, for Texas Conservation Alliance's 2011 Annual Meeting!

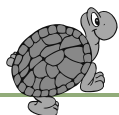
Join us at the Trinity River Audubon Center in Dallas for a wonderful blend of bird watching, outdoor hikes with over 4 miles of nature trails, interesting programs, and other fun!



We will send you details closer to the event.

In the meantime, check out the Center's website...

trinityriveraudubon.org



Track the State Legislature

Situations change fast near the end of the Texas Legislative Session May 31. Read the background on Page 2 and check the Alliance website for updates.

TCAtexas.org/Legislature

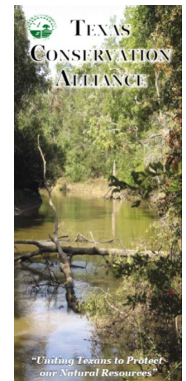
Have you asked your friends to join the Alliance?

Word of mouth is a powerful publicity tool!

Circulate the Alliance's new color brochures.

Email us how many you want.

TCA@TCAtexas.org



Update on Smarter Water

The Alliance's exciting new outreach program - *Smarter Water for North Texas* - is generating a terrific response.

There is enough water in existing lakes to meet the growing demand for the DFW region for at least 50 years.

This message is resonating with the people of North Texas.

Please help us reach a broader audience in the DFW area. To schedule a presentation, contact

Bobette Brasfield, 214-351-5202
bobetteb@airmail.net



Water Bills in the State Legislature

Texas Conservation Alliance will track a number of pieces of water legislation in the 2011 session of the Texas Legislature, which ends May 31.

Prominent will be a complex of bills, HJR 137, HJR 138, HB 3273, SJR 3, and SJR 25, which together give the Texas Water Development Board additional bonding authority and bonding flexibility.

While much of TWDB's funding is used for loans to communities for water and wastewater treatment, the \$6 billion in bonding authority in these bills could be used to support studies or construction of unneeded water supply reservoirs.

Bills which have the potential to restrict boondoggle water projects include SB 148 and SB 368, which put restrictions on eminent domain outside a water district's boundaries.

The Alliance will post alerts on these and other bills at TCAtexas.org/Legislature and see **Call to Action**.

Update on TPWD Budget

The message to Texas Senators remains the same as previously reported (see **Call to Action**).

HB 1301, to allow voluntary donations for state parks, is crucial. Due to the bill's odd structure, if it doesn't pass, an additional \$1.6 million will be taken from state parks.

Texas Governor Rick Perry is a key player for the future of our wildlife and state parks. Contact him with the same messages as for Texas Senators and State Representatives.

How to Find Your Elected Officials

To find your elected officials, go to <http://www.fyi.legis.state.tx.us> and plug in your address.

HB 2558 Would Protect Navasota River

Reps Fred Brown and Lois Kolkhurst have introduced **HB 2558**, to designate a stretch of the Navasota River as a Unique Ecological Stream Segment. This would preclude construction of a reservoir proposed on that segment.

Last spring Texas Conservation Alliance worked with Guardians of the Navasota River to get a 71,000-acre reservoir project called Millican pulled from the State Water Plan. Water from the proposed lake was targeted for the Houston area - a region with many lower-cost, lower-impact options for supplying future demand.

To learn how you can help, see **Call to Action**.



Call to Action

TPWD Budget: Contact your state senator and Governor Rick Perry and urge 3 things:

- 1) Give TPWD maximum flexibility to determine where its budget will be cut,
- 2) Support the House Appropriations Committee recommendations for TPWD, and
- 3) Adopt partial reinstatement of capital budget funding and \$32 million in bond authority for capital repairs.

Contact your legislators and urge support for HB 1301, to allow voluntary donations to state parks.

Navasota River: Contact your state rep and urge support for **HB 2558**. Tell your rep that damming the Navasota would be devastating for the local agribusiness community. And that there are plenty of less costly options for water supply.

Water Bills: Tell your state legislators that taxpayers should not be paying for big water infrastructure projects.

Tell them that there is enough water in existing lakes for municipal use in the eastern two-thirds of the state. The Texas Water Development Board should be encouraging reuse and use of water from existing lakes, not building big new reservoirs.

Prairie Time

"I need more prairie time," three-year-old Natalie White said plaintively as her family drove away from a day on one of the Blackland Prairie remnants northeast of Dallas. So begins *Prairie Time: A Blackland Portrait*, by Paris Junior College historian Matt White, tenth in the Sam Rayburn Series on Rural Life sponsored by Texas A&M University - Commerce.

Unlike the flat wide-open plains of Kansas or west Texas, the Blackland Prairie is a complex patchwork of woods, brushy vegetation, and open grasslands, often growing on rolling hills and ridges. The rich black soils support abundant crops where they once nurtured the incredible diversity of native tall-grass prairie. Unplowed remnants speak of a time when bison and bobwhite quail were common features of the landscape and Carolina parakeets and passenger pigeons traveled in flocks so large they shaded out the sun.

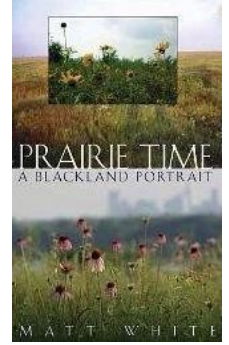


Photo by David Bezanson



Prairie Time is a blend of nature and history, a memorial to an ecosystem that once flourished over more than ten million acres of Texas and is now largely gone, and a joyous tribute to the persistence and hardiness of the remaining samples of prairie plants and prairie culture.

There are surprises in every chapter. The prairie flourishing on White Rock Lake in the heart of Dallas, saved by a determined neighbor. Getting to know the early settlers who came for a freer better life and helped launch a city that now has 2½ million people on an unlikely spot. Learning that Native Americans set prairie fires to hide their tracks from enemies.

Prairies are a mystery to most of us. Matt's book broadened my view of them. I hope you enjoy it as much as I did.

Janice Bezanson

Think Before You Ink

Have you ever printed an email that shot out extra pages of forwarded email addresses or a spreadsheet that printed pages of blank cells? Then check out these tips that will help you save on ink and paper.

After clicking print, most computers will provide a dialog box that displays various options. Included will be a button marked "Properties" or "Preferences". Click on this and you can adjust many printing variables.

- Print in Black Ink only – Generally found under "Color" or "Finishing". Black ink is cheaper than color and the cartridge usually lasts longer.
- Print on Both Sides – Often found on the "Finishing" or "Paper Output" tab. Printing many pages as a booklet will print in landscape mode, front-to-back, like a paperback book. It uses less paper and is easy to carry and read.
- Print Selection – Highlight [left click and drag] what you want to print and then click the 'Selection' button in the printer dialog box. Print just the part you want.
- Print/Save to File – Some programs allow a user to 'print to file' to view the final product and edit.
- Internet Programs. There are programs such as *iPrint* by *InZone* or *GreenPrint* by *PrintGreener* on the internet that allow for deleting excess data and showing a full layout view of what will be sent to the printer.

Print only when necessary. Encourage other members to send us their email addresses to receive newsletters electronically. Share other ink and paper saving tips on the Alliance Facebook page or Tweet @TXConsvAlliance.