



The Alliance



Conservation Progress

2nd Quarter 2011

Alliance Awarded Affiliate of the Year at NWF 75th Anniversary Celebration



Mack Turner, Genie Fritz, Janice Bezanson, and Michael Banks receive the Affiliate of the Year Award flanked by NWF's Craig Thompson and Larry Schweiger.

National Wildlife Federation Celebrates 75th Anniversary

In 1936, Pulitzer Prize-winning political cartoonist J.N. "Ding" Darling launched a campaign to conserve wildlife. His famous editorial cartoon showing an army of hunters, fishermen, garden club members, biologists, and children storming the Capitol helped persuade President Franklin D. Roosevelt to convene a meeting to discuss the plight of the nation's wildlife. Some 2,000 wildlife enthusiasts from across the country united to influence lawmakers.

From that meeting emerged the National Wildlife Federation. Today, 75 years and many successes later, NWF continues to be a leading voice advocating for wildlife and wild places.

With an affiliate organization in virtually every state, NWF combines a national presence with strong grassroots input to help ensure that our children and grandchildren can experience the wonders of nature we enjoy.

Texas Conservation Alliance Needs YOU!

Join us for Texas Conservation Alliance's
2011 Annual Meeting

At the Trinity River Audubon Center, Dallas
September 24!

We promise a good time, good information, and lots of good people to enjoy.



**Details and
Schedule
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Congratulations, NWF!



... from the Board

by Mack Turner
Chairman

Service...

A life of service is the most fulfilling life there is for an individual.

Service can be as simple as greeting a friend or stranger with a smile. Service can be helping a loved one or a co-worker. At Texas Conservation Alliance, we believe that each person reading this is a partner in service with the Alliance.

Our service is to save rivers, forests, coastlines, and other parts of the natural world in Texas.

By your gifts of time and money to the Alliance and to other local conservation groups, you are leading a life of service.

Ponder on this, and realize how much you are truly appreciated. Your fellow Alliance members appreciate you every day. Future generations will be grateful for your service as they watch the swirling eddies of a free-flowing river, hear the scream of a hawk, or experience the cool glades of hardwood forests on a summer's day.

Thank you!

Mack

Alliance "Ambassador" Training



Become an ambassador for *Smarter Water for North Texas*. The Alliance is offering training sessions so you can help spread the word that there is enough

water in existing lakes to meet future water supply demands. Contact the Alliance today to schedule a training session for you and your friends.

Contact the Alliance at
254-681-7489 or
TCA@TCATexas.org to
sign up for the training
session held at the
Alliance annual meeting.



Texas Conservation Alliance Annual Meeting Scheduled

Join us for the 2011 Texas Conservation Alliance Annual Meeting Saturday, September 24, at the Trinity River Audubon Center in Dallas.

Before the annual meeting, Bobette Brasfield, coordinator of *Smarter Water for North Texas*, will teach a session in how to give the *Smarter Water* program to interested groups.

Annual Meeting Schedule

11:30 - 1:45 Training Session *Smarter Water*
Sandwich Lunch Provided
Bobette Brasfield

2:00 - 4:00 Annual Meeting
Featured Speaker TBD
Election of Board Members
Other Big Fun



The Trinity Audubon Center (TRAC) is at 6500 Great Trinity Forest Way (also known as Loop 12)

Before the scheduled meetings, feel free to enjoy TRAC's wonderful exhibits and trails. For details, go to www.TrinityRiverAudubon.org.

Directions: From downtown Dallas, go south on I 45 and exit at Loop 12 East. Go approximately two miles; entrance to TRAC will be on your right.

See you there!

DVDs Available Free!

The Alliance has produced a four-minute DVD with the *Smarter Water for North Texas* message:

There is enough water in *existing* lakes to meet future water demands for the DFW-North Texas area for at least fifty years, including growth!

Help spread this crucial message! Preview and order the video at www.TCAtexas.org. Or contact the Alliance at 254-681-7489 or TCA@TCAtexas.org for your *free* DVD.

Aransas Pathways Innovative Approach to Conservation

Aransas County, the Cities of Rockport and Fulton, the Rockport-Fulton Chamber, area historians, and area conservationists joined forces to create Aransas Pathways, an innovative blend of resource protection and tourism.

Started by Stewardship Aransas, one of Alliance's Member Organizations, and in future to be funded by county hotel and venue taxes, Aransas Pathways showcases historical sites and hotspots for birding, kayaking, fishing, and other nature-related recreation. A system of pathways will link the sites, increasing access and tourist appeal.

Key leaders for the project were Earl and Lonnie Matthew, who head the Alliance's coastal efforts. To learn more about this exciting project, go to

AransasPathways.com.

Gulf Coast Clean-up

At the 25th Annual *Adopt-a-beach Spring* Cleanup, volunteers from across the state picked up more than 120 tons of garbage from Corpus Christi to Galveston, including odd items such as a pair of dentures, a frying pan with eggs still in it, and a bottle of tattoo ink. Typical items like empty soda cans, water bottles, clothing, and beach toys added to the pile.



Results of Texas Legislative Session

State Parks: Thanks to the hard work of key legislators and conservation advocates, no state parks will have to be closed, as was feared when the recent legislative session began. Revenue shortfalls meant major cuts in all government agencies, including Texas Parks and Wildlife Dept. However, the Legislature passed key measures needed to keep state parks functioning and basic natural resource protections in place.

Texas Conservation Alliance Board Member Mike Coker of Tyler was cited as a significant player in the state park funding negotiations. *Thanks, Mike!*

Water Development: The Texas Legislature passed a bill to require consistent counting of water use by cities and other water providers that could help reduce pressure to build reservoirs. Water demand projections used to promote reservoirs are often inflated by projecting off inaccurate counting of current use. Accurate counting would help.

The Legislature also approved a ballot measure for the November election to provide \$6 billion in loans for water supply and water and wastewater treatment infrastructure. Conservationists have expressed concern that some of the funding might be used to promote unneeded reservoirs.



An Undiscovered Treasure

For a decade Texas Conservation Alliance has been saying that the Neches River is "an undiscovered treasure". I've said it over and over myself. When I launched a kayak in the Neches recently and began paddling upstream, I learned anew how true it is.

Towering hardwoods lined the banks. The wind and current made beautiful swirls in the water. The air was fresh with the occasional scent of flowers. Bird voices sang a background symphony and hawks screeched overhead. Herons rose ponderously from the water's edge. Like Richard Donovan's photo above, it is *beautiful!*

Janice Bezanson

The Water Cycle Boogie Goes Round and Round!

Eastfield College Science Club students participating in Texas Conservation Alliance’s College-to-Classroom program met with great enthusiasm from elementary and middle school students this spring. The Eastfield group taught the water cycle, water conservation, and the Water Cycle Boogie!

Our thanks to the family and friends of Rachel Virden Hulscher for funding the College-to-Classrooms program in Rachel’s memory.

View the Water Cycle Boogie online at ww.TCAtexas.org



Texas Conservation Alliance

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***Plan to attend
Alliance Annual Meeting
September 24!***