

TEXAS CONSERVATION ALLIANCE

2021 Summer



RECOVERING AMERICA'S WILDLIFE ACT NEEDS YOUR HELP

The Recovering America's Wildlife Act, H.R. 2773, is reintroduced in both houses of Congress and now has over 85 cosponsors in the house! Supporters feel it has a good chance to pass this session.

H.R. 2773 would devote \$1.4 billion annually to wildlife conservation across the country, over \$50 million per year here in Texas. Texas Parks and Wildlife Department has identified almost 1300 Species of Greatest Conservation Need in Texas. TPWD would distribute these federal funds to organizations, agencies, and private landowners for habitat restoration, land acquisition, research, and education, to stabilize wildlife populations and keep them off the endangered species list.

"The economic benefits of the Recovering America's Wildlife Act are huge," says John Shepperd, from the Texas Foundation for Conservation. "Texas wildlife form the basis of our \$35 billion outdoor recreation industry and provide \$9 billion worth of pollinator services to our agriculture."

YOU CAN HELP. Contact your Member of Congress and urge them to CO-SPONSOR H.R. 2773, the Recovering America's Wildlife Act. To learn how, go to <https://www.tcatexas.org/post/recovering-america-wildlife-act>.



WE ARE TCA
OUR LEGACY. OUR FUTURE.

Janice Bezanson, TCA's senior policy director, says she's spent her 40 years in conservation doing things she didn't know how to do. She began in 1981 as a "starry-eyed" volunteer expecting to type and stuff envelopes. Within a year she was debating the US Forest Service Supervisor on regional TV, then flew to DC to testify for the East Texas Wilderness Bill. "I'd never even traveled alone, much less addressed a congressional committee," says Janice.

As the years passed and her leadership grew, Janice added lobbying, media, and grassroots organizing. Then in the late 1990's came the big request - to be executive director of TCA, responsible for fundraising, staff, and vision, as well as the by-then-familiar issues work. "Here we go again," she thought, "just when I was feeling like I knew what I was doing!"

"I've had an amazing string of mentors," says Janice, "starting with Ned Fritz and encompassing a host of conservation leaders, scientists, public speakers, and business people. Literally thousands of people have been essential contributors to my conservation successes. I'm very grateful."





FROM THE CHAIRMAN MACK TURNER

COME CELEBRATE OUR 50TH REUNION
AT TCA'S ANNUAL MEETING!

You are invited to Texas Conservation Alliance's annual meeting and reunion celebrating TCA's 50th Anniversary: October 23, 2021, 12 - 4 pm at the beautiful Texas Freshwater Fisheries Center in Athens, Texas.

You'll enjoy a FREE buffet lunch, a silent auction, a tram tour of the Fisheries Center, TCA conservation reports, and a very special speaker, Dr. Andrew Sansom. It will be a wonderful day ending with a rousing toast to TCA's fabulous 50 years! Please [RSVP](#) to help us plan for catering.

The engaging and highly-acclaimed Andy Sansom has served as executive director of both the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department and the Texas Nature Conservancy. He is a published author and writer of many conservation articles, and has been awarded the Chevron Conservation Award, The Chuck Yeager Award, The Pugsley Medal, and the Seton Award from the International Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies. Learn more about Andy [here](#).

We will also recognize TCA's member organizations and partners, who play a crucial role in accomplishing TCA's mission to protect wildlife and wildlife habitats. Check out TCA's partners on our website under "[Member Orgs](#)".

We'll see you in Athens, October 23!



CONSERVATIONISTS & LOCAL INTERESTS ORGANIZING AGAINST MARVIN NICHOLS RESERVOIR

Promoters of the Marvin Nichols Reservoir claim it takes thirty years to get a reservoir permitted and built, and they've moved the timeline for completion forward to 2050. This sounds like the project is about to move. In response, conservationists, landowners, timber industry reps, and other community leaders have launched a new initiative to [Stop Marvin Nichols](#).

Marvin Nichols Reservoir would permanently flood 66,000 acres of prime bottomland hardwood forest and ag land, force thousands of Texans to sell their land and hundreds to watch their homes destroyed, and cause a huge negative impact on the economy of Northeast Texas. At least 80% of the water would be piped 100 to 170 miles to the DFW area.

TCA Vice Chair Richard LeTourneau and Policy Director Janice Bezanson are in the thick of opposing this unnecessary reservoir.

"There are so many better ways DFW could get future water," says Richard. "Municipal water recycling would be the best way. Additional water conservation is another. And there are existing reservoirs - Lake Texoma and Toledo Bend - with a lot more water available than Marvin Nichols would provide."

To learn more about Marvin Nichols Reservoir, go to <https://www.tcatexas.org/post/marvin-nichols-reservoir>.

RSVP for TCA's Annual Meeting & 50th Reunion

We'll celebrate in Athens, Saturday, October 23, 12 - 4 pm with Dr. Andy Sansom as our keynote speaker. Join your conservation family for a free buffet lunch, listen to updates on TCA initiatives, raise a toast to TCA, and hop on the tram for a tour of the Texas Freshwater Fisheries Center. We hope to see you there!

Please [RSVP](#) to help with the catering for your FREE lunch!

TCA SUCCESSES

PARTNERING ACROSS THE STATE

Texas Conservation Alliance is proud to be the state affiliate of the National Wildlife Federation, a leader in the Texas Alliance for America's Fish and Wildlife, and a member of Texan by Nature. Like us, these wonderful organizations are committed to the continued protection and preservation of wildlife and wild places in Texas.

In 2007, Janice and Mack launched TCA's member organization program which has grown to an

amazing 50 organizations. A diverse array of groups are represented from both rural and urban regions and with focus areas including wildlife, woods, water, land, sea, sporting, and more. TCA Alliance members share information, collaborate, and support each other's efforts. They represent a powerful network of non-profits committed to protecting wildlife and wild habitats. Learn more about all 50 TCA member organizations and how you can connect at tcatexas.org/member-orgs.



TCA is seeking 50 conservation champions to join the TCA 50 Support Circle. A special gift of \$1,000 or above helps train and equip TCA troops in the trenches protecting Texas rivers, forests, and wildlife.

TCA 50 SUPPORT CIRCLE FOUNDING MEMBERS

- Genie Fritz
- Mack Turner
- Catherine Turner
- Janice Bezanson
- Richard LeTourneau
- Peggy Carr
- Richard & Bonnie Donovan
- Mary A. Van Kerrebroek
- Steve Bender & GERALYN HOEY
- Tom Craddock
- Jim & Jane Shouse
- Susan B. Schmidt
- Allyn & Cliff Dukes
- Earl & Lonnie Matthew
- Lydia Saldaña
- David & Wendy Todd
- Sondra Wilson
- Ellen Buchanan

Become a TCA 50 founding member and help build a pipeline of emerging conservation leaders for our next 50 years. Join the TCA 50 at tcatexas.org.

ADOPT AND PROTECT TEXAS WILDLIFE!

Adopt a cool Texas critter and be proud you're helping protect and restore wildlife habitat across the Lone Star State!

For \$25 your Adoption Kit includes:

- Certificate of Adoption
- Fun Facts
- Plushie



ADOPT TODAY AT
TCATEXAS.ORG/SHOP



INTERNSHIP DETAILS

TCA offers 10-week internships every semester. The deadline to apply for the fall semester is August 28, 2021. Spring 2022 applicants must apply by February 5, 2022. TCA internships require approximately 10 hours of service each week, including occasional weekends. TCA hosts interns across the state and most work is conducted remotely with weekly professional development sessions and check-in meetings with staff mentors. TCA requires applicants be at least 18 years of age and be eligible to work in the U.S.

For an application or to learn more, email TCA Wildlife Habitat Restoration Manager, Mei Ling Liu at Meiling@tcatexas.org.

WANTED: FALL & SPRING INTERNS

Know a college student who is passionate about protecting Texas wildlife and their habitats? Send them our way! Texas Conservation Alliance is seeking college students to join our team and help address the most pressing threat to Texas wildlife today – the loss and degradation of habitat.

Our internships offer emerging conservation leaders work experience protecting and restoring Texas rivers, forests, and endangered prairies. Interns apply acquired academic knowledge to real work experiences in an encouraging and supportive environment focused on professional development and meaningful deliverables. TCA interns explore conservation career paths, build professional networks, learn about TCA, and gain valuable work experience toward a career in conservation.

PROTECT TEXAS WILDLIFE FOR FUTURE GENERATIONS

Her Future Can Be Your Legacy



For more information on TCA Legacy Giving and how you can help secure our next 50 years, e-mail janice@tcatexas.org