

TEXAS CONSERVATION ALLIANCE



JOIN US FOR TCA'S ANNUAL MEETING, OCTOBER 23 - ONLINE

Fifty years ago, TCA began with the bold mission of protecting Texas wildlife and their habitats. With extinction rates now up to 1000 times the natural rate, our mission has never been more important than it is today. Thanks to the vision of our founders, Ned and Genie Fritz, and to supporters like you, TCA has built a remarkable record of accomplishment by engaging local communities to protect Texas rivers, forests, and endangered prairies, and to safeguard the remaining lands and waters our wildlife need to survive. Congratulations to you, our TCA family, for conserving so much of our wild and beautiful state and for 50 years of hard-fought success.

We'll celebrate TCA's 50 years and look ahead to 50 more at the TCA Annual Meeting, October 23, 10-11:30 AM on Zoom. Our keynote address will be by Dr. Andy Sansom, author, professor, and renowned Texas conservationist. We are honored to have him and you won't want to miss what he has to say. We'll recognize TCA member organizations, and raise a toast to TCA past, present, and future.

In the interest of public health, TCA's Annual Meeting will again be virtual this year. It's easy to join in from anywhere. Join us Saturday, October 23, 10-11:30 AM. RSVP for Zoom and call-in details at <https://www.tcatexas.org/tca-events>.



Susan Petersen, TCA's longest serving board member, says that volunteering for TCA is the source of constant surprises. Susan started her volunteer career in the 1970s when Ned Fritz sent her to a hearing on having wilderness areas in East Texas where she found herself in a breakout group full of people hostile to the project. Then he had her working with a state legislative aide to draw boundaries for a proposed state park (on land she'd never seen!) and testifying before the President's Commission on the American outdoors.

Over the years Susan has become a seasoned conservationist, serving as secretary, vice chair, and several years as chairman of TCA, taking on the heavy lifting of helping manage a successful non-profit organization.

Reflecting back on TCA's 50 years history, Susan says that the thing that is foremost in her mind is that the issues just keep coming. "That's why TCA's staying power and focus have been so essential for the past 50 years - and will be just as important in the coming decades."





FROM THE CHAIRMAN MACK TURNER

HELP CELEBRATE 50 AMAZING YEARS!

At TCA's Annual Meeting October 23, you're invited to join us for a toast honoring 50 years of conservation successes by TCA members, staff, and partners.

Founded by Ned and Genie Fritz, TCA has a remarkable record of success, much of it accomplished by volunteers in grassroots coalitions. TCA played crucial roles in designation of the Big Thicket National Preserve, the Neches, Little Sandy, Caddo Lake, and Trinity River National Wildlife Refuges, the Great Trinity Forest, and other public wildlife lands. Our efforts ended clearcutting on hundreds of thousands of acres of national forests in the Southeast. We've kept 125,000 acres of prime habitat from being drowned under unnecessary reservoirs. And we've recruited thousands of conservationists and advised dozens of citizen groups.

Dr. Andrew Sansom, former director of Texas Parks and Wildlife Department, The Nature Conservancy, and Meadows Center for Water and the Environment, has been a decades-long friend of conservation and of TCA. He'll be on hand as our keynote speaker to help celebrate our 50th Anniversary.

We're hoping you'll join us via Zoom, and raise a virtual toast together. Please RSVP at tcatexas.org/tca-events for details to join our meeting online.

We hope to see you Oct 23 on Zoom!



TCA HELPS SAVE 70 ACRES IN OUR WILD AND BEAUTIFUL NATIONAL FORESTS

Larry Shelton, TCA's National Forest Policy Coordinator, met with the Forest Service, Sabine River Authority (SRA), and a representative of the Sierra Club to review progress on two separate projects proposed under a marina and resort development permit. This permit would have allowed for development of 70 additional acres at the existing Haley's Ferry Boat Ramp and up to 450-acres at a new El Camino Real (ECR) site in the Sabine National Forest. The first phase for ECR would include a fishing tournament facility for up to 3,000 people and later, possibly a private resort.

70 Acres of National Forest Saved

After a field trip and discussions, the SRA agreed to drop the 70-acre expansion of undeveloped National Forest from their proposal and instead perform improvements to the existing Haley's Ferry facility. SRA reported that they are dropping any plans for future expansion at that site and they aim to have a draft environmental assessment out for public comment sometime in October. This is a best-case scenario, from a conservation standpoint, and TCA has gained recognition for reasonable collaborative efforts and ultimate support of the compromise proposal.

Upcoming TCA Events

- Oct 23 TCA Annual Meeting
- Nov 6 Restore Urban Prairie at Twelve Hills Nature Center
- Dec 11 Plant Longleaf Pines at Big Thicket National Preserve

www.tcatexas.org/tca-events



TCA SUCCESSES

STOPPING UNNECESSARY DAMS

Among TCA's successes have been the coalitions we organized to prevent construction of unnecessary reservoirs, and the tremendous environmental, economic, and social harm they cause.

By the late 1980's Texas had overbuilt the amount of reservoir storage capacity needed for water supply, but vested interests who benefitted financially from constructing reservoirs kept trying to build more. Conservationists, landowners, sportsmen, timber interests, and community leaders began pushing back against unnecessary reservoir projects - and TCA led coalitions that stopped several of them.

The result has been protection of some of the highest-quality wildlife habitat in the state, including the finest old-growth bottomland hardwood forest in the state and almost 10,000 acres in the Neches River National



Wildlife Refuge.

TCA recently launched a new coalition to fight the largest reservoir proposed in fifty years, Marvin Nichols Reservoir on the Sulphur River. Marvin Nichols would permanently flood 66,000 acres of prime bottomland habitat, displace thousands of Texans, and impact the economy of a multi-country region. To help, sign the petition at PreserveNortheastTexas.org.

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.

Join today at tcatexas.org



- Genie Fritz
- Mack Turner
- Catherine Turner
- Janice Bezanson
- Richard LeTourneau
- Peggy Carr
- Richard & Bonnie Donovan

TCA 50 SUPPORT CIRCLE FOUNDING MEMBERS

- 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
- Gary Barton
- Mike Coker
- David Gibson
- John Hirschi
- Edward Westmeyer
- Bob Boggus
- John Maxstadt
- Ben Jones
- Suzy Gekiere
- David Gray & Nancy Bateman
- Kip & Sharon Tindell
- Julie Bates
- Katherine Greene

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

HELP SAVE WILD TEXAS DEER FROM CWD

BY JOHN SHEPPERD

Chronic Wasting Disease (CWD) is an always-fatal nervous system disease found in deer, moose, and elk, causing weight loss, stumbling, listlessness, and other neurologic symptoms before eventual death. It has no cure or treatment. This past March, Texas experienced an outbreak in the captive deer breeding network, potentially exposing tens of thousands of deer to the disease. Halting the spread of CWD is crucial because it will affect deer populations, hunter participation, and is known to persist in the environment for years once established.

Texas Parks and Wildlife Department (TPWD) imposed emergency rules in June, and the TPWD Commission will vote on permanent regulations in November. Part of the emergency rules require all whitetail deer to be tested for CWD prior to moving them from one location to another. It is common practice within the industry to move deer from breeding pens to different locations around the state where they are released for hunting. Many deer breeders actively oppose the emergency rules and seem likely to continue their opposition as the

Texas Parks and Wildlife Commission explores different strategies to contain the disease.

Deer hunting is an enormous economic driver in Texas, especially for rural communities and landowners, contributing more than \$2 billion annually to the Texas economy. For decades, hunters have contributed money toward wildlife habitat conservation through purchases of licenses and gear. If the spread of CWD is not contained, the negative impact to the Texas deer herd, and to its hunters, businesses, landowners, and conservation funding, cannot be overstated.

Texas Conservation Alliance joins conservation groups across the state in supporting TPWD in its efforts to stop the spread of CWD. Please communicate your support for long-term rules to address this grave threat by signing the online petition [here](#) encouraging the Commission to adopt strong, science-based rules to stop the spread of CWD in Texas. Contact John Shepperd [here](#) for more information.

TCA Board Member John Shepperd serves as executive director of the Texas Foundation for Conservation.

PROTECT TEXAS WILDLIFE FOR FUTURE GENERATIONS

Their 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