

TEXAS CONSERVATION ALLIANCE



2021 Spring

LET'S GO LIGHTS OUT FOR WILDLIFE

TCA IS PROUD TO CO-LEAD A STATEWIDE EFFORT TO SAVE MIGRATORY BIRDS

One of nature's most extraordinary spectacles is taking flight and your help is needed to ensure it happens without a hitch. Spring migration peaks April 19 to May 7, when up to two billion birds soar back into North America through Texas. Our Lone Star sky becomes a bird superhighway for this semi-annual great migration. Some species fly thousands of miles every spring and fall. Trans-Gulf migrants, like hummingbirds, fly over the Gulf of Mexico on a 17-hour nonstop flight. It's an amazing feat, especially considering they weigh less than a French fry. Bird migration is a natural phenomenon that knits our hemisphere more closely together than anything else, not even weather compares.

Most bird species migrate at night when temps are cooler and predators less prevalent. Unfortunately, birds are attracted to artificial light which confuses and lures them down from high elevations into bright cities where hazards abound. It is hard to believe, but we lose as many as one billion birds to collisions with walls and windows in the US every year. It's the second highest cause of bird mortality behind feral cats. Light seems to be the main culprit as studies show the amount of light a building emits is the key predictor of bird collision, even more so than height.

Here's where you come in - Join TCA to go Lights Out for Wildlife this spring by dimming all non-essential lighting from 11 PM to 6 AM, April 19 to May 7. You'll help restore the night sky from light pollution and create a safer migration corridor for billions of birds. Go **Lights Out for Wildlife**, spread the word, and certify your home, business, or building at <https://www.tcatexas.org/lights-out-texas>. It's fun, it feels good to save wildlife, and it's free!



WE ARE TCA
OUR LEGACY. OUR FUTURE.

Michael Revels joined TCA in 2010. As executive assistant, Michael manages the TCA website, membership databases, and newsletter production, including graphic design.

Over his 11 years of service, Michael considers TCA as all about, "keeping the wild places wild." He recalls a hiking trip with his young nephew where they witnessed a hawk swoop down from the tree line, disappear into tall grass, and emerge with a large snake gripped in its talons. "It was one of those surprise moments we'll never forget and I'm glad we're fighting for wild experiences like these."

If his nephew can still experience the sights and sounds of wild nature over the next 50 years and witness wildlife in action, then Michael will consider his work a job well done. "Protecting wildlife and wild places for future Texans is what it's all about, and no one is doing it better than Texas Conservation Alliance."

LIGHTS OUT FOR WILDLIFE



FROM THE CHAIRMAN
MACK TURNER

As I reflect on TCA’s 50th Anniversary, I realize we reached that milestone because of the long line of exceptional leaders who have stepped forward to work for TCA, serve on our board of directors, and volunteer to lead programs. It is crucial for the future of TCA, and the future of conservation in Texas, that we keep that pipeline of leadership flowing with quality professionals ready to step in when seasoned veterans retire, move on, or simply need a day off.

To strengthen TCA’s staffing and develop future leaders, TCA is establishing the TCA 50 Circle of Support. You’ll learn more about the initiative in the adjacent article. Support from this special circle of people will underwrite internships and apprenticeships, nurture future staff, and position TCA for success across the next 50 years.

I’m very grateful to you for being a member of TCA. Over 50 years, your support has brought us to where we are today. Now, I encourage you to consider joining me as a member of the TCA 50.



THE TCA 50 SUPPORT CIRCLE
STAFFING STRENGTH FOR THE NEXT 50 YEARS

Three key components arise when reflecting on TCA’s 50 years of extraordinary accomplishment.

- 1) Your Support – TCA would be nowhere without you, our committed conservation family.
- 2) Passionate Leadership – The TCA board of directors makes everything possible.
- 3) Dedicated Staff – TCA staff exemplify decades of dedication protecting Texas’ wildlife and wilderness.

Because we are unique - no one does what TCA does - it’s essential we deepen our bench and engage emerging conservation leaders in our areas of expertise. Our long-term success and TCA’s future depend on it.

To ensure talented leadership succession over our next 50 years, we are launching the TCA 50 Circle of Support.

The TCA 50 will underwrite paid internships, apprenticeships, and partnerships with Texas universities. TCA staff will mentor program participants, support them in their growth and professional development, and provide on the job training in the trenches protecting Texas rivers, national forests, and imperiled wildlife.

To make this program possible, we are seeking 50 conservation champions to invest \$1000 in TCA’s future by becoming the TCA 50. Mack Turner, Janice Bezanson, Richard LeTourneau, Susan Schmidt, Mary Van Kerrebrook, and Peggy Carr have stepped forward as founders. You can join them by mailing a check or donating through the support page of the TCA website. In appreciation, you’ll receive a special TCA 50 lapel pin, a cap, and TCA 50 program updates and invitations. To learn more, contact Janice at 512-327-4119, janice@tcatexas.org or Ben at 214-683-5824, ben@tcatexas.org.

For 50 years, Texas Conservation Alliance has been a force for conservation in Texas and beyond. Today, we celebrate TCA's amazing work to protect our national forests.

It began with Ned Fritz, whose landmark lawsuit to protect endangered red-cockaded woodpeckers ended clearcutting in national forests in Texas. Ned drafted legislation that created five wilderness areas in Texas, garnered protection for the beautiful Longleaf Ridge area, and organized a national network of forest activists. His decades of national forest work led to more ecosystem-based management of national forests throughout the country.

TCA's Larry Shelton continues that legacy. Larry's collaboration with the US Forest Service has resulted in thousands of acres of old-growth forest and other sensitive habitats being excluded from logging. TCA is currently nominating three exceptional national forest areas for protected status and in the coming year will provide detailed input on all management activities on Texas' four national forests.



TCA SUCCESSES SAVING FORESTS



TAKE ACTION TCA EVENTS

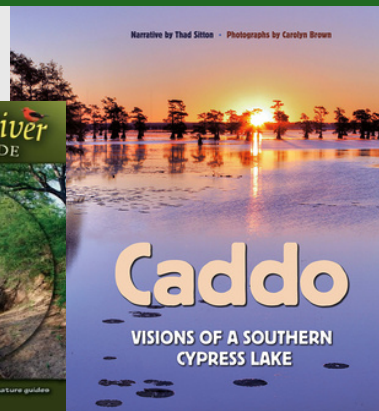
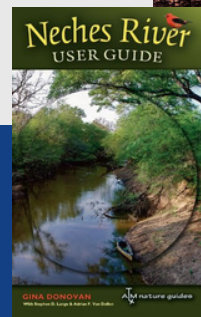
RSVP at TCA's website under Events and check back often for more opportunities to restore wildlife habitat and celebrate 50 years of TCA!

- April 19 to May 7, 11 PM – 6 AM: Lights Out for Wildlife. Dim all non-essential lighting to save birds through peak spring migration.
- April 23, 9 AM – 12 PM: Restore wildlife habitat in Houston's Hermann Park in partnership with the Hermann Park Conservancy.
- April 24, 10 AM – 2 PM: Soak up the beauty of the forest on a guided hike in the Sabine National Forest with Larry Shelton.
- April 28, 12 PM - 1 PM: Enjoy a TCA Lunch & Learn for the latest news on Recovering America's Wildlife Act from Rachel Rommel.
- May 11, 9 AM – 12 PM: Help band red-cockaded woodpecker chicks with Donna Work at W.G. Jones State Forest.
- May 13, 9 AM – 12 PM: Help band red-cockaded woodpecker chicks with Donna Work at Fairchild State Forest.
- May 15, 10 AM – 2 PM: Go on a walk in the beautiful woods of Davy Crockett National Forest with Larry Shelton.
- May 22, 8:30 AM – 12 PM: Monitor for Monarch butterfly activity and help restore the Trinity River in Dallas.
- June 5, 8 AM – 11 AM: Restore pollinator habitat with Friends of the Warren Ferris Cemetery in Dallas.
- June 12, 8:30 AM – 12 PM: Restore a pocket prairie and pollinator habitat at Trinity River Audubon Center in Dallas.



**Get these gifts and others
for the conservationist in your life!**

TCATEXAS.ORG/SHOP





TAKE IT OFFSHORE

Endangered whooping cranes are among the thousands of species of fish, waterfowl, shorebirds, songbirds, invertebrates, and native mammals that will take a hit if supertanker loading docks and a desalination plant are built on Harbor Island. The Port of Corpus Christi is pushing for projects that could be devastating to Gulf Coast bays and estuaries and heavily impact the tourism economy of the region. The Port and its partners are proposing to 1) dredge 13 miles of the Corpus Christi Ship Channel to 80 feet deep, 2) construct a \$1 billion crude oil loading facility, 3) build a desalination plant that would discharge hyper-saline water into fragile bay habitat, and 4) add pipelines, storage tanks, and other facilities. A single oil spill would devastate fish and wildlife habitats all along this stretch of coast. Even if no spill occurs, the impacts will be significant – lost habitat, increased turbidity, dredge spoil, erosion and sediment suspension, and disruption of wildlife movements.

THERE IS A SIMPLE SOLUTION - TAKE IT OFFSHORE!

A safer option would be to pipe the brine from the desal plant miles out into the Gulf and move the other projects offshore. This simple change would solve the bulk of the problems - no further dredging, no brine in the fresher water of the bay and estuaries, and protection of the pristine coastal ecosystems.

WHAT YOU CAN DO: Sign up for updates and action alerts at <https://texascoastalcoalition.com/take-action>

His Future Can Be Your Legacy

PROTECT TEXAS WILDLIFE FOR FUTURE GENERATIONS



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