
Natural Area Preservation Association, Inc.
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Dallas, TX 75209

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A SABINE RIVER PRESERVE

NAPA rarely finds it necessary to purchase land. Of the 20 preserves only three have been purchased. The remainder have been donated by landowners. From this fact, you can know that we never consider a purchase unless the land is ecologically significant and cannot be obtained in any other way.

Such is the case with a 179 acre tract of mixed pine and hardwood with frontage on the Sabine River. The acreage is south of Hawkins and directly across the Sabine from the Little Sandy National Wildlife Refuge. It is about a third old growth bottomland, and it is a jewel with towering black gum, many hickories of enormous size, sweet gum and countless oak species. The Parks and Wildlife Foundation is also considering acquiring a several thousand acre strip upstream from this tract, and several private landowners downstream may give conservation easements to PWF. If all of this came about, it would provide an impressive strip of preserved woods and excellent security against any more designs on the land by the Sabine River Authority. Even though the court ruled in our favor against their proposed reservoir that would have flooded the 3,800 acre wildlife preserve, privately owned land is hardly safe from desecration.

The landowner has had an offer from a timber company, but does not want them to have it if the land can be preserved. She has offered NAPA the land for \$90,000 (a very reasonable \$505 per acre) and is willing to give a one year option for us to raise the money.

If 90 people give \$1,000, or if 180 people give \$500 we can keep this unique ecosystem from going to a timber company. For each acre gift, we'll place a designated name on

a permanent memorial to be erected at the preserve, and we'll count every gift of \$50.00 or more to cover your annual dues.

This land needs preservation
LET'S DO IT

AND NOW ABOUT YOUR DUES.....

NAPA members pay dues at various times during the year so we hesitate to flatly declare that everybody owes dues *right now*. However, if you haven't paid dues this year, now is the time. With most of us, the good intention that is put off until tomorrow seldom gets done, so even if you can't afford a larger donation for the Sabine Preserve, send your \$25 membership renewal today. It will be put to good use! How many new members can you recruit this year?

Remember to renew your gift memberships.

TEXAS INSTRUMENTS MATCHING GRANTS

In the spring newsletter we announced that a donor who works for TI nominated NAPA for the Texas Instruments Foundation Matching Gifts Program. The Foundation's rules require donations and nomination from five employees before we can obtain status. We now have three nominations. We need two more members or friends to contribute \$25 or more in order for us to meet this requirement and receive matching grants from now on. It will also make us eligible for TI general grants.

Every department secretary at TI has these forms, so if you are an employee there, please sign one of these forms and send it along with your donation to 4144 Cochran Chapel Road, Dallas, Texas 75209.

KELLER SPRINGS PRESERVE

A NEW URBAN BOTTOMLAND HARDWOOD PRESERVE

Through the generosity of Mrs. Lucille G. Murchison, NAPA now has a Conservation Easement on four acres of lovely wooded land on White Rock creek near Westgrove and Preston Trails. Undeveloped natural areas are rare in the big city, and Mrs. Murchison wanted to be sure that no future event would deface this beautiful strip of hardwoods that follow along the creek. There are pecan, bur oak, Shumard oak, cedar elm, willow and many other species that are native to the area, and when you add in a little waterfall, it is truly a serene setting. Members of the stewardship committee are J.V. Smith, Sandra Penz, Dr. Campbell Read, Dr. Harold Laughlin, Katherine Goodbar, John Lawrence, D. Michael Redden, Mark Mitchell, and Tom Cantrill

Our gratitude goes to Mrs. Murchison for her foresight and generosity in granting this easement.

THANKSGIVING

While we are giving thanks this year for food, shelter, and loving families, we also give thanks for people who love their land enough to want it preserved forever. We give thanks for all of the land stewards who watch over the land with great concern, and we give thanks for those special people who volunteer the special services that keep us going.

ELLEN HOPKINS is one of those special people. She takes many hours of time from her busy office to pull my disorganized copy into a print-ready form for this newsletter. It is a sacrifice of her scarce leisure and we truly appreciate it. And our thanks to **JANELL MORGAN** who continues to prepare our tax report in her free time, and deep gratitude to **GENIE FRITZ** who keeps our membership list in good order.

8 COUNTRY REPORTER VISITS THE GLADES

About ten years ago 8 Country Reporter with Bob Phillips filmed and reported on The Glades with Ned Fritz leading the way. This was soon after Trammel Crow had given us the easement on his fresh water swamp. Bruce Bierman from Phillips Productions was reviewing some old programs and wondered what had happened to the land in the last ten years.

Early in November, Ned Fritz and Edith Hoyt from the NAPA board met Bruce and his crew of photographers at the The Glades for a walk through. Scott Riddle, Glades manager, and David Sierra of Parks and Wildlife went along. They found that very little had changed in ten years. The huge trees at the edge of the swamp were ten years taller, some straight line winds had felled a few of the giants, the swamp grass was more dense, a few shrubs had invaded the swamp, but except for beaver damage, the area looked much as it had before. Recent rains had brought the water level too high to wade, so a drive around to the back side was rewarded by the discovery of creeping spot flower, an aquatic polygonom with a five foot long stem and other plants not on the current inventory.

Watch for the show if you are in the Channel 8 viewing area. If it is aired before the January 13 annual meeting, it will be taped and shown at the meeting.

A GIFT TO WOODVILLE

In the last newsletter we announced the gift of 70 acres of wooded land by Mrs. and Mrs. J. H. McAfee. A recent letter from Mr. McAfee says that he would like for this nature preserve to be designated as a gift to the people of the Woodville area in honor of the McAfee Family with the hope that it will significantly benefit Woodville area residents for a long time to come. Mr. McAfee's niece, Megan Biesele, is forming a stewardship team and working on a long range management plan.

