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Katherine Goodbar, Editor

NATIONAL INVASIVE SPECIES COUNCIL FORMED

In the Fall 1999 issue of the NAPA News you read an article concerning the great damage caused by alien invasive species. It is gratifying to learn that a National Invasive Species Council has now been formed to draft an Invasive Species Management Plan.

"Invasive plant and animal species pose very real threats to America's natural heritage and our economic future," said Interior Secretary Bruce Babbitt. "This new draft federal plan sets out our efforts to address the environmental, ecological, and human health impact of invasive species.

Invasive species are non-native species that become established in new habitats and cost the U.S. economy over \$100 billion each year. Invasive species include weeds that outcompete native grasses and affect agricultural production; aquatic plants that can shut out sunlight in waterways; pathogens like the West Nile virus spread by native mosquitoes; and tallow trees that threaten much of our southern forest.

The management plan includes recommendations to improve coordination and leadership; enhance control and management efforts; speed detection and response to recent infestations; enhance international cooperation; support efforts with research; enhance education and outreach programs, and improve prevention efforts.

NATIONAL FOREST REFORM RALLY VISITS WINTERS BAYOU.

Environmentalists from across the nation gathered at the Chain of Lakes Conference Center, northeast of Houston, on September 15-17 for the 14th Annual National Forest Reform Rally.

Many workshops were offered on some extremely serious topics, but we could not pass up the opportunity to show off some of our own most beautiful land. The list of "most beautiful" begins with Winters Bayou.

James Jackson met the sizeable caravan of visitors that had evidently already heard about the wonders of this preserve. They were not disappointed. James led one of the best field trips that we have ever heard him give, leading the group to all parts of the preserve and explaining the ecological factors and identifying plants. Throughout the trip we kept hearing visitors say such things as "amazing" "remarkable" "a real treasure"...things that we already knew!

MARK YOUR CALENDAR NOW

The NAPA annual meeting will be held on January 20, 2001 at The Heard Museum in McKinney. What a lovely spot to gather! The finance meeting will begin at 12:00 noon while the rest of us walk The Heard's fine nature trails. The membership meeting will begin at 1:30 with a reception at 4:00. NAPA annual meetings are always interesting, informative and fun. You surely wouldn't want to miss this one!

STEWARDSHIP COORDINATOR RECEIVES AWARD

By Sandy Penz

NAPA is very proud of our national conservation award winner—Katherine Goodbar! Katherine is a winner of the 2000 Chevron Corporation Conservation Award. Ned Fritz and Janice Bezanson, both former winners, were among those nominating Katherine for the honor. The award is given annually for outstanding volunteer dedication to the conservation of natural resources.

In late August Katherine and her three children traveled to New Orleans where she was presented with her award at a very special banquet. Several others also received awards—one municipality, three professionals and one other volunteer. Several weeks before the presentation ceremony Katherine was video taped at our Kachina Prairie Preserve for part of the evening ceremonies.

The Conservation History Association of Texas also video taped an interview with Katherine for their Texas Legacy Project to be kept in the UT State archives.

Every NAPA member is undoubtedly aware of Katherine's dedicated efforts to preserve as much of the natural environment as possible. You may not know however, that for many years she has been an active Board member of the Richardson Environmental Action League, a volunteer organization dedicated to recycling and to encouraging others to become active in all aspects of conservation. In addition, Katherine has taught in the Dallas and Richardson school districts for eighteen years. Her high school classes were able to expand their classroom lessons during the trips she planned and drove them on (she became licensed as a school bus driver to do so) through many parts of the state. Helping

students to experience and appreciate the beauties of nature—some of them very fragile—has always been one of her major goals.

Katherine was honored at a Richardson ISD School Board meeting in September for receiving the Chevron award, and was featured in a lengthy article in the Richardson "News". Three cheers for Katherine!!

SIGNS FOR KACHINA PRAIRIE

It is easy to drive right past the entrance to Kachina Prairie, and not even know that it is there. The little dirt road that goes through the field and back to the prairie is very difficult to see. It needs a sign! We have also wanted an interpretive sign on the prairie to let visitors know just how special the native grasses really are.

At the July NAPA Board meeting, funds were approved and with an added gift from one Board member, we were able to order the signs. At the street there is a cedar routed sign with bright yellow letters pointing the way to the prairie. At the prairie entrance there is a 28" x 18" cast aluminum sign with the following message:

"The Texas Blackland Prairie was once a 12 million acre sea of grass stretching from San Antonio to the Red River. Farming, grazing and urbanization have reduced the tall grass prairie to less than 5,000 acres, most of which is in small parcels of 3 to 15 acres. The 22.05 acres of Kachina Prairie are an outstanding example of the complex prairie ecosystem that supports a wide diversity of plants and animals and is a source of unique genetic material that is available nowhere else on earth.

