



TEXAS LAND CONSERVANCY

Protecting the Nature of Texas.

ISSUE #38

SPRING 2010

Upcoming Events

We've got a lot on our plate in the next few months. Hope to see you soon!

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2009 Annual Report

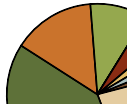
Check out this section for a succinct version of our full 2009 Annual Report. For a copy of the full report, contact Kate Vickery.

Pages 3-6

Just the facts, ma'am

All the numbers you could ever want: fundraising summaries and consolidated financial statements. Fun!

Page 5-6



Stewardship Briefs

Daniel explains what keeps him up at night: the Wildland-Urban Interface. Dum...dum... dum...

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A Special Thanks

We give a hearty thank you to two of our members, who recently supported our new technology campaign.

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Hey, Look at That!

By: Kate Vickery

Well, dear readers, spring is finally starting to arrive, and with it, warmer temperatures. Soon it will be time to really brush off those hiking shoes and get outdoors to enjoy all that spring in Texas has to offer. At this point, I would typically tell about a creature or plant you might come across this season. However, this time we are “looking” at something different, but certainly no less interesting, than dogwood trees or monarch butterflies.

As the country is starting to gear up for the 2010 mid-term elections, sparks are already starting to fly from both the right and the left on a variety of issues. For many people, an issue of particular concern is the proper “size” of the national government. In February, a spark from that fiery debate fell on the land trust community.

A Fox News feature called “Private Property Not” interviewed Becky Norton Dunlop, vice president of external relations at The Heritage Foundation, a conservative think tank whose stated mission is “To formulate and promote conservative public policies based on the principles of free enterprise, limited government, individual freedom, traditional

American values, and a strong national defense” (H.F. website). In a program section entitled “Government’s Power Grab,” Dunlop stated that land trusts are “in cahoots” with the federal government to take private property away from unsuspecting landowners.

Dunlop and her interviewer went on to insinuate that land trusts misuse their status as 501(c)3 organizations in order to dupe landowners into donating conservation easements on land that will eventually be handed over to the federal government.

You can bet that land trusts around the country have had a few things to say about this complete misrepresentation of the land trust movement. We are all concerned about how accusations like this one will damage all of us.

As I write this, Land Trust Alliance President Rand Wentworth is asking for a meeting with Dunlop to discuss “how land trusts respect private property rights, only enter into voluntary agreements, provide property owners with additional choices for preventing development on their land, do not participate in eminent domain, and, in fact, offer the kind of private sector action that is widely supported by majorities of both Republicans and Democrats” (e-mail from LTA).

Indeed, one of the reasons I believe the

land trust community is a vitally important and unique sector of the larger environmental movement is precisely because of our political neutrality. Land trusts have the ability to communicate with a wide variety of landowners - whether conservative property-rights advocates or more liberal “environmentalists” - about a common concern: protection of land that they love. Our work is straightforward and results-oriented; through *voluntary* agreements, a landowner can retain ownership of his/her land, while ensuring that its integrity will be guaranteed for generations to come, with the land trust as a facilitator of protection.

Our status as a 501(c)3 non-profit organization means that this kind of private-land conservation - which has become increasingly critical as funding for public land conservation has decreased over the years (see Summer 2009 newsletter) - is economically feasible for more people. Landowners who might not have been able to make an outright donation are actually able to take income tax deductions when they donate some of the development rights of their land.

My point is not to preach, but to help set the record straight. Help us by talking to your friends and family about why your land trust matters to you!

From the Director



Some of you may not be aware of an organization called the Texas Land Trust Council, which helps support the numerous land trusts in Texas. The Council provides needed support to over forty land trusts in Texas, including TLC. Some of these organizations work only in

localized regions - like Aransas First in Aransas, Refugio, and San Patricio Counties - or on specific ecosystems - like the Native Prairies Association of Texas, a statewide group that works only with native prairies. Despite our differences, we all share a common goal: to conserve land in perpetuity. The increase in the number of land trusts in Texas is great progress from the early 1980s when TLC (then NAPA) and the Nature Conservancy were the only games in town. Since then, these dedicated groups protect nearly 1.5 million acres of land across Texas and are constantly working to protect more.

One of the major support tools that the Land Trust Council provides is the annual Land Trust Conference in Austin. Each year, hundreds of land trusts staff, board members, landowners, interested citizens, lawyers, and many other folks gather together for education and collaboration to further their mission of land conservation. As President of the Council, I want to extend a personal invitation to each TLC member to attend. This forum is a great setting to meet fellow conservationists and show your support of TLC. Please visit our website for details on registration.

On a closing note, I want to extend a heartfelt thank you for end of the year generous giving. It is no surprise that 2009 was a difficult economic year, and even more so for non-profits. Fortunately, many of you found the ability to contribute, especially in support of our end of the year achievement of reaching 100 conservation projects. Our success is the result of dedicated supporters like you, and a group of founders and Board members who have generously given of their time and money over the years. For our continued success, rallying new supporters to our mission will be more critical than ever. We have chosen to dedicate this volume of our newsletter to our annual report. Please take some time to see what we have accomplished in the past year with your help.

As always, please take the time to renew your dues online or with the included envelope. Thank you for your support of TLC — we could not do this work without you. If you have any questions, please contact me at 512-301-6363 or mark@texaslandconservancy.org.

Mark Steinbach
Executive Director

Upcoming Events

March

TLC is co-hosting a **Conservation Easement Workshop** with the Lower Colorado River Authority on **Friday, March 5th** in La Grange. All are welcome to attend this **free event**, and we particularly recommend the workshop to anyone who might be interested in conservation planning now or in the future. Topics include: conservation easement basics, benefits of easement donation, valuation of conservation easements, tax benefits, the role of a land trust organization, and planning ahead to conserve land. The workshop will be from 1:00-5:00 p.m. at the Fayette County AG Building (255 Svoboda Lane, La Grange, TX 78945). Questions? E-mail: Lee.Fritsch@lcra.org.

We invite you to join us at Ivy Payne's Wildlife Refuge in Elkhart, Texas for our biannual **Hands on the Land Conservation Field Day** on **Saturday, March 13th**. Come put your "hands on the land," learn about East Texas plants and flowers, and celebrate the work of East Texas landowners committed to saving wild places in Texas! Camping is available at the preserve for Friday and Saturday nights. This event is **free** and activities include: trail building/maintenance, a nature walk featuring ephemeral plants, and a landowner-appreciation dinner. Questions? E-mail: kate@texaslandconservancy.org.

April

The **Oak Cliff Nature Preserve** in Dallas will host a **free** event featuring the outdoor art creations of talented high-school students and community members. The one-day exhibit will be open on **Saturday, April 17th**. Volunteers are needed for this event. Please contact Randy Lisbona for more information on volunteering, submitting a piece of art, or attending: randy.lisbona@LennoxInd.com.

The Texas Land Trust Council is hosting its **annual conference** in Austin from **Wednesday, April 28th through Friday the 30th**. Registration is now open and topics include: Conservation Easements and Appraisals, Federal Tax Incentives for Conservation, Funding, Conservation Development, Land Trust Operations, Baseline Documentation, Emerging Energy and Power Issues, and more. Please visit www.texaslandtrustcouncil.org for further information.

May

TLC will be holding its **Annual Members Meeting** in Austin on **Saturday, May 8th**, followed by a full meeting of the Board of Directors. Details about the annual meeting will be forthcoming, and you will receive a formal invitation, but please mark your calendars now! We would love to see a number of our members, particularly those of you in Central Texas, make it to this important meeting. This is a great opportunity to network with other TLC members, hear about our upcoming projects, and get out and see one of our conservation properties! Members will also be voting on the slate of directors for 2010-2011. Questions? E-mail: kate@texaslandconservancy.org.

More details about all of our events can be found in the calendar section of our website: www.texaslandconservancy.org. You can also call Kate Vickery any time during the week at 512.301.6363. Have an idea for an event? Share those with us as well!

The 2009 Annual Report

As we wrapped up 2008, we anticipated that 2009 would be a banner year for land conservation projects due to a soon-to-expire federal tax incentive for conservation easement donations. This year threw a curve ball to everyone in the non-profit community, however, with a massive economic slowdown that caused many donors to close their checkbooks and many landowners to put off conservation planning until a brighter economic future.

Despite these challenges, TLC had a full and productive year, completing our 100th conservation project and conserving 496 acres of open green space. In addition, we hosted events in Dallas and the Hill Country; joined a productive partnership with Aledo Middle School; and welcomed Daniel Dietz, who filled the shoes of Kerry Olenick, our former Stewardship Director. Daniel has made the transition seamlessly and is doing an excellent job.

Perhaps our greatest achievement in 2009 was embarking on the long road to accreditation through the national Land Trust Alliance. The accreditation process requires nearly 18 months of preparation to ensure that all facets of the organization are operating at their highest level. As increasing numbers of land trusts become accredited, the strength and permanence of our work increases exponentially--as individuals become stronger, so to does the movement as a whole. By late 2010 or early 2011, we hope to be one of the first accredited land trusts in Texas.

We learned this year that our 74,527 acres of protected land places us solidly within the top 2% of all land trusts in the United States for total acres conserved. We are very proud to be a leader in conservation both in Texas and nationally. We continue our work because, particularly in times of economic uncertainty, planning for the future is critical. In order to preserve Texas' natural heritage for future generations, we forge ahead, one acre at a time.

The following three pages contain a summary of our full annual report, starting with a review of the two conservation projects we completed in 2009.

#99: SOUTENDIJK BOG

TLC's involvement with the Soutendijk Bog began in 2006 as part of the Natural Resource Damage Assessment (NRDA)

Program. The Soutendijk Bog represents our second endeavor with NRDA which offsets environmental damages by protecting other properties. The NRDA Trustees identify high quality environmental sites for protection through conservation easements or restoration projects.

The bog was chosen as a conservation property, the value of which would offset a crude oil spill in Wood County in 2002. The protection of the Soutendijk's 16 acres is an important and valuable step towards preserving biodiversity in Wood County.

Soutendijk Bog represents a unique wetland with four distinct vegetation communities: a stream valley bog along Glade Creek, a lower hillside seepage bog, a seep forest, and an oak/hickory woodland. Bogs are known for their biodiversity, and the Soutendijk Bog does not disappoint with over 120 species of plants. This is the first conservation easement in Texas to protect trumpet pitcher plants (*Sarracenia alata*), pictured right. While not an endangered species, these unique carnivorous plants are a rare find in Texas.

#100: PATROON MITIGATION BANK

The Patroon Mitigation Bank is 479 acres of bottomland hardwood forest and wetland habitat in Sabine County, home to several endangered species and vital aquatic ecosystems. An inholding of the Sabine National Forest, Patroon's original hardwood forest was converted into a loblolly pine stand that was unsustainably logged throughout the 20th century. Now, with a conservation easement held by TLC, this property will be protected in perpetuity from future damage and will be actively restored to its former glory as a biologically diverse hardwood forest.

TLC became interested in the property because of its importance in the South Central Plains Ecoregion. The tract adjoins the Sabine National Forest, has several known nearby colonies of the endangered red-cockaded woodpecker and is within the floodplain of Patroon Bayou, a tributary of the Sabine River which flows into the Toledo Bend Reservoir.

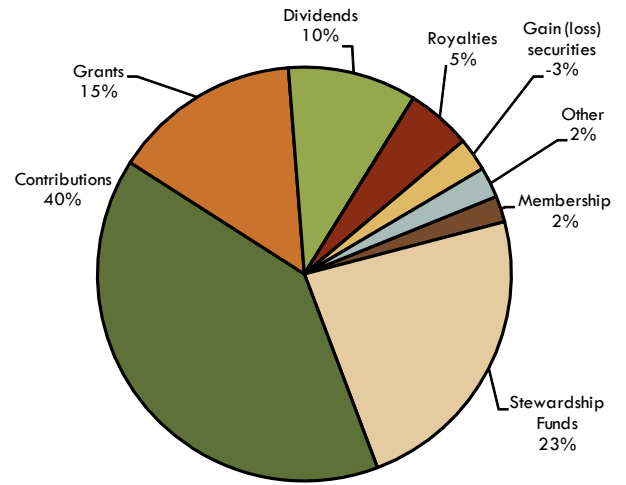
With strong conservation values, active land management and ecological restoration projects already in the works, the Patroon Mitigation Bank provides a unique opportunity to protect land and help restore a component of East Texas' natural heritage.



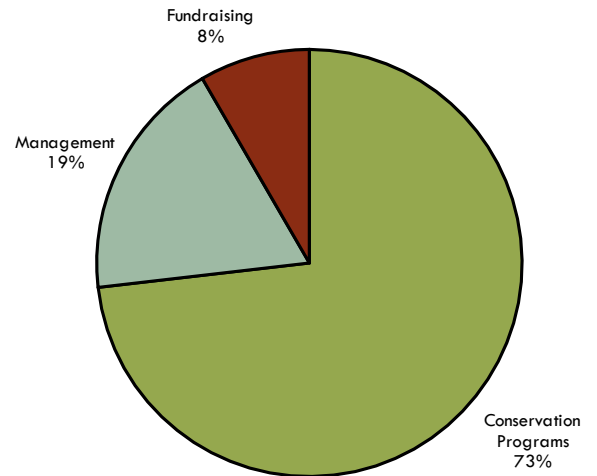
Beautiful examples of *Sarracenia alata* at Soutendijk Bog, a 2009 conservation project.

Consolidated Financial Statements

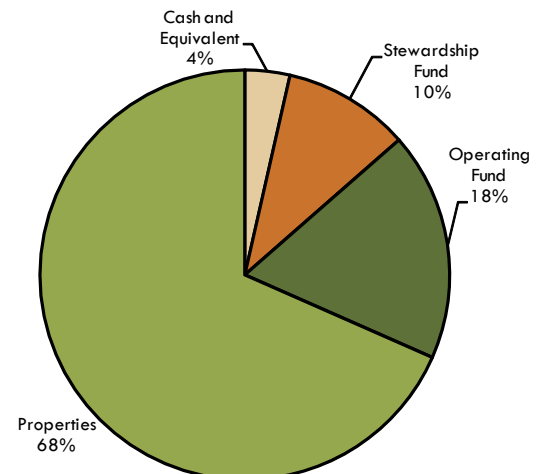
Revenues	2009	2008
Membership	\$7,597	\$9,007
Stewardship Funds	\$86,781	\$251,936
Contributions	\$148,091	\$55,114
Grants	\$54,693	\$38,525
Dividends	\$37,442	\$57,920
Interest	\$51	\$6,379
Royalties	\$18,773	\$126,590
Gain (loss) securities	\$(9,695)	\$(6,875)
Other	\$8,917	\$22,692
Total Support and Revenue	\$352,649	\$561,288



Expenses	2009	2008
Conservation Programs	\$198,658	\$167,126
Management	\$55,153	\$46,395
Fundraising	\$25,164	\$21,164
Total Expenses	\$278,975	\$234,686
Net Income	\$73,674	\$326,602



Assets	2009	2008
Cash and Equivalent	\$232,048	\$108,242
Investments		
Stewardship Fund	\$656,452	\$605,792
Operating Fund	\$1,183,018	\$1,289,311
Properties	\$4,484,125	\$4,484,125
Total Assets	\$6,555,643	\$6,487,470



Total Net Assets	\$6,555,643	\$6,487,470
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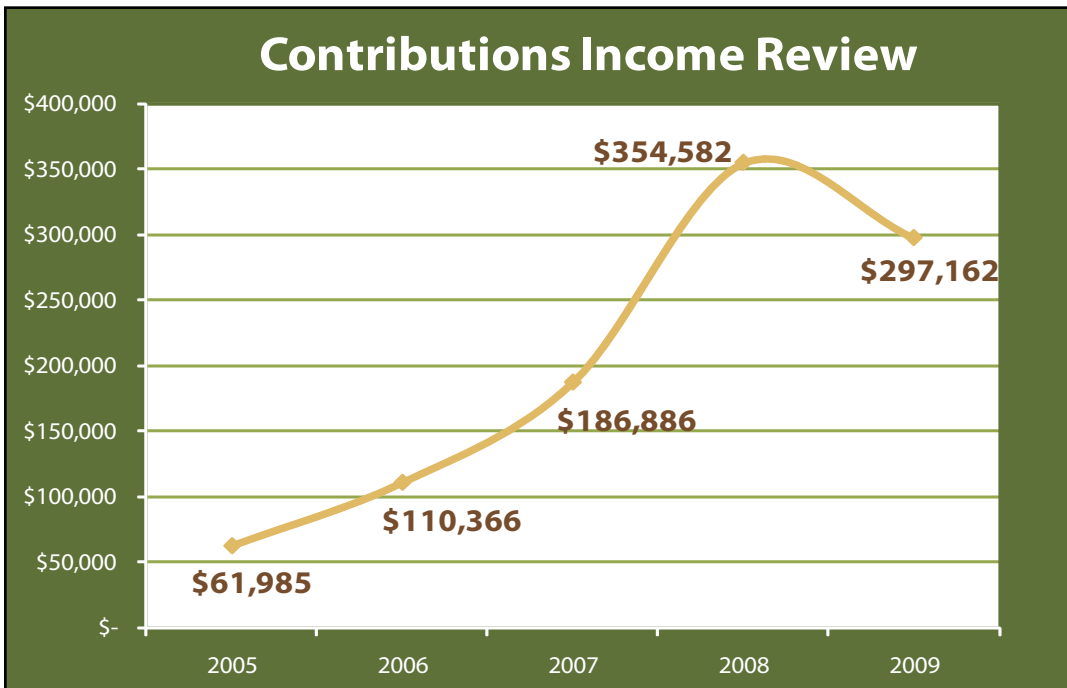
Raising Funds in a Challenging Year

2009 was a difficult year for fundraising efforts throughout the non-profit community, and while our numbers echo the national trend, we are still a far cry above where we were only five years ago (below). Overall, the drop in charitable contributions from 2008 (nearly \$60,000) can be attributed mostly to the decrease in conservation projects, which often come with significant donations to our Stewardship Fund.

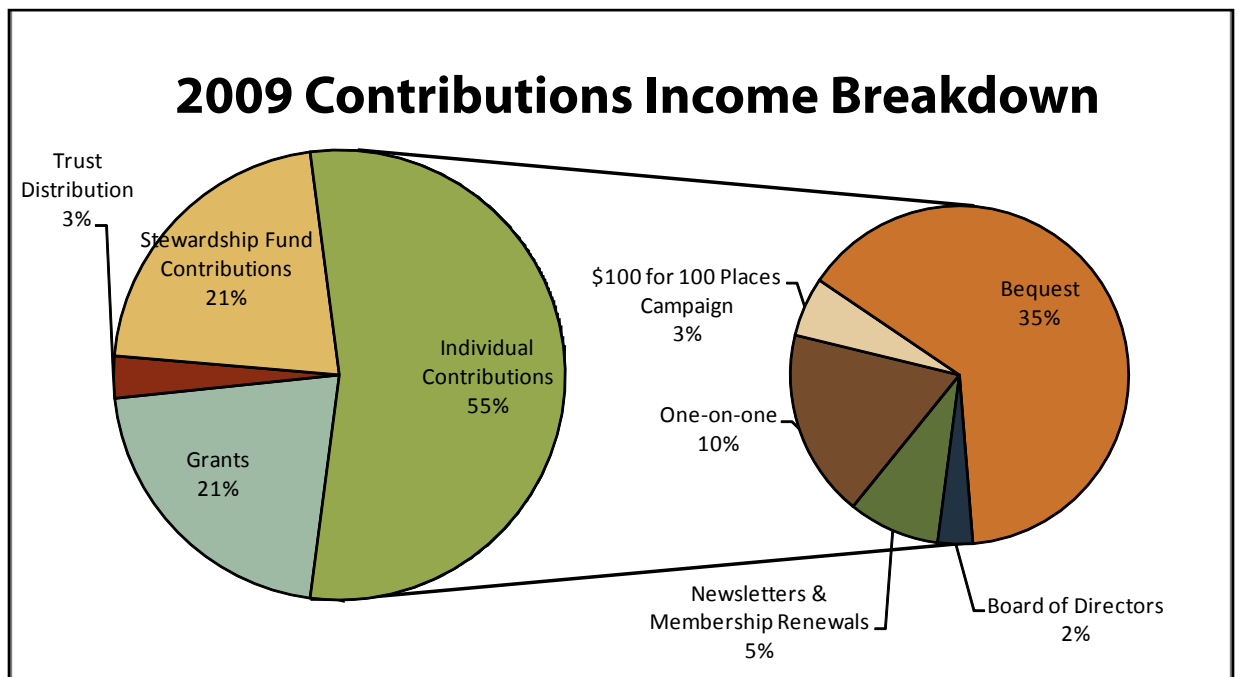
Despite this, our individual contributions took a sizeable bump from a generous bequest left by our founder, Ned Fritz, who passed away in late 2008, and a generous individual contribution from a long-time TLC supporter, Trammell C. Crow. We rely heavily on the contributions from our members and individual supporters, who consistently make up around half of our charitable income. Our supporters helped us

celebrate our centennial conservation project (see page 3) by contributing over \$15,000 to our special "\$100 for 100 Places" Holiday Giving Campaign, which spilled over to 2010.

Our ability to protect land threatened by development pressures, steward those lands in perpetuity, and provide land management assistance to Texas landowners depends on how successful we are in growing our Stewardship & Operations Funds (see graphs on page 3).



TLC's fundraising has increased significantly over the past five years, despite a decline in 2009 (left). While Stewardship contributions were down in 2009, individual contributions were up, due in part to a generous bequest from our founder, Ned Fritz (below).



2009 Contributions*

Founder's Circle: \$10,000+

Malcolm C. Damuth Foundation
Ned and Genie Fritz
Patroon Partners
Shield-Ayres Foundation
Texas Parks and Wildlife
Trammell S. Crow

Director's Circle: \$5000 - \$9,999

Baird Family Charitable Trust
Reese Foundation
Texas Land Trust Council

Conservators: \$1,000 - \$4,999

Bob O'Kennon
Charles Snakard & Dorothy Prenalger
Claire Caudill
Craig Damuth
Earl and Lonnie Matthew
Jacob And Terese Hershey
Foundation
John Roberson and John Blackmon
Pat Spillman, Jr.
Ranney McDonald
Sandra Penz

Benefactors: \$500 - \$999

Betty Sanders
Cary Buehring
Clampitt Paper
Entergy Texas
Land Trust Alliance
Mickey Burleson
Stephanie Yearwood

Guardians: \$250 - \$499

Alex Weisberg
David Stelter
Evelyn and Edward Rose
Fred Duffy and Renee Rossi
John Hirschi
Michael Jung
Paul and Melissa Griffith
Phil Ferguson and Kathy O'Neil

Trustees: \$100 - \$249

Adi and Celia Gazdar
Ann Drumm
Anne and John Donovan
Anne Norvell
Anonymous
Ashley Streetman
Barbara Preston
Bob and Sirpa Harms

Bob Koeper and Jo Koeber

Burgess Jackson
Champions Ridge
Chris and Michelle Smith
Clyde and Fran McKinney
David and Patricia Lewis
Don and Leigh Payne
Douglas Feltz
Edwin Golden
Gail Hartsfield
Gary Ackers
George Russell
Greg and Lysa Rohan
Heinz and Julie Gaylord
J. David Bamberger
Jane James
Jean Laughlin
Jesse and Olivia Wood
Johanna Smith
John and Darlene Wier
John and Peggy Stoll
John and Wendy Whaley
Judy and Mark Gaskell
Katherine Goodbar
Katherine Greene
Kay Humphreys
Ken and Luci Salyer
Margaret Hoffman
Nancy Hyde
Pete Gunter
Randy Parten
Richard Grannemann
Robert and Elizabeth Douglass
Robert Gartner
Robert Milam, Jr.
Robert Prejean
Robert Stone
Russ Jewert
Sara Davis
Sharon Reed
Steven Spurger
Thomas Watson
TI Foundation
Tim and Keelin Parker
Timothy Moore
Tina Gardener
Travis and Ashley Phillips
Westcave Preserve
William McKee

Friends: \$50 to \$99

Bob and Jean Warneke
Brandy Mayo
Brian Kokernot

Carolyn Vogel

David Hartman
Dennis and Sue Jistel
Donald and Claudia Gwynn
Doris Stevens
Eileen McKee
Ellen Buchanan
Gail Brown
Hance W. Burrow
Ira and Patricia Steele
J. Clyde and Marjorie James
James Cure
Jennifer Roberts
Jennifer Touchet
Jim Neal
Joe Winston
Julia Burgen
L.B. and Annick McNally
Lee Kelton, Jr.
Lennie Sutherland
Linda and William Murray
Linda Kay Mowder
Lori Medlin and Julie Finley
Lucy Polter
M.K. Smith
Marjorie and Clyde James
Mary Carol Edwards
Maxine Johnston
May O'Neal
Pat and Candy Lochridge
Pat and Lowell Wade
Peter and Jo-Lou Gaupp
Pokey Rehmet
Randy Lisbona and Beth Bargar
Richard Orton
Richard Pressman and Judine Taylor
Robert and Darlene Tusch
Robert and Patricia De Jean
Robert Sawyer
Ronald Deutch
Sally Lavine
Sandy Wilson
Sara and Jon Beckelman
Shadow and Suzanne Johns
Stan and Cyrena McMurry
Suzanne Tuttle
Timothy Griffith
Vick and Dorthy Williams
William Hooper
William Stallings

Basic Members: up to \$49

Anita Harkey
Anne Rowe

Arten Avakian
Barbara and Wayne Duehn
Barbara Materka
Billy and Bobbie Wofford
Brandt Mannchen
C. Mary and Alistair Brown
C.B. Crabbe
Carol Buehring
Cherie' King
Cheryl Spencer and Joseph Kirkland
Craig and Anita Woods
David Wolf
Deborah Ball
Dixie Webster
Dorothy and Gerard Rickey
Eddie and Dorothy Gumbert
Freda Shekels
George Diggs Jr.
Georgia Prakash
Hilda McLaughlin
Howard and Ann Hendrix
James Vornberg
Janice and Courtenay Atkins
Jeanette Rashti
Jeff Hiller and Betsy Fath
Jim and Betty Bowie
Karen Kinnison
Karen Sommer
Landon Lockett III
Margaret Day
Martha Mason
Mary Ann Miller
Max Zischkale, Jr.
Megan Biesele
Mrs. Irving Schiffman
Nan Moss
Neely Kerr
Pamela Ice
Patricia Randolph
Peggy Tobin
Richard Grayson & Diana
Newton-Grayson
Robert and Ann Buchanan
Robert and Shirley Cooper
Robert Markeloff
Rolland Sanders
Russell Boyd
Shudde Fath
Stan and Deborah Russell
Steve and Leah Kahn
Wendy and Stanley Marsh
William and Lorene Mahler
William Bishop
William McIntyre

**The list of donors in the Winter 2009 newsletter was incomplete; this list includes all 2009 donors.*

Stewardship Briefs

By: Daniel Dietz



I admit to having one of the best and most interesting jobs in the world, but not everything is fun and games on our project lands, and conservation objectives are not automatically met when a preserve is created or a conservation easement granted. In general, the preserves in rural areas are less likely to be problematic than ones in urban areas.

The Wildland-Urban Interface (WUI) is the area where homes and infrastructure abut natural vegetation. WUI is most often discussed in the context of wildfires, but there are a slew of other issues associated with it. Preserves located at the WUI are more likely to have invasive plant infestations, altered hydrology, and altered fire regimes. More upsetting to me are the problems that are easily preventable and arise from people's misconceptions about the fundamental nature of conservation. Some of these include dumping of trash, dumping of cut brush, and feeding of wildlife in areas without any predators or hunting pressure. Trips to TLC projects in Dallas and San Antonio this January served to highlight some of these problems.

In both cities, brush and yard clippings were dumped by neighboring landowners (or their landscaping crews) onto the preserves. I can only assume that the perpetrators either did not want to bother to bundle their brush for curbside pickup or did not want to haul it to the dump. Perhaps they felt that dumping biodegradable debris onto a nature preserve was appropriate. While this material will eventually compost into soil, in our relatively dry climate, it will take decades for this to occur. It is true that brush piles provide good habitat for many bird species, but these preserves already provide a variety of habitat. Most disturbing is that these dry piles located on the borders of the preserve constitute fire hazards for the both the preserve and the community that surrounds them. Ironically, the fire marshal of Universal City once issued

TLC a warning about dense vegetation on the edge of Cibolo Preserve, while a number of the city's residents continued to dump yard debris onto TLC property. Universal City, I should note, has been an excellent partner and neighbor of Cibolo Preserve.

At another TLC conservation property in San Antonio, neighboring landowners had installed deer feeders upon the property. While feeding wildlife can be enjoyable, placing three feeders on a 31 acre greenbelt was excessive. I'm sure our neighbors did not mean any harm, but deer are not pets and when we view them as entertainment rather than an ecosystem component we can actually harm the land. Although the addition of food and water may help individual deer in the short term, it is not

a good long term practice, especially in areas where there is not any deer hunting.

Feeding deer in this area creates a situation where the deer population exceeds its natural carrying capacity. When this happens, the artificially high deer population browses heavily on the vegetation and can alter the entire natural community's composition, with plants that deer prefer to browse disappearing from the landscape. For example, research out of the University of Texas has shown that red oaks, a favorite food of white tailed deer, do not recruit under heavy deer herbivory, with all of its seedlings and saplings being consumed and leaving behind a forest of aging mature red oaks that will be replaced by Ashe juniper, live oak and other deer resistant species.

Whenever TLC encounters brush dumping or unauthorized feed stations, we do not assume that any ill will was intended. For all of these properties, TLC attempts to contact the offending neighbors either through direct mailings or through the local HOA in order to inform them about how their actions impact the conserved property. In the majority of cases, our neighbors were unaware that their actions were detrimental to the preserve, and some of them go on to become our advocates in the community. If you have questions regarding these, or other activities, contact me!



Over 11 brush piles have been created by neighboring landowners on the 31 acre Champion's Ridge easement. The Homeowners Association, which owns the land, is working to remove them.



**TEXAS LAND
CONSERVANCY**

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Austin, TX 78716

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ISSUE #38

SPRING 2010

WHO WE ARE

Board of Directors

Robert O'Kennon, *President, Fort Worth*
Mickey Burleson, *President-Elect, Temple*
Janell Morgan, *Treasurer, Dallas*
Eugenia Fritz, *Secretary, Dallas*
Katherine Goodbar, *Dallas*
Polly Shields, *Lancaster*
Russ Jewert, *Terrell*
P. Michael Jung, *Dallas*
Earl Matthew, *Rockport*
Eileen McKee, *Dallas*
Anne Norvell, *Dallas*
Sharon C. Reed, *Richardson*
Pat Spillman, Jr., *Houston*
Alex F. Weisberg, Jr., *Dallas*
Jennifer Touchet, *Houston*

WHAT WE DO

The Texas Land Conservancy (formerly the Natural Area Preservation Association) is a 501(c)3 non-profit with a mission to conserve natural areas in Texas and to protect the physical and ecological integrity of their wildlife habitat, native plant communities, and scenic landscapes for the benefit of present and future generations. Some of our goals are:

To reduce the negative effects of land fragmentation and poorly planned development by protecting critical lands through ownership or permanent conservation easements.

To maintain a substantial and diverse inventory of protected lands that reflect the biological diversity and significance of Texas' natural heritage.

To responsibly steward our conservation easements and land holdings through monitoring, land management, and enforcement of restrictions.

To restore and enhance native habitats on lands under TLC protection.

To work with other organizations and individuals as appropriate to conserve and protect additional areas not protected by TLC.

To educate the public about Texas' natural areas and provide opportunities for the public to enjoy TLC's protected properties.

This newsletter is produced quarterly by the TLC staff and distributed to members and donors at the \$30 level or higher. Comments, questions, and concerns may be sent to kate@texaslandconservancy.org.

Staff

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mark@texaslandconservancy.org
Daniel Dietz, *Stewardship Director*
daniel@texaslandconservancy.org
Kate Vickery, *Outreach Coordinator*
kate@texaslandconservancy.org

CONTACT US

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512.301.6363 (p) 512.301.6364 (f)
www.texaslandconservancy.org

A Special Thank You!

We would like to send a very special thank you to TLC members and landowners, Mike and Carolyn Maples, for their generous support of our new technology campaign. The Maples' \$5,000 donation allowed us to purchase our first server, two new computers, and the services of IT support. Because much of our work depends upon our ability to keep our vital records protected and accessible for as long as our conservation projects exist - effectively forever - these upgrades in our technological capacity were absolutely critical. We deeply appreciate the Maples' generosity in making these changes happen!

Mike and Carolyn donated a conservation easement on their Cypress Mills Ranch, which abuts Pedernales State Park, in 2007. They were interested in conserving the property in light of the increased fragmentation pressure being placed on large ranches in Pedernales watershed. The Maples are true conservationists who understand the different levels on which conservation takes place, both in the offices of TLC and on the ground!