

TCEA News
Tarrant Coalition for Environmental Awareness
October 2007

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1. FROM THE PREZ

We had an inspiring meeting September 22. Many thanks go to Molly Rooke for coming over from Dallas to talk to us about the upcoming Water Conference on October 20 in Dallas. Representative Lon Burnam cut away from another event to share his interesting observations on the politics of the environment. He made two suggestions. First, everyone can start working now to educate our elected officials on the importance of clean air, water, and greenspace. Of course, his other suggestion is to get involved politically. For TCEA, this route is out.. but both will probably be needed to protect our land, air and water.

TCEA has purchased two water testing kits through World Water Monitoring Day for use by TCEA members and member organizations to check out some water bodies near you. The kit tests are easy to use and are an excellent introduction to water monitoring. If enough of us think this kind of activity is something we would like to do for our community and environment, we will set up a Texas Watch training early next year. Jo Ann Duman went over her Texas Watch water monitoring kit. Its tests are more quantitative and have quality checks that enable the data to be used as a basis for corrective action if necessary.

Fall festivals are here! TCEA joined ranks with ACC at Arlington's Front Street Festival on September 22. We'll be joining the Sierra Club to promote awareness of global warming on Step It Up Day, November 3. Finally, we'll be at the Alternative Gift Bazaar is coming up on December 1-2 at the First Jefferson UU Church. Please volunteer! AND.. please let us know of events in your community where we need to be raising awareness and support.

Finally I would like to welcome our newest member, Elements Realty! Their membership is a reminder that at the beginning of our existence, TCEA was a coalition of nonprofits, for-profits, and individuals. As we begin to ramp up our membership renewal, please let Bob know of other businesses and groups that need an invitation to join us.

2. UPCOMING EVENTS

Please check our website calendar for a more complete listing: <http://www.tceaonline.org>

World Water Monitoring Day

September 18 - October 18. World Water Monitoring Day honors the 35th anniversary of the US Clean Water Act by encouraging people and organizations to check the basic water quality of a favorite creek, lake or river in our community. Contact Bonnie to find out who has the TCEA kits so we can get it to you. After you have tested, let Marilyn know the results so we can post them on our web site. For more information, check out the project website at: <http://www.worldwatermonitoringday.org/>

League of Conservation Voters reception...

October 4. 5:30 - 7:30 PM. The reception honors Rep. Lon Burnam, Rep. Paula Hightower-Pierson, Rep. Mark Veasey, and Tarrant County Judge Glen Whitley. Donations of \$50 + requested. Contact colin@tlcv.org for more information.

October TCEA Board meeting...

October 6. 1 - 2:30 PM. Tin Cup, 1025 West Abram, Arlington. Everyone is welcome and invited to participate at our board meetings. Among other business, we'll be deciding what to sell at the Alternative Gift Bazaar. For more information call Bonnie at 817-266-8569.

Rainwater class...

October 11. 9 AM - 3 PM. Dottie Woodson is teaching a class sponsored by Texas Cooperative Extension on how to save rainwater in small barrels or large tanks. Cost is \$35. Location is Resource Connection 2300 Campus Drive, Fort Worth. For more information call Dotty at 972-952-9688 or d-woodson@tamu.edu

Water Conference...

October 20. 1 - 2:30 PM. We hope that ALL of you are planning to go and are promoting this conference within your organizations. Water is an important issue and we need to understand the forces that are affecting our ability to have enough clean water to sustain North Texas. As a result of attending the conference you will know more than most elected officials, have informational resources, and the how to contact information for the experts in case you get stuck "needing to know." Public transit won't get us there, so we will be setting up some car pools. Let us know if you are willing to share a ride.
<http://texas.sierraclub.org/water/waterconf.asp>

Step It Up - 2007

November 3, 12 - 3 PM. Healthy Approach Market in Colleyville. A national day to raise awareness on the urgency of global warming. There are booth opportunities. Healthy Approach Market is on the north access road of 121 between the Glade Road exit and the Hall-Johnson Exit. For more information on Step It Up go to <http://www.StepItUp2007.org>. For more information on how you can help and participate, contact Bonnie (bfbg@tx.rr.com) or Terry (updates@dfwnetmall.com).

Vision North Texas

NCTCOG has launched an online Speakers' Bureau request form. You can sign up for a presentation on the anti-sprawl and greenlining efforts behind this effort on the Speakers' Bureau page at <http://www.nctcog.org/envir/SEEDevEx/speakers.asp>.

Car Free for a Day?

Join me to go CarFree for a day every week for a month? Anyone? I've selected October as the month.

3. Trash Facts

Why recycle? Consider the life span of the following typical household items:

Glass bottle: 1 million years
Plastic soda bottle: 1,000 years
Plastic 6 pack ring: 450 years
Aluminum can: 200-500 years
Tin Can: 80-100 years
Leather boot: 50 years
Disposable diaper: 10-20 years
Plastic bag: 10-20 years
Cigarette butt: 1-5 years
Apple core: 2 months
Newspaper: 6 weeks

4. MEMBERSHIP

You are always welcome to join or renew your membership in TCEA. We have a lot of challenges to our environment and hope that all of you will return as members and supporters and recruit other organizations and individuals who don't yet know about us. We hope that members of all our member organizations consider themselves a part of TCEA, participate with us, and we hope that we can facilitate participation with each other when interests overlap. If you or your organization are not members and would like to join TCEA, please visit <http://www.tceaonline.org/join.htm>. There you will find a .pdf form to download and mail to our membership chair, Bob Scott.

Here are a few websites of TCEA member organizations. Please visit these sites to find out about the upcoming events and activities sponsored by each of these organizations. (If your organization is a member of TCEA and is NOT listed below, my apologies. Please let me know and we'll have you included in all future newsletters. Thanks. Bonnie)

Arlington Conservation Council <http://www.arlingtonconservationcouncil.org/>
Greater Fort Worth Sierra Club <http://texas.sierraclub.org/fortworth/>
Fort Worth Audubon Society <http://www.fwas.org/>
League of Women Voters of Tarrant County <http://www.lwvtarrantcounty.org/>
League of Women Voters of Arlington <http://www.lwvarlington-tx.org/>
Blue Skies Alliance <http://www.blueskiesalliance.org/>
Friends of the Fort Worth Nature Center and Refuge <http://www.naturecenterfriends.org/>
Westside Unitarian Universalist Church <http://www.westsideuu.org/>
Great Plains Restoration Council <http://www.gprc.org/>
Unity Church of Fort Worth <http://www.unityfortworth.org>
Elements Realty Group,LLC info@elementsrealty.com

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When we feel certain that we will succeed, we feel motivated to take action. When we feel absolutely certain that we can do nothing about a situation, we don't try. ... The challenge is to take action when we aren't certain whether or not we will succeed. (Zelig Pliskin)