

Pines and Prairies



Bastrop Caldwell Fayette Lee Counties

Newsletter of the Pines & Prairies Land Trust Vol. 3 No. 2 July 2005

Rollin' on the Colorado River Refuge

With your help our campaign to raise \$100,000 in local dollars for the Refuge (to match a challenge grant from the Meadows Foundation of Dallas) has passed the halfway mark in cash and in-kind support. We deeply thank Tom's of Maine, the nation's leading natural health care products manufacturer, and the National Park Foundation for their \$5000 grant to build and clean trails. We're in the running for other grants as well.

Engineering firm Loomis Austin is providing boundary survey and site engineering at less than half of the commercial rate.

In May, in conjunction with the city of Bastrop's "Clean Sweep," over 15 cubic yards of debris—some of it 20 years old—was extracted from forests and roadsides at the Refuge. Kudos to the Bastrop County Water Control & Improvement District #2 Board and General Manager Karen Pinard, Bastrop County Probation Community Service Department (Albert Moreno, Linda Lesso and a work crew of five), Tahitian Village Property Owners Association (especially Lori Eaves, Paula Powell, Michelle Rios and John Creamer) for cleanup coordination and refreshments, City of Bastrop's Public Works Department (especially Alan Cook), and Bastrop County Precinct 1 Commissioner David Goertz for providing free dumpsters and tractors. Special thanks to Tom Dureka and individual volunteers Priscilla Jarvis, Doran Williams, and Marty Goldfarb!

This year's work at the Refuge will focus on the downstream segment between Kaala Drive and the Union Pacific railroad bridge. After the boundary survey is done, you will see gates or fences at four access points to keep out motor vehicles (but not hikers). We'll have signs on each point to let users know they can't drive ATVs and pickups on the trails anymore. And we'll begin rehabilitating the gravel pit on Riverside Drive just east of the railroad tracks. This pit has attracted some of the worst dumping, fires, and other irresponsible uses on the whole 60-acre Refuge. We'll build a small parking area here, block the ATV "jump-off" points, level the pit bottom, and replant with grasses and trees. Visitors will be able to walk down broad terraced steps to the trail on the river—it's roughly the halfway point on the 1.5 mile trail. We will also have parking areas at the upstream and downstream ends of the Refuge. At every step, PPLT will strive to keep all developments compatible with the beautiful nature experience that already exists there.

Fabulous Tree Planting Guide Is Now Available

Your land trust has produced the booklet that will guide you through the process of selecting the proper location for the perfect tree for your locale and show you the best way to plant and prune it and subsequently care for it. Joan Russell researched, wrote and designed the 59 page, illustrated book describing 35 trees that will thrive in the climate and various soils of Bastrop, Caldwell, Fayette and Lee counties.

Tom Dureka provided useful information in support of the solid facts on the various species of small, medium and large trees described in this fact-filled and entertaining book.

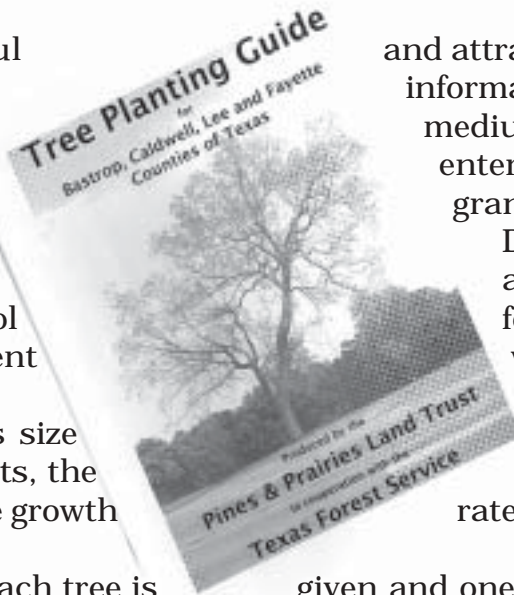
The book was funded by a grant from the Texas Forest Service. District Forester Daniel Lewis was extremely generous with his time and expertise in helping Joan and Tom craft this tool for helping all of us improve our natural environment with healthy, vigorous trees.

It describes such features as size, water, sunlight and soil requirements, the species to wildlife and birds, and the growth rate and life span of each of the 35 trees.

The “flammability rating” of each tree is given and one page is devoted to planning a “firewise” landscape to help you insure against the ravages of a wildfire.

This guide is packed with practical, scientifically based information about trees and their habitat, by PPLT board member and horticulturist Joan Russell. It is also filled with evidence of her love of the “majesty and mystery of living with mature trees.”

By the end of Summer, the guide should be available in the libraries, chambers of commerce, and county extension agents’ offices in all four counties, and from the Texas Forest Service. Also, Kimas and Bastrop Gardens nurseries in Bastrop and Bloomers in Elgin, as well as LCRA’s Cooper Farm in Fayette county. For more information on how to obtain a tree guide, call the PPLT office at 512/308-1911.



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Conservation Corner

A study in the journal *Food Policy* found that the transportation of agricultural products from the farm to the retailer to the consumer accounts for nearly half of the environmental costs of food. Check the back page for a list of Farmers' Markets in our four county area. Go to www.agr.state.tx.us and click on the "Pick Texas" section for certified markets all

CMM Global, Inc. Donates Laptop

We are delighted with CMM Global's donation of a late-model IBM ThinkPad computer, ready to go! This machine will allow us to input scientific data from the field directly into our maps and databases. The San Antonio-based firm has an office in the City of Bastrop. Thank you very much, Maureen Concklin and Wendy

President's Message Summer 2005

This morning as I was riding my horse through the shady pines, I thought about all the folks that have made PPLT so successful. First on the list are the wonderful board and splendid executive director of Pines and Prairies Land Trust. Without such a dedicated and passionate group, our success could not be a reality. Please refer to the board member box below to know these folks individually, and thank them when you see them.

And I thank all of you who believe in our mission of protecting ranches, farms, water and wildlife and who support this mission with deeds and donations. Your investment in our community's future will pay big benefits. I would like to take this idea of investment a bit farther. An investment is something that becomes more valuable over time. Protecting our special places certainly qualifies as a good investment! The "pay off" is land that remains peaceful, green, and accessible to us all. Even if we only enjoy the view as we go by, this investment pays every day to every one.

As our community grows and fertile farm and ranch land is covered by houses and businesses, these "islands of calm" are here for us to enjoy and give us a break from everyday life. We all want our community to remain the peaceful rural area that we love. Investing in open space for clean water, clean air, wildlife, farms and ranches will ensure that it does. Please join me in supporting the mission of PPLT.

Remember, land conservation is for all, forever.

Carrie Knox, President



2005 Board of Directors

Carrie Knox
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Bill McPherson
Vice-President
Lee Fritsch
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Joan Russell
Secretary
Jeremiah Jarvis
Priscilla Jarvis
Doran Williams

Tom Dureka
Exec. Director

Please help us maintain our region's quality of life! Your tax deductible donation will support our educational programs, distribution of information and direct land preservation.

___\$20 Individual ___\$30 Family

___\$50 Business ___\$\$\$ Generous Other

Name _____ Address _____

City _____ State _____ zip _____

Make your check to Pines & Prairies Land Trust and mail to:
106 Conference Drive
Bastrop, Texas 78602

Area Farmers' Markets

Support the family farmers and ranchers in our area. Help our local food producers by buying their fruits, vegetables and meats. It's the best way to get fresh, wholesome food for your family and meet the people who grew it!

Bastrop County

Bastrop: River Valley Farmers' Market 1308 Chestnut St. Fri. 1-6PM Sat. 10AM-2PM

Elgin: River Valley Farmers' Market 506 N. Main Tues. 1-6PM

Smithville: River Valley Farmers' Market Loop 230 and Mills Thurs. 1-6PM

Caldwell County

Lockhart: J.C. Taylor, local farmer On the square Sat. 9AM-Noon

Fayette County

Round Top: Round Top Farmers' Market Assoc. 102 Main Sat. 9:30AM-1PM

Lee County

Giddings: Lee County Farmers' Market Union Station Plaza Hwy. 77 North Tues. 4PM-6PM



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www.pinesandprairieslandtrust.org

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