

Landscape Newsletter



Photo of Leo Ranch by Marcus Yarbrough

Connemara Conservancy Foundation

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SAVE LAND: Connectivity of Open Spaces



LEARN MORE: Meadow Restoration



GET INVOLVED: Hops for Habitat

"But now, says the Once-ler, Now that you're here, the word of the Lorax seems perfectly clear. UNLESS someone like you cares a whole awful lot, nothing is going to get better. It's not." -Dr Seuss

February 1st of 2012, marks my first full year with Connemara Conservancy Foundation. I've learned so much in the last 12 months. I could have filled this edition of *Landscape* with those lessons alone. Instead, I just want to say a heartfelt "thank you" to so many of you who do care "a whole awful lot".

It's a great time to be part of this organization. We're revving up our conservation efforts with a goal of tripling our land holdings by 2015. Our education and outreach programs are receiving a nice boost with the addition of Bob Mione as our volunteer Connemara Meadow Preserve Manager. We've added a new fundraising event called *Hops for Habitat* and we're hosting the City of Allen's EarthFest 2012 again this year.

Margaret Mead has a great quote that reads, "Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed citizens can change the world. Indeed, it's the only thing that ever has." Well, folks, that's what we are doing here in North Texas... literally.

Without you, nothing gets better. It's not. Thank you so much for doing your part.

Warmest regards,
Sandra Greenway
Executive Director

Saving the land we love in North Texas!

Save Land

Connectivity of Open Spaces

RJ Taylor, Connemara's Conservation Director



In the past, we thought that we could conserve nature adequately by establishing national parks and preserves. However, these preserves can often become isolated “islands” of vegetation amid surrounding properties with more suburban, urban and industrial development. Having these parks and protected islands of habitat are important, but the loss of connections between habitat areas poses one of the most severe threats to the survival of many species of animals and plants. A part of the reasoning for maintaining the connectivity between protected properties is to provide threatened plants and animals with greater opportunities to move and adapt as climate changes. This approach to conservation is considered one of the most effective ways of saving species for the benefit of current and future generations.

We need to be aware of the role that land protection and management can play in the bigger picture of wildlife survival; not just within our local community or region. It is within Connemara Conservancy's conservation strategies to consider the means of creating connected areas of protected lands across our region as we work with private landowners. We also need to integrate the mosaic of privately-owned protected properties with those lands in parks and public-protected landscapes; thus leaving an even more extensive network of connected open spaces for the future. This includes the protection of properties that act as local wildlife corridors, habitat stepping stones and sometimes lands with introduced vegetation with similar characteristics to native vegetation.

These connected corridors of land can also serve as a foundation for recreational opportunities within our communities. Trail systems rely on an interconnection of park lands and natural settings. We often see trail systems developed along two of our common natural corridors in the community; along floodplain zones and streams, and along abandoned railroad corridors.

Speaking of stream and floodplain zones, these connected linear corridors of land can serve as much more than just paths for wildlife movement or for recreational paths. The preservation and proper management of vegetation buffers along rivers and streams is vitally important to the water quality in our communities, and leaving a zone of protected lands as a filter for rainfall runoff from our more developed areas can definitely aid in water quality protection.

We are fortunate to have other partners here in North Texas who are also focusing their efforts on protecting corridors of land for both the wildlife benefits and for water quality protection. Our partners at the Upper Trinity Conservation Trust are working on initiatives to be able to place conservation easements on properties that act as buffers to the waterways draining into Lake Ray Roberts and Lake Lewisville. The Trinity Waters organization (previously the Trinity Basin Conservation Foundation) is working all along the Trinity River corridor from Dallas down towards Houston to educate landowners on the importance of watershed protection and water management on their lands. As we all are learning when we study watersheds, we are all connected by our waterways; what we do on our lands locally can have an effect on the drinking water quality of our community.



Wildlife, recreation and water quality. These aspects of our world are dependent on us working together to bring about both the protection of needed connections for the survival of our natural systems, and teamwork to provide our future communities with enjoyable recreational connections and healthy waterways. Thank you for your support in helping Connemara connect our open spaces here in North Texas.

Learn More

Robert “Bob” Mione amps up his commitment to Connemara Conservancy Foundation as the new volunteer Meadow Preserve Manager.

Connemara is pleased, honored and downright thrilled to announce that Bob Mione has signed on to help us spearhead restoration activities in the 72-acre Connemara Meadow Preserve. According to Meadow Steering Committee Chairperson Gailon Brehm, “Bob is good fit for this because of his passion for the Meadow and his unwavering commitment to volunteerism.”

Bob’s first order of business is working with area schools on select Healthy Habitat projects that include establishing a small wetlands area in the Meadow and planting plots of native prairie grass.

If you are interested in volunteering or want to know more about the restoration activity in the Connemara Meadow Preserve, please contact Bob at meadowmanager@connemaraconservancy.org.



Bob Mione in his element: working with children on restoration efforts in the Connemara Meadow Preserve.

Special thanks to the following volunteers for their outstanding service!

Richard Armendariz
Gailon Brehm
Clyde Camp
Carol Clark
Terri Dickinson
Jim Gibbs
Sheri Golden

James Hogston
Gary Howerton
Rich Jaynes
Uma Jain
Timothy McCreary
Kathie McWhorter
Bob Mione

Jim Oberholz
Vanna Oberholz
Rodney Thomas
Joanna Varona
Jim Varnum
OYEA Youth Council



L to R: Kathi and Clyde Camp at this year’s Into the Meadow.

2011 Volunteer of the Year Clyde Camp

Connemara’s webmaster, astronomy walk instigator, liaison to the Blackland Prairie Master Naturalists and all around good guy is our 2011 volunteer of the year.

The master naturalist ladies who braved the heat to water the newly planted prairie grasses, habitat walk favorite Rich Jaynes and long-time Meadow advocates Carol Clark and Jim Varnum gave Clyde a run for his money. But, in the end, Clyde claimed it for himself.

His tireless care of our website, his endless willingness to say “how can I help?” and his true love of the land exemplify his wonderful character. Thank you, Clyde!

Get Involved

Connemara Conservancy Foundation List of Contributors 2011/2012

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Tai Roberts
Thomas and Sis Miller
Time and Kathleen Litinas
Tom and Elaine Cordner
William and Frances Woodfin
Worley Stein

Ernie and Pam Pero
In honor of their grandchildren
Katherine Priddy
Alvin and Nancy Willman
Fern Yanagiswa

Plot

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Jean Avery
Allstair and Mary Brown
Alice Court
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In honor of Chico Coleman
Maria Corley
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Alvie and Melissa O'Neal
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Ben Jones
Betsy Farris
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Denise Cople Bond
Tal Roberts
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Mark and Debra Stout
Mr. and Mrs. Paul Herz
Jeanne and Sanford Fagadau
Nicole Lidji
On behalf of Kenneth Deslarzes
On behalf of Constance Pita

OriAnn Phillips
In honor of Amy Monier
Richard Zartler
Robert and Gail Allison
Robert and Pamela Wendland
Ron Mart
Steve and Robin Sedlacek
Steve Lawler
Susan Behrens
Susan Brandbury
Wanda Sedlacek
Youcef and Marianne Sennour
Zoe Dennis
Girl Scouts of Northeast Texas Troup
#1122
Clayton Smith
Daniel and Maria Corley
Larry Taylor
Tim McCreary



Into the Meadow 2011

Thanks to generous sponsors and a dedicated committee, this year's Into the Meadow event raised over \$50,000 for Connemara's conservation efforts. Congratulations!



2011 Committee: Chairperson: Jessie Drayton
Amy Monier, Scott White, Alex Eshelbrenner, Kenny Chandler
Misti Reed, Eleanor Bond and Sandra Greenway

pecan sponsors

Julie and Kenneth Hersh
Anonymous Donor

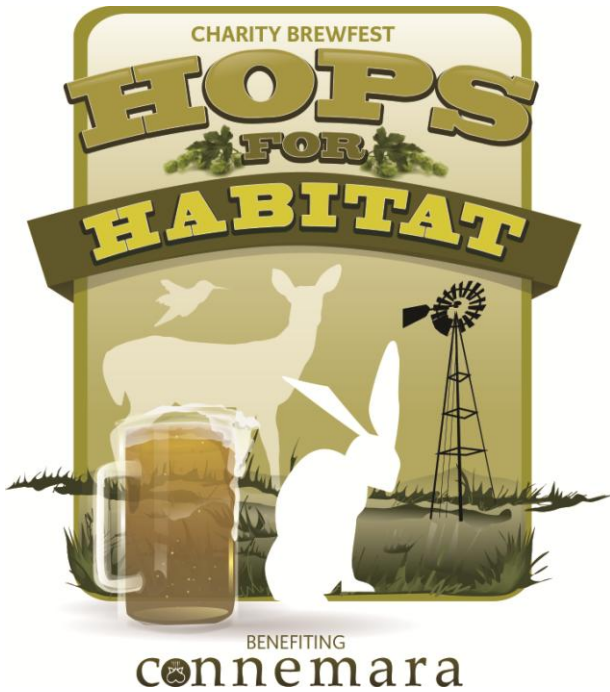
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nelo

In-kind items provided by: Advantage Valet, AT&T Performing Arts Center, Cabela's, Fairmont Heritage Place, Ferrini, Pecan Lodge Catering, REI and Tomlin Investments.



HOPS FOR HABITAT brings together the community to celebrate the natural originality of North Texas. From local brewmasters and chefs to fun and funky places to party, HOPS FOR HABITAT is a great way for you to experience some of the best things North Texas has to offer. Proceeds benefit Connemara Conservancy.

Inaugural Event Details

7:00 p.m. – 10:00 p.m. April 7, 2012

Old Farm House @ Montgomery Farm

1215 Old Bethany Road Allen, Texas 75013

\$50.00 per ticket • only 100 tickets available

Buy tickets online at www.connemaraconservancy.org

Sponsored by Rahr and Sons Brewing Co.

Connemara reaches out to Landowners in North Texas

Is the land, the ranch or the farm that you own close to your and to your family? Are you interesting in finding ways to preserve open space for the next generation and the next? Then this workshop is exactly what you need. Connemara will explain (in layman's terms) the opportunities – both social and financial – of land conservation and how you can be the change you want to see in your neck of the woods.

Join us for our next Farmers and Ranchers workshop

Friday, May 11, 2012

Registration begins at 12:30 p.m. • Workshop 1:00 p.m. - 4:30 p.m.

Granbury, Texas

info@connemaraconservancy.org

214-351-0990

Special thanks to our sponsors of the November workshop in

Bonham: Dixon Water Foundation, Upper Trinity Conservation Trust, Texas Ranch Connection and Milkes Realty Valuation. Additional partnership provided by: Braun & Gresham, Texas Conservation Connection and Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS).

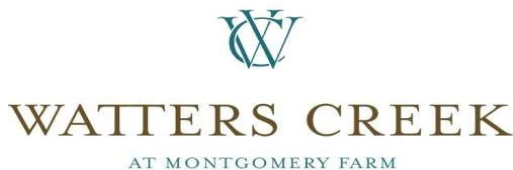
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We can assist you. Call us. 512-894-5426



Watters Creek will donate the proceeds from next quarter's Change for Charity to EarthFest 2012! That means every penny donated to the parking meters at Watters Creek from **April 1, 2012 – June 30, 2012** comes directly to the EarthFest partners including Connemara Conservancy Foundation.

Thanks Watters Creek for your continued support!

Save Land

Learn More

Get Involved

Connemara Conservancy Foundation's Board of Directors



L to R: Mark Baldwin, Sandra Greenway, Ivan Kumamoto, Kirk Evans and Scott White

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Gift the Gift of Membership or Join Today!

Complete this form and return it to the Connemara's administrative office or donate online at www.connemaraconservancy.org.

Name*: _____ Address*: _____ City* ___ State* __ Zip* _____

Email*: _____ Telephone*: _____

My check is enclosed. I prefer to use my* Visa MC AMEX

Card # * _____ Exp Date * _____ CVS* _____

This gift is honor of/a membership for: _____

*All data must be completed to process a donation via credit card. Please make checks payable to Connemara Conservancy Foundation. Mail to: 1314 W. McDermott Suite 106-812, Allen, Texas 75013

Connemara Conservancy Foundation Activity & Event Calendar

February			
5	8:00 a.m.	Bird Walk*	Connemara Meadow Preserve
22 – 24	Wed – Fri	Texas Land Trust Council	Conference in Austin, Texas
25	10:00 a.m.	Winter Tree Walk*	Connemara Meadow Preserve
26	12:00 – 5:00 p.m.	Open House*	Connemara Meadow Preserve
	9:00 p.m.	Astronomy Walk*	Connemara Meadow Preserve
March			
3	8:00 a.m.	Bird Walk*	Connemara Meadow Preserve
24 & 35	All Day	Collin County Garden Show	Myers Park in McKinney
25	12:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.	Open House*	Connemara Meadow Preserve
	9:00 p.m.	Astronomy Walk*	Connemara Meadow Preserve
April			
1	8:00 a.m.	Bird Walk*	Connemara Meadow Preserve
7	10:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.	EarthFest 2012*	Connemara Meadow Preserve
	7:00 p.m.	Hops for Habitat	Fundraising Event in Allen
14	9:00 a.m.	Habitat Walk*	Connemara Meadow Preserve
20 – 22	Friday – Sunday	EarthDay Dallas 2012	Promotional Booth at Fair Park
22	12:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.	Open House*	Connemara Meadow Preserve
	9:00 p.m.	Astronomy Walk*	Connemara Meadow Preserve
May			
5	8:00 a.m.	Bird Walk*	Connemara Meadow Preserve
11	1:00 p.m.	Landowner Workshop	Granbury Texas
12	9:00 a.m.	Habitat Walk*	Connemara Meadow Preserve
20	9:00 p.m.	Astronomy Walk*	Connemara Meadow Preserve
27	1:00 – 5:00 p.m.	Open House*	Connemara Meadow Preserve
June			
6/2	9:00 a.m.	Habitat Walk*	
6/3	8:00 a.m.	Bird Walk *	Connemara Meadow Preserve
6/10	7:00 p.m.	Hops for Habitat	Fundraising Event in McKinney
6/17	9:00 p.m.	Astronomy Walk*	Connemara Meadow Preserve
6/24	1:00 – 5:00 p.m.	Open House*	Connemara Meadow Preserve



*Free programs are made possible by:
 BizComPR
 City of Allen
 EcoLiteracy Project
 Emerson Partners
 Montgomery Farm
 and
 Connemara's Dedicated
 Volunteers & Members.

The schedule is subject to change.
 Please check the online calendar
 for any updates at
www.connemaraconservancy.org.

connemara

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 Allen, Texas 75013
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Saving the land we love in North Texas!