

BRAZOS RIVER CONSERVATION COALITION

HOOD COUNTY CHAPTER

NEWSLETTER

August 2009

Letter from the President

Dear BRCC Members and Friends,

It has been awhile since our last newsletter but that doesn't mean things have been quiet. We've made progress on several fronts, notably: membership, the John Graves Scenic Riverway, the "Life of the Brazos" photo exhibition and the Watershed Protection Plan.

BRCC membership is now almost 700, including the merger with the BRCC group from Parker and Palo Pinto Counties. Our goal is to reach 1,000 members by the end of 2009. If you have family or friends that are interested in conserving the natural beauty and health of the Brazos River, please have them check our website at: brazosriverconservation.org and follow the instructions to become members. The contribution is a one-time, tax deductible \$5.00 per person.

The Life on the Brazos Photo Exhibition is detailed below and will be going on until August 14. The reviews have been excellent and if you are in Granbury while it is open, I recommend it highly. You'll get a good idea of the resource we are working to preserve. Thanks to all the volunteers and photographers for their hard work in assembling this collection.

The Hood County Commissioners Court has just designated the Brazos River and Lake Granbury as an extension of the John Graves Scenic Riverway that was originally established in Parker and Palo Pinto Counties. We have worked with the Texas legislature toward having the state adopt this designation with some regulatory provisions as there are in Parker and Palo Pinto Counties. Although this effort was not successful in this year's session, we expect to make it happen in 2011. The good news is that there are presently no major problems in Hood County due to rock mining as there were at points along the river above Lake Granbury.

The Lake Granbury Watershed Stakeholders Group has been working to develop a Watershed Protection Plan to address *E. coli* bacterial issues that have been identified in several coves along the lake. When the plan's recommendations are in place, mechanisms will be developed to fund the recommended actions. Many organizations and individuals are involved in this effort in order to maintain Lake Granbury as a safe water supply.

Concerned citizens who are informed about the issues can safeguard the environment in this rapidly developing part of Texas. For example, involved citizen groups recently affected changes and made significant contributions to the conservation of the watershed, including cancellation of the private Rucker Creek sewage treatment plant and the Barnett water injection well on Fall Creek Highway. Let me be clear, the BRCC is not against development, but wants

things to be done in a way that protects the sanitary, recreational and aesthetic values of water resources in the Brazos Basin.

We resume regular meetings in September with more interesting speakers that can shed light on issues of interest.

Stay tuned...
Josh Rosenfeld
jrosenfeld@charter.net

The John Graves Scenic Riverway

Photographic Exhibit

“Life of the Brazos”

Presented by The Brazos River Conservation Coalition

& The Lake Granbury Art Association Photography Group

10 a.m. – 5 p.m. Daily

July 18 – August 14

Granbury Square Plaza

201 E. Pearl St.

No Admission Charge

Don't Miss This Important Show!

This exhibit is intended to arouse interest in preserving the natural resources and high quality of life provided by the Brazos River and its accompanying tributaries and lakes, such as Lake Granbury.

Watershed Protection Plan (WPP)

The WPP Stakeholder's **next working meeting is on August 18 at 9:00 AM in the American Hall on Travis Street in Granbury.** BRCC is a voting member of this group.

Important Websites and E-mail Addresses

U. S. CONGRESS

Senator Kay Bailey-Hutchinson
<http://hutchison.senate.gov> (e-mail via website)

Senator John Cornyn
<http://cornyn.senate.gov> (e-mail via website)

Congressman Chet Edwards
victoria.sykes@mail.house.gov

STATE ENFORCEMENT AGENCIES

Brazos River Authority-Tiffany Morgan
www.brazos.org
tiffanym@brazos.org

HOOD COUNTY

County Judge Andy Rash
knace@co.hood.tx.us

Commissioner Leonard Heathington
www.co.hood.tx.us/commpct3.htm

Commissioner Mike Sympson
www.co.hood.tx.us/commpct1.htm

County Environmental Health Office
James McAusland, Director
jmcausland@co.hood.tx.us

TEXAS LEGISLATURE

State Senator Kip Averitt
becky.dixon@senate.state.tx.us

State Representative Jim Keffer
tori.regas@house.state.tx.us

Texas Commission on
Environmental Quality (TCEQ)
www.state.tx.us
fespino@tceq.state.tx.us

Commissioner Dick Roan
www.co.hood.tx.us/commpct2.htm

Commissioner Steve Berry
www.co.hood.tx.us/commpct3.htm

County Extension Agent
Marty Vahlenkamp
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