

2011 Great Texas Birding Classic Conservation Grant Projects

Weeklong Tournament

First Place - \$10,000 Conservation Grant

Project: Brazilian Pepper tree removal Port Aransas Nature Preserve – City of Port Aransas

This project will continue work to remove and prevent spreading of the exotic and invasive pepper tree. Suitable plants such as mesquite, lantana, prickly ash, bay tree and coral bean will be planted.

Team: Swarovski Fabulous (EL) Fifties

Sponsor: Swarovski Optik NA

Property size: 1,217 acres, Nueces County

Adult One Day Central Coast

First Place - \$10,000 Conservation Grant

Project: Restoration of Avian habitat on the Welder Wildlife Refuge – Welder Wildlife Foundation

This project will focus on controlling invasive species, particularly catclawvine, Chinese tallow, huisache and Chinaberry. These plants have created a canopy which has led to less diverse herbaceous vegetation. The basal stems will be cut and hand treated with herbicide. The naturally occurring native vegetation can recover thus restoring threatened avian habitat.

Team: Dallas Scissortails

Sponsor: Dallas Audubon Society

Property size: 7,800 acres, San Patricio County

Adult One Day Upper Coast

First Place - \$10,000 Conservation Grant

Project: Northern Bobwhite habitat restoration at the Sandyland Sanctuary – The Nature Conservancy - Big Thicket Program

This project's goal is to conduct restoration treatments of prescribed burn, herbicide and mechanical control and feral hog removal to improve the upland forested habitat to benefit the Northern Bobwhite.

Team: TAMUG WildBirders

Sponsor: WildBird

Property size: 1,000 acres to be treated, Hardin County

Energy Saver

First Place - \$10,000 Conservation Grant

Project: Southmost Preserve Habitat Restoration – The Nature Conservancy

This project will focus on herbicide treating invasive grasses on 22 acres of the preserve. Five acres will be replanted with native plants from their native plant nursery.

Team: Weslaco Slice of the Good Life

Sponsor: Weslaco Chamber of Commerce

Property size: 22 acres of the 1,034 acre preserve, Cameron County

Lone Star Bird Award

\$3,000 Conservation Grant

Project: Packery Channel Oak Motte Sanctuary habitat enhancement – Audubon Outdoor Club of Corpus Christi

This project will consist of the installation of a drip fountain and connecting to the city water supply as a source of fresh water for times when rainfall is low.

Team: Knight Birds

Sponsor: Corpus Christi CVB

Property size: 5 acres, Nueces County

GTBC Selections

With additional tournament funds raised for Conservation Grants Classic staff got together and chose two projects for the remaining \$10,000. Here they are:

\$7,000 Conservation Grant

Project: Freeport Wetlands Habitat Improvements – City of Freeport

This project will serve the dual purpose of improving the habitat with plantings of natives such as spike rush, cordgrass and wax myrtle as well as educational signage displaying common birds that can be seen from various locations along the trail.

Property size: 50 acres, Brazoria County

\$3,000 Conservation Grant

Project: Russ Pittman Park Enhancement – Nature Discovery Center

Exotic plant species will be removed and replaced with woody and herbaceous natives. The project will increase the amount and diversity of understory vegetation to create higher quality habitat for insects and avifauna.

Property size: 4 acres, Harris County

CTC \$10K - Brazilian Pepper tree removal Port Aransas Nature Preserve – City of Port Aransas; chosen by the Swarovski Fabulous (EL) Fifties Weeklong team

UTC \$10K - Northern Bobwhite habitat restoration at the Sandyland Sanctuary – The Nature Conservancy; chosen by the TAMUG WildBirders Upper Texas Coast Adult One Day team

CTC \$10K - Restoration of Avian habitat at the Welder Wildlife Refuge – Welder Wildlife Foundation; chosen by the Dallas Scissortails Central Texas Coast Adult One Day team

LTC \$10K - Southmost Preserve Habitat Restoration – The Nature Conservancy; chosen by the Weslaco Slice of the Good Life Energy Saver team

CTC \$3K - Packery Channel Oak Motte habitat restoration – Audubon Outdoor Club of Corpus Christi; chosen by Knight Birds Big Sit team

UTC \$7K - Freeport Wetlands Habitat Improvements – City of Freeport; GTBC Selections

UTC \$3K - Russ Pittman Park Enhancement – Nature Discovery Center; GTBC Selections