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# FRIENDS OF DOLAN FALLS PRESERVE

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## Dolan Recognized

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Dolan Falls Preserve has been named one of America's top 500 *Globally Important Bird Areas* by the national non-profit organization, American Bird Conservancy (ABC), in recognition of its significance in the ongoing effort to conserve wild birds and their habitats.

Dolan Falls will also be included in ABC's forthcoming book, *The Bird Conservation Handbook, Globally Important Bird Areas of the U.S.*, to be published by Henry Holt and Company, which contains detailed site descriptions and species information for each of the 500 IBAs, as well as illustrations of some of the representative birds.

ABC's IBA program, supported in part by The Nature Conservancy and the Disney Wildlife Conservation Fund, aims to identify and protect a network of key sites to further bird conservation efforts. IBA programs have been initiated throughout the world in Europe, the Middle East, Africa, Canada, Mexico and Ecuador as well as the United States.

American Bird Conservancy hopes that the designation of the first 100 Global IBAs in the U.S. will further illustrate the importance of bird and habitat conservation across the country and draw attention to the significance these particular areas have for birds and the millions of people who visit them each year to birdwatch – one of America's most popular hobbies.

For more information call Robert Chipley, director, IBA program, at (540)253-5780.



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Gary Amaon, Central Texas Program Manager, and Jim Harrison, Dolan Falls Preserve Steward, with the new Globally Important Bird Area sign.

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## New Gate Installed

After two work weekends and many hours of labor by Dolan Falls staff and others, the lovely new gate, paid for by the Friends of Dolan Falls Preserve, has been completed.



Thank you to everyone who contributed money, gathered sotol stalks, constructed the sotol panel or otherwise helped with the gate.

# Walking Sticks

Contributed by Adam Taliachich

Walking sticks are great. Ever so slowly they wander through their habitat going unnoticed by all. They don't need the flashy colors of a wasp or the bold leaps of a grasshopper. Quiet and purposeful is their manner; as if so content with themselves that they need no recognition by others. That is why when I see a walking stick, I always get excited. It is like seeing something that I'm not supposed to see.

On a recent volunteering trip out at The Nature Conservancy land at Dolan Falls on the Devils River, not only did I see a walking stick, but I had the rare opportunity to see two walking sticks in the process of mating. Like most walking stick movements, the act of mating is a slow process, which gave me time to observe this unique event.

Male walking sticks are only about half the size of females. To make up for the male's small stature, he perches atop the female with his abdomen (the posterior segment of the body in insects) wrapped around and under her abdomen. The sexual organs of walking sticks are almost near the end of their bodies. So to hold their contorted abdomens firmly in place during mating, male walking sticks grip the female with a special clasping device near their reproductive organs.

Eventually, it was not the male nor the female walking stick that could not last through the duration of the event, but it was I, who after watching them for quite some time, moved on to the other wonderful sights at Dolan Falls that day.

To find out more about walking sticks on the internet go to:

<http://ixpress.com/phasmids/index.html>



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## Bird Meeting Planned

On December 12, a meeting to discuss the black-capped vireo will be held at Dolan Falls Preserve. Craig Faraquhar and others from Texas Parks and Wildlife and representatives from several Nature Conservancy sites are planning to attend. The purpose of the meeting is to share field research information from several regions that has been gathered on this endangered songbird.

Breeding pairs of vireos are closely monitored at Dolan Falls each year. One of the reasons for its decline is predation by brown-headed cowbirds.

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Black-capped vireo nest with a brown-headed cowbird egg.

### Dolan Falls Wish List

*Please call Jim or Bea at (915) 292-4351 if you can contribute any of these items.*

Tractor with front-end loader

Portable cement mixer

Slide projection screen



## A Word of Hope

*We at Dolan Falls Preserve want to express our grief and sadness over the loss of lives on September 11. We would like to share with you the inspirational words of the President and CEO of the Nature Conservancy, Steve McCormick.*

Dear Members and Friends:

Like the rest of the country – indeed like people around the world – we at The Nature Conservancy were horrified and deeply saddened by the unconscionable acts of violence and terrorism we witnessed in New York City and here in Arlington, Virginia. They revealed the dark side of human nature steeped in hatred and conflict.

But the good in humanity will always outshine the dark, I believe – those human dimensions that compel us to help one another, to give freely of ourselves, to stand for a cause, to take risks in doing what we know is right. Time and again in the past days, we have seen this spirit in force.

The impulse toward conservation also embodies this positive, hopeful dimension of the human spirit. We are all kin – those of us who believe in protecting the wonders of the natural world and who turn to it for spiritual nourishment. This past week of anguish has reaffirmed for us at The Nature Conservancy our mission: to preserve the full variety of life on Earth, and in doing so, to enrich the human spirit.

In the wake of the tragedy, I like many others have taken stock of the world around me. I marvel with renewed appreciation at what I hold dear and what inspires me. At times of such uncertainty and fear, it is worth remembering that Earth abides. Take refuge there. Take someone you love for a walk in the woods, or a float down a river. It will do a world of good.

On behalf of all The Nature Conservancy family,

**Steve McCormick**  
**President and CEO**

<b>Bea &amp; Jim Harrison</b>	<b>(915) 292-4351 (preserve)</b>
<b>Dolan Falls Preserve</b>	<b>(830) 775-6426 (Del Rio)</b>
<b>HCR-1 Box 504</b>	<b><a href="mailto:jharrison@tnc.org">jharrison@tnc.org</a></b>
<b>Del Rio, Texas 78840</b>	<b><a href="http://www.texasnature.org">www.texasnature.org</a></b>



David Heinicke demonstrates monarch tagging to our youngest guest, Skyler Barron.

## Monarchs tagged

Fifteen visitors helped to tag over 300 monarch butterflies at Dolan Falls Preserve at the annual event Oct 13-15. It was thrilling to see the clusters of monarchs in the sycamores and the Mexican white oak trees. David Heinicke, of Texas Parks and Wildlife, and his wife, Linda, assisted in leading the tagging effort.

By participating in tagging monarch butterflies, we contribute to the Monarch Watch program, sponsored by the University of Kansas Department of entomology.



This year, in addition to tagging butterflies, we enjoyed a group dinner Saturday night. Rose Wagner and Curtis and Jo Jarrell along with Dolan staff, demonstrated their Dutch-oven cooking skills. Another culinary treat was the

broiled trout prepared by Leon and Lula Skeet.

Other guests included Doc Wagner, Diane Richmond, Matt and Skyler Barron, Gardner Campbell, Jerry Gips, and Vicky and Doris Bagwell.



Curtis Jarrell shows off his triple-decker Dutch-oven cooking skills.



Hundreds of monarch butterflies cluster in the trees at Dolan Falls on their annual migration to Mexico.

# Be a FRIEND

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*Yes!* I would like to be a Friend of Dolan Falls Preserve.

Enclosed is my check for **\$25**, payable to **The Nature Conservancy of Texas.**

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_

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State \_\_\_\_\_

Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Fax \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail \_\_\_\_\_

Your \$25 contribution will be used solely for the Dolan Falls Preserve. Memberships of \$100 secure a Nature Conservancy membership and all of its benefits as well. Clip this form and mail with your check to :

*Dolan Falls Preserve  
The Nature Conservancy of Texas  
HCR-1, Box 504  
Del Rio, Texas 78840  
(915) 292-4351*

