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For Immediate Release

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Texas Water Symposium Series Continues Nov. 11

Session Two in Fredericksburg to focus on the impact of invasive species

Austin, TX (October 21, 2010) – Invasions by plants, animals and parasites are regarded by biologists as a major threat to biological diversity worldwide and can have major impacts on water resources and economics. They threaten the survival of native plants and animals, interfere with ecosystems and hybridize with native species. Find out more at Session Two of the 2010-2011 Texas Water Symposium Series: “The Insidious and Stealthy Water Thieves of Texas: Invasive species impacts on resources, economics and ecosystems.” The symposium will be held at the new Hill Country University Center Building, Texas Tech University, in Fredericksburg, 2818 East Highway 290, 7:00 pm, Thursday, November 11.



The symposium will be moderated by Carter Smith, Executive Director of the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department (TPWD). Prior to becoming TPWD executive director, Smith was state director for the Nature Conservancy of Texas. As a biologist, Smith has worked on a variety of research projects ranging from studying moose in the boreal forests of Saskatchewan to pronghorn antelope in far west Texas. He was recently named an outstanding alumnus by Texas Tech and the College of Agriculture and Natural Resources.

Panelists include Jim Bergan, Director of Science and Stewardship, The Nature Conservancy. He has worked on the “Survival and Habitat Use of Mallards wintering in the Playa Lakes Region,” and was the

Mad Island Marsh project director in Matagorda County. Bergan also has worked as the South Texas Program Manager on conservation efforts in the Laguna Madre.

Panel participant Earl Chilton is with the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department, Austin, director of the Aquatic Habitat Enhancement Program. He is a member of the National Invasive Species Advisory Committee and vice-chair of the Texas Invasive Species Coordinating Committee that was recently established by statute. Chilton also is a member of three regional panels of the federal Aquatic Nuisance Species Task Force: the Gulf and South Atlantic States Regional Panel, the Mississippi River Basin Regional Panel, and the Western Regional Panel.

Panel participant Tom Arsuffi, director of the Llano River Field Station, is an aquatic ecologist. One of his research interests is on ecological impacts of invasive species on Texas aquatic ecosystems. Arsuffi has served as president of the Texas Academy of Science and program chair for regional and international scientific societies. He has been a reviewer for National Science Foundation, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and United States Department of Agriculture panels.

There is a great need for a water-literate public; decisions being made today have far-reaching and long-lasting effects for our children and future generations. Water, essential for life, is our most precious and valuable natural resource. But water supply is limited and under increasing pressure from a growing population. The 2010-2011 Texas Water Symposium Series will provide perspectives from policy makers, scientists, water resource experts and regional leaders on how we will protect this resource and plan for a sustainable future.

Join us as we explore the complexity and challenges of providing water for Texans in this century. Each session is free and open to the public. The hour-long program begins at 7:00 p.m., followed by discussion time with Q&A. The events are recorded and aired on Texas Public Radio one week later.

The annual Texas Water Symposium series is co-sponsored by Schreiner University in Kerrville, Texas Tech University, Texas Public Radio and the Hill Country Alliance.