Dear Friend,

July 29, 2014

Please join us in making a difference by becoming a sponsor for our fall Bluegrass & Barbeque benefit, Wings over the Wetland – Beyond the Surface. The event will take place on Thursday, October 16th, 2014 at the John Bunker Sands Wetland Center. This is a special date for us, as it falls on the birthday of the late John Bunker Sands. The historical significance and future importance of water and wetland conservation was a cause very dear to both Bunker and his late brother David, and we are proud to continue this initiative by serving as the 2014-2015 Chairs.

The Sands brothers’ love of nature and the arts inspired us to tailor the benefit to resonate with their stewardship of the land. Rosewood Ranches Wagyu Beef will be the centerpiece of family style barbeque prepared by 4T’s BBQ & Catering. Victor Tango’s Alex Fletcher, known as DFW’s best mixologist, will be creating signature cocktails using natural ingredients, including honey from bee hives on the ranch, and the Dallas Community Brewer will provide unique craft beers. Wood & Wire, the best new bluegrass band in the state of Texas, will have us in tune with the Wetland environment as the entertainment for the evening. We will have a silent auction featuring unique one of a kind experiences.

Special guests and partners will help us to raise awareness of water & wildlife conservation through Art! Linda Gray, accomplished actress, director and worldwide philanthropist, will serve as our Honorary Chair, and Avery Nejam, creator of our benefit logo, will serve as our Honorary Artist. Avery’s artwork is seen in the art collections of both celebrity and fine art collectors worldwide, and she has been called a modern-day Andy Warhol by publications such as Vogue and Harper’s Bazaar. A photographic exhibit featuring the winners of our first photography contest which captures the natural art of the wetland surrounding the Center will also be on display. To bring the art component full circle, the McKinney Avenue Contemporary art museum will display a photographic exhibit of Land Stewardship of Texas in front and behind the lens’ of John Bunker & David Keith Sands during September and October. Original maps, drawings and photographs will be used to tell the historical aspects of wetlands, ranches and wild spaces in-between. Sponsors will have an opportunity to have a private viewing of this unique exhibit at our Sponsor Cocktail party on September 17th. There are many more surprises in store for the evening, and we are thrilled to have all of these unique artists and partners to join us for the benefit.

Since opening in 2010, the Wetland Center has educated over 10,000 students and 5,000 adults about the importance of water & wildlife conservation. The education staff is developing new programs that will integrate both wildlife conservation and observation-based art into our existing curriculum. Research initiatives will be expanded by identifying projects that will further improve water quality, increase water supply, and sustain wildlife habitat. As exposure of the Wetland Center has increased, so has our habitat and volume of recycled water. During this time of drought, the East Fork Wetland is providing up to 25% of the water supply for north Texas communities while providing safe refuge for American Bald Eagles, Alligators, River Otters and over 257 bird species.

Please consider joining us as a sponsor to continue our important work by donating online or complete and return the enclosed form by Friday, September 5, 2014. Thank you for your continued interest and generous support of the John Bunker Sands Wetland Center.

Sincerely,

Bedford & Tia Wynne
Honorary Chair

Valerie Grimes
Co-Chair

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