

Making a Difference at Little Cypress Creek

Preserve Benefits from Eagle Scout Projects

From planting trees to cleaning up trails to painstakingly removing the tenacious and fast-spreading invasive plant species, deeprooted sedge (*Cyperus entrerianus*), Boy Scouts have been invaluable volunteers at Little Cypress Creek Preserve.

Now two Boy Scouts, from the same family no less, have chosen the preserve as the site for their Eagle Scout projects. Matthew Barnhill, a 10th grader at Cy-Fair High School, created amphitheater-style seating that is used for bird tours and nature

Boy Scouts have been invaluable volunteers at Little Cypress Creek Preserve.

talks, and Timothy Barnhill, an eighth grader at Goodson Middle School, constructed a kiosk used to track bird sightings.

"I wanted to find an outdoor project, and since Little



Top, bird sightings are tracked on Timothy Barnhill's kiosk. From Troop #846 are, from left, Matt Barnhill, Dr. Paul Herman, Timothy Barnhill, and Edward Herman. Visitors use Matthew Barnhill's amphitheater-style seating during bird tours and nature talks.

Photos by John Barnhill

Cypress Creek Preserve was new, I figured there was a need," Matthew relates. Matthew's benches, which were partially made from recycled materials, took 20 hours to plan, construct, and install with the help of others from Troop #846. Timothy's kiosk, executed in 22 hours, was planned and constructed primarily at the Barnhill's house and installed with help from the same troop.

When the two brothers, who will earn their Eagle Scout status by the fall, visited the preserve several weeks later, they appreciated the impact of their work. "We realized that what we did will be out there a long time. We helped make a contribution. That feels good," Matthew concludes.

Little Cypress Creek Preserve is home to more than 100 documented bird species. Families or groups interested in taking a guided naturalist tour can make reservations by contacting Legacy Land Trust at (713) 524-2100.