



*Warren ISD Teachers Tex Blackshear, Vicki Miller and Zach Cain at Teachers' Conservation Institute*

## **Warren Teachers Learn Forestry Conservation**

Tex Blackshear, Vicki Miller, and Zach Cain from Warren ISD, attended the Teachers' Conservation Institute at the Piney Woods Conservation Center, near Broaddus. They participated in the July 6-11 session along with other teachers and professionals from across the state. The Tyler County Forest Landowner Association awarded a full scholarship to each of the three teachers.

The Teachers' Conservation Institute, sponsored by the Texas Forestry Association, is a professional development workshop that uses the forest to teach conservation to Texas' teachers. The workshop focuses on the environmental, economic, and social well being that comes through scientific stewardship. The Texas Forestry Association coordinates the foresters, educators, natural resource conservationists and industry professionals that lead the diverse activities.

Vicki Miller is excited about using Project Learning Tree activities in her Junior High math classes in the coming school year. Through hands-on activities, Project Learning Tree's curriculum provides students with opportunities to investigate environmental issues and increase their environmental literacy. Texas Project Learning Tree is sponsored by the Texas Forestry Association and the Texas Forest Service.

Zach Cain plans to creatively incorporate some of the information he learned at the institute into his elementary music program.

Forestry conservation practices are designed to ensure that future generations will have the abundant forests that we enjoy today. The Texas Forestry Association is leading the

implementation of sustainable forest stewardship initiatives in Texas by encouraging landowners to reforest following the final harvest and to have a management plan that accounts for water quality, wildlife habitat, and soil conservation.

Vicki and Zach stated that they “highly recommend the TCI Workshop, especially to any teachers who live or work in this area. We learned tons of information about the Forest Industry that is not common knowledge to the public for example, from harvesting seeds to making boards, plywood and oriented strand board (OSB).”