

FW Weekly

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Letters to the Editor

Trinity Tree Threat

I attended a meeting on Sept. 8 at Capstone Church that included a presentation by Jim Bradbury, spokesman for trinitytrees.org. He described the Chesapeake gas well site, 2.6 acres in the very core of a grove of ancient oak and pecan trees, within undisturbed park land. He showed a photo of a sign that until recently stood at the trail's edge: "Park open from dawn to dusk."

A Chesapeake flier distributed at the meeting was called "Natural Gas Drilling: The Truth about Trinity Trails." The language was typical corporate irresponsibility and nonsense. For example, it insisted, "Twigs and rigs can coexist." Calling that eight-acre ancient canopy "twigs" captures the lack of regard Chesapeake Energy has for our natural world. When Mr. Bradbury spoke of an alternative drilling site on adjacent industrial land owned by Union Pacific Railway, the Barnett Shale people were simply not interested. They own that grove of trees now, and by God, they'll drill there if they want to.

I think of a seldom-recalled verse from Woody Guthrie's "This Land Is Your Land":

*As I went walking, I saw a sign there
On that sign it said, "private property"
But on the other side it didn't say nothin'
That side was made for you and me*

The Trinity grove should be preserved as a park. I listened as the city council congratulated themselves for carving out a billion-dollar city budget. Maybe some of that Barnett Shale money from DFW airport leases could buy a single eight-acre sanctuary along the Trinity Trail. Of course, Chesapeake says it's not for sale.

A sign with more platitudes was displayed in the church foyer. It called Barnett Shale the "energy boom of this generation." I thought then, and I think now, what happens to the park after the trees are destroyed and the boom goes bust? What kind of world follows the Barnett Shale explosion?

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