

County group recognizes

The Nacogdoches County Humane Society recently held its annual business meeting and honoree dinner at Shelley's Bakery Cafe.

Officers for 2010 will be Rita Butler, president; Anne Sullivan, vice president; Mary Lou Smith, secretary; and Meredith Fleming, treasurer.

Four honorees who made a difference in the lives of animals in Nacogdoches County during the past year were recognized, including Dr. Wendy Blount for work on the spay/neuter clinic; Michele Sprague for organization of volunteers at the city animal shelter; Jamie Shelton for her work as city shelter supervisor; and Texas Parks and Wildlife Department Game Warden Heath Bragg for enforcement of game laws in Nacogdoches County. Honorees received a copy of Charlotte Montgomery's book, "The Lost Summer."

Guests in attendance included Mayor Roger Van Horn, City Councilwoman Shelley Brophy, and city environmental health manager and emergency management coordinator Tommy Wheeler.

In an overview of the past year, Butler said the local Humane Society has conducted humane education in schools, provided emergency aid to animals in need and made marked progress on the spay/neuter clinic, a joint venture of volunteers of the Humane Society, the city of Nacogdoches and Nacogdoches Cares, which has provided volunteers for the clinic.

One of the main goals of the spay/neuter clinic is to eventually increase the "save rate" at the

city animal shelter by positively impacting the severe pet overpopulation problem in Nacogdoches County, according to Butler.

Nine shelter-animal sterilization days have been held at the Nacogdoches Animal Service Center's spay/neuter clinic, sterilizing 140 adopted shelter animals.

The clinic averages approximately 11 animals per surgery day, and the center will soon open to the public offering low-cost spay/neuters to qualifying applicants, when Butler said numbers are expected to increase to 20 to 25 animals per surgery day.

"With 140 surgeries behind them, trained volunteers have done a great job handling and caring for the animals before, during and after surgery and recovery" said Blount, who conducts and supervises each surgery. "With this experience behind them, staff and volunteers feel prepared and confident to help additional public animals at the clinic."

The Nacogdoches clinic has received statewide recognition, as representatives for the cities of Longview and Palestine visited the clinic to observe its operation and to tour the Nacogdoches Animal Service Center. Animal control staff from the city of Pasadena Animal Shelter is also scheduled to visit.

To join the local Humane Society, to make a donation or to organize a fundraising event benefiting the organization, call 564-3841.

The "needs list" for the spay/neuter clinic is available online at www.spayneutemac.com. To volunteer, go to www.mdstx77019@yahoo.com.

four people for helping animals



Humane Society honorees, from left, were volunteer organizer Michele Sprague; Dr. Wendy Blount; Game Warden Heath Bragg with his daughter, Savannah Bragg; and animal shelter supervisor Jamie Shelton.



Humane Society officers, from left, are Meredith Fleming, treasurer; Anne Sullivan, vice president; Rita Butler, president; and Mary Lou Smith, secretary.