



All Your News from the Bayous

BPA Water Symposium draws rave reviews

The Bayou Preservation Association's eighth annual Water Symposium on "Water Quality Stewardship: The Past, Present and Future State of Our Water Quality," was particularly timely given the extreme drought conditions in 2011. Feedback about the November 4 event indicated it was a huge success. Held at the United Way of Greater



L to R: Ty Kelly, Judge Ed Emmett, Kathy Lord, Mayor Annise Parker

Houston with some 170 attendees, the keynote speaker was Colonel Christopher Sallèse, District Engineer and Commanding Officer, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Galveston District, who discussed "Water Issues on the Texas Gulf Coast."

The event featured an outstanding line-up of speakers this year, covering a broad range of topics, including the Clean Rivers Program five-year report; water quality on road projects; water quality and permitting issues; low impact development regulations; an implementation plan for reducing bacteria in our bayous and water sustainability.

BPA board president Ty Kelly, along with City of Houston Mayor Annise Parker and Harris County Judge Ed Emmett, opened the Symposium, the signature event of the BPA.

Our thanks go to BPA board member and AECOM Vice President Becky Olive, and Chris Browne of EHRA and the other Symposium Committee members for their hard work in organizing the conference. Our thanks also to our generous financial supporters: AECOM, EHRA, Geosyntec Consultants, Inc., Houston Endowment, Klotz Associates, R.G. Miller Engineers, and Michael Baker Jr., Inc.

Speakers for the symposium included: Louis Aulbach, Historian, Buffalo Bayou Partnership;

Jeff Taebel, Director, Community and Environmental Planning, Houston-Galveston Area Council; Richard Chapin, Senior Project Manager, Public Works, City of Houston; Nick Russo, Environmental Team Leader, Harris County Public Infrastructure Department – Architecture & Engineering Division; Nicole Hausler, Senior Coordinator, Port of Houston Authority; Tom Beck, P.E., Transportation Engineer, Houston District, Texas Department of Transportation; L'Oreal Stepney, P.E., Deputy Director, Office of Water, Texas Commission on Environmental Quality; Stephen Costello, P.E., City Council Member, City of Houston; Mike Talbott, P.E., Director, Harris County Flood Control District; Rachel Powers, Senior Environmental Planner, Houston-Galveston Area Council (H-GAC), and Laura Spanjian, Sustainability Director for the City of Houston for Mayor Parker.

Mark your calendars for December 5th, the date of this year's BPA Water Symposium, again to be held at the United Way of Greater Houston. ●



In remembrance of Bob Arthur

The Bayou Preservation Association's board and its members are mourning the unexpected passing of board member and paddle trails committee chairman Robert "Bob" Arthur in early November. Bob was an invaluable member of the BPA "team," with his enthusiasm, knowledge, strong work ethic and dedication to the improvement of Houston-area paddling trails. He was the major force behind the designation of Buffalo Bayou as an official Texas Parks and Wildlife Department Paddling Trail in 2009. Most recently, he was hard at work on plans for the same designation of Cypress Creek as a state-sanctioned trail. Bob's passing leaves a void that is impossible to fill.

In honor of Bob Arthur's memory, the Bayou Preservation Association board voted to name the Briar Bend Park canoe launch on Buffalo Bayou the Robert Arthur Launch. As part of this tribute, we will install a permanent plaque at the site in recognition of Bob's enormous contributions to our organization.

Additionally, BPA was the designated charity for memorial contributions in Bob Arthur's name. We are grateful to his family for this generous act.

We hope all BPA members will make it a priority to schedule a canoe or kayak trip on one of our bayous in 2012. Bring your family and friends out! That would be one of the greatest tributes we could make to Bob Arthur, who was an avid proponent of recreational paddling and environmental stewardship.



Remembering Bob Arthur

REI grant gives BPA huge boost for paddling trails

The BPA was the fortunate recipient of a \$20,000 grant from national retailer REI in August that is helping to fund major improvements along 60 miles of paddling trails on both Buffalo Bayou and Cypress Creek through August 2012. These improvement projects will result in safer and more accessible paddling trails for recreational use.

Funds from private sources have already been raised by BPA to supplement the grant. Appreciation goes to BPA's Steve Hupp, Jennifer Cate, Jim Robertson, Eric Ruckstuhl and the late Bob Arthur for their hard work in preparing the grant application. We also gratefully acknowledge the support of our REI representatives Dina Attar at REI Houston-Galleria and Diana Acker at REI Houston-Willowbrook.



Community volunteers and contract labor have and will continue to perform several tasks along both waterways, with goals of at least 140 volunteers contributing 560 hours of service on and around these bayous. Additionally, one of the project goals for Cypress Creek is to achieve designation as a Texas Parks & Wildlife Department (TPWD)-sanctioned paddling trail, which Buffalo Bayou

was named in 2009. At 26 miles, the Buffalo Bayou Paddling Trail is the longest in the state of Texas.

BPA and REI are already off to a great start, with projects held on Sept. 22 at the Dairy Ashford Road launch at Terry Hershey Park and on Oct. 17 and Nov. 12 at two launch sites on Cypress Creek. Volunteers from schools, Scout units, companies and the community came out on each of these Saturdays to provide much-needed manpower. Tasks included picking up trash and debris in and along the bayous; removing invasive, exotic plants and trees that had been paint-marked by BPA's Ruckstuhl; hauling away limbs and debris and placing steps and a pathway to the Cypress Creek launch at Kuykendahl Road.

Plans for the paddling trail upgrades on Cypress Creek will be implemented in partnership with the Cypress Creek Greenway Project. Proposed work over the next several months includes:

- Creation of two additional paddling trail launches along approximately 40 miles of the bayou to complement the eight launch sites already in place
- Installation of trail mileage and take-out signage along the route of the bayou
- Removal of litter and heavy debris along targeted sections
- As with Buffalo Bayou, invasive, exotic plant removal and replanting of native habitat
- Apply to Texas Parks and Wildlife Department for designation of Cypress Creek as a Texas Paddling Trail

Many thanks go to REI for its generous funding of these projects and overall commitment to the environment. Please consider shopping at REI Houston-Galleria or REI Houston-Willowbrook for your paddling and other outdoor needs. ●

R. W. "Bob" Arthur Canoe Launch Dedication
by Cindy Bartos

Even though it was cool and a little windy I couldn't help thinking Bob would be asking "What the heck ya'll doing here so close to water – and nobody brought a boat?" Well, what we were doing there was to honor and celebrate the life of someone who loved the rivers and bayous of Texas, the sport of canoeing and the camaraderie of the people involved – our friend, Bob Arthur.

About 50 of us had gathered at a canoe launch on a lovely, wooded bend on Buffalo Bayou at Briar Bend Park to dedicate the R.W. "Bob" Arthur Canoe Launch. The dedication was a joint endeavor by the Bayou Preservation Association (BPA) and the Houston Canoe Club (HCC). As chairman of the BPA's Paddle Trails Committee, Bob was instrumental in helping to create the Paddle Trail on Buffalo Bayou – the largest paddle trail in the state of Texas. Bob was a long-standing member and office holder in the HCC where he created the Southwestern Canoe Rendezvous (the largest on-water canoe show in the United States), was a promoter of canoe safety and education and a leader of many canoe trips down Texas rivers. He would often lead trips down Buffalo Bayou, sharing his knowledge of the Bayou's history as the group paddled downstream.

BPA and HCC member John Bartos opened the ceremony sharing his friend's many accomplishments in the promotion of paddle sports and his protection of rivers as a member of the Texas Rivers Advisory Board and the American Canoe Association. Kathy Lord, Allen Craig, Eric Ruckstuhl and Mike Garver from the BPA spoke fondly of Bob's accomplishments and his easy going, East Texas approach to tasks that always kept the mood

light and positive. HCC members Ken McDowell, Ann Derby, Bill and Donna Grimes and Tom Douglas spoke appreciatively of Bob's efforts to open up the world to canoeing, and his wonderful sense of humor that caused others to laugh, even if it meant laughing at himself. Bob's youngest son, Matt relayed a memorable canoe experience with his older brother, Jeff and his dad on Lake Raven. A display of the planned memorial stone was unveiled.



BPA and Houston Canoe Club member John Bartos preparing to "christen" the R.W. "Bob" Arthur Canoe Launch at Briar Bend Park

To close the event, John Bartos asked everyone to join him at the top of the canoe launch trail to help in dedicating the launch in the same manner as one would christen a new canoe: determine a name, splash a little liquid on the craft and the first step into the canoe is with the right foot. So with a dousing of Wild Spirit Liqueur ("Paddle Your Own Canoe") and a promise to use the right foot when entering the water, the R.W. "Bob" Arthur Canoe Launch was dedicated. •

BPA raises nearly \$8,200 from benefit paddle trips

Through a partnership with the Bayou Shuttle Service, a series of seven benefit paddle trips on Buffalo Bayou in 2010 and 2011 have raised \$8,106.60 for the Bayou Preservation Association. The inaugural trip was in October 2010, and the most recent one took place this past Nov. 19. Our goal is to raise \$10,000 from these paddle trips, and we are well on our way toward achieving that milestone.

"This has been an incredibly rewarding partnership due to the generosity of Rico Torres, President of Bayou Shuttle Service," says BPA Executive Direc-

tor Kathy Lord. "Not only have the trips been extremely well-received, we have introduced many people to the recreational assets of Buffalo Bayou through kayaking. Most of the paddlers on these trips participated for the very first time."

Known as the "Houston Skyline Tour," the trip begins at the Woodway launch on Buffalo Bayou near Interstate 610 and continues downstream to the Sabine take-out in downtown Houston, offering spectacular views of Houston that can only be seen below street level. The trip takes about two to three hours, depending on water conditions.

"Bayou Shuttle is pleased to work with the BPA, since it has been a guiding force in the beautification of Buffalo Bayou, along with installing canoe launches, signage and kiosks and maintaining the trail," says Torres. "We wanted to give a donation to BPA through these paddle trips to say thank you for its commitment to improving all of our bayous through advocacy, education and programs."

Watch the BPA website and www.bayousshuttle.com for information about benefit tours in 2012. You can also follow BPA on Twitter [@HoustonBayous](https://twitter.com/HoustonBayous). •



Paul and Laurie Tyler enjoy the BPA benefit paddle trip in May 2011

It was a jungle out there...

An enthusiastic, diverse crowd of more than 300 gathered to support the Bayou Preservation Association's mission of waterway preservation and restoration on a balmy October 12 evening for "Welcome to the Jungle," our 2011 gala. A meandering Buffalo Bayou served as the perfect backdrop on the lush grounds of Penny and Paul Loyd's exquisite Memorial home where guests were able to mingle, sip, nosh and enjoy the natural surroundings.



Gala co-chairs: Jessica and Peto Meyer, and Kristen and Lee Nix

Kudos go to our gala co-chairs, Jessica and Peto Meyer and Kristen and Lee Nix, who capably handled the event details with the guidance of BPA Development Director Jennifer Cate. A mix of animal print and safari looks among the guests added to the festive atmosphere of the evening. A few of the highlights:

- Centerpieces on the tables were provided by Johnathon Andrew Sage, Inc., including assorted containers of birds of paradise, pink ginger, tropical foliage, protea, bamboo and orchid accents. Our caterer was A Fare Extraordinaire, which offered a tempting array of ethnic-inspired delicacies, along with the popular "Jungle Juice" cocktail. Light Rock Express provided the '70s musical grooves.
- A pirogue (a flat-bottomed canoe) was raffled off, and the lucky winners were our hosts, Penny and Paul Loyd. It floated in the Loyds' pool for all to see. Thanks go to BPA's Steve Hupp for this donation and the Westside High students selling tickets.
- Among the guests were: Elaine and Marvy Finger, Gail and Mike Talbott, Terri and Ray Thomas, Judy and Peter Meyer, Sheridan and John Eddie Williams, Sharon and Mike Brier, Clayton and Sheldon Erikson, Kyle and John Kirksey, JoAnne and David Graham, City Council Member Brenda Stardig, Ann Hamilton, Laurie and Doug Vander Ploeg, Molly Jones Lottridge, Jenny and Allen Craig, Kathy and Tom Lord, Lynn and Ty Kelly, Evelyn and Kevin Shanley, County Attorney Vince Ryan, Bill Hardin, Nancy Corbet and Chuck Willits, Terry Hershey, Robert and Leticia Rayburn, Claire Caudill, Shawna Loyd, Casey and Alex Loyd, Rachael and Toby Miclette, Nicole Brende and Saquib Siddiqui. •

- Shawn Richards played steel drums near the check-in table, while the next encounter was "The Snake Man," (Clint Pustejovsky of Texas Snakes) who shared live pythons and boa constrictors with guests for holding, petting and to "wear" in party pics.

SAVE THE DATE:
Thursday, October 4th
GALA 2012



Events you won't want to miss!

The first-ever **Bayou Adventure Race** sponsored by the Bayou Preservation Association, with assistance from Bayou Shuttle Service, is coming to a park and bayou near you! We kick off the inaugural event at Terry Hershey Park on Saturday, Feb. 18 starting at 9 a.m. The race consists of a 5K run, a 3K paddle trip and a 10K bicycle ride, all in the upper Buffalo Bayou area, starting at South Mayde Creek Drive off of Memorial Drive, between Eldridge Parkway and Highway 6. This mini “triathlon”/sprint adventure race is sure to be fun and a bit challenging. After an out and back run, the paddle portion goes from Langham Creek/Buffalo Bayou to the Dairy Ashford Canoe Launch. The contestants will then mount their mountain bikes for the final leg through Terry Hershey Park, which ends up at the original starting line. Bayou Shuttle Service is handling logistics for the kayaks and canoes. Sponsorships are available, and volunteers are needed for various jobs, including watching over bicycles and kayaks, registration and more.



Prizes will be given in several categories. Please check www.bayouadventurerace.org or the BPA website for more details. Spectators are welcome! You can also call Race Director Wade Woehrmann of Texas Adventure Racing at 713-898-4014.

Trash Bash 2012®

This year, BPA will be in charge of just one location – Collins Park in Northwest Houston, with volunteers cleaning up trash and debris along Cypress Creek. Be sure and mark your calendar for Saturday, Mar. 31 from 8 a.m. – noon so that you can be part of the “Clean It Like You Mean It” movement, which is the official Trash Bash® slogan. Sponsored by Houston-Galveston Area Council, thousands of volunteers spring into action in March to keep our bayous and waterways pristine. This fits with our own mission to protect and restore the richness and diversity of Houston-area waterways. Trash Bash® is the largest statewide event to educate the public about our water resources and includes 17 sites this year. Collins Park is located at 6727 Cypresswood Dr. in Spring, 77379.

To learn more and to register, go to www.trashbash.org. See you in March! ●

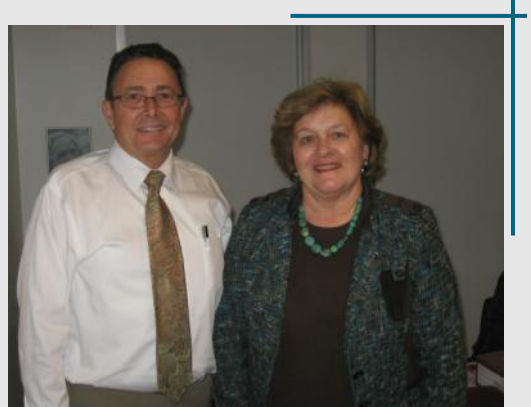


News from the BPA Board of Directors

At the January 24 board meeting, Robert Rayburn was elected president of the board of directors of the Bayou Preservation Association, while Ty Kelly, our previous president, was named board chairman.



Past chairman Kevin Shanley recognizes past president and new chairman Ty Kelly



New president Robert Rayburn with executive director Kathy Lord

Board and staff

Terry Hershey, Founder

Executive Committee

- J. Tynan Kelly, Chairman, *Attorney*
- Kevin Shanley, Past Chairman, *The SWA Group*
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- Jack Sakolosky, VP, *Community Volunteer*
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- Marina Gliha Rossow, *Exec. Assistant/ Website Admin.*
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- Jennifer Cate, *Development Director*
- Fred Lazare, *CPA*
- Eric Ruckstuhl, *Eyes on the Bayou Scout*

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 Regina Lindsey
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