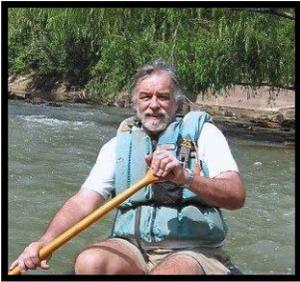




The Bayou Beat

Newsletter of the Bayou Preservation Association - October 2014

2014 Cypress Creek Regatta
Photo credit: Bobbie Tompkins



BPA Pays Tribute to Don Greene

Bayou Preservation Association's board, staff and members mourn the passing of ardent environmentalist and former BPA president Don Greene, who died Aug. 18 at age 66 after a short bout with pancreatic cancer. Don served BPA in various offices during the 1980s and 1990s when several initiatives were undertaken to refine the preservation of Houston's bayous.

As the founder of outfitter Whitewater Experience in 1975, Don was able to educate several generations of people about canoeing and kayaking on our bayous and rivers in Houston, the state of Texas and New Mexico. Don grew up playing on Brays Bayou and was unhappy to see it channelized and paved. In the 1960s, when a similar plan emerged for Buffalo Bayou, Greene joined Terry

Hershey and other environmental activists in a successful effort to protect it.

As a defender of Buffalo Bayou for more than 40 years, he knew its history, geology and ecology. An educator by nature and by profession, Don taught for many years at the Kinkaid School.

Outdoor enthusiasts now enjoy paddling on the Colorado River Trail because of Don's work in its design and creation. His handprint is evident on waterways near and far.

The BPA Paddle Trails Committee is exploring ways to recognize Don's contributions to paddle sport safety and local bayous with naming a portion of the Buffalo Bayou Paddling Trail in his memory. We all remember Don Greene as a friend, mentor, leader and teacher.

11th Annual Symposium Asks "Get Out to the Bayous . . . And Swim?"

BPA's annual Symposium is set for Thursday, Oct. 23 at the United Way of Greater Houston with the thought-provoking title of "Get Out to the Bayous . . . And Swim?" The panel of speakers will address what it will take to achieve the goal of swimmable and fishable waters for all area water bodies. Internationally renowned artist Barnaby Evans, creator of the public sculpture Water Fire in Providence, Rhode Island, is the luncheon keynote speaker for the conference. His topic is Waterways as Public Spaces.

Mr. Evans works in many media including site-specific sculpture installations, photography, film, garden design, architectural projects, writing and conceptual works. His original training was in the sciences, both biology and environmental sciences, but he has been working exclusively as an artist for more than 25 years.

This year's sponsors are Houston Endowment Inc., Harris County Flood Control District, KBR, AECOM, Port of Houston Authority, EHRA and RG Miller Engineers, Inc. Organizing partners for the Symposium include AECOM, Bayou Preservation Association, City of Houston, EHRA, Inc., Fleese and Nichols, Inc., H-GAC, Houston Council of Engineering Companies, Michael Baker Corporation and RG Miller Engineers, Inc.

The Symposium kicks off at 7:30 a.m. with registration and a continental breakfast, then a welcome from City of Houston Council Member Stephen Costello and Special Projects Coordinator for Precinct 4, Mike Howlett.



Topics and speakers are:

What Do Residents Say about the Bayous? Kinder Institute report - Dr. Stephen Klineberg, Rice University Institute for Urban Research

When the Bayou Were Fishable and Swimmable/A Look Back - Gary Garrett, District Historian, Harris County Flood Control District

How Do We Convince Residents to Care About/Enjoy the Bayous? - Robert Rayburn, President, Bayou Preservation Association

The Economic Value of Our Bayous - Sue Darcy, President, Marsh Darcy Partners, Inc.

How's the Water? What Progress Have We Made? - Jeff Taebel, Director, Community and Environmental Planning, Houston-Galveston Area Council

Impact of Watershed Activity on the Port of Houston - Charlie Jenkins, Managing Director, Channel Development & Environmental Affairs, Port of Houston Authority

What Are Current Priorities of the Harris County? - John Blount, P.E., LEED AP, Dep. Exec. Director/Assist. County Engineer, HC Public Infrastructure Dept.-Architecture & Engineering Division

What Are Current Priorities of Harris County Flood Control District? - Mike Talbott, P.E., D.WRE, Director, Harris County Flood Control District

- **What Are Current Priorities of City of Houston?** - Dale A. Rudick, P.E., Director of Public Works and Engineering
- **Buffalo - Shepherd/Sabine Update** - Scott McCready, SWA

A panel discussion will conclude the event, ending at 4 p.m. To register for the Symposium or to download a sponsorship form, visit www.bayoupreservation.org/symposium.

Bayoutopia Kicks off in Style

The Bayou Preservation Association enjoyed a stylish kickoff for its 15th annual gala, Bayoutopia, with a trunk show and appearance by noted fashion designer Josie Natori at Tootsies on Sept. 10, raising money for BPA. The event was hosted by our gala co-chairs Mariana Green and Dan Searight, Frances and Nicholas Stephens and Laurie and Doug Vander Ploeg.

Natori outfitted Bayou Preservation Association Executive Director Kathy Lord in a black dress and statement necklace. Attendees shopped Natori's fall 2014 collection while enjoying hors d'oeuvres and cocktails from Canopy, Shade and Eddie V's.



*Kathy Lord (wearing Natori's designs) addresses crowd
Photo credit: Leah Walker Wilson*

Tickets are still available for Bayoutopia - The Perfect Place to Be on Oct. 15 at the Buffalo Bayou home of Natasha and Michael Bleyzer in Memorial.

The Bleyzer home, designed by Stern and Bucek Architects, has been on the American Institute of Architects Tour. The steel-and-concrete house, with a focus on energy efficiency, is built atop a Buffalo Bayou floodplain, designed so that in a flood, water will collect beneath the house.

Underwriting opportunities are available starting at \$3,000, with individual tickets priced at \$300 and \$150 for those 35 and under. Guests will enjoy a stunning view of the Bayou in an idyllic setting at Bayoutopia.

To purchase tickets, visit www.bayoupreservation.org/Bayoutopia

Inaugural Cypress Creek Regatta Combines Recreation, Clean-Up

BPA and Bayou City Adventures teamed up to host the first Cypress Creek Regatta at Mercer and Jones Parks on Sept. 13, which was a resounding success based on the overwhelmingly positive feedback from paddlers and organizers. Bayou Preservation Association Water Quality Director Steve Hupp notes that BPA wanted to give exposure to the paddling opportunities on Cypress Creek and that a regatta was an ideal way to do this. Huge support came from Precinct 4 County Commissioner Jack Cagle, his staff and parks personnel in putting the event together.

"Most of the 55 competitors had never experienced Cypress Creek, and all enjoyed the experience," says Hupp, who also served as safety officer for the regatta. "We had 43 boats of various kinds and crews compete, including solo and tandem kayaks and solo and tandem canoes. Six safety boats were scattered among the competitors, and another 10 volunteers and staff were on land. Several of the paddlers sought the Preservation Award and collected about 1.5 cubic yards of litter and two tires from the race course."



BPA Advisory Board member and Regatta Race Director Rico Torres (right) presents BPA's Steve Hupp with the first place award in the solo canoe category. Hupp served as Safety Officer for the race.

As safety officer, Hupp spent many hours prior to the event monitoring weather and flow and reviewing safety measures, and he presented the safety talk at the beginning of the race. The water flow decreased from 1000 cubic feet per second (cfs) on Sept. 12 to about 200 cfs at start time, allowing the race to proceed.

The winner of the Cypress Creek Regatta was Russell Adams in a time of 1:04:00, while our own Steve Hupp came in first in the solo canoe class at 1:39:03. Commissioner Cagle and daughter Victoria Cagle came in back-to-back at 2:23:34 and 2:23:45. The Preservation Award winner was boat #43 with Pam Rea and Tim Helm in a time of 3:02:55, toting about 100 pounds of trash. Results can be found at www.cypresscreekregatta.org.

Appreciation goes to our 2014 corporate sponsors, Get Out Here Houston! and CivilTech Engineering, while in-kind sponsors included Bayou City Adventures, REI, Pinky's Kayak Rental, Gulf Coast Kayak Adventures, Avaghys Artist, Kayaking In Houston Meetup Group, Precinct 4, Lil Red Sound and SUP Houston! We also acknowledge our dedicated race director, Rico Torres, president of Bayou City Adventures, for his leadership in organizing the race.



Preservation Award winners for the Cypress Creek Regatta were Tim Rea and Pam Helms (center) surrounded by BPA board member Jim Robertson (left) and regatta Race Director Rico Torres

BPA was well-represented at the regatta, as board member Jim Robertson helped participants launch their boats at Mercer, then drove to Jones to help portage boats from the water and on to vehicles. He also judged the trash loads for the Preservation Award. Tom Douglas, board member, carefully reviewed the flow contingencies and helped remove obstacles on the race course. Our VP of Projects, Bruce Heiberg, served as a safety sweeper, while his wife Tracy was on hand to administer first aid. Finally, Eyes on the Bayou Scout Eric Ruckstuhl and his crew removed log jams and snags from the course the week before the race.

Plans for the Second Annual Cypress Creek Regatta are being discussed, with tentative timing in mid to late September of 2015. Watch the BPA and Bayou City Adventures websites for details. In the meantime, get out there and paddle!

Bayou HEROns Step in to Help

BPA's Bayou HEROns was one of three Young Professionals groups that ventured out early Sept. 20 for a morning of community service to help beautify Buffalo Bayou Park. Galveston Bay Foundation's Cast and Buffalo Bayou Partnerships Bayou Buddies pitched in on the project, with 25 young adults giving a hand.



The Bayou HEROns came out on Sept. 20 to Buffalo Bayou Park for a community service project

Although the game plan was for weeding of invasive species and spreading mulch, the most immediate need was the removal of mud covering two sidewalks at the Park due to the bayou flowing out of its banks from recent heavy rains. Huge thanks go out to our Bayou HEROns for heeding the call to assist in keeping our bayous and greenways pristine. For more information about how to get involved with Bayou HEROns, please call 713-529-6443.

Become
A Member

We can't do it without you!

For 48 years, Bayou Preservation Association (BPA) has worked to ensure that our region's most precious natural resources are protected. From on-the-ground service projects to behind the scenes advocacy, the BPA promotes the health of all Houston-area waterways.



BPA Mission

Protect and restore the richness and diversity of our waterways through activism, advocacy, collaboration and education.

BPA Vision

- No further degradation and ultimate improved visible water quality
- Successful stream restoration project
- One-Stop Shop for bayou information
- Better watershed management

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