



**BAYOU PRESERVATION**  
ASSOCIATION

## September 2016 Newsletter



### **Blues on the Bayou Gala Continues 50th Celebration**

Mark your calendars for October 5th, when we continue the 50th anniversary celebration with our annual gala, this year at Colleen Holthouse's gorgeous Memorial estate fronting Buffalo Bayou.

Co-chairs Lindley Arnoldy and Brittany Cassin are working diligently on Blues on the Bayou to create a truly memorable event for all of our guests.

Sponsorships are available from \$3000 to \$25,000. Blues-themed categories include:

- \$25,000 - B.B. Kings
- \$10,000 - Howlin' Wolfs
- \$7,500 - Ma Rainey's
- \$5,000 - Stevie Ray Vaughns
- \$3,000 - Muddy Waters

Won't you consider becoming a 50th anniversary year gala sponsor? This is always one of the most talked about outdoor parties of the year. Individual tickets start at \$300. [Buy your table or tickets now!](#)

For more information, call 713-206-5505.



### **Mark Your Calendars for Symposium**

Our signature event of the year, the Symposium, is set for October 12 at the United Way of Greater Houston. Jenny Romer, the country's leading expert on carryout bag reduction and structuring local ordinances, is our

keynote speaker at the 50th Anniversary Symposium, "50 for 50." For background information on Jenny Romer, go [here](#).

## **Another Successful Summer!**



**This year's Summer Intern Water Quality Investigation was conducted by two Texas A&M University seniors. Mathew Bancroft calls the Little Cypress Creek his home watershed and Dancie Jones is from the Brays Watershed. Steve Hupp, Water Quality Director, will continue the investigation by working with local entities tracking sources of sewage concentration. As in the past, we investigated a wide range of watersheds that scored worst for the E. coli contamination as identified by the Clean Rivers Program data compiled by Houston-Galveston Area Council (H-GAC). The main offender appears to be leakage from sanitary sewage collection systems, however, some sources are still to be determined in the follow up phase.**

**This year we added two side projects to the investigation by monitoring the recovery of Spring Branch from the pesticide packaging facility fire run off and tracking sources of pH rise in area waterways. Spring Branch seems to be recovering from the total fish kill seen earlier this year as turtles and a diversity of fish were seen when monitoring at Westview Drive. The pH drift was measured at several locations and times and data from the H-GAC's Basin Summary Report was reviewed. The pH in several watersheds is becoming more alkaline and there seems to be correlation with algal blooms and weathering of clay soils. Further investigation and collaboration with others will occur on this pH issue.**

**50th Anniversary Luncheon has**

## Several Highlights



Ed Wulfe receives the Terry Hershey Bayou Stewardship Award from Board Member, Elaine Finger

**On May 9th, the Bayou Preservation Association turned 50! We celebrated with more than 300 of our friends and supporters at a luncheon at the Junior League of Houston chaired by Claire Caudill, Elaine Finger, Judy Meyer and Lesley Rice.**

**Emceed by former KHOU Great Day Houston personality Courtney Perna, the Bayou Preservation Association honored John Blount, County Engineer for the Harris County Engineering Department and Ed Wulfe, who heads Wulfe & Co., a prominent real estate development and brokerage firm.**

**Blount has worked for 28 years to improve water quality in Houston-area waterways. Most notably, he was instrumental in creating the first Low Impact Development (LID) Competition that was later replicated around the country. In 2012, Wulfe co-chaired the Bayou Greenways Initiative and the City's successful \$100 million bond campaign to create almost 300 miles of linear parks along 10 major bayous.**

**Proclamations from the City of Houston, Harris County and the State of Texas were read by Councilmember Ellen Cohen, County Judge Ed Emmett and State Senator Sylvia Garcia. An impressive video produced by Johnny Hanson, titled Born on the Bayou: Environmental Heroes, had attendees in awe of the beauty of Houston's many bayous and waterways.**

**We thank our major sponsors Diana and Russell Hawkins, the Knobloch**

Family Foundation and Kathrine McGovern from the McGovern Foundation for their generosity. The luncheon netted nearly \$70,000, which will benefit ongoing programs of the Bayou Preservation Association.



Harris County Engineer John Blount receives the Terry Hershey Bayou Stewardship Award from Executive Director Kathy Lord and Board President Robert Rayburn.

## **Watershed Explorers Program to Provide Hand-On Learning Experiences**

Thanks to a grant from Texas Parks & Wildlife Department (TPWD), the Bayou Preservation Association has instituted the Watershed Explorers program designed to provide Houston-area students with direct experiences of Houston's most valuable natural resources - our bayous and streams. Field trips will allow opportunities to hike, birdwatch, view wildlife and take nature photographs. BPA will facilitate watershed-related science labs. The project goals are to:

- Connect young people with local environmental venues, with the guidance of experienced environmental educators
- Raise awareness about watersheds, specifically bayous and streams, among 3rd grade to 8th grade students, via field trips and hands-on activities

- Provide teachers with bayou-related educational material
- Engage students, teachers and parents in bayou-related service projects.

BPA is excited to expand its strong education program with this TPWD grant. Stay tuned for updates on how the students progress.



**Want to help the Bayou Preservation Association and offset your carbon footprint at the same time?** Reliant and EarthShare of Texas have launched The Reliant EcoShareSM, a program that allows Reliant customers to support EarthShare of Texas and its participating organizations and help reduce the customers' carbon footprints through the purchase of carbon offsets.

Here's how it works: The Reliant EcoShareSM program gives customers the option of two pricing levels:

- For a flat monthly cost of \$3.95, a \$1 donation is made each month to EarthShare of Texas, and 500 pounds of carbon offsets are purchased.
- Or for a flat monthly cost of \$5.95, a \$2 donation is made each month to EarthShare of Texas, and 1,000 pounds of carbon offsets are purchased.

The Bayou Preservation Association benefits, because as one of EarthShare of Texas' participating organizations, a portion of the Reliant donation is shared with us. Carbon offsets for the Reliant EcoShareSM program meet approved standards to ensure that they represent real, verifiable reductions in greenhouse gases.

## Get Dirty and Improve Your Watershed!

Join us for one or more of the following projects:

**September 10 - REI-sponsored clean up on Cypress Creek**

**October 8 - REI-sponsored clean up on Greens Bayou  
November 12 - REI-sponsored clean up on Brays Bayou**

**All projects start at 9am and end at 3pm. Call the Bayou Preservation Association at 713-529-6443 for more info.**

**<http://www.meetup.com/KayakingHouston/events/233131371/>**

**Please note that the Greens Bayou Regatta has been re-scheduled for  
October 22.**

**[Find out more here.](#)**

