



Dedicated to Members and Friends of the Bayou Preservation Association

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TRASH BASH® 2010

VOLUNTEER

Clean it like you mean it!

bpa bayou preservation association

www.bayoupreservation.org

Inside this issue:

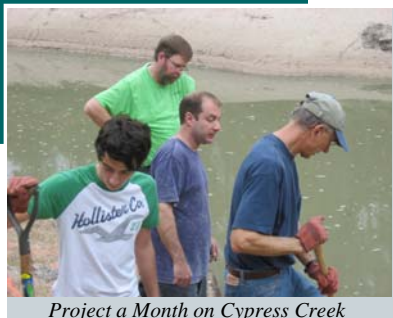
Project a Month	1
Trash Bash®	2
Earth Day Houston	2
Eyes on the Bayou	3
Proud Partner Award	3
LID Design Competition	4
Board Members Recognized for Their Vision	5
Kathy Lord one of Houston's 50 Most Influential Women	5
Buffalo Bayou Paddle Trail	6
Symposium	6
Gala	7

Our mission is to protect and restore the richness and diversity of our waterways through activism, advocacy, collaboration and education.

BPA Initiates "Project a Month" to Help Beautify Parks and Waterways

The Bayou Preservation Association (BPA) plans to hold a Saturday clean-up project each month in 2010 at bayous, creeks and parks in the greater Houston area as part of its mission to preserve, protect and restore our waterways. Volunteers will be sought to help clean up trash and debris along the banks and in the surrounding areas, in addition to removing invasive plant species that tend to choke out natural growth. These tasks will be accomplished under the supervision of BPA vice president and projects committee chairman Bruce Heiberg and Eric Ruckstuhl, head of its "Eyes on the Bayou" program.

With Ruckstuhl leading the way, BPA monitors the health of Houston-area waterways, along with the help of volunteer watershed representatives (Buffalo, White Oak, Brays, Greens bayous, Cypress Creek and many more). A strong presence in the field allows BPA to identify and act upon such hazards as habitat destruction, channel alterations, illegal dumping and other polluting activities, damage to bayous or their banks, accumulations of trash and logjams or other impediments to flow.



Project a Month on Cypress Creek

The Bayou Preservation Association's "Project a Month" offers excellent community service opportunities for companies, scouts, students and individuals, who can truly make a difference for the environment. The first project was held January 27 at Collins Park on Cypress Creek in northwest Houston where a crew worked on bank stabilization and erosion control and planted native trees/plants to replace invasive exotic species that have been removed. The February project took place at Herman Brown Park on Hunting Bayou and included trash clean up and removal of invasive exotics.

Project sites and dates for the remainder of 2010 include:

- March 27** - Trash Bash® for Buffalo Bayou at Terry Hershey Park and for Cypress Creek at Collins Park (Part of Houston-Galveston Area Council's annual Trash Bash® at several sites in and around Houston and Galveston)
- April 3** - Earth Day at Discovery Green (will participate in this community event in lieu of a clean-up project)
- May 22** - Cypress Creek
- June 26** - Cullinan Park on Oyster Creek in Sugar Land
- July 24** - Cypress Creek
- August 28** - Keith Weiss Park in north Houston
- September 25** - Cypress Creek
- October 23** - Mason Park in east Houston (confluence of Brays and Buffalo bayous)
- November 20** - Cypress Creek
(There will be no project in December.)



For updated information about BPA projects and events throughout the year or to volunteer, please log onto the web site at www.bayoupreservation.org or call 713.529.6443. ●

Trash Bash® is Double the Fun in 2010!

This year, on March 27 the Bayou Preservation Association will be in two places at once for Trash Bash®. That's right. Instead of just focusing on Terry Hershey Park as we have done for the past three years, BPA will have volunteers on site at Collins Park on Cypress Creek in the northwest Houston/Spring area. Trash Bash® is an event held each spring where thousands of people gather along waterways in the Houston/Galveston area to clean up trash and debris. This year, 17 sites will participate, including Collins Park and Terry Hershey Park on Buffalo Bayou. BPA is the official host/coordinator for both locations.



Volunteers at Terry Hershey Park , Trash Bash® 2009

“We thought Cypress Creek would make a great addition to Terry Hershey since it is a popular waterway that runs through northwest Houston and is enjoyed by thousands of people each year,” says Bruce Heiberg, Bayou Preservation Association vice president and projects committee chairman. “Unfortunately, there is always much to be done along all Houston area waterways in terms of removing trash and debris. If we can get volunteers out for a high profile event like Trash Bash®, many of them will see the need for ongoing involvement in caring for our parks and waterways and want to help in other ways.”

While Heiberg will serve as site coordinator for Terry Hershey Park this year, Collins Park will be overseen by BPA board members Tom Powers and Jim Robertson, who both live in the northwest Houston area and support Cypress Creek beautification efforts. Both sites are seeking volunteers to come out on March 27 to “clean it like you mean it,” the official slogan of Trash Bash® 2010.

Volunteers of all ages are welcome at Trash Bash® at both Terry Hershey Park and Collins Park. Everyone who participates must sign a release form. Parents will sign forms for children under age 18. This is an ideal service opportunity for youth, as well as church groups and companies.

“One of the big perks of volunteering for Trash Bash® is that we will feed you,” says Powers. “Volunteers can enjoy hot dogs, chips, cookies and drinks after they take a break from cleaning up. The first 250 volunteers receive a T-shirt. What's more, the camaraderie among the volunteers makes work seem like play.”

Heiberg suggests that volunteers come prepared by wearing comfortable, loose clothing (preferably long sleeves and pants), close-toed shoes and perhaps a visor or sunglasses if it is sunny. “They might also bring sunscreen and insect repellent.”

Terry Hershey Park is located at 15200 Memorial Drive in west Houston, while Collins Park is at 6727 Cypresswood Dr. in Spring. Educational exhibits will also teach volunteers about how bayous fit into our ecosystem.

To register for Trash Bash® 2010 and to see an online map, please log onto www.trashbash.org or call 281.486.9500. Trash Bash® is coordinated through the Houston-Galveston Area Council.

You can also call the BPA office directly at 713.529.6443 for more details or go to www.bayoupreservation.org. The event will take place rain or shine. ●

Earth Day at Discovery Green on Spring Agenda for BPA

For the second year in a row, the Bayou Preservation Association will participate in Earth Day activities at Discovery Green in downtown Houston on Saturday, April 3, sponsored by Mothers for Clean Air and kicking off with a 5K run at 8 a.m. Last year, about 8,000 folks joined in the fun and festivities, which included stations for air, land, water, renewable energy, a Farmers' Market, environmental education and a kids' area.

BPA is again in charge of the Water Zone, working in conjunction with

SWA Group on the layout, design and implementation of the area, along with



BPA Water Zone at the Earth Day Houston 2009

other partners such as Harris County Flood Control and the City of Houston. The Water Zone will be manned by BPA staff and volunteers throughout the day with several interactive activities going on. We plan to demonstrate: the water runoff display which shows how water goes from “storm to source”; a “do-it-yourself” rainwater collection system; pervious and impervious rocks to highlight drainage differences; and a canoe to emphasize the Buffalo Bayou paddling trail, which attracted many adults and children last year just for the

(Continued on page 3)

(Continued from page 2)

curiosity factor. The kids especially enjoyed sitting inside the canoe and “paddling.”

Additionally, BPA’s “Eyes on the Bayou” will display a pile of trash gathered from Houston’s bayous, and mascots will roam the zone demonstrating the impact of oils and poisons on our bayous. You can meet “Deputy Drop” from the City of Houston Water Department and “Grease Buster” who will illustrate proper disposal of grease from your home.

Earth Day 2010 at Discovery Green combines entertainment with education for all ages in a casual environment with no shortage of activities, food and entertainment.

Come on out on April 3 to volunteer with BPA for Earth Day at Discovery Green. Check the web site at www.bayoupreservation.org or call 713.529.6443. ●

Eyes on the Bayou’s Ruckstuhl Recognized with Award

Eric Ruckstuhl, head of the Bayou Preservation Association’s “Eyes on the Bayou” program, has received the Community Spirit Award from the Greenspoint District for “bringing his enthusiasm and expertise on technical issues of Houston bayous, and bringing suggested projects to the table and volunteering for numerous initiatives identified for Greens Bayou.”



Eric Ruckstuhl receiving Community Spirit Award

The Greenspoint District’s Community Spirit Awards were presented recently to several partners, including

Ruckstuhl, for keeping Greenspoint “moving, growing and flowing.” The district’s volunteer reception began 17 years ago as a way to acknowledge individuals and organizations whose partnership and efforts significantly enhance or expand programs in the Greenspoint area.

Ruckstuhl works on several Houston-area bayous, including Buffalo, White Oak and Greens, to identify threats to their well-being, including invasive exotic plant species which are harmful to the native vegetation that is so crucial in keeping the bayous healthy and to mitigate flooding. Additionally, he helps to remove logjams and other major debris in the bayous. He has spent many hours on Greens Bayou identifying and marking species for removal and recommending native plants that would complement the natural surroundings.

Additionally, Ruckstuhl has proposed the construction of a “hike and bike”

trail running along Greens Bayou and extending from Willowbrook Mall to Greenspoint Mall, which would greatly enhance the recreational opportunities in the area. The Greens Bayou Corridor Coalition wants to adopt this plan. This is in keeping with the Bayou Preservation Association’s goal to promote recreation along Houston-area bayous, while at the same time preserving, protecting and restoring our waterways and their surrounding banks.

“Eric continues to do invaluable conservation and restoration work around our bayous and creeks,” says Kathy Lord, BPA executive director. “He has been an incredible asset to our organization in that regard, working on waterways either alone or with crews. He also removes invasive exotics, sometimes leading volunteers, at Woodland Park, Memorial Park, Hermann Park, Herman Brown Park and many others. His dedication to his work is inspiring. We are so proud that he received this award, which is well-deserved.” ●

BPA Receives Proud Partner Award for Paddling Trail

The Bayou Preservation Association received the Proud Partner Award in the 2009 Mayor’s Proud Partners competition from Keep Houston Beautiful for its work on the Buffalo Bayou Paddling Trail. BPA is one of a handful of organizations and individuals who was recognized at the 25th annual awards luncheon on Monday, Nov. 16 at the Hilton Houston Post Oak Hotel, honoring Houston Live-stock Show & Rodeo. The award was presented to BPA paddle trails chairman Bob Arthur by Houston’s First Lady Andrea White, on behalf of Mayor Bill White.

Each year, Keep Houston Beautiful recognizes individuals and projects that help make Houston a cleaner and more beautiful city. Examples of categories under which entries are submitted include beautification and landscaping installation; neighborhood clean-up; environmental education; volunteer park improvement, waste minimization efforts and public murals. There must also be a volunteer



Bob Arthur receiving Proud Partner Award

(Continued on page 4)

(Continued from page 3)

component to the project for consideration in the Mayor's Proud Partner Awards competition.

The Bayou Preservation Association spearheaded the development of the Buffalo Bayou Paddling Trail, which received its official designation as a state paddling trail by Texas Parks and Wildlife Department (TPWD) this past spring. At 26 miles, the paddle trail is the longest in the state of Texas, extending from Highway 6 at Terry Hershey Park on the west side of town, to Allen's Landing in downtown Houston.

As part of TPWD's Texas Paddling Trails network, the Buffalo Bayou Paddling Trail includes maintained put-in and take-out locations with interpretive information, safety tips, phone numbers and maps conveniently located in large kiosks. There are nine segments of varying lengths to the paddle trail; some can be paddled in an hour, while others might take several hours.

"We are honored to win the Proud Partner Award for our work on the Buffalo Bayou Paddling Trail," says Ty Kelly, president of the Bayou Preservation Association. "Although BPA took the lead, we must acknowledge our partners in the

project, along with the many volunteers who came out to clean up areas of the bayou, remove invasive species and plant new seedlings. Partners include Buffalo Bayou Partnership, City of Houston Parks and Recreation Department, Harris County Flood Control, Houston Canoe Club, Precinct 3 and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers."

"The paddling trail allows Houstonians and visitors to experience the hidden treasures of the Houston environment, away from traffic and noise," continues Kelly. "With the official paddle trail designation by Texas Parks and Wildlife, we hope that more and more people will take advantage of this natural resource in our own backyard. Not only is paddling great exercise, but it's a perfect way to expand one's awareness of how we need to care for our bayous."

The Bayou Preservation Association will continue to oversee the Buffalo Bayou Paddling Trail, along with help from its partners, by removing log jams, trash and debris, restoring its banks, taking out invasive exotic plant species, providing maintenance to kiosks and canoe launches and working on water quality. ●

'Houston, We Have WINNERS'...

Nine finalist teams competing in three design challenge categories in the Houston Land/Water Sustainability Forum's (HLWSF) Low Impact Development Design Competition made their presentations to the finals jury panel in a public event January 27, attended by more than 300 people at the Rice Hotel. Prizes of \$15,000 were awarded to the winners in each category, but the real winners were the citizens of the Houston area. The Bayou Preservation Association and board member Terry Hershey were underwriters of the event. Hershey also served as one of the jury panelists.

The competition was designed to explore the economic, environmental and quality of life gains to be had by adapting Low Impact Development (LID) and other sustainable development practices to Houston-area conditions. Robert Adair of EcoServices, chaired the event.

The winners, finalists and all of the participants in the Competition clearly proved through their design solutions that Low Impact Development (LID) practices can be adapted to Houston-area conditions, and that doing so can bring a host of benefits, including improving water quality in our streams, bayous and bays; reducing rainfall runoff flows that

contribute to flooding; creating and restoring natural habitat; enhancing the natural aesthetics of our surroundings and improving quality of life in other ways.

The winners in each category are: Green Roadway Design Challenge: AECOM; Urban Redevelopment Design Challenge: Walter P. Moore, Gensler, Clark Condon Associates, Dan Pope Associates; and Suburban Residential Design Challenge: Edminster, Hinshaw, Russ & Associates, Legend Home Corporation and Davidson Landscape Architecture.

Harris County, the City of Houston and local constituent groups which are key to driving the adoption and implementation of these practices, including the American Society of Civil Engineers, the American Institute of Architects and local developers, represented by Mischer Investments, LP, were all involved in sponsoring the Competition.

The HLWSF expects this competition to accelerate the speed with which these sustainable development practices are adopted and implemented in the Houston area. The finals presentations demonstrated why, in dramatic fashion.



L-R: Mike Cunningham; BPA board member and finals panel judge Terry Hershey; BPA board member Judy Boyce

The \$15,000 prizes in each category were provided by:

SUBURBAN RESIDENTIAL
Mischer Investments, LP

URBAN REDEVELOPMENT
Architecture Center Houston Foundation (ArCH)

GREEN ROADWAY
American Society of Civil Engineers, Houston Chapter (ASCE-Houston)

The Bayou Preservation Association had several board and staff members in attendance at the Competition. ●

BPA Board Members Recognized for Their Vision

Bayou Preservation Association board chairman Kevin Shanley and board member Frank Smith were honored in 2009 for their dedication, commitment and vision on behalf of Houston's bayous, while BPA historian, board member and founder, Terry Hershey, will receive an award this April.

Shanley was recognized at the 5th Annual Buffalo Bayou Ball for Buffalo Bayou Partnership along with "three other visionaries who are responsible for designing Buffalo Bayou's unique and unforgettable landscapes." Along with Shanley, Guy Hagstette, Johnny Steele and Charles Tapley "transformed the banks of Buffalo Bayou, creating such memorable destinations as Tapley Tributary, Sesquicentennial Park and Sabine Promenade."



Kevin Shanley

Additionally, SWA Group, of which Shanley is president, received a 2009 Award of Excellence from the American Society of Landscape Architects for its work on Buffalo Bayou Promenade. Shanley was a member of the design team.

Frank Smith was awarded the Citizen's Environmental Coalition's (CEC Houston) 2009 Lifetime Achievement Award. He has been a leader of Houston's environmental organizations since the 1960s, when he joined Terry Hershey to fight the channelization of Buffalo Bayou. In 1972 Miss Ima Hogg called upon Smith and three other people to look after Memorial Park. They formed the Memorial Park Advisory Committee and worked to preserve the park for future generations.

As BPA president in 1974, Smith worked to establish the Armand Bayou Nature Center. He was then the second president of the Nature Center, which led to a term as the chairman of the Texas Nature Conservancy, and a year as president of the Rice Design Alliance. A lifetime interest in sailing and boating also prompted Smith co-found the Galveston Bay Foundation in the late '80s.



Frank Smith

Terry Hershey is to be honored April 24 with the 2010 Environmental Awareness Award in the "individual" category at the League of Women Voters of Texas convention to be held in San Marcos. Hershey's recognition is for a lifelong commitment to conservation and the environment on the local, state and national levels.

One of Hershey's passions is The Trust for Public Land, which works to save land across the country for public domain. She has helped to found such forward-thinking organizations as the Citizens' Environmental Coalition, Memorial Park Conservancy and the Park People. She served on the Texas Parks & Wildlife Commission and was a founding board member for the Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Research Center, among her many other achievements and awards. ●

Kathy Lord Named One of Houston's 50 Most Influential Women for 2009 by *Houston Woman Magazine*

BPA Executive Director Kathy Lord was honored as one of Houston's 50 Most Influential Women for 2009 by *Houston Woman Magazine* (HWM). She was recognized at a wine reception held downtown on December 7 hosted by *Houston Woman Magazine* editor and publisher Beverly Denver and the Chevron Corporation, along with the other 49 honorees.

Lord's award is a nod to her professional contributions in the environmental area, with her work for Bayou Preservation Association (2008 – present) Trees for Houston (1994 – 2007) and the Park People (1991 – 1994).

Readers nominated the candidates, but

ultimately, the staff of *Houston Woman Magazine* made the final selections from among those nominated. Each one of them was chosen because her sphere of influence was deemed "vast and powerful."



Katharine C. Lord

Houston's 50 Most Influential Women for 2009 is a diverse group, representing women of all ages, backgrounds and ethnicities. Some of the women have lived in Houston for many years. Some are influential because of the volunteer work they do in our community. Others have distinguished themselves in their businesses or careers: energy, law, medicine, non-profits, oil and gas, media, politics, real estate. All are strong and capable role models for our city. Congratulations to Kathy Lord and the other honorees on their achievements. ●

Low-Key Paddle Trail Dedication Suits BPA

It seems the Bayou Preservation Association's Buffalo Bayou Paddle Trail dedication last April was not meant to be, since the first one was postponed due to the memorial service for City of Houston firefighters and the second one canceled due to major flooding.

However, on a warm November 14, a group of about 25 dedicated paddlers, including BPA board members Allen Craig, Bob Arthur, John Bartos, Claire Caudill, and executive director Kathy Lord, along with Houston Canoe Club members,



Photo by Rusty Graham, *The Memorial Examiner*

took to the water at Briar Bend Park for a float trip to the Woodway take-out, about a three and a half-hour trip. This low-key dedication of Buffalo Bayou as an official state paddling trail by the Texas Parks & Wildlife Department seemed to suit everyone fine, since the weather was "just right" and the water conditions good.

Rusty Graham of the *Memorial Examiner* took photos, three of which later appeared on the front page of the newspaper as well as in the *River Oaks Examiner* and *Bellaire Examiner*. The photos were so good, BPA used a reprint of the article in its membership mailing to illustrate what the paddle trail is about.

As part of TPWD's Texas Paddling Trails network, the Buffalo Bayou Paddling Trail includes maintained put-in and take-out locations with interpretive information, safety tips, phone numbers and maps conveniently located in kiosks. There are nine segments of varying lengths to the paddle trail; some can be paddled in an hour, while others might take several hours. For example, the segment from Briar Bend Park to Woodway/Memorial Park takes 3.5 to 4.5 hours, depending on water conditions.

"BPA is pleased to partner with TPWD, the City of Houston Parks and Recreation Department, Harris County and others to put Houston's defining natural waterway in the spotlight as an official state paddle trail," says BPA President Ty Kelly. "The Bayou Preservation Association was founded to preserve Buffalo Bayou as a natural stream and protect its amazing source of natural diversity of flora and fauna. The paddling trail will allow Houstonians and visitors to experience the hidden treasures of the Houston environment."

For more information about Buffalo Bayou and other paddling trails around Houston, click on the 'maps' tab on our website www.bayoupreservation.org to see Eric Ruckstuhl's Paddle Trail Guide. ●

Stormwater Symposium Gets Rave Reviews

The Bayou Preservation Association's fifth annual water symposium held Nov. 13 titled "Stormwater, The Underfunded Asset: The Economics of Stormwater Solutions," was a huge success in terms of attendance, content, feedback and enthusiasm. About 120 people attended the one-day event held at the United Way of Greater Houston, 50 Waugh Drive.

BPA president Ty Kelly opened the Symposium, the signature event of the Bayou Preservation Association, whose mission is to protect and restore the richness and diversity of our waterways through activism, advocacy, collaboration and education.

The event featured keynote speaker Dr. William Smith, executive vice president

of the Academy for Educational Development (AED) in Washington, D.C., a nonprofit organization working globally to improve education, health, civil society and economic development. Dr. Smith's address covered "how to get people to do things voluntarily that they wouldn't do naturally," relating it to environmental causes such as cleaning up our bayous. "Saving the planet/bayous should be as much fun as it is to use it," said Smith. He talked about ways to encourage desired behavior by offering choices that are fun and outside the box, not by "badgering" people into doing what is good for them or the environment.

"The caliber of speakers for this year's Symposium was superb," says Kelly. "We had representatives from the city,

county and national levels. Business, law and academia were also represented.



L-R: BPA Board members Jim Robertson and Lee Forbes, with executive director Kathy Lord

Myron Hess of the National Wildlife Federation, Jonathan Angier from the Environmental Protection Agency and Dr. Richard Murray of the University of

(Continued on page 7)

(Continued from page 6)

Houston are just three of the outstanding speakers who educated and entertained our participants.”

A huge thanks goes to Becky Olive, event organizer, vice president of AECOM and a BPA board member, who was instrumental in developing the topics. “Attention is drawn to stormwater most often when flooding impacts our community, but it is vital in sustaining the viability and quality of our bayous, streams and other area resources. We should strive to develop a systematic, funded approach to manage stormwater. We hope the symposium gave people a forum to discuss the importance of stormwater, how to manage it and how to fund those efforts over the long run.”

The Symposium was divided into three topics. First was “Asset Management and Sustainability,” which included three sessions that addressed where we are regarding flooding, water quality, maintenance and sustainability running. The second general topic was “Asset Improvement and Growth.” Topic three, “Asset Funding – How Can It Be Done?,” encompassed five sessions beginning at 1:15 p.m. A panel discussion concluded the Symposium.

Sponsors for the 2009 Water Symposium were AECOM, Houston Endowment, Inc., Houston Galveston Area Council, KBR and the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality. The 2010 Symposium is scheduled for Wednesday, October 6, also at the United Way of Greater Houston. ●

Bayou Preservation Association Fund Raiser “Play It Again Sam” Mixes Environmentalism, Hollywood and Moroccan Mood

The Bayou Preservation Association’s 2009 gala, “Play It Again Sam” was especially meaningful since the 2008 gala “Casablanca, An Oasis on the Bayou” was canceled due to Ike. The threat of rain did not dampen the spirits of the enthusiastic and well-heeled crowd, which included environmental supporters of various ages and from all over Houston. Since the attire said “Think Bogey and Bergman or Oasis Chic,” there were beaucoups Humphrey and Ingrid look-alikes, in addition to many in Moroccan-inspired frocks and jewelry.

The event, hosted by **Nijad and Zeina Fares**, was held on their exquisite River Oaks estate backing up to Buffalo Bayou. Waiters in fezzes attended to the guests, with entertainment provided by Madeleine Elmer singing ‘40s-era torch songs, pianist Rick Aykrie, belly dancer Tanya Amira, and fortune teller Rebecca Perry. The caterer was Jim Benton who

provided tasty Middle Eastern and North African-inspired fare. The event was chaired by **Cecily and Rick Burleson** and **Meredith and Fielding Cocke**, with **Kristen J. Cannon** and **Brittany Zucker** serving as honorary co-chairs. Highlight: It was co-chair Meredith Cocke’s birthday.

Among some of the 350 guests who attended the October 21 event were then Mayor Bill White and Andrea White, BPA board member Colleen Holthouse and Tom Anderson, Jay Jones, County Commissioner Steve Radack and Sherry Radack, BPA president Ty Kelly and Lynn Kelly, Laurie and Doug Vander Ploeg, Lorraine and Ed Wulfe, BPA board member Elaine Finger and Marvy Finger, Homoiselle and Carlos Bujosa, BPA executive director Kathy Lord and Tom Lord, Alta and Dick Cate, Yasmine and Dr. Christie Ballantyne, and Camille and Grier Patton.



Meredith and Fielding Cocke and Cecily and Rick Burleson

Plans are already underway for the 2010 gala, which will be held October 7 at a magnificent home in the Memorial/Tanglewood area overlooking Buffalo Bayou. ●

All articles by Carol Breyot, BPA Public Relations Director



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