

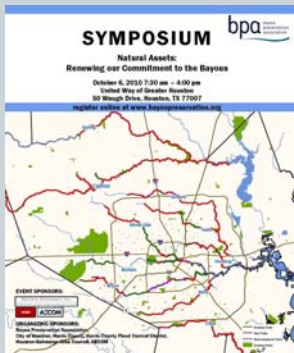
# bayou forum



Dedicated to Members and Friends of the Bayou Preservation Association

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## BPA Establishes Terry Hershey Bayou Stewardship Award

At BPA’s May 6th Membership Meeting, we announced the establishment of The Terry Hershey Bayou Stewardship Award in honor of Mrs. Hershey to recognize an individual or organization that shows exemplary commitment to and stewardship of a Houston-area bayou or bayous through conservation, preservation, restoration, advocacy or other proactive means. The first Bayou Stewardship Award will be announced in 2011.

Hershey, who was a co-founder of the Bayou Preservation Association and has been a long-time board member, is credited, along with then-Congressman George H.W. Bush and developer and BPA co-founder George Mitchell, in stopping a plan by the Army Corps of Engineers to channelize and concrete Buffalo Bayou in the 1960s. Thanks to these forward-thinking individuals, Buffalo Bayou has remained in its natural state, providing plant and animal habitats, green spaces and recreational opportunities for countless Houstonians.



L-R: Ann Hamilton, Terry Hershey, Ty Kelly

The announcement of the award was made by BPA board president J. Tynan “Ty” Kelly, as a crowd of some 80 BPA members gathered in the home of board member Mike Garver and his wife Susan, which, appropriately enough, backs up to Buffalo Bayou. Mrs. Hershey was surprised and pleased by the award named in her honor. Additionally, Kelly read letters sent by former President Bush and George Mitchell, in which both men praised Terry for her passion and dedication to conservation and environmentalism on the local, state and national levels for more than 50 years. President Bush referred to her as “truly a Point of Light.”

“No one could be more worthy of having a Bayou Stewardship award named in their honor than Terry Hershey,” says Kelly. “Her unyielding determination to save our bayous and keep them in their natural states is one of her great legacies.”



BPA Board Member Mike Garver and his wife Susan

Ann Hamilton, long-time friend of Terry Hershey and trustee of The Jacob and Terese Hershey Foundation, introduced Hershey before Kelly made his announcement, regaling the audience with anecdotes from her colorful life and calling her a “catalytic converter.” “I have always thought of Terry as a catalyst for change, because she was working for green causes long before it was popular,” says Hamilton. “She is also a converter, as she has converted many people to the cause of environmentalism over the years, including politicians, business people, organizations and individuals.” ●

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

## BPA and HPARD Join Forces for Successful Cullinan Park Restoration Project

Some 35 volunteers braved hot, muggy weather on the morning of June 26 to provide “sweat equity” to help clean up, beautify and restore a portion of the Joseph S. and Lucie H. Cullinan Park at Oyster Creek in Sugar Land. Led by the Bayou Preservation Association and Houston Parks and Recreation Department, (HPARD) the project represented a true public/private partnership, with several organizations involved in the morning-long environmental restoration event. The clean-up was part of BPA’s “Project a Month,” which targets area parks and waterways for preservation efforts.



*Volunteer at Cullinan Park, Andy Janes*

Individuals from the Cullinan Park Conservancy, AmeriCorps, the Student Conservation Association, Houston Audubon Society, Houston Canoe Club and KBR donated their time, along with BPA and HPARD representatives, to make a difference for our environment. Corporate supporter KBR provided a \$2,000 grant to BPA for the project, in addition to a \$5,000 grant given earlier in the year for Trash Bash at Terry Hershey Park and Collins Park.

Steve Hupp, BPA board member and Projects Committee member, directed

the day’s activities, with the assistance of Eric Ruckstuhl, a BPA botanist and invasive exotic plant species expert, and Bob Arthur, BPA’s Paddle Trails committee chairman. Karen Cullar of HPARD was instrumental in securing AmeriCorps volunteers and Houston Parks and Recreation Department equipment and manpower for the work project.

The busy volunteers took on several tasks at Cullinan Park, which included:

- Removed invasive exotic plant species and trees that had been paint-marked in orange in advance and then sprayed with herbicide by HPARD. Saws, power saws and machetes were used to remove these plants, which choke out natural habitation.
- Picked up trash and litter on the ground and in the lake at Cullinan Park, which is an alligator habitat. Plastic bottles, paper and other debris were skimmed from the manmade lake and in the wooded areas.
- AmeriCorps volunteers worked on filling in ruts and potholes along a hike and bike trail.
- Several volunteers, including Houston Canoe Club members, worked along Oyster Creek at Highway 6 to prepare a canoe launch by placing gravel and reinforcements along the trail leading down to the water. Oyster Creek is a popular canoe and kayak waterway.

Kathy Lord, Executive Director of the Bayou Preservation Association and



*HPARD’s Karen Cullar and KBR’s Brad Winkler*

Joe Turner, Director of Houston Parks and Recreation Department, praised the partnership and the individual volunteers for their hard work and dedication to parks and green spaces that make such a difference in the quality of life for all of those in the greater Houston area.

Cullinan Park at Oyster Creek is a 754-acre Houston Parks and Recreation Department park located adjacent to the Sugar Land Regional Airport. Acquired in 1989, the park sits on land donated by the Joseph S. and Lucie H. Cullinan family. It is known for its hiking trails, fishing and excellent bird watching. •



*Volunteers Amanda Mathis and Forrest Gottke*

## Water Symposium to Address Topic of Bayous as Natural Assets

Appropriately enough the annual BPA Water Symposium’s topic for 2010 is, “Natural Assets: Renewing Our Commitment to the Bayous.”

The conference will be held Wednesday, October 6th at the United Way of Greater Houston office, 50 Waugh Drive. It promises to be educational and enlightening, with lots of

lively discussion, according to BPA board member Becky Olive, who is one of the organizers of the Symposium and is a vice president for AECOM.

“This is a perfect time to discuss the bayous with all the public interest in the Houston Bayou Greenway Initiative,” says Olive. “The Symposium will cover a wide range of topics,

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including history of the bayou system, riparian life, value of water rights in the bayous, environmental stewardship, new community development trends and the long-term stormwater funding and the quality of life/economic development link.

The Symposium begins with registration from 7:30 – 8 a.m. and ends at 4 p.m. Speakers from business, government, academia, the legal profession and nonprofit organizations will participate in the day-long event, including panel discussions following each group of speakers.

Mayor Annise Parker and County Judge Ed Emmett will kick off the Symposium, and then BPA Board President Ty Kelly will welcome participants and give the introduction, including a tie-in of the past five symposia sponsored by the Bayou Preservation Association. Morning sessions will run until noon, when lunch begins. This year's keynote speaker is Dr. John Crompton, Distinguished Professor and Regents Professor, Department of Recreation, Parks and Tourism Sciences at Texas A&M University, who will discuss "The Economic Contributions of Greenways/Trails to Communities."

Besides the City of Houston and Harris County, organizations represented in the Symposium include Texas Parks & Wildlife Department, Rice University, Texas A&M Galveston, Houston Parks Board, The University of Houston, Texas A&M University, the City of Houston and Harris County Flood Control.



Becky Olive and Don McChesney at 2009 Symposium

Thanks go to the planning committee members for their work on putting the Symposium together, including Becky Olive, Ty Kelly, Jason Iken (City of Houston), Trent Martin (Harris County), Carl Masterson (H-GAC) and Kevin Shanley (BPA Board Chairman).

The event is open to the public. Please call the BPA office at 713-529-6443 or check the web site at [www.bayoupreservation.org/2010\\_Symposium](http://www.bayoupreservation.org/2010_Symposium) for the latest information. ●

## Bayou Greenway Initiative Would Be a Boon to Harris County



The Houston Bayou Greenway Initiative, championed by the Greater Houston Partnership and the Quality of Life Coalition, with support from the Bayou Preservation Association and the Houston Parks Board, would create a system of "linear parks" along 10 of Harris County's major bayous, using existing trails. This ambitious master plan would include about 250 miles of new or upgraded hike and bike trails, along with improved canoe launches and more than 50 new parks that would also provide detention basins or wetlands that improve the quality of the city's groundwater.

The Bayou Greenway would be the biggest parks initiative in Houston's history, adding desperately needed greenspace to neighborhoods spread across Harris County. The plan would require a partnership between many

groups, including city, county, state and federal agencies; non-profits such as BPA; municipal utility districts, Tax-Increment Reinvestment Zones (TIRZ); neighborhood groups; developers and private philanthropists.

"This is a wonderful vision for our city and county," says Kevin Shanley, BPA Board Chairman. "I like to say it's a new idea that's been around since the 1920s—because that is when this concept first came about. However, with wars, the economy and other more pressing priorities, the idea was put on the back burner."

(Continued on page 4)

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“The added greenspace will improve quality of life in our neighborhoods, and the detention basins will help protect these areas from extreme flooding,” Shanley continues. “We think Houston can be a model for other cities with our Bayou Greenway Initiative.”

The sponsors of this plan project expenditures of \$500 million over 15 years and anticipate receiving substantial financial assistance from federal and state infrastructure improvement programs.

With the Bayou Greenway Initiative, Harris County residents can look forward to a more beautiful and natural landscape that provides excellent recreational opportunities. ●



Trail at Terry Hershey Park

Photo courtesy of Harris County Flood Control District

## “Tour de Bayous” Gives Up-Close and Personal Overview of Waterways

BPA Executive Director Kathy Lord likes the term “Tour de Bayous” to describe her visits to several Houston area waterways over the last several months, accompanied by our “Eyes on the Bayou” expert, Eric Ruckstuhl.



Teri MacArthur and Kathy Lord at Panther Creek

In the activism role of its mission, the Bayou Preservation Association employs a grass-roots approach to respond to threats to our bayous and streams.

A strong presence in the field allows BPA to identify and act upon such hazards as habitat destruction, channel alterations, illegal dumping, other polluting activities, damage to bayous or their banks, accumulations of trash and logjams or other impediments to flow.

Lord says the main purposes of her “Tour de Bayous” visits are:

- With Ruckstuhl’s input, to scope out areas of invasive exotic plants so that BPA can formulate a plan for possible removal;
- Establish partnerships with other groups interested in bayou preservation, including watershed representatives;
- Learn about the unique aspects of each bayou, since BPA serves as an umbrella for all the watersheds.

“Tour de Bayous” visits by Lord and Ruckstuhl in 2010 include:

**Armand Bayou Nature Center**, accompanied by BPA board member Linda Shead, where they took a pontoon boat ride to view the restored marshlands with Armand Bayou Execu-



Tom Kartrude and Linda Shead at Armand Bayou

tive Director Tom Kartrude and Conservation Director Mark Kramer.

**Spring Creek**, where they met with Jennifer Lorenz of Legacy Land Trust who is also the Spring Creek watershed representative for BPA. She showed them Panther Creek, which was “clear and beautiful.” They also walked some of the Montgomery County Precinct 3 Nature Center and participated in water quality testing with Teri MacArthur, who was instructing science teachers how to teach their students to test for water quality.

**Greens Bayou** on the east side of Houston, where Regina Lindsey, Executive Director of the Greens Bayou Corridor Coalition and Manager, Greens Bayou Projects, Greenspoint District, accompanied them to look at various sections of the bayou. Eric has worked on removal of invasive exotic plants with Greens Bayou and was honored with an award by the Greenspoint District last year for his contributions to the bayou and his recommendation for a hike and bike trail from Willowbrook Mall to Greenspoint Mall.

**Cypress Creek** in northwest Houston, joining BPA board member Jim Robertson and board chairman Kevin Shanley at Bridgeland Community, to learn

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about future plans for the development. They were joined by Tricia Brasseaux, Design Project Coordinator and Christopher Gilbert, who drove the group along the Cypress Creek Nature Trail in Jeeps.

**Country Club Bayou**, joined by Virginia Hancock, who has led the cleanup of the nearby cemetery, as well as removal of invasive exotic plant species, which Ruckstuhl is closely involved in.

More stops on the “Tour de Bayous” will take place in the fall, when it’s actually pretty pleasant to be outdoors on Houston area waterways! ●



*Country Club Bayou*

## Steve Hupp Named Water Quality Director for Bayou Preservation Association



*Stephen Hupp, M.S.*

After interviewing several highly qualified candidates, the Bayou Preservation Association has named Steve Hupp as its Water Quality Director, a newly created position for the organization which will focus on assessing and monitoring the health of Houston-area bayous and waterways and developing and managing programs to preserve and improve Houston’s water quality.

Steve is currently a BPA Advisory Board Member and has been an active volunteer participant in many BPA projects, including the recent Cullinan Park restoration. As Water Quality Director, he will work closely with public and private sector individuals and institutions with an interest in water quality and will facilitate public education about bayous.

Steve Hupp comes to us from the Harris County Public Health and Environment Services Department, Environmental Public Health Division, where he served as Administrator – Water and Solid Waste Programs. He has been a member of Harris County’s environmental enforcement efforts since 1980 when he was hired as an investigator. Throughout his career with Harris County, Steve has focused on improvement of the environment and enforcement of environmental laws, including the Clean Water Act. Steve also has extensive experience coordinating Harris County’s environmental protection efforts with other governmental and non-governmental organizations.

“Steve brings a wealth of relevant experience and knowledge to bear in this new position from his many years working in environmental health,” says BPA Board President Ty Kelly. “His knowledge and extensive contacts with the many government agencies engaged in environmental protection will make Steve an invaluable asset for BPA as we move forward in our efforts to improve the water quality and health of our bayous.”

A graduate of Stephen F. Austin State University with a Bachelor of Science degree in Environmental and Applied Sciences, Steve received his Masters of Science in Environmental Management from the University of Houston/Clear Lake.

When he’s not working, Steve is busy with several hobbies, including native plant landscaping, creation of wildlife habitats, Bible study, bicycling, camping, photography and vegetable gardening. He lives in the Sharpstown area of Houston with his wife, Betsy, a retired elementary school teacher. The Hupps have two married daughters, Joanna and Jessica, and are expecting their first grandchild. ●

## Paddle Trails Update

The Buffalo Bayou Paddling Trail has received a “shot in the arm” thanks to the new kid on the block, Buffalo Bayou Shuttle Service (or Bayou Shuttle). The service, started by Rico Torres, conducts guided kayak tours on Buffalo Bayou designed to educate paddlers about the bayou, in addition to shuttling people to and from various put-in/take-out locations along the paddling trail. Bayou Shuttle also serves cyclists and runners who use hike and bike trails along Buffalo Bayou.

Since April 4, Torres estimates that Bayou Shuttle has taken nearly 2000 paddlers down Buffalo Bayou, with hundreds more utilizing the shuttle service. Guides provide history and notable facts about Buffalo Bayou, as well as promote responsible conservation and preservation of Houston’s longest waterway. All guides are trained in CPR.

Torres and two of his colleagues attended the August Paddle Trails Committee meeting to educate BPA about the service and explore possible ways that we could work together to promote the Paddling Trail. Their season officially ends September 30, at which time Bayou Shuttle is open to partnering with interested groups for weekend trips. BPA is exploring how we can be involved with Bayou Shuttle in promoting the paddle trail and spreading the word about preservation. You can learn more about Bayou Shuttle at [www.bayoushuttle.com](http://www.bayoushuttle.com) or call 713-538-7433.

BPA will oversee the installation of signs along the Buffalo Bayou Paddling Trail so that paddlers know where the put-in and take-out points are when they are on the water.

In other paddle trail news, BPA is ex-

ploring the feasibility of Cypress Creek as an official Texas Parks & Wildlife Department paddling trail. First, BPA needs to secure the commitment of other partners, including Harris County Flood Control, the Cypress Creek Greenway Project and Precinct 4. Next, we need to identify viable put-in/take-out points between Telge Park and Jones Park that will be safe for paddlers. Stay tuned for future developments with Cypress Creek.

The interest in paddling on our bayous is growing tremendously, which is a positive development. However, we want to ensure that safety is a top priority, along with conservation of our natural resources. ●

## Funk Shui Gala on October 7<sup>th</sup> Incorporates Asian Theme for Outdoor Event

The Bayou Preservation Association encourages you to “get funky” for its October 7th Asian-themed gala, *Funk Shui*. Tickets are going quickly for the *al fresco* event at the Tanglewood-area home of Brian James, in which guests can view Buffalo Bayou, Houston’s longest and most notable waterway, as well as tour the contemporary home, filled with an eclectic collection of original artwork. Funds raised at *Funk Shui* will go to support the preservation, restoration and conservation of all the waterways that crisscross the Houston area.



Front row, L-R: Jamie Mize, Cindy Bishop, Minnette Boesel  
Back row, L-R: Brian James, Dan Tidwell, John Gaston, Peter Boesel

*Funk Shui* boasts six co-chairs who are busy finalizing plans for the upcoming gala. The group represents an interesting

cross section of the business community who happen to share a love for the environment. These include Jamie Mize and Dan Tidwell, co-founders of Treebeards restaurant; Cindy Bishop, owner of Cindy Bishop Productions; John Gaston, attorney and partner with Gaston, Hemingway and Thanheiser; Minnette Boesel, Mayor’s Assistant for Cultural Affairs and Peter Boesel, a Realtor® with Heritage Texas Properties.

“We have such a diverse and creative group of co-chairs this year who are bringing a lot of energy and ideas to bear,” says Kathy Lord, BPA Executive Director. “Host Brian James is so generous in opening up his home both inside and outdoors for guests to enjoy. The Bayou Preservation Association is also very grateful to all of our financial supporters. *Funk Shui* will be a wonderful mix of professionals from all age groups, mingling in an idyllic setting.”

Guests will rock to music grooves by the band McLemore Avenue. Catering is by Gigi’s Asian Bistro & Dumpling Bar, which promises a spicy and mouth-watering culinary experience. Other entertainment surprises also await, and party-goers are encouraged to dress in “chinois chic.” Tickets to the gala begin at \$200 per person. Underwriting opportunities start at \$2,500. For ticket information, please contact Jennifer Hawkins at 713-206-5505.

***Funk Shui*, Benefiting the Bayou Preservation Association  
Thursday, October 7th at 7 p.m.  
3 Buffalo Ridge, Houston, Texas 77056 ●**

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