

bayou forum



**Dedicated to Members and
Friends of the Bayou
Preservation Association**

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

"Whatever we possess becomes of double value when we have the opportunity of sharing it with others."

Jean Nicolas Bouilly

Dear Friend of our bayous!

We'd like to share with you the updates on our projects, education and outreach, water quality program, and other important news concerning our bayous.

This year we will print only one issue of Bayou Forum, not to neglect the friends of the bayous whose email addresses we don't have in our database; all the other updates we will send as E-Newsletters. Please [join our mailing list](#) if you would like to receive our email updates.

We hope you will find our E-Bayou Forum equally informative and interesting as our printed issues. You can also follow us on Facebook at www.facebook.com/BayouPreservation.

Thank you for supporting our mission to protect and restore the richness and diversity of our waterways!

Sincerely,

Kathy Lord,
Executive Director

by Carol Brejot

Seeking Volunteers for Trash Bash® 2011

BPA seeks volunteers for two Trash Bash® 2011 events on Saturday, March 26: [Terry Hershey Park in West Houston](#) and [Collins Park in Spring](#). 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. The work will be concentrated on the upper banks of Buffalo Bayou between Highway 6 and Beltway 8 for Terry Hershey Park, while the Collins Park project focuses on Cypress Creek.

Volunteers of all ages are welcome at Trash Bash®. Everyone who participates must sign a [release form](#). Parents will sign forms for children under age 18. “This is an ideal service project for students, Scouts, church groups and companies,” says Kathy Lord, BPA executive director.



Volunteers work near Beltway 8 at 2010 Trash Bash®

In addition to the clean-up activities, a small group of volunteers can help with removal of invasive, exotic plant species in both parks, under the supervision of a BPA staff member. It is important to remove these plants and/or trees, because they tend to choke out natural vegetation that is important for the eco-system of our bayous. Natural vegetation can provide animal habitat as well as mitigate flooding.

Terry Hershey Park is located at 15200 Memorial Drive between Eldridge and Highway 6 in West Houston (77079). Parking is available at the lot at 13449 Katy Freeway, within walking distance to the site. Since space is limited, carpooling to the site is recommended. Collins Park is at 6727 Cypresswood Dr. in Spring, (77379) with ample parking available in the lot on York Minster Drive.

To register for Trash Bash® 2011 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. The event will take place rain or shine. You can [download a form](#) from the H-GAC website. ●



Lunch time at Collins Park 2010 Trash Bash®

Come on out and enjoy hot dogs, chips, cookies and drinks after taking a break from cleaning up. Projects committee chairman Bruce 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. Trash Bash® will provide work gloves, trash bags and bottled water at the site.”

by Carol Breyot

Projects, Projects Everywhere!

BPA initiated the “Project a Month” program in 2010, with a goal of averaging 10-12 bayou enhancement projects in a year utilizing community volunteers, including Earth Day participation at Discovery Green. We saw some highly successful projects come to fruition this past year, including sponsoring two sites for Trash Bash® 2010 (740 volunteers total); Collins Park in January; Herman Brown Park in February; Cullinan Park (Oyster Creek) in June;



Betty Leite, BPA Advisory Board Member volunteering at Cullinan Park

Telge Park (Cypress Creek) in November and Terry Hershey Park (Langham Creek) with Paradigm employees in December.

So far in 2011, BPA has worked on canoe launch improvements at Terry Hershey Park, including Highway 6 and Memorial Mews, along with invasive species removal. Another canoe launch enhancement project is set for Saturday, Feb. 26 at the Woodway launch in Memorial Park (corner of Woodway Drive and Loop 610).

Volunteers are needed.

Other confirmed projects on the horizon include Trash Bash® 2011 on March 26 at both Terry Hershey Park and Collins Park and Earth Day April 23 at Discovery Green, where BPA will once again spearhead the water zone. Watch the BPA calendar listings on our website www.bayoupreservation.org for projects coming up after April.

In other news, Eric Ruckstuhl and Steve Hupp are working diligently on selective clearing projects with Harris County Flood Control (HCFCD) to remove invasive, exotic plants and to help save the native plants and trees that are so important to the bayou eco-system. With financial support from the Greens Bayou Corridor Coalition and the Native Plant Society, Ruckstuhl and contractor Martin Simonton are working on a stretch of Greens Bayou from Mount Houston southward, identifying a prime riparian habitat area that would be ideal for a park with hike and bike trails, paddle trails and wetland boardwalks. The overall goals are to help train HCFCD and contractors to save more native species; to eliminate more invasive exotic plants and to improve the conveyance and capacity of our bayou. ●



Telge Park paddle trail launch site

by Carol Brejot

Paradigm Group Teams with BPA for Park Restoration Project

Volunteers from Houston-based Paradigm joined with BPA staff members on Dec. 4 for a hugely successful restoration project in the 500-acre Terry Hershey Park, a Harris County Precinct 3 park in West Houston. The group removed invasive, exotic plant species, planted new native plants in four areas of the park where invasives had previously been removed and collected litter when necessary. (Paradigm is the world's largest transnational technology company exclusively focused on the development and deployment of subsurface software solutions for the global oil and gas industry.)

The project began at 9:30 a.m. and ended at 2 p.m. with 14 Paradigm employees working alongside BPA's Steve Hupp (BPA Water Quality Director) and Eric Ruckstuhl, leader of our invasive, exotic plant removal program for many of the bayous in the greater Houston area. The corporate volunteers worked diligently with only a 30-minute lunch break under unusually mild weather conditions for December.

"I have been coordinating projects of this type for 14 years and was overwhelmed by the enthusiasm, skill and teamwork of the Paradigm group," says Hupp. "They truly care about the environment and were so excited to be able to make a difference along Langham Creek in one of the great parks in our city."

A summary of the work in performed in Terry Hershey Park includes:

- Removal of over 100 wax-leaf ligustrum

bushes/trees which measured five cubic yards of debris

- 18 native trees and shrubs planted, including willow oak, red buckeye, shining sumac, indigo bush, redbay, huisache and more
- 18 Gulf Coast penstemon (native ground-cover) planted
- Five inland sea oats (native grass) planted
- About one half cubic yard of litter removed, including a rusted, 55-gallon drum



Workers from Houston-based Paradigm joined with BPA's Steve Hupp and Erick Ruckstuhl to do a major clean-up project at Terry Hershey Park on December 4, 2010.

BPA plans to continue these volunteer projects at various locations in Harris County, with the goal of averaging at least one per month over the next year. "We believe that by getting people to come out and provide some sweat equity, they will gain a greater awareness of what it takes to preserve and maintain our bayous and surrounding parklands," says Hupp. •

by Carol Brejot

BPA Wins Award from H-GAC for Paddling Trail

Once again, BPA's role in spearheading the Buffalo Bayou Paddling Trail has not gone unnoticed. The Bayou Preservation Association is the proud recipient of the **Parks & Natural Areas Award** for "On the Ground Projects Under \$500,000" presented by Houston-Galveston Area Council (H-GAC). The entry form was submitted in August, and BPA was notified in November that it was the winner in this category.

On January 18, the H-GAC board of directors honored the outstanding parks and natural areas projects during its awards reception attended by Kathy Lord and board member Claire Caudill. The projects which were recognized with awards serve as models for planning and project implementation for parks and natural areas in the region.

Keep Houston Beautiful honored BPA and its work on the Paddling Trail in 2009 with the **Mayor's Proud Partner Award**.



Bob Arthur, BPA Paddle Trails Committee Chairman, receiving Mayor's Proud Partner Award

Since then, awareness of the trail has greatly increased, especially with [Buffalo Bayou Shuttle service](#) now offering weekend paddle trips from March through October. Thousands of Houstonians and residents in surrounding suburbs have discovered what nature has to offer in their own backyard by taking a kayak or canoe down Buffalo Bayou! ●



Buffalo Bayou Paddling Trail at Briar Bend Park

by Carol Breyot

Paddling Trail Update

The Buffalo Bayou Paddling Trail has gotten a shot in the arm from the [Bayou Shuttle Service](#), which not only transports paddlers to and from their put-in and take-out points, but provides full-service guided tours on Buffalo Bayou with personnel trained in CPR and basic first aid. The guides provide a historical narrative of Buffalo Bayou during the tour, with the Houston Skyline Tour from Woodway/Loop 610 to Sabine being the most popular. Since April 2010, Bayou Shuttle has taken more than 2500 people on paddle trips.

BPA has been the recipient of Bayou Shuttle's generosity since it hosted three benefit tours for us in October, November and December of 2010. The trips were limited to 50 people and filled up quickly. Bayou Shuttle donated all proceeds from the trips to BPA after covering their basic costs, resulting in \$3,265 donated to our organization. Bayou Shuttle's regular paddling season is from March through September, with special trips scheduled during the off-season.



Bayou Shuttle Service benefit tour participants

downtown at Allen's Landing. Additionally, upgrades and enhancements to canoe launches are being implemented, as well as ongoing removal of invasive, exotic plant species in select areas, including Terry Hershey Park.

The next big thing: Getting Cypress Creek designated as an official Texas Parks and Wildlife Department state paddling trail. Put-in and take-out points have been identified, and work is proceeding on canoe launches and selective clearing in certain areas where invasive, exotic plants are a problem. Three launches have been constructed to date: Telge Park, East Shadowlake Pocket Park and Collins Park.

See our Paddling Trail Guide at www.bayoupreservation.org for information about other navigable waterways in the Houston area. ●



Bob Arthur, BPA Board Member, and Kathy Lord, BPA Exec. Director receiving a check from Rico Torres, Bayou Shuttle Service

In other Buffalo Bayou Paddling Trail news, signage is being installed to identify put-in/take-out points along the 26-mile trail, which starts at Highway 6 on the West Side and ends

by Carol Brejot

Earth Day Houston on Spring Agenda for BPA



For the third year running, BPA will spearhead the Water Zone at Earth Day Houston at Discovery Green downtown on Saturday, April 23 from 8 a.m. – 4 p.m., sponsored by Air Alliance Houston. (BPA’s booth opens at 10 a.m.).

Last year, thousands of 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.

Our booth will be manned by BPA staff and volunteers throughout the day with several interactive activities going on. We plan to demonstrate: water runoff which shows how water goes from “storm to source”; a “do-it-yourself” rainwater collection system; pervious and impervious rocks to highlight drainage differences.

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.

Earth Day Houston combines entertainment with education for all ages in a casual environment with no shortage of activities, food and entertainment. Come on out on April 23 to volunteer with BPA. ●



Earth Day Houston 2010

Annual Meeting Coming Up in May

In lieu of a regular board meeting, BPA will hold its second annual membership meeting Wednesday, May 11 at 5:30 p.m. at the home of BPA Board President Ty Kelly and his wife Lynn. Board members, staff and association members/donors are encouraged to attend this event meshing business with social. Learn what BPA has accomplished in the past year and what's on the horizon as we enter a new decade. The first Terry Hershey Bayou Stewardship Award will be announced at the meeting. In honor of Terry Hershey, we 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 positive means. Be sure and RSVP for the meeting by calling the BPA office at 713-529-6443.

If you want to become a BPA member, click on the “Support/Volunteer” tab on the web site, then click “Donations.” You can [donate online](#) or fill out a [membership form](#) and mail it in with your check.

Thank you for your support! ●



BPA is a member of Earth Share Texas. Though a payroll deduction program, Earth Share offers employers and employees interested in environmental issues the opportunity to support the BPA.

Network For Good —Donations

To make a donation through our website click the Network For Good link on the Home page. Ninety-seven percent (97%) of your donations go to the BPA.



by Carol Breyot

2010 Water Symposium Garners Raves

“Incredibly enlightening.” “Awesome.” “The best one yet.” These are just a few of the accolades bestowed upon BPA’s October 6, 2010 Water Symposium held at the United Way of Greater Houston, attended by a record 165 professionals from academia, companies, government, non-profit organizations, engineering firms and more.

This year’s symposium topic, “Natural Assets: Renewing Our Commitment to the Bayous,”



Robert Snoza, HC Flood Control District and Rachel Powers, H-GAC, at October 2010 Water Symposium

was especially timely in light of all the buzz about the [Bayou Greenway Initiative](#). This is an ambitious master plan to develop land along 10 of Harris County’s major bayous, creating an enormous system of interconnected linear parks for hiking and biking, not to mention paddling trails and 50 new parks.

A brief rundown of the speakers and topics:

- Council Member Stephen Costello (Houston City Council At-Large Position 1) – “Long Term Commitment to Fund Stormwater in Houston”
- Diana Foss (Wildlife Biologist, Texas Parks & Wildlife Department) – “Riparian Life – Bats and Other Creatures”
- Stephen Fox (Architectural Historian, Lecturer – Rice School of Architecture) – “Historical Visions

and Benefits of the Bayou System”

- Dr. George Guillen (Executive Director, Environmental Institute of Houston, Associate Professor at UH Clear Lake) – “Swimming the Bayous – Fish Now and Then”
 - Dr. Stephen Klineberg (Co-director of Rice University’s Institute for Urban Research) – “How Quality of Life Issues Became Part of Houston’s Pro-Business Agenda”
 - Joel Marshall (Senior Vice President, Trendmaker Development) – “New Community Development Trends – Incorporating the Bayous and Reuse”
 - Roksan Okan-Vick, AIA (Executive Director, Houston Parks Board) – “Linking the Community – the Bayou’s Social Aspect”
 - Michael Talbott, P.E. (Director, Harris County Flood Control District) – “Continued Progress in Environmental Stewardship”
 - Jeff Taylor (Southeast Texas Division Manager, Freese and Nichols) – “Value of Water Rights to the Bayous”
 - Natalie Wiest (Head Librarian, Texas A&M Galveston/Author of “Canoeing and Kayaking Houston’s Waterways”) – “Bayou Recreation”
 - Sanford Criner (Executive Vice President, CBRE Global Corporate Services) – “Putting Together Resources to Get it Down: Enhancing Quality of Life and Economic Development”
 - Dr. John Crompton – Keynote Speaker (Distinguished Professor and Regents Professor, Department of Recreation, Park and Tourism Sciences, Texas A&M University) – “The Economic Contributions of Greenways/Trails to Communities”
- Plan to join us for the 2011 BPA Water Symposium on November 4 at the United Way of Greater Houston, 50 Waugh Dr., from 7:30 a.m. – 4 p.m., which will address the hot topic of “Water Quality Stewardship: The Past, Present and Future of Our Water Quality.” •

by Carol Brejot

BPA's Funk Shui Gala Provides Asian Flavor and then Sum!

More than 350 environmentally-minded party-goers gathered at the Tanglewood home of Brian James on October 7 for Asian-inspired



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

food, drinks, dance, music and attire, while raising money to further the cause of preserving our bayous. The organizers of the event could not have ordered more perfect weather with a gorgeous sky and temperatures in the 70s. The exquisite home was open to guests, who viewed an impressive collection of original art, along with views of the gardens and lush bayou property.



Dance of Asian America performer

Guests were greeted with lichee martinis and supped on dim sum from Gigi's Asian Bistro and Dumpling Bar, while grooving to the R&B and jazzy sounds of McLemore Avenue. Surprise entertainment included traditional Chinese dances by performers with Dance of Asian America. Gala co-chairs were Minnette and Peter Boesel, Cindy Bishop, John Gaston, Jamie Mize and Dan Tidwell.

Funds from the gala go toward restoring and preserving Houston-area bayous through removal of invasive, exotic plants; riparian habitat restoration; water quality improvement; enhancement of the Buffalo Bayou Paddling Trail and creation of a Cypress Creek Paddling Trail.

Plans are currently underway for the 2011 gala, to be held in the fall. Check the BPA website www.bayoupreservation.org in the coming months for specifics on that not-to-be-missed social event! ●



Funk Shui Gala guests at the Tanglewood home of Brian James

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Over \$50,000

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