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Comments

A Publication of Gulf Coast Waste Disposal Authority **GCA**

October 1998

New GCA Officers Elected For 1998 – 2000 GCA Board Elects Four New Officers During September Meeting



(left to right) New GCA Board Officers Sam Dell'Olio, Shirley Seale, John Wildenthal, and Rafael Ortega.

The Hon. John Wildenthal was elected Chairman of the GCA Board of Directors at the September Board Meeting. John Wildenthal, first appointed in 1969, is the only remaining original member of the Board. He represents the Harris County Mayors.

Ortega elected Vice Chairman; Mrs. Shirley Seale, Treasurer; and Sam Dell'Olio, Secretary. Outgoing officers in these positions were Gail Bradley, Rick Ferguson and James "Ossie" Matthews, respectively.

John Wildenthal has been a Houston municipal judge since 1977. While in Washington D.C., he served as an attorney with the

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Rita Standridge is sworn in by John Wildenthal.

Outgoing Chairman J.M. "Mark" Schultz has been a Board Member since 1979 and has served as Chairman for eight years. He represents the Chambers County Commissioners Court.

All Board officers changed this year with Rafael

Rita Standridge Returns To GCA Board

Rita Standridge was sworn in, for the second time, as a GCA Board Member during the September Board of Directors meeting. In 1995, Standridge was an Ann Richards gubernatorial appointee. Mrs. Standridge returns to the Board by appointment of the Chambers County Mayors.

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GCA Board Honors Director Richard Y. Ferguson

The GCA Board of Directors honored outgoing member Richard Ferguson with a Board resolution rating the significant service given during his tenure as Treasurer, Chairman of the Audit Committee, and Member of the Special Projects Committee.

Gov. Mark White originally appointed Ferguson to represent Chambers County on the GCA Board in 1985. After leaving for a short period of time, Ferguson was renamed to serve in 1988 by the Chambers County Mayors Council and has actively participated in GCA Board activities over the past decade.



Richard Ferguson (left) receives resolution from GCA Chairman John Wildenthal.

GCA Staff Meeting

Expands New Horizons

GCA staff participated in an Expanded Staff Meeting (ESM) at the Radisson Hotel & Conference Center-Hobby Airport in June for a synopsis of GCA's 1997-98 accomplishments and upcoming issues. Each department manager presented a condensed update of his or her respective areas for those in attendance.

Computerized information was at the forefront of GCA's operational advancements. Technology and the results of GCA's continued growth pattern were the highlights of the ESM. Computers have given GCA facilities and departments an additional edge with immediate automated information regarding input and output data.



Odessa South Facility Manager John Drissel addresses GCA staff.

Management Information Systems Officer Gerry Stacy previewed the new look for GCA's website that is still under construction. Stacy also introduced the Washburn Tunnel Facility and 40-Acre Facility intranet web pages providing data accessible only by its participants and the Authority.

Bayport Facility Manager Jim Kowalik demonstrated the latest software tools used daily to provide immediate biological data information adaptable for various operational procedures. Bayport's computerized flexibility allows for accurate and vital flow rate decisions with a click of a button.

Central Lab's Manager Mary Juneck enlightened everyone with the latest information concerning the Laboratory Information

Standridge Returns

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"I truly believe in what Gulf Coast Authority does. It has played a vital role in this area for more than 25 years and I am excited about being given another opportunity to contribute to that effort. I don't believe in fixing things that aren't broken, but my county is a coastal one and I want to preserve what we have. I look forward to working with the GCA Board as we approach the next millennium."

Mrs. Standridge is a registered nurse at Bay Coast Medical Center in Baytown. She is a member of the Association of Operating Room Nurses, the American Society of Ophthalmic Registered Nurses and is a Red Cross Nurse. Standridge's husband, Jim, is a chemical engineer with Exxon Chemical Company and serves as Mayor of Beach City, Texas where they reside.

Date	Sample Type	Actual Chromium	Actual Arsenic	Chromium Limit	Actual Chromium	Nickel Limit	Actual Nickel
8/17	1 Grab Comp	602	320	420	40		
8/18	7/17	602	691	420	37		
8/19	8/18	602	399	420	45		
9/20	9/19	602	1586	420			
9/21	9/20	608	1923				

40-Acre Facility Manager Laverne Pedersen explains sludge pollutant levels to GCA staff.

Management System (LIMS). LIMS provides a computerized chemical analysis to its users, expedites data transfers between facilities and lessens chances of transcription errors. LIMS is up and running at Central Lab with further expansion plans for the future.

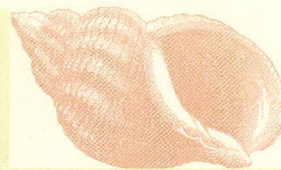
Charles Goode, General Operations Manager, introduced a program on sludge management experiments being conducted at the Blackhawk Facility. Gordon Pederson and Jerald Landis, Municipal Section, discussed the projects.

At the end of the afternoon, everyone left with a better understanding of what each facility and department had accomplished over the past year and what direction GCA is headed throughout the remaining months of 1998.

Bay Day



1998



June weather in Texas is always hot and searing. And the 13th of June was true to form as the mercury level reached in excess of 100 degrees while thousands turned out to enjoy a full day of food, fun, environmental education festivities, and entertainment at Sylvan Beach in LaPorte, Texas for Bay Day 1998. Despite the breath-taking temperatures, GCA staff from various

facilities rose to the occasion by volunteering to provide the public with literature, information, and much-needed paper fans at GCA's Bay Day booth.

Each year, GCA sponsors a booth with various educational display themes manned by GCA staff. This year's display focused on creating additional awareness for the annual River, Lakes, Bays N' Bayous Trash Bash and the demands our population places upon the ecological water balance of tributaries leading into Galveston Bay.

The GCA display took a step into cyber technology by providing a computer showing full-length versions of each design submitted to the Trash Bash Web Page Design Contest. Houston/Galveston area students were asked to create web pages that provided educational information relative to the cultural or natural history relating to one of eleven Trash Bash sites. Each design combined technology, history,

and conservation. The Bay Day host city's high school submitted the winning design. LaPorte High School captured first place with a web page design worth \$3,000 of computer hardware, compliments of Compaq Computers. All of the schools that participated in the web page design contest gave an extra punch to GCA's display booth and the Trash Bash slogan of "Clean It Like You Mean It".

GCA staff brought another dimension to Bay Day participation on the Crab Cottage Stage. Bay Day festival-goers of all ages were given the opportunity to compete for prizes in GCA's "Environmental Jeopardy" (later termed *EnviroMental Inquiry*). The Jeopardy-like game centered on environmental questions concerning Galveston Bay, Recycling, Pollution, Local Wildlife and Local Plants. GCA provided its own version of Jeopardy's host, "Alec Tribec", a rotating point questionnaire board and judge, lecterns with lights and buzzers, and an audience participation floor monitor. Competition was swift and knowledge-laden. The audience was as much a part of the game as the competitors. It was an excellent way to beat the heat and catch up on Galveston Bay trivia.

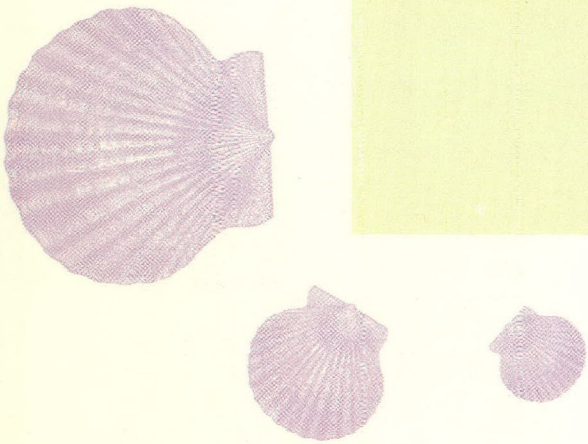
If you missed this year's Bay Day festivities, be sure to mark June 12, 1999 on your calendar for next year. Bay Day 1998 was a fun-filled family day for GCA and everyone at Sylvan Beach. Hope to see you next year!



GCA's Judy Odom and Heidi Bressler working hard to stay cool at the GCA Booth.



GCA's Charles Goode, Lori Roussel, and Leonard Levine keep the fast-paced Q&A of Environmental Jeopardy running smoothly.



AMSA Awards

Each year the Association of Metropolitan Sewerage Agencies (AMSA) recognizes outstanding wastewater treatment plant performances throughout the nation.

Three GCA facilities were recipients of AMSA's Gold Award for 1997. AMSA Awards go to 40-Acre Facility, Blackhawk Facility, and Alief Facility for an outstanding year of operations.

Each facility has received numerous AMSA Awards, but the GCA facility with the most awards is 40-Acre Facility. Within the last 10 years the 40-Acre Facility was awarded nine (9) Gold and two (2) Silver awards for operational excellence.

An AMSA Gold Award identifies AMSA member facilities that have consistently met all National Pollution Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permit limits within each calendar year. Silver Awards are given to facilities having five or fewer NPDES permit violations.



Pictured left to right, 40-Acre Facility Manager Laverne Pedersen, General Operations Superintendent Gordon Pederson, and Municipal Operations Supervisor Jerald Landis.

New GCA Officers

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Senate Armed Services Committee and as a member of Lyndon B. Johnson's U.S. Senate staff. After returning to Texas, Wildenthal served as County Attorney of LaSalle County and then as Assistant Attorney General of Texas under Attorney General Will Wilson. Houston Mayor Louie Welch chose Wildenthal as his City Attorney during his first term of office. He has previously served the GCA Board as Vice Chairman.

Ortega, Seale and Dell'Olio are all Governor's appointees representing the counties of Harris, Chambers and Galveston.

Ortega is a professional engineer with Lockwood, Andrews and Newnam; Seale is president of Merchants Bank in Houston; and Dell'Olio is bank manager for Texas First Bank at Pirates Beach in Galveston.

Comments

Board of Directors

Harris County

R. Wayne Smith, P.E., Member-C
Hon. John Wildenthal, Chairman-M
Rafael Ortega, P.E., Vice Chairman-G

Galveston County

James A. Matthews, Jr., Member-C
Gail G. Bradley, Member-M
Sam Dell'Olio, Secretary-G

Chambers County

J.M. "Mark" Schultz, Member-C
Rita E. Standridge, Member-M
Shirley Seale, Treasurer-G

C - County Commissioners Court Appointee

M - Mayors Council Appointee

G - Governor's Appointee

Administration

Dick Brown
General Manager
Jerry R. Dunn
Assistant General Manager
Charles W. Ganze
Manager Industrial Operations
Charles Goode
Manager General Operations
Lori Roussel
Manager Special Projects
Pamela Collins
Editor

Gulf Coast Comments

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