

G8000.6
G951
99/12

Comments

A Publication of Gulf Coast Waste Disposal Authority



December 1999

Proud Partners Award

MAY 03 2000

Depository
Library



Mark Schultz accepts Proud Partner Honorable Mention Certificate from Houston Mayor Lee P. Brown.

Gulf Coast Waste Disposal Authority was recently honored by Houston Mayor Lee Brown for sponsoring the "Education, Outreach, and Demonstration of Composting & Don't Bag It (As a Method of Source Reduction)" project.

GCA Chairman Mark Schultz accepted a signed certificate of appreciation from Mayor Brown at the 15th Annual Proud Partners Awards Luncheon held at the Hyatt Regency Hotel in October.

Yard waste accounts for one-third of the total material collected for landfill disposal.

As a major contributor to environmental stewardship for solid waste management issues, GCA partnered with Urban Harvest to provide Houston communities with an organic, economical and beneficial solution to protect Houston's landfill capacity. Urban Har-

vest is a non-profit organization that promotes urban gardening and yard waste management.

Through the Education, Outreach, and Demonstration Project, Houston area schools and communities were taught to organically manage their own green wastes through backyard composting. Thirty (30) Master

Composters completed their instruction through this program and were required to donate 20 hours of volunteer instruction to receive their Master Composter Certification.

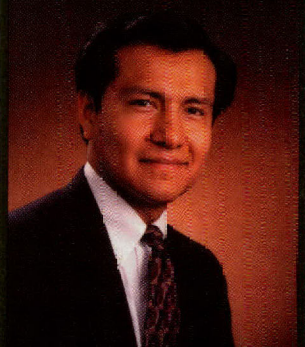
Economically, the teaching methods employed by the project instructor and volunteers used existing tools such as the Texas Natural Resource Conservation Commission's Master Composter

Manual and Junior Master Composter Program, a series of "Clippy and Leafy" brochures,

continues on p.2

...14,300 Houston residents were served and 1,440 tons of yard waste were organically diverted from the landfill.

Rafael Ortega Reappointed to GCA Board



Governor George W. Bush reappointed Vice Chairman Rafael Ortega P.E., for another two-year term to the GCA Board of Directors. Ortega was originally appointed to the GCA Board in 1995.

Ortega, an engineer employed by Lockwood, Andrews & Newnam, Inc., is a University of Houston graduate with a masters degree in business administration and a civil engineering degree.

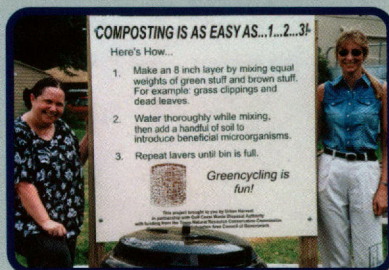
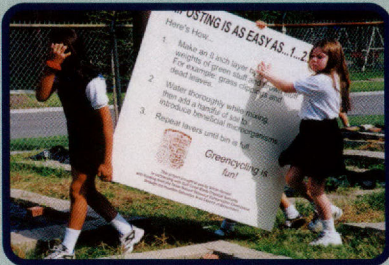
Raphael Ortega, P.E.

Proud Partners Award continued from p. 1

and a children's coloring book. All printed materials were also distributed in Spanish since a large portion of the target audience was Hispanic.

Beneficially, composting yard waste is a reuse and recycling project. Organic waste material gathered from communities and schools was naturally decomposed into an efficient soil conditioner that returned nutrients and humus into the cycle of life. Houston's hot summer temperatures can devastate crops in unprotected gardens. On the other hand, gardens that received compost as a result of this project required less water than conventional gardens and continuously thrived through the long and hot summer months.

During the Education, Outreach, and Demonstration project cycle, 14,300 Houston residents were served and 1,440 tons of yard waste were organically diverted from the landfill.



Lantrip Elementary School children building their school's composting demonstration area.

Maintenance Building Expansion at Bayport Facility

After Bayport Facility finalized its \$30 million expansion to increase the plant's flow capacity, design plans were already being made to expand the Maintenance Building. Additions to the existing maintenance structure have almost doubled square footage over what was built originally at Bayport in the early 1980's.



The new Maintenance Building includes a covered shipping and receiving area.



New lunch/meeting room during the final phases of construction.



The completed room with cabinetry, table and chairs in place.

The maintenance building's design phase ended in 1997, and construction began in 1998 to increase the 3,000 square foot building to 5,600 square feet. Now, one year later, Bayport's Maintenance Supervisor, B.W. Fritch, has substantially more storage space, a contained shipping and receiving area, office spaces and a lunch/meeting room large enough to comfortably assemble 48 people.

Fritch, a 25-year GCA veteran says, "The increase in space has many benefits, but the most important one is being able to consolidate our spare parts inventory into one location. In the past, we have stored our surplus parts in five or six different places, but now we are able to house all of our maintenance supplies and spare parts in one central location."

B.W. Fritch supervises eight full-time GCA technicians and four part-time contract employees. B.W. believes strongly on being pro-active as it pertains to preventive maintenance. "If your preventive maintenance is in order, break-downs of any kind do not occur as often. It becomes *predictive* instead of *corrective* maintenance."

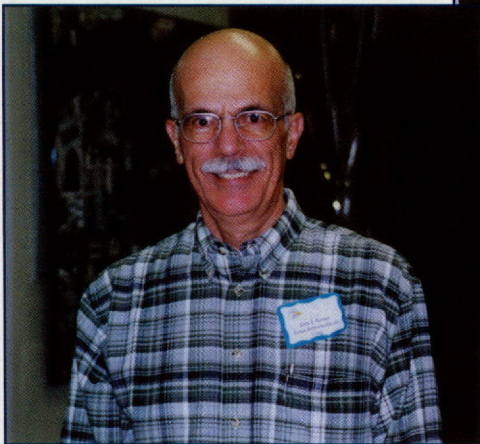
Washburn Tunnel's *30th Anniversary Reception*

GCA continued its 30th Anniversary celebration with the last facility reception of the 1999-year at the Washburn Tunnel Facility in October.

Facility Manager Jack Wahlstrom and WTF staff greeted participants, friends, GCA staff and Board Members. GCA General Manager Dick Brown recognized distinguished visitors during his opening remarks and invited everyone to tour GCA's second facility to go on-line in 1973.



Paul Licata, Pasadena Paper Company; Joe Borodon, Air Products, L.P., and WT Operations Superintendent Greg Seay.



John Nesser - Texas PetroChemical Company.



Wayne Ahrens, Dannenbaum Engineering, with GCA Board Member Wayne Smith.



GCA Board Treasurer Shirley Seale with Gen. Mgr. Dick Brown.



WT staffers Louise Carpenter, Bill Tharp and Mike Nirider.



A nice sized crowd of industry representatives and other guests enjoyed refreshments and were offered tours of the Facility.



WT Facility Manager Jack Wahlstrom with Samuel Lee, Lyondell-Citgo.



GCA Board Chairman Mark Schultz with Member Wayne Smith.



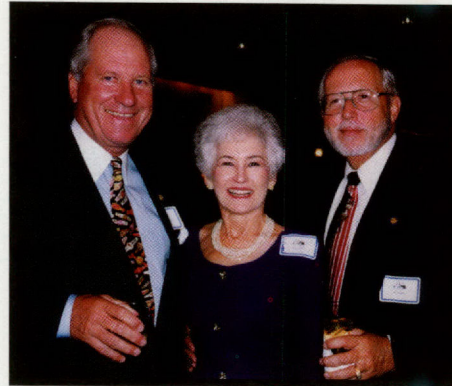
Forty Acre Facility Manager Laverne Pederson visits with Mike Nirider.



Don Padfield, attorney (retired from Simpson Paper), with Jim Cooksey, Manager - Financial Services for GCA.

ANNIVERSARY RECEPTION **Tops off 30th Year**

The Gulf Coast Authority 30th Anniversary celebration was brought to an appropriate climax with a November reception at the Four Seasons Hotel. Current and Former Board Members, Professional Associates and staff gathered to share memories and renew friendships.



Larry Catuzzi, Financial Security Assurance Inc., with Betty and Al Forsten. Betty retired from GCA where she served as Director of Finance.



Dan and Karen Overgaard of Overgaard & Associates.

Charles Ganze, GCA Manager - Industrial Operations; Jack Davis, former GCA General Manager (ret.), and current General Manager Dick Brown.



Terry Tunks, Galveston Bay Foundation.

GCA staffers Lavene Pederson, Jim Kowalik, Judy Odom and Ruth Ticer.



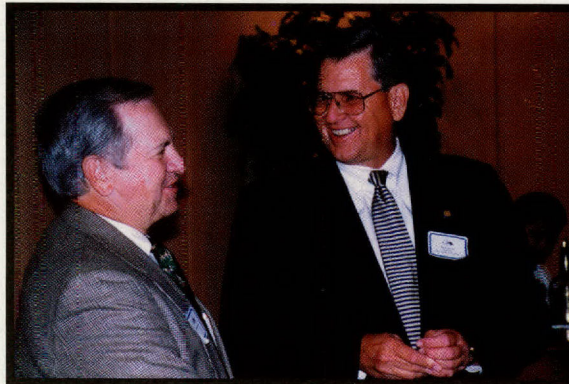
Former Board Members Gail Bradley and Judge John Wildenthal.

Lori Roussel, Manager - Special Projects; Chairman Mark Schultz and Ken Clark, Galveston County Precinct 4 Commissioner.

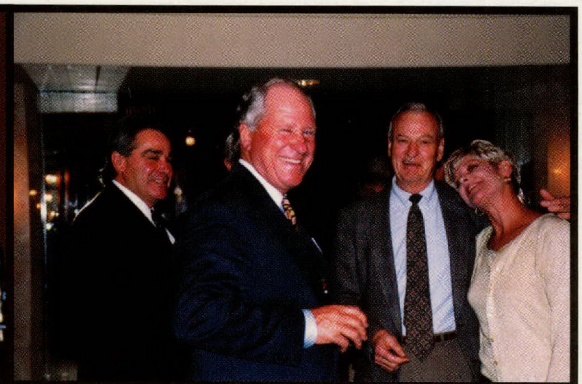


Ruth Ganze with former Board Member Roy Byerly.

Charles Goode, Manager - General Operations, with Jim Dannenbaum, Dannenbaum Engineering.



Paul Davis, former senior manager at GCA, and Chairman Schultz.



Board Member James "Ossie" Matthews, Larry Catuzzi, Jack Davis and Mrs. Matthews.



Chris Kuhlman, CK Productions, and Henry Aghedo, City of Houston.

Board Chairman Mark Schultz briefly reviewed accomplishments of the last 10 of the Authority's 30 years and predicted further success in the future. General Manager Dick Brown introduced Board Members, elected officials and guests.

The GCA information video was on display along with photos of significant projects and people from the Authority's past.



Ruth Ganze, Mrs. Wendt, and Ron Wendt of Environmental Improvements.

Washburn Tunnel Drains Basin

Reduced flows at Washburn Tunnel Facility have offered the opportunity to drain one of its secondary treatment basins to perform an equipment workover. This 4.5 million gallon basin is one of three which will receive inspection and repair over the next 18 months.

A change in operations at the Pasadena Paper Company has reduced WT flows from about 40 million gallons per day (mgd) to about 20 mgd.

Previously, maintenance had to be performed with the basins on-line,



A 120 ton crane was brought in to move components during the basin workover.

Not seen in more than 20 years, the base of the aerator platforms reach some 20 feet above the floor of the empty basin.



which means full of water. The work had to be performed out of a boat or from a small barge.

"As you can imagine," said Greg Seay, Operations Superintendent, "it's much easier and more efficient to clean and repaint walkways and other equipment from solid ground. And, we are able to do this without jeopardizing treatment or compliance."

Tunnel Maintenance Supervisor Bill Tharp explained that "being able to re-

pair and paint our equipment without immediate exposure to water can only extend the life of that equipment."

Even employees with 20 or more years of experience had never seen the bottom of the treatment basin. As the water went down, the relics revealed included pieces of metal, old meters and a few hand tools . . . and a lot of grit.

"No one can really predict how long our flow will be at this reduced level," said Facility Manager Jack Wahlstrom, "so we want to take advantage of this unique opportunity."

Basin is 160 by 250 feet.



Comments

Board of Directors

Harris County

R. Wayne Smith, P.E., Member-C
Rafael Ortega, P.E., Vice Chairman-G

Galveston County

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

Chambers County

J.M. "Mark" Schultz, Chairman-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

James L. Cooksey

Manager Financial Services

Charles W. Ganze

Manager Industrial Operations

Charles Goode

Manager General Operations

Lori Roussel

Manager Special Projects

Pamela Collins

Editor

Copies of this publication are deposited with the Texas State Library in compliance with the State Depository Law

Gulf Coast Comments

Gulf Coast Waste Disposal Authority
910 Bay Area Blvd.
Houston TX 77058

BULK RATE
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
Permit #1
Houston, TX



Printed on recycled paper