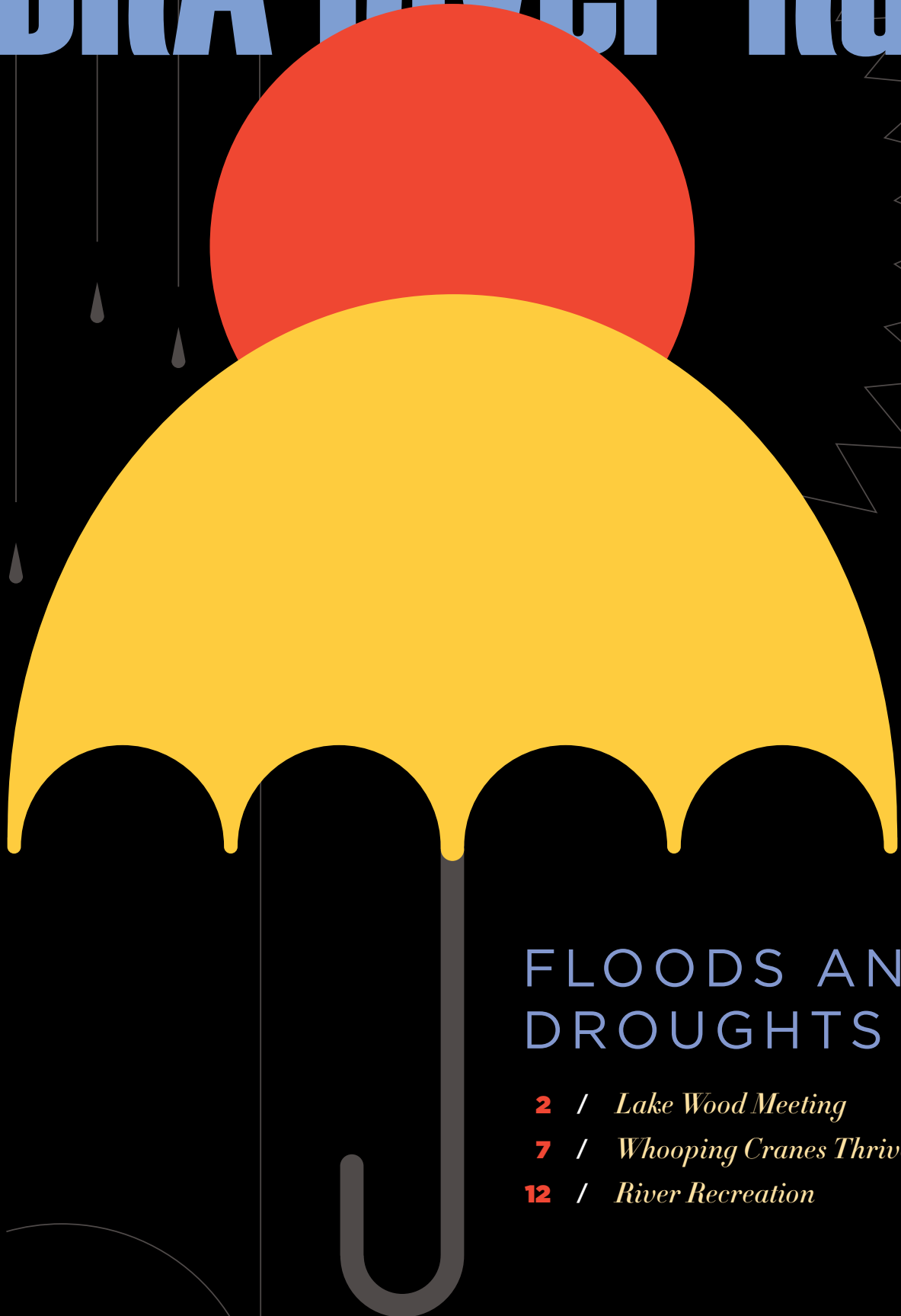


GBRA River Run



FLOODS AND DROUGHTS

- 2** / *Lake Wood Meeting*
- 7** / *Whooping Cranes Thrive*
- 12** / *River Recreation*

Constituent Communiqué

Organizational Changes May Create More Efficiency



With new leadership often comes new organizational structure – such changes may occur abruptly or over a period of time. Sometimes organizational changes are implemented to emulate familiarity of a structure for the incoming leaders, and in other instances, it is to better accommodate operational efficiencies and related improvements.

Recently at GBRA, we have begun implementing organizational changes with the intent to streamline programs and to achieve efficiencies in our operations.

For many years, GBRA maintained two managers – one in charge of “Lower Basin” operations, and the other in charge of “Upper Basin” operations. Those two reported to an executive manager. It has been our desire to create a more cohesive, singular unit through which we can simplify communications and promote comradery. Hence, we have eliminated the dual basin system in favor of having a single executive manager to head up “Operations and Water Quality” and to advance that philosophy. Eliminating the dual basin system also helps to streamline communication between operations. In charge is Darel Ball who was promoted from his position as lower basin operations manager. We also have promoted Michael Urrutia from director of water quality services to deputy executive manager of operations and water quality. Within that umbrella, the operations will continue to be led by division managers for “Hays/Caldwell Operations,” “Calhoun/Refugio Operations,” “Coletto Creek and Lake Wood Operations,” “Regional Lab and Water Quality Services,” “Hydroelectric and Rural Utilities,” and “Western Canyon Operations.”

We also have given thoughtful consideration with respect to the custodial journey of new and existing water, wastewater, hydro electrical and other projects at GBRA. As a result, we have consolidated related personnel into project engineering and development. Chief Engineer Tommy Hill is leading that area as its executive manager.

Another move has been to organize reporting of all GBRA affiliate organizations to the executive manager of resource policy and stewardship, which is being headed by Todd Votteler.

As with any reorganization, change often requires a brief amount of time for staff to become accustomed to the adjustments. We will endeavor to minimize any disruption in service to our customers and constituents. Your patience and support during this time is greatly appreciated.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'K. Patteson'.

Kevin Patteson
General Manager/CEO

Guadalupe-Blanco River Authority

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and Education
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Thomas Hill, P.E., Executive Manager of Project Engineering
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GBRA River Run

Summer 2017

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FIELD & OFFICE

GBRA Hosted Public Meeting about Lake Wood Dam Gate



Photo by LaMarriol Smith

About 110 people attended a public meeting on issues involving Lake Wood hosted by Guadalupe-Blanco River Authority officials Thursday, March 9, 2017, at the City of Gonzales Expo Center at J.B. Wells Park in Gonzales, Texas.

One of two Lake Wood (H-5) dam gates malfunctioned March 9, 2016, while spilling water and sustained extensive damage. Underwater divers found the broken section of the gate downstream and recovered it with heavy equipment.

Over the past year, GBRA staff, with the aid of contractors and engineers, evaluated the failure and has been steadily working on various replacement options.

During the public meeting, GBRA staff provided information about its hydroelectric system, dam gate replacement options for Lake Wood, and potential funding opportunities for the gate replacement. Project Engineer Charles Hickman used a PowerPoint presentation to walk constituents through the dam gate failure and the most plausible replacement options that GBRA officials are considering for Lake Wood. Alvin Schuerg, senior advisor to the general manager, explained the financial challenges related to replacing the dam gate, as well as other gates throughout GBRA's hydroelectric system.

One of the options engineers have studied and

considered as a replacement is an Obermeyer spillway gate that comes with an estimated cost of \$3 million per gate. Obermeyer gates have a good reputation among users because they are simple, less labor-intensive to operate, and can react quickly to changing river conditions. They are also among the more cost-effective options. Another gate the engineers have considered is the hydraulic crest gate, which operates using a hydraulic cylinder to provide resistance and a lifting force similar to that of an exercise machine.

Lake residents and constituents who attended the meeting asked GBRA officials a barrage of questions, with their primary interest being whether or not GBRA planned to fix the gate at all.

GBRA General Manager/CEO Kevin Patteson explained to the crowd that GBRA wants to fix the dam, but realistically must explore available engineering solutions as well as funding opportunities.

After staff presents its recommended options to the GBRA Board of Directors, the final determination on the path forward for Lake Wood will lie with them.

Several board members, including Chairman Rusty Brockman, attended the meeting in Gonzales. Staff and board members stayed after the meeting to address questions from attendees who were not able to ask their questions during the public meeting.

Second Nature Fest Hosted at Coletto

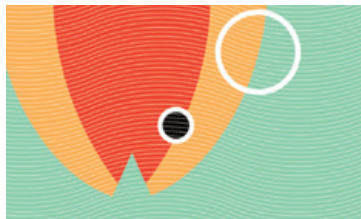
By Cinde Thomas-Jimenez

About 1,000 visitors traveled through and enjoyed the activities at GBRA's Coletto Creek Park and Reservoir on Saturday, April 1, 2017, during its Second Annual Nature Fest. Dynegy, the parent company of the Coletto Creek Power Plant, sponsored the admission costs for all Nature Fest attendees, and nearly 30 exhibitors participated in the event.

"There were a lot of activities for people of all ages. We led a guided nature walk and a guided bird walk, and exhibitors provided hands-on activities and interpretive displays such as discovery boxes, touch tanks, Monarch butterflies and a river basin model," said Wilfred Korth, chief ranger and Nature Fest organizer.

"Our featured speakers addressed a variety of interests, including 'gardening for birds,' San Antonio Bay,' 'snakes,' 'alligators,' and 'insects,'" Korth said.

Nature Fest visitors also were able to participate in a number of demonstration activities. Among the big attractions were casting lessons for fishing, archery instruction and kayaking.



Nature Fest Exhibitors

- ~ Texas Parks and Wildlife Department (TPWD)
- ~ Coastal Bend Paddlers
- ~ Guadalupe-Blanco River Authority
- ~ TPWD-Backyard Bass
- ~ Canoe Trail Goliad
- ~ San Antonio Bay Foundation
- ~ TPWD-BB Guns
- ~ Smithsonian Migratory Bird Center
- ~ Monarch Butterflies
- ~ TPWD-Fish Printing
- ~ Museum of the Coastal Bend
- ~ Victoria Photo Club
- ~ TPWD-Archery
- ~ Crossbones Corn Snake Exhibit
- ~ Coastal Bend Children in Nature
- ~ Janik Alligators
- ~ TPWD-Coastal Fisheries Touch Tank
- ~ Children's Discovery Museum
- ~ The Texas Zoo
- ~ Aransas National Wildlife Refuge
- ~ Friends of Matagorda Island
- ~ Goliad State Park
- ~ Mission-Aransas National Estuarine Research Reserve
- ~ Corpus Christi Museum of Science and History

Eagle Scout Project Benefits Coletto

Photo by Wilford Korth



GBRA's Coletto Creek Park and Reservoir benefited from the exceptional carpentry work of Jackson Bochat, a member of Boy Scouts of America Troop 60 of Goliad, Texas. For his Eagle Scout Project, Bochat and his group of volunteers completed construction of an amphitheater for use with Coletto's outdoor and environmental education programs. Wilfred Korth, chief ranger, said Bochat's project was the latest in a long line of Eagle Scout Projects completed over the park's 37-year history.

Check in for the 55th Annual Texas Water Safari will be noon to 5 p.m. Friday, June 9, 2017, and the world's toughest canoe race will begin at 9 a.m. Saturday, June 10, at the Meadows Center (formerly known as Aquarena Springs) on the San Marcos River in San Marcos, Texas. Entrants should have their canoes and kayaks in position by 8 a.m. The awards banquet is scheduled to begin at noon Tuesday, June 13, on the shores of San Antonio Bay at Seadrift, Texas.

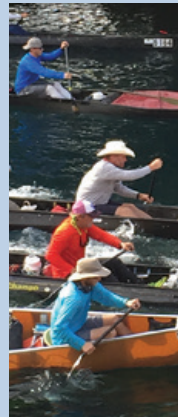
Participants will race 260 miles to Seadrift from the headwaters of the San Marcos River and must complete the race by the 100-hour deadline.

Paddling in this year's race will be a GBRA team that includes General Manager/CEO Kevin Patteson, Information Technology Manager Leigh Crettenden, and Project Engineer Charles Hickman, in their vessel "Hellgrammite."

Texas Water Safari 2017



Photos by Marella Dalme



SABAY Volunteers Nab Crab Traps

Each year, SABAY organizes the volunteers to collect and dispose of these traps. SABAY's collection effort this year yielded a record number of 570 traps.

By Dan Alonso

In an effort to keep the waters of San Antonio Bay free of debris and as part of a Texas Parks and Wildlife department program, Dan Alonso, executive director of the San Antonio Bay Foundation (SABAY), takes advantage of a 10-day period in the later part of February when Texas ceases fishing for crabs with traps. During this time, Alonso commandeers a small army of volunteers to assist in the SABAY's annual crab trap removal on San Antonio Bay.

In Texas, any crab trap found in the water during this period is deemed abandoned and can be collected and disposed of by anyone. "Crab traps often drift or get misplaced by fisherman and the 10-day closure allows for their recovery to end the needless waste of crabs and fish that die within the trap over time," Alonso explained.

Each year, SABAY organizes the volunteers to collect and dispose of these traps. SABAY's collection effort this year yielded a record number of 570 traps. Alonso attributed this successful removal effort to the use of aircraft and a marine GPS to locate the traps.

"Many of the traps were located in the middle of San Antonio Bay and were readily found because of calm seas," Alonso said, adding, "I'd like to offer a special 'thank you' to the Friends of Aransas and Matagorda Island (FAMI) who funded the flight time, and Daniel's Flying Service of Tivoli for conducting the aerial reconnaissance."

Volunteers who participated in this year's crab trap removal included individuals associated with the Guadalupe-Blanco River Authority, the Texas Airboat Association, Dow Chemical, San Antonio Bay Partnership, Aransas National Wildlife Refuge, Colville Ranch, National Estuary Research Reserve, retired Texas Parks and Wildlife Department biologist Brent Ortego, and the *Victoria Advocate*.



General Manager/CEO Kevin Patteson and his son, Hudson, along with Darel Ball, Executive Manager of Operations and Water Quality after a day on the bay.





Volunteers Remove Debris for Great Texas River Cleanup

The volunteers really hustled and cleaned up a lot of trash, which will improve the water quality of the San Marcos River.



More than 700 volunteers walked banks of the San Marcos River and its tributaries (Cottonwood, Purgatory, Sink, Sessom, and Willow creeks) in the Central Texas area on Saturday March 4, cleaning up nearly 15,000 pounds of recyclable materials and trash.

“I think the 32nd Annual Great Texas River Cleanup was definitely a success, despite the rainy conditions that day,” Cinde Thomas-Jimenez, GBRA’s environmental education coordinator, said. “The volunteers really hustled and cleaned up a lot of trash, which will improve the water quality of the San Marcos River.”

Teams of 40 to 200 people assembled at each watershed and were led by trained leaders to collect trash and learn about stormwater runoff and its effects on the river. In addition to the volunteers on foot, about 100 volunteers in canoes collected trash on the San Marcos River all the way down to the city of Luling.

By the end of the event, the 20 cubic yards of trash pulled from the river totaled 11,500 pounds, recyclables totaled about 3,400 pounds, and nearly 40 tires were retrieved.

Sponsors for the 32nd Annual Great Texas River Cleanup included the City of San Marcos, Texas State University, San Marcos River Foundation, and the Guadalupe-Blanco River Authority.

Other contributors, including Abatix, Carson Properties, CH2M, Clean Earth, Color Mix, Edwards Aquifer Authority, Greater San Marcos Partnership, Gruene Environmental, Hays County Constable David Peterson, HEB, Honda San Marcos, Keep Texas Beautiful, The Local, RDO Equipment, San Marcos Chamber of Commerce, San Marcos Lions Club, Stericycle, Sur-Power Battery Supply, Tymco, and Westward Environmental helped make the event possible.

More information about the annual river cleanup can be obtained through Amy Kirwin, community enhancement initiatives manager for the city of San Marcos at 512-393-8419.

For information about other cleanups in the Guadalupe River Watershed, contact Thomas-Jimenez at GBRA at 830-379-5822 or cthomas-jimenez@gbra.org.

Gar Record Set at Coletto



Photo by Wilford Korth

During a recent trip to GBRA's Coletto Creek Park and Reservoir, Kameron Currie, 11, of Kingsville, Texas, was bowfishing and snagged a Longnose Gar. Currie's record-setting Gar weighed 25.79 pounds and measured 55 inches long. This gar weighed 1.5 pounds more than Coletto's previous record catch, which was set in 2004.

Whooping Crane Population Headed in Right Direction



Photo GBRA Archive

By Dan Alonso

Though not available at the time of printing, the final survey count of the Aransas/Wood Buffalo whooping crane flock appears to be headed in the right direction.

"While the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) whooping crane population survey results for this year had not been released, the whooping crane population continues to increase at a rate of about 4 percent each year," said Dan Alonso, executive director of the San Antonio Bay Foundation (SABAY).

Last year's population was estimated to be about 329, Alonso said, and if the 4 percent annual increase

holds true, this year's survey result should total about 342 whooping cranes.

The whooping cranes that winter along the Texas Gulf Coast around the Aransas National Wildlife Refuge appear to have had another successful year. Alonso said the cranes enjoyed San Antonio Bay conditions that remained relatively fresh with adequate rainfall and freshwater inflows.

Alonso said no whooping crane mortalities were detected this year along the flyway and on the coast. Whooping cranes have been described as an iconic species and a symbol of survival.

LIVING IN A CYCLE OF FLOOD AND DROUGHT

Something that is just mind-boggling is that the discharge at Wimberley during the May 24 (2015) storm was more than a fourth of the discharge flow of the Mississippi River at New Orleans, which is about 600,000 (cfs). And the Blanco's drainage basin is only 355 square miles, whereas the Mississippi drains almost half of the United States.

- Richard Earl, "Do you live in Flash Flood Alley," Texas A&M publication

The Blanco River has risen as much as 35 feet in four hours. In other times, the basin has received as little as 14 inches of rain over an entire year.

By Rose Marie Eash

FLOODS

That Memorial Day weekend storm killed 11 people. The Blanco River rose at least 35.3 feet in four hours. Wimberley and the Guadalupe River in New Braunfels flooded again five months later when torrential rains hit the region. Overall, about 13 inches of rain fell in the area of Travis and Hays counties and two more people died in flooding. Another flood hit the Guadalupe-Blanco River Basin seven months after that.

DROUGHTS

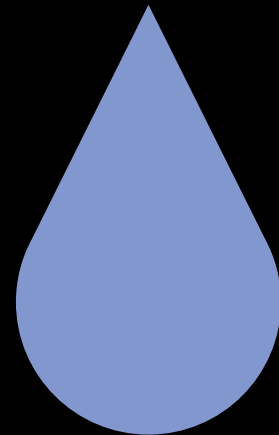
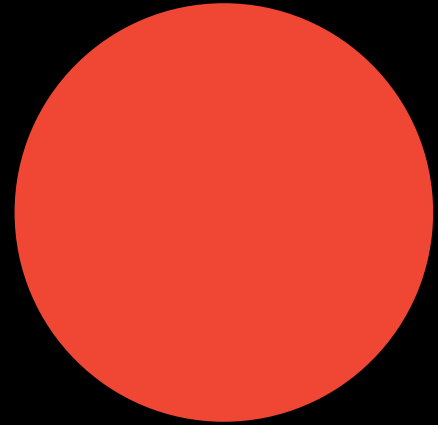
The Guadalupe River Basin is one of the most flood-prone regions in the United States. The geography of the Balcones Escarpment lends itself to intense rainfall events. The limestone bedrock allows rapid movement of water. But this is also part of the Great Plains, once known as the “Great American Desert.”

The Balcones Escarpment bounds the southern end of this semi-arid area. In the early 2010s, the most recent severe drought began taking shape in this part of the “desert.” In 2011, just a little more than 14 inches of rain fell. It was the driest single year in Texas recorded history.

Droughts are a “creeping phenomenon,” difficult to recognize. A drought is less rain or snow and/or more sun or wind than average over some period of time. Meteorologists rely on historical data averages to determine when an area is in a drought. There are no obvious visual signs early on and no escape routes.

According to information available from the Texas Water Development Board’s website, the state’s total storage in major reservoirs was 18.2 million acre-feet in November 2011. That amount was 58 percent of the reservoirs’ total conservation storage capacity. It was the second greatest decline in water storage for a 12-month period. And, it was the lowest total storage found in records that extended back to 1978. Ten of the state’s reservoirs were at or below 10 percent full. Five were effectively empty. Canyon Reservoir was at 898.65 on Dec. 31, 2011 — less than six feet from the lowest level ever.

Drought drained reservoirs, fueled wildfires, ruined crops and strained the Texas electric grid. It is estimated that the drought cost Texas farms and ranches more than \$7.62 billion. By January 2012, Texas Forest Service officials had estimated the drought killed more than 500 million trees.



WHAT CAN BE DONE?

Mother Nature is a powerful force. Weather like hurricanes, floods and droughts are among earth’s most formidable challenges. Weather in the area is influenced by many things. The “El Niño” and “La Niña” phenomena give us wetter or drier seasons. When the central and eastern tropical Pacific warms, “El Niño” pushes the southern branch of the jet stream further south. This leads to wetter conditions from Los Angeles to the Southeast. When that sea surface is cooler than normal, “La Niña” produces drier and milder conditions. (National Ocean Service/National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration)

“It’s hard to know what will happen by fall,” said Cory Van Pelt, hydro-meteorological technician with the National Weather Service in New Braunfels. “It’s neutral now and predicted to stay that way through summer. We’ll probably have above normal temperatures because that seems to be the norm now and rainfall will probably be normal.” But, the pattern could change although the geography does not. Van Pelt explained that we live in “flood alley” in the southern part of the “Great American Desert.”

GBRA engineers worked to help secure federal funding for Hays and Caldwell counties after the floods. Working with the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) through funding from Texas Water Development Board, three more river gauges were installed upstream from Wimberley on the Blanco and Little Blanco rivers. These gauges will help the National Weather Service River Forecast Center with forecasting as the rivers start rising. Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) grants also helped Hays County residents and businesses recover. Even with these improvements, populations that live in flash flood alley must remain vigilant during inclement weather and heed directions from local officials regarding evacuations and alternate routes.

Drought is more difficult to prepare for because visible signs can come too late. Comprehensive weather data and aquifer drawdown measurements can help determine when the effects of drought might be occurring. It helps to develop strategies to prepare for and manage resources during droughts. Water conservation and drought contingency plans for GBRA constituents are available at <http://www.gbra.org/drought/default.aspx>. Still, communities have few options for eliminating the effects of drought. Homeowners can help by using drought tolerant plants and mulch in landscaping, while ranchers and farmers can manage crops and herds to protect fields and pastures.



Photo by Charles Hickman



Photo GBRA Archive



Photo by Charles Hickman

THE TRUST

GBR Trust Acquires Hays County Conservation Easement

By Carrie Kasnicka

Adding to the 15,000 acres of the Guadalupe-Blanco River Trust's (GBRTrust) protected wildlife habitat is the GBRTrust's recent acquisition of a 211-acre working cattle ranch in Hays County. The property, called Dreamcatcher Ranch, is located along the Balcones Escarpment within the city limits of San Marcos, Texas.

GBRTrust Executive Director Carrie Kasnicka said the ranch is the first property above San Marcos Springs that is not protected from development by flood plains and flood ways.

"The property is the sole buffer and offers the inflow to the critically sensitive Sink Creek and the San Marcos Springs," Kasnicka explained. San Marcos Springs and the San Marcos River have been designated by the United States Fish and Wildlife Service as critical habitat for eight endangered aquatic species. Water flow through the ranch affects all threatened and endangered species, including Texas Wild Rice, Blind Salamander, San Marcos Salamander and various fish and insects that claim habitat in Spring Lake, San Marcos Springs and the San Marcos River.

Texas leads the nation in conversion of agricultural lands and Hays County is facing significant development pressure. The perpetual protection of Dreamcatcher Ranch will allow it to remain as a working cattle ranch utilizing best agricultural management practices and ensures it will provide a protected source of clean fresh water and vital wildlife habitat for numerous invertebrates, reptiles, amphibians, birds and small mammals.

"The GBRTrust is proud to acquire this conservation easement as we reach 15 years and 15,000 acres of protected wildlife habitat, open landscapes and working ranches in Texas," Kasnicka said.



Courtesy Photos



"The GBRTrust is proud to acquire this conservation easement as we reach 15 years and 15,000 acres of protected wildlife habitat, open landscapes and working ranches in Texas."



summertime means WATER



It would not be summertime in Texas without water recreation of some kind. The Guadalupe River, its tributaries and two major reservoirs within its basin provide a variety of options for fun on the water.

At 909 feet above mean sea level (msl), the surface area of Canyon Reservoir in Comal County is about 8,230 acres and can store about 378,852 acre feet of water. Canyon Reservoir and Dam were jointly built and are funded and managed by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) and the Guadalupe-Blanco River Authority (GBRA). Locals and travelers make their way to Canyon for great boating fun on the water and to enjoy the many parks that have campsites, hook-ups for recreational vehicles, and picnic areas.

The GBRA also manages Coletto Creek Park and Reservoir between Victoria and Goliad, which is a joint venture with Coletto Creek Power (Dynergy). This cooling reservoir covers 3,100 surface acres with 61 miles of shoreline. The adjoining park provides access to the reservoir and year-round outdoor recreation opportunities and amenities that include camping, cabins and rental travel trailers, fishing, picnic areas, playgrounds, sandy beaches, a lighted fishing pier and a four-lane boat ramp.

“Coletto Creek Park will host a Fourth of July fireworks display again this year,” said Wilfred Korth, chief ranger at Coletto Creek Park, adding “It’s a spectacular show and no one wants to miss it.”

Korth said registration for Coletto Creek Park bow hunting opens soon. “Our annual bow hunt drawing

begins in August. The actual hunt coincides with deer season from October to December. Those who combine hunting and travel recreation are going to love the upgrades that have been made on the campsites. The vast majority of the sites now have 50-amp service to accommodate the larger travel and recreational vehicles.”

Be sure to check out the variety of opportunities for summer fun in the Guadalupe-Blanco River Basin:

PADDLING

Texas Parks and Wildlife Department (TPWD) has six trails that offer great paddling and fishing adventures:

- *Upper Guadalupe - Nichol's Landing Paddling Trail* - This is a 9.9-mile trail on the Guadalupe River in Comal County above Canyon Lake.

- *Guadalupe Valley Paddling Trail* - This 13.8-mile trail makes for a half day trip which can be broken up into smaller sections for a few hours on the water.

- *Luling Zedler Mill Paddling Trail* - This six-mile river trail can be floated in two to four hours.

- *Seguin Paddling Trail (Lake Seguin)* - This scenic 4-mile paddling trail loop on the Guadalupe River is perfect for beginners since no shuttle is needed.

- *Seguin Paddling Trail (Lake Nolte/Meadow Lake)* - With two different access points, this trail is also great for beginners - no shuttle and the river has a slow current and can be easily paddled in either direction from 2.6 - 8.4 miles depending on the route taken.

RECREATION

By Rose Marie Eash



Photos GBRA Archives

- *Victoria Paddling Trail* – This 25-mile trail is broken up into four sections on the Guadalupe River.

For more information on these trails, see the TPWD website and search for “paddling.”

The Texas Water Safari – Billed as the “World’s Toughest Canoe Race,” it is a 260-mile race to Seadrift from the headwaters of the San Marcos River. This year’s race will begin June 10, 2017. For more information, see www.texaswatersafari.org.

FISHING

Fishing recreation can be enjoyed all through the Guadalupe River Basin. Below is a list of water bodies known for fishing recreation and the fish often caught in those areas:

- *Canyon Lake* – Largemouth Bass is the most popular and most abundant sport fish in this reservoir, but White Bass and Striped Bass are also plentiful.
- *Lake Dunlap* – Largemouth Bass are the most popular and sought after species. Spotted and Smallmouth Bass are also present in lower numbers.
- *Lake Placid* – Largemouth Bass and White Crappie are the most popular sport fish in the reservoir, but Spotted Bass are there, too. Channel and Blue Catfish are also available.
- *Lake Gonzales (H-4)* – Largemouth Bass and White Crappie are the most popular sport fish in the reservoir. Crappie fishing can be excellent, especially in the fall.
- *Coletto Creek Reservoir* – Largemouth Bass is the most popular sport fish in the reservoir. White Bass

provide good angling opportunities in deeper water, near the dam.

In addition to the reservoirs, TPWD provides public access to the Guadalupe River and the San Marcos River for fishing. Guadalupe River State Park and Palmetto State Park also are good fishing spots. TPWD also stocks Rainbow Trout in the Guadalupe River just below Canyon Reservoir. Fishing for these native species can also offer fun experiences:

- Largemouth, Spotted and Guadalupe Bass
- Blue, Channel and Flathead Catfish
- Black and Yellow Bullhead
- Crappie
- Sunfish

TUBING (ALSO KNOWN AS “TOOBING”)

Water enthusiasts in the Central and South Central parts of Texas are well acquainted with tubing and water toy recreation on the Guadalupe, Comal, and San Marcos rivers. But water fun on these rivers is no longer a Texas secret. When USA Today asked readers where to find the best tubing, the Guadalupe River and the San Marcos River were named among the top three in the United States.

Texans have gone to the Guadalupe River Basin to cool off for generations. This summer, make sure you find your way to the water recreation Texans continue to enjoy year after year.

INSIDE GBRA

Associate General Counsel Comes on Board



Courtney Kerr-Moore was hired as GBRA's associate general counsel. Kerr-Moore, who formerly served as contracts attorney for KCI USA, Inc., in San Antonio, joined GBRA in May to assist with a number of in-house legal projects, particularly those dealing with contractual agreements. She also will be involved in reviewing and preparing legal documents, researching and interpreting laws, advising GBRA management and staff on legal matters, and participating in administrative and court proceedings.

General Counsel Tom Bohl said, "Courtney brings considerable skills in contract review and negotiation to the table, and her down-to-earth approach has already made her welcome among GBRA employees. She is a great addition to the GBRA team."

Kerr-Moore earned her bachelor's degree in political science from St. Mary's University in San Antonio. She earned a master's of public administration degree from the University of Texas at San Antonio and her juris doctorate from the Oklahoma City University School of Law.

New Engineer Hired

Ashley Freidberg joined GBRA in March as an engineer. Before coming to work for GBRA, Freidberg worked as an engineer for the city of New Braunfels where she reviewed and processed construction plans and submittals for residential, commercial, floodplain, site development and subdivision construction permits.

Tommy Hill, executive manager of project engineering and development and chief engineer, said, "Ashley hit the ground running and GBRA is already benefitting from her high energy and breadth of knowledge as a civil engineer."

Friedberg will be providing technical assistance to GBRA's operations, making hydrologic and hydraulic determinations, managing water resource projects, and coordinating with local, state and federal agencies such as emergency management coordinators, the U.S. Geological Survey, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and the National Weather Service.

Freidberg earned her bachelor of science degree in civil engineering at Texas A&M University in Kingsville, Texas, and her master of civil engineering degree from the University of Texas at San Antonio.



Photos by LaMarriol Smith



TRAINING LICENSES

Dan Alonso - San Antonio Bay Foundation, completed GBRA Public Information Act training.

Darel Ball - Operations, completed GBRA Public Information Act training.

John Batot - Operations, completed CPR/first aid safety class and office lockdown procedure training.

Jennifer Blinder - Financial Administration, completed GBRA office lockdown procedures and Public Information Act trainings.

Ryan Boedeker - Rural Water, completed the Golden Crescent TWUA training.

Ed Boettner - Buda WWTP, completed GBRA Public Information Act training.

George Bohl - Financial Administration, completed GBRA Public Information Act training.

Susan Cochran - Operations, completed GBRA office lockdown procedures and Public Information Act trainings.

Justin Cortez - Water Quality, completed GBRA office lockdown procedures training.

Paulette Cowey - Operations, completed GBRA office lockdown procedures and Public Information Act trainings.

Leigh Crettenden - Financial Administration, completed GBRA Public Information Act training.

Marella Dalme - Financial Administration completed GBRA office lockdown procedures and Public Information Act trainings.

Anna Daniels - Project Engineering and Development, completed GBRA Public Information Act training.

Cindy Demers - Financial Administration completed GBRA Public Information Act training.

Christy Dietert - General Counsel, completed GBRA Public Information Act training.

Joseph Downey - Luling WTP, completed GBRA Public Information Act training.

AnnLee Drazkowski - Financial Administration, completed GBRA Public Information Act training.

Hunter Duncan of Western Canyon completed Drug and Alcohol Training for Reasonable Suspicion

Tim Dusek - Financial Administration, completed GBRA Public Information Act training.

Jason Eeds - Lockhart WWTP, completed GBRA Public information Act training as well as Drug and Alcohol Training for Reasonable Suspicion.

Dianne Fly - Coletto Creek Reservoir, completed Safety from an Employers Position and GBRA Public Information Act training.

Wilbert Freeman - Project Engineering and Development, completed GBRA office lockdown procedures training.

John Gerland - Operations, completed GBRA Public information Act training as well as Drug and Alcohol Training for Reasonable Suspicion.

Cheryl Gorden - Financial Administration, completed GBRA office lockdown procedures and Public Information Act trainings.

Curtis Gosnell - Operations, completed Drug and Alcohol Training for Reasonable Suspicion.

Lee Gudgell - Operations, completed CPR/first aid safety class and GBRA Public Information Act training.

Barbara Gunn - Financial Administration, completed GBRA office lockdown procedures, Public information Act training and Drug and Alcohol Training for Reasonable Suspicion.

Elizabeth Gutierrez - Communications and Education, completed GBRA office lockdown procedures training.

Joel Heideke - Hydro Electric, completed GBRA office lockdown procedures and Public Information Act trainings.

Kimberly Helmke - Financial Administration, completed GBRA Public Information Act training.

Michael Helmke - Operations, completed GBRA office lockdown procedures training.

Michael Hencerling - Operations, completed Safety from Employers Position training.

Mark Henneke - Operations, completed Outdoor Cooking Safety training.

Gynna Hernandez - Financial Administration, completed GBRA Public Information Act training.

Jeannine Herrmann - Financial Administration, completed the GBRA office lockdown procedures and Public Information Act trainings.

Russell Hester - Operations, completed GBRA office lockdown procedures training.

Charles Hickman - Project Engineering and Development, completed GBRA Public Information Act training.

Thomas Hill - Project Engineering and Development, completed GBRA Public Information Act training.

Todd Hoff - Operations, completed Texas A&M Agrilife Extension - TCEQ Water System Operators training and Golden Crescent TWUA training.

Susan Hubbert - Financial Administration, completed GBRA Public Information Act training.

Michael Hunt - Operations, completed Golden Crescent TWUA training.

The information for the employee trainings list was compiled by Barbara Gunn, Human Resources Department of the Office of Finance and Administration.

EMPLOYEES ANNIVERSARIES

GBRA recognizes the following employees for their dedication of service. These employees started with GBRA between the months of January through June.

January

1/11/2017	Rodney Voss	Hydro	40
1/14/2017	Darel Ball	Operations	37
1/14/2017	Mark Henneke	Operations	37
1/16/2017	Curtis Seiler	Coletto Creek Res.	36
1/31/2017	David Lundin	Port Lavaca WTP	36
1/4/2017	Alan Schneider	Coletto Creek Res.	34
1/5/2017	Samuel Widmer	Coletto Creek Res.	30
1/27/2017	Sara Vazquez	Coletto Creek Res.	29
1/6/2017	Sandra Terry	Financial Administration	22
1/24/2017	Susan Hubbert	Financial Administration	12
1/2/2017	Sheryll Kisiah	Calhoun Canal RWSS	10
1/2/2017	Edwin Boettner	Shadow Creek WWRS	9
1/4/2017	Steven Maricle	Hydro	7
1/16/2017	Toby Dennis	Western Canyon	5
1/16/2017	Derek Schedlbauer	Western Canyon	5
1/7/2017	Jorge Rojas	Operations	4
1/2/2017	George Bohl	General Counsel	3
1/13/2017	Jesi Mann	Shadow Creek WWRS	3
1/12/2017	John Gerland	San Marcos WTP	2
1/12/2017	Adrian	Medrano Lockhart WWTP	2
1/1/2017	Wallis Gudgell	Operations	1
1/4/2017	Danielle Wilson	Communications	1
1/3/2017	John Batot	Hydro	NH
1/3/2017	Charles Schnitz Jr	Hydro	NH

February

2/27/2017	Linda Mcherson	Port Lavaca	33
2/4/2017	Cheryl Gorden	Financial Administration	18
2/18/2017	Richard Gonzales	Lockhart WTP	14
2/1/2017	LaMarriol Smith	Communications	10
2/20/2017	Manuel Lopez	Hydro	5
2/27/2017	Enrique Segura	Western Canyon	5
2/18/2017	Joann Gonzales	Operations	3
2/13/2017	Vincent Stanfill	Coletto Creek Res.	NH

March

3/4/2017	Michael Schultze	Hydro	41
3/1/2017	Jimmy Wyatt	IT	37
3/31/2017	Marlon Mcadams	Coletto Creek Res.	31
3/21/2017	Richard Matheaus	RUD	29
3/15/2017	Michael Helmke	Hydro	13
3/29/2017	Christopher Lewis	Western Canyon	12
3/21/2017	Leigh Crettenden	IT	11
3/11/2017	Russell Hester	Hydro	4
3/17/2017	Michael Hunt	Rural Water	2
3/1/2017	Thomas Scott	San Marcos WTP	1
3/4/2017	Michael Gerdes	RUD	1
3/21/2017	Michelle Henson	Lab	1
3/13/2017	Ashley Freidberg	Proj. Engineering	NH
3/27/2017	Darren Coco	Hydro	NH

April

4/16/2017	Darryl Jandt	Hydro	35
4/7/2017	Reagan Ploetz	Hydro	30
4/24/2017	Roland Henry	Hydro	30
4/11/2017	David Maltony	Hydro	22
4/22/2017	Curtis Gosnell	Calhoun Canal RWSS	15
4/13/2017	Paulette Cowey	Operations	11
4/18/2017	Billy Penney	Calhoun Canal RWSS	6
4/8/2017	Rodney Guice	Calhoun Canal RWSS	4



Joe Downey

Photo by Danielle Wilson



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4/14/2017	Carl Westergard	IT	3
4/1/2017	Anna Daniels	Proj. Engineering	1
4/11/2017	Robert Perez	Hydro	1
4/23/2017	Jesus Guillen	San Marcos WTP	1
4/25/2017	Lauren Willis	Operations	1

May

5/10/2017	Thomas Hill	Proj. Engineering	41
5/17/2017	Juan Juarez	Hydro	41
5/2/2017	Joseph Downey	Luling WTP	39
5/5/2017	James King	Hydro	37
5/4/2017	Alvin Schuerg	General Manager Office	36
5/19/2017	Michael Urrutia	Operations	30
5/1/2017	Leroy Garza	San Marcos WTP	28
5/1/2017	Yolanda Pierce	Operations	16
5/12/2017	Cynthia Thomas-Jimenez	Communications	14
5/11/2017	Denise Lyssy	Financial Administration	10
5/18/2017	Hunter Duncan	Western Canyon	10
5/19/2017	Jaynellen Kerr	Resource Policy	9
5/19/2017	Joey Kisiah	Port Lavaca	9
5/4/2017	Clint Retzloff	Hydro	8
5/14/2017	Charles Hickman	Proj. Engineering	5
5/27/2017	Jennifer Blinder	Financial Administration	3
5/4/2017	Mary Newman	Proj. Engineering	2
5/2/2017	Jason Patteson	General Manager Office	1
5/3/2017	Amado Ledesma	Western Canyon	1
5/10/2017	Albert Soto	Luling WTP	1
5/10/2017	Ernest Wilhelm	Luling WTP	1
5/16/2017	Rafael Urbina	Buda WTP	1

June

6/25/2017	David Welsch	General Manager Office	44
6/27/2017	Jeffrey Mckee	Hydro	40
6/1/2017	Carl Korth	Coletto Creek Res.	34
6/10/2017	Sammy Salas	Luling WTP	31
6/1/2017	Todd Votteler	Resource Policy	17
6/21/2017	Janet Thome	Communications	16
6/23/2017	Teresa Van Booven	Proj. Engineering	14
6/15/2017	Allen Lawson	Western Canyon	8
6/8/2017	Todd Hoff	Port Lavaca	2
6/1/2017	Darrell Nichols	General Manager Office	1
6/1/2017	Jonathan Stinson	General Manager Office	1

NH - Newly Hired

The information for the employee anniversary list was compiled by Jeannine Herrmann, Accounting Department of the Office of Finance and Administration.



Photos GBRA Archives

Aquatic Vegetation Treated On Coletto Creek Reservoir

For three weeks during March and April, Texas Parks and Wildlife Department (TPWD) personnel and contractors under the guidance of TPWD applied the aquatic herbicide Sinkerball in selected areas of Coletto Creek Reservoir upstream of the Colettoville road bridge for control of water hyacinths. This application was part of the Guadalupe-Blanco River Authority's ongoing Coletto Creek Reservoir Aquatic Plant Management Program.

Chief Ranger Wilfred Korth said this annual program was originally developed by GBRA staff after extensive study and public input from the Coletto Creek Aquatic Plant Management Advisory Committee. The program consists of an Integrated Pest Management (IPM) system, which is consistent with the TPWD Aquatic Vegetation Management Plan, to help control nuisance aquatic vegetation overgrowth in the Coletto Creek Reservoir.

The primary goals of the program continue to be to control the density of nuisance aquatic plants in the

high-use areas of Coletto Creek Reservoir, and at the Coletto Creek Power Plant Intake in order to provide all users the opportunity to use this popular South Texas recreation facility and reduce the impacts on the operations of the power plant.

Nearly 50 surface acres of the reservoir received herbicide treatments. The other 3,050 acres of reservoir remained open for normal recreation activities during the treatment period.

Water hyacinths and other non-native aquatic plants were originally brought to the United States for use in aquariums and water gardens. However, because of their rapid growth pattern and lack of natural control mechanisms, water hyacinths can quickly form dense mats of vegetation on the surface and a tangled web of stems and roots underwater, clogging boat docks and river channels, and making water access difficult for swimmers, skiers, personal watercraft users and other water recreationists.

Maxwell Retires with 41 Years of Service



After 41 years performing scheduled maintenance and emergency repairs on the 87-year-old Guadalupe Valley Hydroelectric System, Richard "Dicky" W. Maxwell, Jr., decided it was time to retire. He was recognized for his service at the March 2017 GBRA Board of Directors meeting.

Maxwell began his employment with GBRA on August 18, 1975, initially as a maintenance crewman. He was promoted to plant maintenance crewman Sept. 5, 1975, then to electrician Sept. 15, 1976, senior electrician Oct. 10, 1990, and to electrical instrumentation technician Oct. 15, 2005.



Guadalupe-Blanco River Authority

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June

June 21, 2016

GBRA Board Meeting
River Annex Bldg., Seguin, TX

<http://www.gbra.org/board/meetings.aspx>

July

July 3, 2017

GBRA Safety Holiday
GBRA Offices Closed

July 4, 2017

Independence Day Holiday
GBRA Offices Closed

August

Aug. 8-9, 2017

TCEQ Public Drinking Water Conference
Austin, TX

<https://www.tceq.texas.gov/drinkingwater/conference.html>

Aug. 16, 2017

GBRA Board Meeting
River Annex Bldg., Seguin, TX

<http://www.gbra.org/board/meetings.aspx>



Photo by Kellen Schuerg