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Fall 1996

A program of TNRCC/GLO

Bay Line Issue No. 24

State of the Bay Symposium III Slated January 10-11 in Houston

Environmental scholars, industrialists, conservationists, citizens—all stakeholders in the Galveston Bay System—will gather January 10-11 on the campus of the University of Houston to debate the state of this vital Texas estuary.

The State of the Bay Symposium III will convene January 10 at the University of Houston/Hilton to explore new ideas and update old data to further the course of bay conservation and protection for future generations of Texans.

Convened by the Galveston Bay Estuary Program, an ecosystem-wide program of management, the conference will tackle such topics as **Point and Nonpoint Source Pollution, Freshwater Inflow and Water Quality Changes, and Habitat and Living Resources Alteration** on Day One.

Special subjects to be addressed include the **Economic Value of the Bay** by Augustine Redwine, Research Analyst for the Office of the Texas Comptroller; and **The Galveston Bay Plan** by Jim Kachtick, Chairman of the Galveston Bay Council. These two presentations will outline the economic impact of the bay system and will document progress being made in the implementation of *The Galveston Bay Plan*.

Presenters on Friday, January 10, represent state, local and federal environmental agencies, universities, and area industries. These sessions are directed to environmental professionals including facilities

managers, agency employees, conservation organizations, representatives of sport and commercial fishing, public interest groups, and the public.

This first day of the Symposium requires formal registration. Saturday, January 11, will focus on **Solving User Conflicts**, a session that is free and open to the general public.

Part I of this public session will be a panel discussion of the role which can be played by the state's environmental agencies. Panelists will include representatives of the Texas Natural Resource Conservation Commission, the Texas General Land Office, and the Texas Department of Agriculture.

Part II will include a panel discussion by representatives of industry, conservation organizations, public entities, and academia titled, "Public and Private Sector Solutions."

A total of 35 experts in various fields relating to the health and future of the bay will be making presentations. The Saturday session will wrap up with a review of the major topics.

Registration for the January 10 session is \$50 and can be made through the Texas Natural Resource Conservation Commission by contacting Sue Phillips at 512/239-6327 or Sandra Flores at 512/239-6650. (E-Mail Address is sphillip@tnrcc.state.tx.us)

For a full Agenda and other information, see Pages 4-5.

NOTES FROM THE DIRECTOR

The Program Watchword Is PROGRESS

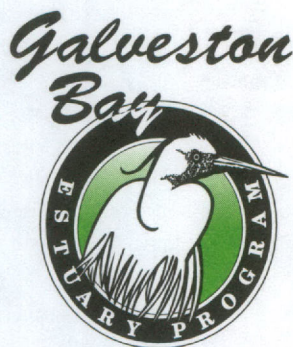
My message this quarter is **PROGRESS**. Although we are just beginning our second fiscal year of implementation, 61 actions, as directed by *The Galveston Bay Plan*, have been initiated. That measure is 321% of the projected performance level by TNRCC performance standards set at the end of the planning stage. If all the administrative initiatives and presentations are included in the progress tally, the count would double to 122. This is a good start, but certainly not a signal to rest. Completion of actions must be our goal as well as more beginnings.

A second indicator of **PROGRESS** is our staffing level. When you peruse the pages of this *Bay Line*,

you will find biographies of our staff, which has now increased. Although we do not have the full staff complement contemplated by *The Plan*, we do have each issue area covered, as well as staff dedicated to federal grants projects.

Finally, we can report progress in our partnering activities. Through communications with our Galveston Bay Council and its subcommittees, the guidance and consensus-building that began in the formative years of research and plan-writing are continuing. Thank you for all your support. Let's keep the **PROGRESS** rolling.

Marilyn D. Browning



A program of TNRCC/GLO

GET INVOLVED

Yes! I would like to be involved in the Galveston Bay Estuary Program.

- Please put me on the mailing list for the Galveston Bay Estuary Program Information Letter "Bay Line" and other Galveston Bay information (Send to 711 W. Bay Area Blvd., Suite 210, Webster, TX 77598).

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ Zip _____

Daytime Phone Number _____ Evening Phone Number _____

I would like to help with special projects: _____

I am currently a member of these environmental, civic, or business organizations: _____

Planting Green Links In Our Urban Areas

By Helen Drummond, Team Leader, Water & Sediment Quality



Planted in early 1996, thick stands of cordgrass and other native plants now line the banks of Buffalo Bayou providing natural habitat for marine life and holding the soil in a green counterpoint to structures of concrete and steel



The skyscrapers of downtown Houston rise behind this area of Buffalo Bayou which is being prepared for plantings of hardy native vegetation

Nonpoint source pollution is a growing problem in our cities, the center of nearly all human activity. Such areas, which are the foundation of such social, economic and technological centers, are pivotal to our existence. However, these urban areas, many of which are cities like Houston, constantly face a battle with storm water runoff, the transporter of nonpoint source pollution from an abundance of impervious surfaces. This means when it rains, instead of soaking into the ground, water runs off our yards, parking lots, streets and driveways and down our bayous carrying the excess nutrients and pesticides from our lawns and hydrocarbons which have leaked from our cars. This runoff not only carries these pollutants from the land, but often causes erosion by washing away the soil which supports the banks of our waterways.

Yet, nonpoint source pollution is a difficult problem to handle because it originates from a multitude of sources. Reducing the impacts of nonpoint source pollution to our local waterways must be a task tackled by everyone: our local governments, our communities, and ourselves. It could be as simple as planting native plants at home or not over-fertilizing, or conserving on water use. Many efforts have already begun. It can be seen through the creation of ecological corridors or **green links** in our downtown area.

A joint effort of the Galveston Bay Estuary Program, Harris County Soil & Water Conservation District, Natural Resources Conservation Service, Harris County Flood Control District, Buffalo Bayou Partnership, Houston AmeriCorps project, Buffalo Bayou Coalition, and Brown & Root was made to attack the problem of balancing urbanization with nature. This partnership resulted in the planting of several native grasses and plants to not only stabilize the eroding banks of Buffalo Bayou, but also to act as filter strips for rainwater draining to the bayou. This landscaping will provide both environmental aesthetics by creating a native habitat within the shadow of the Houston skyline, but will also act as a buffer to assist in keeping sediment and other runoff residuals from entering our local water bodies. Location of this one-acre site is Sesquicentennial Park located in the heart of downtown Houston.

This one-acre restoration is part of a plan to develop the banks along the bayou for aesthetics and erosion control along the city's developing hike and bike trails. This heart-of-Houston project proves that cities, although growing and unlikely to decrease the amounts of impervious cover, can still be green and enhance the quality of our urban ecology. ❖

STATE OF THE BAY SYMPOSIUM III - JANUARY 10 - 11 / University of Houston/Hilton

Who Should Attend: Marine/Wildlife Biologists • Facilities Managers • Consultants • County/Municipal Employees • Environmental Agencies • Conservationists • Commercial Fishermen • Sport Fishermen • Industry • Public Interest Groups • Educators • General Public

AGENDA – Friday, January 10

8:00-8:30 Registration & Continental Breakfast
 8:30-10:00 Plenary Opening
 Welcome: Marilyn D. Browning, Program Director, Galveston Bay Estuary Program
 Agency Perspectives Panel
Economic Value of the Bay: Augustine Redwine, Research Analyst, Office of the Texas Comptroller
The Galveston Bay Plan: James Kachtick, Chairman of the Galveston Bay Council
Organization of the Symposium: Dr. L. James Lester, Director of the Environmental Institute of Houston, University of Houston/Clear Lake
 10:00-10:15 Break
 10:15-12:20 Issue Session - POINT & NONPOINT SOURCE POLLUTION Rapporteur: George Guillen, TNRCC/Region 12
 10:15-10:30 "Texas Clean Rivers Program: The Upstream Link to Galveston Bay Management" - Gary Mitchell, Houston-Galveston Area Council
 10:30-10:45 "The Watershed Management Approach: Potential Impacts on Freshwater Inflows" - Susan Branning, EPA/Region 6
 10:45-11:00 "Quality of Storm Water Runoff From Urbanized Houston Metropolitan Area" - Min Chu, Turner Collie & Braden
 11:00-11:15 "Wetlands for Water Quality": John Koros, Harris County Flood Control District
 11:15-11:30 "Seafood Safety": Richard Thompson, Seafood Safety, Texas Department of Health
 11:30-12:10 Panel - Pollution Case Studies
 "Galveston Bay Yards & Neighbors Program: Reducing Residential Nonpoint Source Pollution" - Julie Massey, Galveston County Marine Extension Agent; Dr. William M. Johnson, Galveston County Extension Agent
 "Galveston Bay and the Shipping Industry" - Jim Morrison, West Gulf Maritime, Inc.
 "Dirt: Use It. Don't Lose It" - Cheryl A. Manford, Exxon Land Development, Inc.
 Questions & Answers
 12:30 - 1:30 LUNCH Speaker: To Be Announced
 1:30 - 3:00 Issues Session - FRESHWATER INFLOW & WATER QUALITY CHANGES Rapporteur: Jim Blackburn - Blackburn & Carter
 1:30 - 1:45 "Changes in Freshwater Inflows to Galveston Bay and the Trinity-San Jacinto Estuary, Texas" - Gary L. Powell, Bays & Estuaries Program; Texas Water Development Board
 1:45 - 2:00 "Health of Galveston Bay: Biotic Integrity" - Albert W. Green, Texas Parks & Wildlife Department
 2:00 - 2:15 "Low Flow in the Trinity River" - Dr. Richard M. Browning, Trinity River Authority of Texas

Major Symposium Topics

- Economic Impact of Galveston Bay
- Watershed Management • Seafood Safety
- Wetlands Conservation • Nonpoint Source Pollution • Marsh Creation/Restoration
- Freshwater Inflow • Impacts of Drought
- Status and Trends of Marine Life
- Artificial Reefs • Status of Colonial Water birds
- Partnerships for the Future

2:15 - 2:30 "Alterations in the Water Quality of Galveston Bay on a Time Scale of Decades" -Dr. George H. Ward, Center for Research in Water Resources, University of Texas/Austin
 2:30 - 2:45 "Partnerships in Conservation Education: Bringing the Message Home" - Carole D. Baker, Harris-Galveston Coastal Subsidence District
 Questions & Answers
 3:00 - 3:15 BREAK
 3:15 - 5:00 Issues Session - HABITAT AND LIVING RESOURCES ALTERATION Rapporteur: Dr. Larry McKinney, Texas Parks & Wildlife Department
 3:15 - 3:30 "Status and Trends of Selected Marine Resources of Galveston Bay" - Lance Robinson, Coastal Fisheries Division, Texas Parks & Wildlife Department
 3:30 - 3:45 "Wetlands Conservation on Private Lands in Texas" - Julie Anderson, Texas Parks & Wildlife Department
 3:45 - 4:00 "Created Salt Marshes As Habitats for Fishery Species" - Dr. Thomas Minello, National Marine Fisheries Service
 4:00 - 4:15 "Status and Recent Trends of Galveston Bay's Colonial Water Birds - With Management Implications" - Phil Glass and Will Roach, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
 4:15 - 5:00 Panel - Habitat Restoration Case Studies
 "Marsh Restoration at San Jacinto State Historical Park" - Ted Hollingsworth, Texas Parks & Wildlife/Region 4
 "Artificial Reef Construction: Building Condos for Oysters" - Bill Baker, Houston Lighting & Power Company
 "The Brownwood Marsh Restoration Project: A Successful, Coordinated Effort to Restore and Create Wetlands Habitat" - Tom Calnan, Texas General Land Office
 "Marsh Creation from Dredged Material: A Case Study" - Tracey Koenig, Turner Collie & Braden, Inc.
 Questions & Answers
 Closing: Marilyn D. Browning, Program Director, Galveston Bay Estuary Program

AGENDA – Saturday, January 11, 1997

Opening: Marilyn D. Browning, Program Director, Galveston Bay Estuary Program
 8:30 - 9:30 Issue Session - SOLVING USER CONFLICTS -Part I
 Panel: Agency Roles in Solving User Conflict
 8:30 - 8:45 Texas Natural Resource Conservation Commission
 8:45 - 9:00 Texas General Land Office
 9:00 - 9:15 Texas Department of Agriculture
 Question & Answer
 9:30 - 10:30 Issue Session - SOLVING USER CONFLICTS -Part II
 Panel: Public Sector/Private Sector Solutions
 Rapporteur: Dr. Robert Heath, Professor of Communications, University of Houston
 9:30 - 9:45 "The Galveston Bay Foundation Experience in Finding Common Ground As a Mechanism for Solving User Conflicts" - Linda Shead, Galveston Bay Foundation
 9:45-10:00 "The Ethic of Stewardship: The Beneficial Uses Plan for the Houston Ship Channel," Richard Gorini, Port of Houston Authority
 10:00-10:15 "Public Perceptions of the Environmental Problems Facing Galveston Bay" - Dr. Stephen Klineberg, Rice University
 10:15-10:30 "Water Rights for Galveston Bay" - Donald Kaiser, Texas A&M University
 Question & Answer
 10:45 - 11:00 Break
 11:00-12:15 Final Plenary - Session Summaries
 11:00-11:15 George Guillen, TNRCC - Point & NPS Pollution
 11:15-11:30 Jim Blackburn, Blackburn & Carter, Fresh Water Inflow Issues
 11:30-11:45 Dr. Larry McKinney, TPWD - Habitat & Living Resources
 11:45-12:00 Dr. Robert Heath, University of Houston, User Conflict Discussion
 12:20-12:30 Closing Marilyn D. Browning, Galveston Bay Estuary Program

TO REGISTER

Hotel and registration information is available through the Texas Natural Resource Conservation Commission.

Contact: Sue Phillips, 512/239-6327
 Sandra Flores, 512/239-6650
 E-Mail Address: sphillip@tnrcc.state.tx.us

Cost of Registration: \$50 - includes both days of the 1997 State of the Bay Symposium, conference materials and luncheon on Friday.

An Invitation

Dear Participant:

The Galveston Bay Estuary Program is hosting the third biennial State of the Bay Symposium to be held since the launch of the National Estuary Program in the Galveston Bay Region in 1988.

The goal of past Symposiums has been to look at the science of the bay, the needs of all stakeholders and the impacts of a resident population of more than 4 million people in the five counties which line its shores.

The Galveston Bay Plan, a Comprehensive Conservation and Management Plan, was developed as a product of five years of research, data-gathering and consensus-building, under the auspices of the Galveston Bay National Estuary Program (GBNEP). When The Plan was approved by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency in 1995, GBNEP became a program of the State of Texas and was renamed The Galveston Bay Estuary Program. Then the task of implementation of The Plan began. The State of the Bay Symposium III will analyze the progress of implementation, next steps to be taken and the status and trends which impact this vital Texas resource.

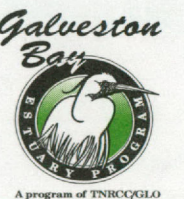
I invite you to participate in State of the Bay Symposium III to take advantage of the knowledge of the experts from environmental agencies and organizations, industry, and our universities. We urge you to bring your questions to these experts and to share any answers that will enhance this great open forum on the Galveston Bay System.

Please join us for State of the Bay Symposium III on January 10-11, 1997.

Sincerely,

Marilyn D. Browning

Marilyn D. Browning, Program Director, Galveston Bay Estuary Program



REGISTRATION FORM

(Please type or print clearly)

Yes, I wish to attend the State of the Bay Symposium III in Houston, Texas, on January 10-11

Free Public Session only

Name _____

Company/Organization _____

Address _____

Daytime Phone (____) _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Send payment with this form to: Texas Natural Resource Conservation Commission
 Financial Management
 P.O. Box 13088
 Austin, TX 78711-3088



Norm Uhl of KHOU-TV, right, presents copies of the "Save Our Streams" video to Dan Pearson, TNRCC Executive Director, and Gary Wigginton, DuPont/La Porte Plant Manager



Randy Clements, DuPont/La Porte, talks with Texas Senator Jerry Patterson, and TNRCC Executive Director Dan Pearson



DuPont/La Porte Plant Manager Gary Wigginton presents \$5,000 to Linda Shead, Executive Director of the Galveston Bay Foundation, and Marilyn Browning, Program Director of the Galveston Bay Estuary Program, for implementation of the science program

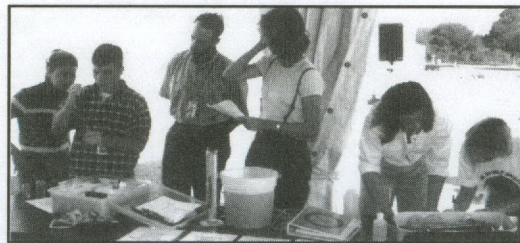
DuPont Environmental Award To Be Shared With Students

"Near this battleground 160 years ago, a small group of Texas volunteers struggled together and changed the course of American history. Today we recognize another small group of Texas volunteers who are working together to help change American history yet again."

With those words, Dan Pearson, Executive Director of the Texas Natural Resource Conservation Commission, applauded the employees of DuPont's La Porte Plant for winning that company's Safety, Health and Environmental Excellence Award for their "Spirit of Zero" Project, a pioneering effort that reduced toxic chemical releases by 99% and achieved a 97% reduction in hazardous waste shipped off-site. These reductions also help the plant achieve voluntary waste reduction goals set by Clean Texas 2000's Clean Industries program.

The award, which carries a stipend of \$5,000, was presented in the shadow of the historic San Jacinto Monument by Gary Wigginton, DuPont/La Porte Plant Manager. DuPont has chosen to share this award to underwrite the cost of an environmental science program in La Porte, Deer Park, and Pasadena middle schools.

This project, which is designed to supplement a science curriculum, will be developed and coordinated by the Galveston Bay Estuary Program, the Galveston Bay Foundation, and KHOU-TV following the model



Students in Chuck Jobson's science classes at La Porte High School demonstrate water testing. Participating in the demonstration were Amy Parent, Brian Foster, Lisa Garrie, Patricia McCanless, Sue Chavana and Apryl Stancil

of an earlier project, "The Bayou Posse Is Helping! How About You?" Focus of the project, which will involve students and their families, will emphasize taking personal responsibility for the quality of our waterways.

Approximately 80 DuPont employees, guests, representa-

tives of conservation organizations, and environmental agency staffs gathered to share in the celebration of the DuPont Nustar team's achievement.

Highlighting the program was the first public showing of the KHOU-produced video lessons which focus on Nonpoint Source Pollution, Sewage, Recycling and Debris in the Water, Bay-Friendly Gardening and Habitat Restoration. The series was first developed by KHOU's Norm Uhl for "Norm's Notebook," and has been modified for classroom use. The project is to be launched during the Spring Semester, 1997.

In addition, students from Chuck Jobson's science classes at La Porte High School provided a demonstration of water testing learned under the Texas Watch program of TNRCC and coordinated by GBF. ❖

News/Views From the GBC Chairman

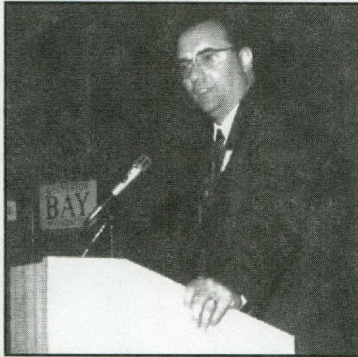
Stakeholders Provide Bay Briefing For Gulf of Mexico's Jim Giattina

By Jim Kachtick, Chairman
Galveston Bay Council

On July 2, the Galveston Bay Estuary Program (GBEP) helped other stakeholders in Galveston Bay to host the visit of Jim Giattina, the new Executive Director of the Gulf of Mexico Program, to the Houston area.

The initial meeting between Director Giattina and representatives from local industry and the TNRCC's GBEP was held at OxyChem's Battleground site. Dave Scholes, Houston Chemical Complex Manager, provided greetings, introduction to the Houston industrial scene, and a safety/environmental orientation for the visitors.

Following a presentation by Marilyn Browning, GBEP Program Director, on the history and current activities of the program and implementation



Gulf of Mexico Program Director Jim Giattina shares program goals with an audience of industry representatives, conservation organization members, and environmental agency staffs. Giattina has spoken to meetings sponsored by EHCMA and the Port of Houston Authority, and the Galveston Bay Foundation

of *The Galveston Bay Plan*, Jim Kachtick, Galveston Bay Council Chairman, provided information on voluntary industry programs and the partnerships formed between the various stakeholder organizations in the Galveston Bay watershed.

A luncheon cruise on the Houston Ship Channel followed the morning meeting. After the cruise on the Port of Houston's M/V Sam Houston, Giattina visited Baker Junior High School in La Porte to see wetlands, a coastal prairie, wildlife fields and a fledgling hardwood forest that students have developed on the school campus. This was a cooperative environmental sciences project between the school, local industry and the University of Houston at Clear Lake.

Concluding the visit was a tour of Taylor Lake in the Bayport area on the Galveston Bay Foundation's *Bay Ranger*. Here Giattina saw a demonstration of smooth cordgrass planting and a number of marsh

restoration sites that were joint ventured by local industry, the Foundation and state/federal agencies. On the second day of his trip to the Galveston Bay watershed, Giattina also visited the Freeport area.

As he departed, Jim Giattina stated that he was impressed with the pro-environmental activities occurring in the Houston-Freeport region and the number of partnerships that have been formed locally. He observed that such an approach could serve as a model for the Gulf of Mexico Program. ♦

GBEP Communications Upgraded: We're Now On The Internet

The GBEP is now reachable on Internet. You can visit our internet site at <http://pelican.gmpo.gov/gulfofmex/estuarypartner/Galveston/GalvestonBay.html>. Customers can reach the GBEP staff through the following addresses:

Steve Anderson	standers@tnrcc.state.tx.us	316-3008
Jeanette Belk	jbelk@tnrcc.state.tx.us	316-3003
Marilyn Browning	mbrownin@tnrcc.state.tx.us	316-3001
Thomas Byrom	tbyrom@tnrcc.state.tx.us	316-3005
Helen Drummond	hdrummon@tnrcc.state.tx.us	316-3004
Judy Fox	jufox@tnrcc.state.tx.us	316-3000
Carter Miska	cmiska@tnrcc.state.tx.us	316-3007

The upgrade in computers and a lot of diligent work by Hank Horak of the TNRCC staff allowed the installation of E-Mail capabilities on individual staff computers which has opened up internet access and more efficient access to TNRCC/Austin.

A major upgrade has been made in the Program's telephone system with the addition of direct lines to each staffer and voice mail capabilities. The main office number will continue to be 332-9937 and the FAX is 332-8590. **However, in November, the Area Code for all of our numbers changed from 713 to 281.**

Browning, Kachtick, Baker Appointed by Governor

Governor George Bush has appointed GBEP Program Director Marilyn Browning and Galveston Bay Council Chair Jim Kachtick to serve on the Gulf of Mexico Program's Citizen Advisory Committee. Kachtick, Manager of the Environmental Southern Region of OxyChem, also chairs the Environmental Committee of the East Harris County Manufacturer's Association, and is Chairman of the Greater Houston Partnership Water Committee. There are five appointees from each of the Gulf states represented on this committee. Governor Bush also named TNRCC Commissioner John Baker to the Management Committee of the GOMP.

The Gulf of Mexico Program is an initiative of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency that seeks to focus on major environmental challenges to the Gulf. ❖

Bay Line is a quarterly publication of the Galveston Bay Estuary Program (GBEP), a program of the Texas Natural Resource Conservation Commission (TNRCC) jointly managed with the Texas General Land Office (GLO).

Editor - M. A. Bengtson, Assistant Program Director
Design and Printing - TNRCC

For information on how to receive Bay Line or for additional information about the Galveston Bay Estuary Program, call 281/332-9937. Information may be faxed to GBEP at 281/332-8590.

Funding for the Galveston Bay Estuary Program comes from the Coastal Protection Fund of the GLO. Various demonstration projects in the watershed are funded by Environmental Protection Agency 104(b)(3) grants.

Galveston Bay Estuary Program
711 West Bay Area Blvd., Suite 210
Webster, Texas 77598

Galveston
Bay




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