

ENV's Eddie Sutherland retires

By **RICHARD GOLDSMITH**
Environmental Affairs Division

After 24 years with TxDOT, Eddie Sutherland still remembers the first time he heard a district engineer say "We're not going to cut down that tree."

It was in the early '80s and the tree was in the path of widening State Highway 71 east of Smithville.

"I really felt good about that. It seems like a small thing now," Sutherland said. "There was a particular interest in that tree. It was the public's voice that did it."

Sutherland is the director of ENV's Natural Resources Management Section. Or rather, he was head of that section until he left at the end of December at the age of only 52. "I decided that while I'm young enough I'd like to make a change and try something different. I'm just ready for a new challenge." For a time that change will probably mean a job in the

private sector. Later he wants to take the time to develop his hobbies of painting and photography, especially of wildlife, because he says, "I'm interested in adventure."

"I've been very fortunate to have had someone with such knowledge and dedication working with me these past years. The department is losing a valuable asset," ENV Director Dianna Noble said.

Deputy Division Director Ken Bohuslav said, "In addition to being a



**Eddie
Sutherland**

good-natured person and great to work with, Eddie is very dependable and reliable. You could always rely on him to do the right thing. His professionalism and dedication to the department is something to be emulated by younger staff members."

Sutherland first worked for TxDOT as a maintenance hand for three summers in Uvalde, where he grew up. That was while he attended Southwest Texas Junior College.

He joined the Navy to avoid getting drafted as a foot soldier and, ironically, wound up as just that, a foot soldier. He wanted the Navy to train him to be an illustrator/draftsman. Instead, the Navy made him a hospital corpsman attached to a Marine reconnaissance battalion. He arrived in DaNang, Vietnam, in 1968 at

(See SUTHERLAND, Page 6)

Doniphan Dr. project requires ingenuity

By **JIM DOBBINS**
Environmental Affairs Div.

A project to improve El Paso's Doniphan Drive is testing the ingenuity of contractors and TxDOT staff with a range of obstacles well beyond those usually encountered in similar efforts.

Doniphan Drive is on El Paso's west side, near the New Mexico state line. A small stretch actually is in New Mexico. Improvements were needed to this narrow, rutted, two lane, 3.7-mile thoroughfare, which runs through both residential and industrialized areas that are prone to flooding. Plans for improvement included widening the lanes, adding a continuous left turn lane, curbs, gutters and storm sewer

drainage.

This project was divided into three construction phases. Phase I (construction began in April 1994) is complete, Phase II is nearing completion and Phase III is tentatively scheduled for contract bidding

in May 1998.

The improvements to Doniphan Drive were first conceived in the late 1980s, under the Principal Arterial Street System (PASS) program. This program gave way to the Intermodal Surface

Transportation Efficiency Act (ISTEA), which funded the project.

A series of hurdles appeared from the outset of the project.

Judy Ramsey, the El Paso District's environmental coordinator, begins the tale.

"About 1,000 feet of Doniphan Drive lies in New Mexico. This aspect of Phase I required coordination with the New Mexico Highway and Transportation Department. TxDOT had to get legislation approved to allow us to coordinate with an out-of-state government agency. New Mexico paid for their stretch of road improvements, but since they did not own all of the right of way, this slowed down

(See EL PASO, Page 2)



**El Paso District Photo
Dewatering to lower water table for storm sewer installation**

El Paso finds solutions to challenges of multi-phase Doniphan Dr. project

Continued from Page 1

the project even more,” Ramsey said.

The next obstacle was the area’s high water table, with water found as close as three feet below the surface along Doniphan Drive. Since sewer line installation requires trenching to a depth of between 10 and 17 feet, this caused an immediate problem. A dewatering process was started, where ground water that seeped into the trenches was pumped into the nearby Rio Grande. This appeared to solve the problem, but it was not to be that simple.

Terry Dempsey, an environmental quality specialist in ENV’s Hazardous Materials Branch, relates some of the challenges the district faced.

“It turned out that the ground water being pumped into the Rio Grande, at rates of up to 2,000 gallons a minute, had a very high natural salt content, resulting in a high concentration of total dissolved solids (TDS). The ground water along Doniphan Drive has TDS readings greater than 2,500 PPM of TDS – the maximum level allowed by the local irrigation district. An agreement with the irrigation district had to be worked out, calling for frequent monitoring and placing limits on discharge during the irrigation season” Dempsey said.

The dewatering process brought charges by local citizens, since ruled unsubstantiated by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, that the pumping of groundwater was draining a nearby wetland and waterfowl habitat.

A gas station with leaking petroleum storage tanks proved to be an additional obstacle to Phase II of the project. Polluted soil and groundwater had to be dealt with.

Dempsey said, “A portable wastewater treatment facility was brought in to treat the contaminated water before it was pumped into the river. Soil contaminated with levels of gasoline too low to be a threat to construction workers or the public was reused as backfill on the project, as authorized by the Texas Natural Resource Conservation Commission (TNRCC). The contractor had to be careful not to spread contaminants to clean areas. The City of El Paso was instrumental in spearheading these reuse



What is now a barbecue restaurant was formerly a service station and turned out to have sub-surface contamination from buried petroleum storage tanks.

El Paso District Photo

efforts, which kept the project moving and saved disposal costs without aggravating the contamination problem.”

Two more former service stations with potentially leaking underground petroleum storage tanks await Phase III of the project. In addition, two dry cleaners located along the right of way have leaking underground chlorinated solvent tanks – chemicals used in the dry cleaning process.

A new technology, called “jet grouting” will be used by TxDOT for the first time to contain the chlorinated solvent pollutants. This process will involve injecting a clay slurry into the soil, which binds with the soil to form an impermeable “wall” around the solvent. This barrier will prevent the contaminants from “migrating” elsewhere, as they are apt to do when groundwater is being pumped out. With the assistance of TxDOT’s environmental consultant, Entrix, Inc., and ENV’s Hazardous Materials Branch, the specifications for this complicated phase and the application process for a temporary waste water discharge permit from TNRCC are well under way.

Historic preservation issues became part of the equation for Phase III when a house on Doniphan Drive was found to be listed on the National Register of Historic Places. Tom Eisenhour, a historic architect with ENV’s Historical and Socioeconomic Studies Branch, explains.

“A Pueblo Revival House, a rare

example dating to circa 1935, was found on the corner of Doniphan Drive and Sunset Drive. Because of the house’s status on the National Register, we had to be very careful that the road project would not have a negative affect on the building. The structure sits just outside the right of way. To continue the project as planned, we had to prove to the folks at the Texas Historical Commission that the building would not be physically impacted by the road” Eisenhour said.

James McDonald, the Project Engineer with TxDOT’s El Paso District, sees the road improvements from yet another perspective.

McDonald said, “The biggest challenge during the construction phase has been dealing with inaccurate maps that are supposed to show the location of utilities (water and gas mains). These maps are at least 50 years old, and do not reliably show their location. With all the excavating going on, we certainly don’t want to break one of these. One thing that has made this project go as smoothly as it has is the partnering process, begun about three years ago as a way for TxDOT and its contractors to work through problem areas together in a cooperative spirit instead of the sometimes adversarial relationship that existed at times before partnering.”

If Phase III contract is awarded as scheduled in May 1998, the project should be completed sometime in mid-1999.

Web sites can ID project haz-mat issues

The internet's World Wide Web (WWW) can be a valuable resource during early project development for determining whether hazardous materials will become an issue. Several internet sites provide listings of state and federal agency regulated or registered sites.

These resources do not yet duplicate the accuracy or mapping capability of commercial vendors, but some information is better than none. And Erin Trujillo, of ENV's Pollution Prevention and Abatement Section, says the information available at these web addresses can help determine whether more thorough list searches from commercial services are needed. For instance, a search that turns up several listings within project right of way may call for the use of a more accurate commercial mapping.

The following are summaries of each site. More information and instructions are at individual web sites.

TNRCC's LPST Query: <http://www.tnrcc.state.tx.us/waste/pst/rpr/pstquery.htm>

You may now query the data base using the LPST ID number and obtain the essential information about leaking petroleum storage tanks (LPST), or perform a search by either company or city, or both using full or partial names for the company or city. A search will return a list of LPST numbers with the company name, street address, and city. You can print the resulting page as a reference, then return to this query page and search for detailed information by LPST identification number.

This database was last updated Oct. 6, 1997, and contains information on 20,417 LPST sites. The information provided consists of discovery and reporting dates, priority and status, the initials of the TNRCC case coordinator(s) if the case has been assigned, the responsible party, location, whether or not it is a federal facility, county and county number, and the TNRCC region number and city.

EPA's Envirofacts Query: http://www.epa.gov/enviro/html/ef_query.html

Envirofacts is a relational database that integrates data extracted from five major facility- or site-based EPA program systems using two integrating databases. It also incorporates location information from Envirofacts' Locational Reference Tables to integrate these systems. You may use the multi-system Envirofacts



The opening page of the EPA's "Maps on Demand" site.

Query Form to obtain an integrated report of the five facility-based databases or you may also query the databases individually to find detailed information.

EPA's Maps on Demand: <http://www.epa.gov/enviro/html/mod/index.html>

The results of Envirofacts queries can now be mapped using the new Query Mapper application. This tool is valuable to users who are interested in mapping facility locations and viewing the surrounding demographics, Geographic Retrieval and Analysis System (GIRAS) land use and land cover, as well as physical and cultural features.

The SiteInfo application creates informative maps and reports, such as EPA-regulated facility, demographic, and

safe drinking water information for areas surrounding any given location in the United States. All you need to do is provide a latitude/longitude coordinate within the United States.

The ZipInfo application creates informative maps and reports, such as EPA-regulated facility, demographic, and safe drinking water information for areas within any given ZIP Code in the United States.

The CountyInfo application creates informative maps and reports, such as EPA-regulated facility, demographic, and safe drinking water information for areas within any given county in the United States.

'98 out-of-agency schedule for haz-mat classes, conferences

Here's a list of out-of-agency hazardous waste conferences and site assessment training for 1998. Follow existing human resource procedures for obtaining approval to attend. Call the telephone numbers provided for more course information and registration.

- ASTM, Environmental Site Assessment Practices, Transaction Screen & Phase I Site Assessment, Fee \$595, 16 hours, 1.5 CEUs, (610) 832-9585.
- April 21-22, San Antonio.
- TEEX, ESA Phase I, Fee \$595, 28 hours, 3.5 CM, (800) 252-2420.
- January 13-16, Bryan

- February 10-13, Dallas
- March 10-13, San Antonio
- April 7-10, Houston
- May 12-15, Bryan
- TEEX, ESA Phase II, Fee \$495, 32 hours, 4 CM, (800) 252-2420.
- March 24-27, Bryan
- June 2-5, Bryan
- TEEX, ESA Phase III, Fee \$495, 24 hours, 3 CM, (800) 252-2420.
- June 23-25, Bryan
- TNRCC, Hazardous Waste Seminar for Generators, Fee \$150/\$180, (512) 239-6330.
- March 11-12, Houston

Corpus District mitigation site now part of Coastal Birding Trail



ENV Photo by Bill Hood

The Aransas Woods site on the Great Texas Coastal Birding Trail makes use of 25 acres owned by TxDOT.

Agencies, birding club team up

By JIM DOBBINS

Environmental Affairs Division

With apologies to the Spanish writer Miguel de Cervantes, birds of a feather in the Rockport area now have a new spot to flock together.

A new bird habitat built with the help of the TxDOT Rockport Maintenance Section was dedicated in November. The site became the latest stop on the Great Texas Coastal Birding Trail, which includes 93 sites in the Yoakum and Corpus Christi Districts. Eventually, the trail will stretch from the Sabine River to the Rio Grande.

Located just off the State Highway 35 Bypass southwest of Rockport, the site had been set aside several years ago as mitigation for impacts created during the construction of the bypass. U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) approached TxDOT's Corpus Christi District with the idea of converting the site into a birding trail location. The work was overseen by

USFWS, which contributed financial support to the project under their Share Program. Because of the unique financial arrangement, the agreement had to be approved by Governor Bush. Texas Parks and Wildlife Department (TPWD) provided the design.

The staff of TxDOT's Rockport Maintenance Section built the caliche access road, parking lot and sidewalk. Volunteers added a deck and ramp overlooking the lakes. The viewing area was dedicated to the late Robert M. Latimer, an avid bird watcher and photographer whose family donated funding for the wooden platform. The observation areas are all wheelchair accessible.

Bill Hood is an ENV biologist who worked with the Corpus Christi District on the project.

Hood said, "The birding trail site is on Live Oak Peninsula between Aransas and Copano Bays. The site covers an area of

about 25 acres. The area has a number of naturally occurring depressions in the soil that accumulate water during wet periods, referred to as ephemeral ponds, and provide habitat for waterfowl. The birding trail site provides additional habitat. An existing pond was enlarged and two more were created. Chano Falcon, the former director of maintenance at the Rockport office and now the Assistant Maintenance Manager for the Pharr District, did a lot of work on the project and was recognized with a plaque from TPWD at the dedication ceremony."

The site, known as Aransas Woods, will be maintained by the local Aransas Bird and Nature Club. Ray Little is the chairman of their sanctuary committee.

"The site has lots of trees, three lakes and some marshland" Little said. "It's a wonderful habitat for a wide variety of bird species. Waterfowl, including egrets,

See TRAIL, Page 8

A safety net for fish...

Finned critters relocated for Odessa's SH 17 improvements project

It was a wet, smelly job, but someone had to do it. A project in the Odessa District to improve SH 17 was going to leave some fish out of water so district, ENV and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service personnel cooperated Dec. 2 to relocate the fish to safe water.

The project involves replacing culverts that carry irrigation water beneath the highway. In consultations with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS), it was determined that efforts should focus on one particular culvert, between Balmorhea State Park and the City of Balmorhea, that holds water year round. The effort that resulted is best described as a "mucky job" for those involved, ENV's Ken Holmes, Rick Hopkins and Doug Eichorst of the Odessa District, and fisheries biologists Nathan Allan and Casey Berkhouse both of the USFWS.

First, Odessa maintenance workers dammed the concrete-lined irrigation ditch at both boundaries of the right of way. Fish were observed in thick stands of cattails on the deeper, downstream side. The plan was to pull up the cattails, pump the dammed area dry and net the fish.

Holmes said, "The idea was to place berms across the irrigation ditch at both right of way lines and pump the water out of the ditch. The ditch didn't look very deep. Nathan, Casey and I, hereafter referred to as the 'stinky ones,' got in the ditch and started pulling cattails. The ditch was concrete lined. It rapidly became obvious that pulling cattails by hand would be back-breaking labor. The ditch was deeper than it appeared and the concrete lining had cracks that the cattails had taken advantage of for their roots."

A backhoe was brought in to loosen and remove most of the cattails, but the last of the plants and their root mass still had to be moved by hand. Also, as the cattails were removed, the water got

deeper, first too deep for the rubber boots and then the the hipwaders on hand. Thus the fish handlers found themselves working in odiferous "muck."

"We went to a local cafe for lunch and within a few short minutes we had the place to ourselves. At least some of the other TxDOT people were polite enough to have lunch with us," Holmes said.

After lunch they began to pump the bermed area dry, allowing them to net the rest of the fish.

Southwest Texas State University who is investigating parasites in spring-system organisms.

The target endangered species had been the Comanche Springs pupfish and the Pecos gambusia.

Allan said, "It was unusual to only collect one pupfish. It would have been less surprising to get none. Ken (Holmes) caught the only pupfish with the castnet before the dam was in place, so it's possible that other individuals moved downstream."

"The effort was a success for sparing some individual fish.

Also I think it was a great opportunity for the Fish and Wildlife Service to cooperatively work side by side with TxDOT for the benefit of endangered species and to prevent the delaying of the highway improvement project," Allan said.

Holmes said it was "a really fun day, in muck rather than behind a desk."

(Compiled by Richard Goldsmith)



Casey Berkhouse of the USFWS and ENV's Ken Holmes pull cattails from a culvert on SH 17 in the Odessa District so that fish can be netted. A Comanche Springs pupfish (below) before release.

The collected fish were released downstream in the irrigation canal where they are out of harms way during construction.

A total 133 fish were moved: 46 roundnose minnows, 42 channel catfish, 19 mosquitofish, 19 longear sunfish, six Mexican tetra, and one Comanche Springs pupfish, an endangered species.

Another 15 fish — 10 roundnose minnows, three longear sunfish and one each of channel catfish and mosquitofish — were preserved for use in a study by a graduate student at



ENV achievement award forms mailed

A call for nominations for the 8th annual Environmental Achievement Award was recently sent to all district engineers and district environmental coordinators.

The Environmental Achievement Award recognizes the best examples of programs and projects that fulfill transportation objectives while protecting and enhancing the natural and human environment. The award will be presented to the district whose employees have contributed most significantly to the natural environment of Texas highways through the proactive preservation, protection and enhancement of native plants, endangered plant and animal

species, natural topography, waterways and wetlands; pollution prevention and abatement efforts; and protection of cultural resources at all stages of project development.

The award recognizes projects that go "beyond the call," not those that only fulfill requirements of law or court orders.

Keep Texas Beautiful worked with the Travel and Information Division and the Construction and Maintenance Division to coordinate the annual LBJ Preservation Award program, founded by Lady Bird Johnson in 1970. In 1990, the award was split in two, evolving into the biennial Highway Beautification Award and the annual Environmental Achievement

Award, which recognizes excellence in the field of environmental preservation. This is the second year that ENV has overseen the Environmental Achievement Award.

Past winners of the Environmental Achievement Award have included the El Paso, Austin, Pharr, Paris and Corpus Christi districts.

Completed nominations must be received by ENV no later than 5 p.m., Friday, May 1, 1998. The award will be presented at the 1998 Transportation Planning and Development Conference in July 1998, in Austin. If you have any questions, contact Jim Dobbins at 512-416-3006, or GroupWise JDOBBINS.

Sutherland: Joined Navy, wound up a Marine

Continued from Page 1

age 23 on the first day of the Tet offensive. Fortunately, because of the Vietcong offensive, he had to wait two weeks while the Tet offensive wound down before joining his unit in Phu Bai. After that he spent nine months in the field, making four-to-six day patrols with units of 10 to 14 Marines. As a reconnaissance unit, they were supposed to avoid contact, although they sawaction.

"We were very lucky. I only had to doctor one guy in the field. Most of the time I was just like another Marine," he said.

After his military service, Sutherland attended Stephen F. Austin University and earned a degree in Forestry in 1972. He moved to Austin and worked for several consultants, handling environmental documents and a historical and environmental inventory of nine counties in the Middle Rio Grande Council of Governments counties. In 1974 he applied for a surveying job at the Austin District's Expressway Office. When he was interviewed by then Resident Engineer Roland Gamble, who later headed up what became ENV, Sutherland's background in the young environmental field caught Gamble's attention.

Instead of hiring Sutherland for the surveying job, "he told me to come back the next day and he might have a job for me," Sutherland said. And that's how in May 1974 Sutherland began writing environmental documents for the Austin District's Expressway Office. "I started that Monday after he (Gamble) hired me,"

he said.

After two years, he moved to the Austin District's main office, where he remained until 1986 when he joined the Highway Design Division's Environmental Section, part of what evolved into the current Environmental Affairs Division (ENV). Sutherland became head of ENV's Natural Resources Management Section when the section was created in 1994.

In 24 years, attitudes toward environmental concerns in projects have changed, Sutherland says.

"When I started out the hardest thing for me was they handed me a project (after it was designed) and said 'Go clear it.'"

The two biggest changes he has seen in his career are that environmental concerns now guide the larger projects and that mitigation is routine.

"Those are really big changes," he said. "Another thing that has changed is the number of people in the districts who are highly experienced and skilled because the districts have figured out this is the way to get projects cleared. Nowadays we have a lot of district people who have years of experience."

Sutherland admits that it isn't easy to walk away from a job that has allowed him to be a part of a good cause. He is proudest of the department's wetlands banking program that is both "an asset and a challenge." He managed the creation of TxDOT's first two wetland mitigation banks, the Anderson Tract and the Blue Elbow Swamp, prior to federal guidance on how to go about it.

He's also proud of his part in the development of the broad-based training that has evolved into the Environment in Project Development course. "I think that's something we should all be proud of. It's taken years to get in place," he said.

He's leaving behind his current involvement in the creation of another wetland bank in the Houston District, the development of functional manuals for the department, and a research project on wetlands.

"Those are some of the things I will not get to see through. It's hard to leave," he said.

Tom Bruechert, now in ENV's Project Management Section, but who used to work in Sutherland's section, said "Eddie is always level headed in negotiations. He never let TxDOT get taken advantage of or let TxDOT take advantage of anyone else. That's a hard quality to keep when you have so many resource agencies and private environmental action groups to deal with. He will be sorely missed."

It was only in August that Sutherland realized he could retire under "The rule of 80," that is age plus years of service add up to 80 or more. That was possible because his wife, Rose, who works in the Information Services Division, convinced him years ago that he should buy back his years of military service.

His last working day was Dec. 23 and his retirement is official as of Jan. 31.

"I've had a lot of challenges and I enjoy that. I will really miss the people," he said.

Archeology on display

For those of you who missed ENV's Archeology Branch open house last year, a scaled down version will be on available to view Feb. 11-13, in rooms 302 and 304 at Camp Hubbard's Building 6.

Archeologists from the Environmental Affairs Division will be available during the noon hour on Wednesday, Feb. 11th. The expo ties in with the monthly meeting of the Women's Information Network (WIN).

Exhibits will include the Wilson-Leonard site (best known for the so-called "Leanderthal woman"), North Mopac extension (early Travis County settlements), La Salle's shipwreck the *La Belle*, and historic Texas trails. Artifacts will also be available for examination.

Another Archeology Branch open house is now being planned for October, to coincide with Texas Archeology Awareness Month.

4 staffers depart ENV

Late breaking news: Eddie Sutherland (see story Page 1) will go to work for Hicks & Company, an Austin environmental consulting firm.

Also departing ENV for a job in the private sector is Kristie Denton. Denton was with the Natural Resources Management Section's Water Quality Resources Branch since July 1996. Denton is joining Carter & Burgess, Inc., an Austin engineering firm where she will handle environmental and engineering design work.

Jennifer Gaa, ENV's Geographical Information System (GIS) specialist and also part of the automation staff, is moving to the Texas Natural Resource Conservation Commission. Gaa was with ENV since Nov. 1, 1995. In her new job, Gaa will be a full-time GIS specialist.

Glenn Goode, an archeologist with the department since May 1973, is no longer with ENV as of December.



BrainBender

by CRM's Steve Sadowsky



Natural Resources Management

Find the names of these common Natural Resources Management (NRM) terms and of ENV's NRM team listed in the column at right in the puzzle below. Names may be horizontal, vertical, diagonal, and in reverse order. Letters may be used more than once. (Answers on Page 8.)

W R W A L C A A X R E C H A R G E
 K H A A D I V A D T A O H A M N M
 T A T I B A H N U R O L S K A I N
 Y E E K I S A L L S A K A J I I A
 O F R A N L L O K D N C T A A S V
 S I F I T O S I I S I S S L G T I
 T L O E P A S T I M R E P P L I G
 E D W C J M E L N T A D T I S I A
 L L L C R A D L I L O R A C P Y B
 G I H E E Y G O L O R D Y H O L L
 A W O R T O E U L C M O M N E I E
 E S T U A R Y F A Y N M I A F L N
 D K A L W A K T O R K L B F K R O
 L N O I T A T L I S U C O A R E I
 A O S K C A A A S Y A N U R I D T
 B A H E I S O K E L U R D B S I A
 Y G O L O C E I I R F S S I T P V
 I O C P E A D R C M E E A O I S R
 N O E N D A N G E R E D H L E N E
 T O L A D R L G P L L A T O H C S
 W T O U I K H A S R I C R G A A N
 L S T O E U T B L O M B A Y O U O
 E A I N O I T A Z I L E N N A H C

- Eddie
- Carol
- David
- Ken
- Bill
- Kim
- Kristie
- Carlos
- Bucky
- Water
- Biology
- Endangered Species
- Bald Eagle
- Recharge
- Runoff
- Wetland
- Spiderlily
- Pollute
- Floodplain
- Bayou
- Wildlife
- Ocelot
- Jaguarundi
- Channelization
- Siltation
- Estuary
- Tidal
- Permit
- Navigable
- Hydrology
- Cattail
- Sedge
- Habitat
- Conservation
- Ecology
- Waterfowl



Environmental Affairs Division
125 East 11th Street
Austin, Texas 78701-2483

Address correction requested



Trail: New birding site

(Continued from Page 4)

herons, ducks, ospreys and Sandhill cranes, are all commonly found there. The wooded areas are home to cardinals, titmice and flycatchers – quite a variety of birds.”

David Potter is an environmental coordinator in the Corpus Christi District.

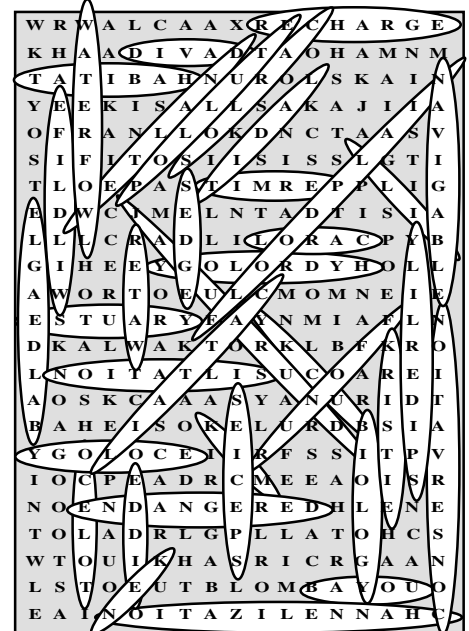
“The proximity of the State Highway 35 Bypass allows rain run off from the road to be channeled into the ponds. We had some unusually heavy rains during the fall that filled the ponds prior to the dedication ceremony. We anticipate the ponds drying out periodically if we rely solely on rain, so a well will be drilled and a solar-powered pump will be installed sometime

next year to keep the ponds filled to a certain level. This will encourage certain types of aquatic life beneficial to waterfowl” Potter said.

Kenny Keller is the director of maintenance at the Rockport Maintenance Section.

Keller said, “The site has received quite a few visitors, as this area is quite popular with bird watchers. In addition to drilling a well and installing a pump, my staff will also put up some additional fencing at the site to discourage poaching.”

Writer James A. Bland may have had a place like Aransas Woods in mind when he wrote in 1875 “There’s where the birds warble sweet in the springtime.”



ENVision is a publication of the Environmental Affairs Division, Texas Department of Transportation, 125 East 11th Street, Austin, Texas, 78701-2483.

We welcome ideas for stories and standing features. Submit those to the above address, attention Richard

Goldsmith, phone 512-416-2743 or via GroupWise to RGOLDSMI.

Is ENVision going to the right person in your organization? Please contact us to correct an address or to suggest additions to the mailing list.

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