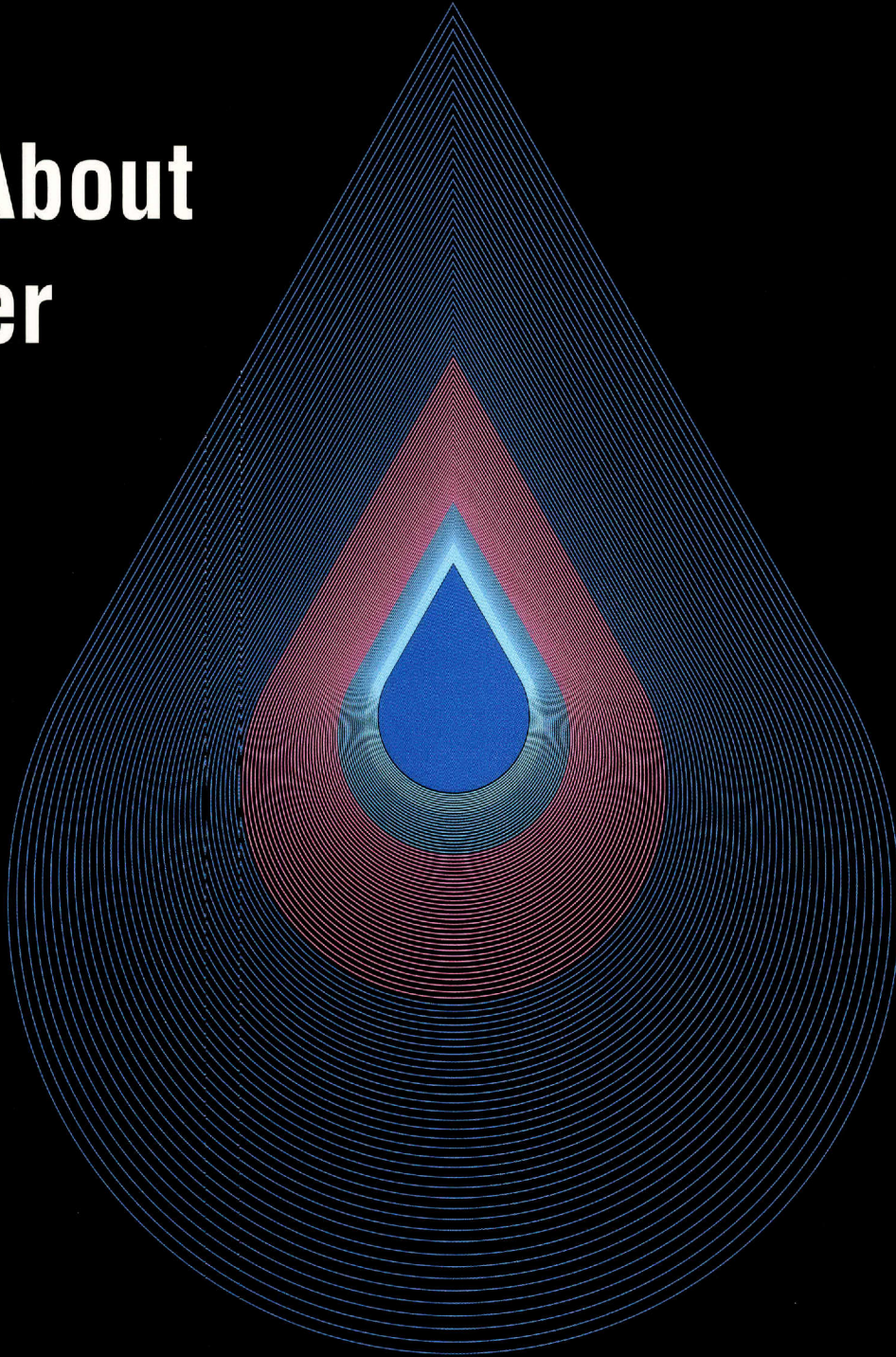


# GBRA RIVER RUN

*A publication of the GUADALUPE-BLANCO RIVER AUTHORITY Summer 2014*

**It's About  
Water**



*Board Meets in Cuero*



*Water Editorials*



*GBRA Visits Congressman*

# From the GM

## It's About Water

The water supply situation in Texas is reaching a critical stage and our population continues to grow. One of the areas focused on in a recent Wall Street Journal article about how Texas prosperity affects resources and infrastructure was “water worries.” (See Boom Time in Texas: Jobs, Traffic, Water Worries – *Wall Street Journal*, April 28, 2014)

How do we meet water demands for the increasing population along the Interstate 35 and Texas Hwy. 130 corridors that run through Hays, Caldwell, Comal and Guadalupe counties? Where will the water come from for the Eagle Ford Shale development area that directly impacts Gonzales, DeWitt and Victoria counties? State demographic information shows there already has been explosive growth and the future will bring even more.

According to a demographic briefing provided by State Demographer Lloyd Potter, Ph.D., to the House Committee on County Affairs, Feb. 21, 2013, the percent population change, 2010-2050, was projected to be an increase of 500 percent for Hays County and 250 percent for Comal, Caldwell and Guadalupe counties.

Down south, the Eagle Ford Shale boom is also demanding more water resources. The growth increase in Gonzales County is projected at 100 percent with DeWitt and Victoria counties expected to see growth in the range of 40 percent. These areas are not urban so the population impact does not show up as dramatically. The fact that people will be dispersed along the Eagle Ford Shale area does not lessen demand.

In fact, this growth is so explosive that according to U.S. Census data, Kendall, Hays, and Comal counties rank in the Top 25 fastest growing counties in the United States. Guadalupe County and some of the GBRA district's neighboring counties are in the Top 100 fastest growing. Supplying the water that all these people will need is a challenge and we also have to take care of businesses and the environment. Clearly, we need new sources of water. Yet, there are still challenges and obstructions to water projects in Texas.

We must focus on managing water resources for the benefit of the entire region – I urge you to read about the issues on pages 6-12. It explains the difficulties we face on our Lower Basin Project and why it

is critical to bring the project to fruition. The water in Canyon Reservoir is fully committed and we need more to meet the demands of growth. Conservation is only part of the fix. The most feasible solution is to undertake new water projects. No matter how hard, expensive and time-consuming they are, new projects will not get easier, but more difficult and more expensive as time goes on. We must address them now to assure continued prosperity in Texas.



W. E. "Bill" West, Jr.  
General Manager

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Summer 2014

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Front cover illustration: Mark Steele  
Back cover photo: Bryar Serold

# Coletto Creek Park Offers Outdoor Education Program

A new outdoor education program open to visitors of all ages kicked off during the last weekend in May at GBRA's Coletto Creek Park. The opening program hosted 13 adults and 27 children.

Developed by Dan and Anna Beckendorf, the program consists of a guided nature walk and a tour of a wildscape garden that Anna planted at the park. During the tour, the Beckendorfs discuss the use of native plants and their benefits to Texas Wildlife. Groups get to see the nature trail, habitat gardens and pools for lizards and frogs, and a butterfly garden. Depending on the size of the group, the education program generally lasts 2-3 hours and will be held each Saturday morning through mid-August.



Photo by Anna Beckendorf

Dan Beckendorf works as a Coletto Creek Park and Reservoir ranger in recreation system operations. Both he and his wife, Anna, serve as park hosts. For more

information about the program, contact the Coletto Creek Park Office at (361) 575-6366.

# GBRA Employees Take Part in Earth Day Festival

Hundreds of Seguin Citizens walked the grounds of the downtown square with a common interest in celebrating the 2014 Earth Day Festival, which took place Saturday April 26. Many walked by the Guadalupe-Blanco River Authority booth to see Cinde Thomas-Jimenez, GRBA education administrator, demonstrate how sources of nonpoint source pollution can enter into the ecosystems of nearby rivers, streams and lakes. Using the custom built, large scale river basin model as a teaching tool, Thomas-Jimenez simulated river basin stream flows on individual watersheds and the greater Guadalupe River Basin from its headwaters to San Antonio Bay.

Just feet away, a collection of preserved aquatic insects, or macroinvertebrates, were on display. Elizabeth Aguilar, GBRA education technical specialist, held live dragon fly larvae in front of two curious boys who were challenged by Aguilar to identify it using the GBRA macroinvertebrate identification chart. Aquatic insects are an important indicator of water quality, with the presence of certain

species indicating better or poorer conditions. The crawling and active dragon fly larvae in Aguilar's hand indicated favorable conditions from nearby Geronimo Creek.

Photos by Josie Longoria



Cinde Thomas-Jimenez



Elizabeth Aguilar

# GBRA Delegation Visits Congressman

A GBRA delegation visited U.S. Congressman Lamar Smith (R-Texas) in March to discuss water issues and support of water projects in Texas. Visiting with (center in white shirt) Congressman Smith are (left to right) GBRA Director Tommy Mathews, GBRA Board Chairman Oscar Fogle, General Manager Bill West, GBRA

Director Rusty Brockman, Executive Manager of Science, Intergovernmental Relations and Policy Todd Votteler, Ph.D., and General Counsel Tom Bohl.

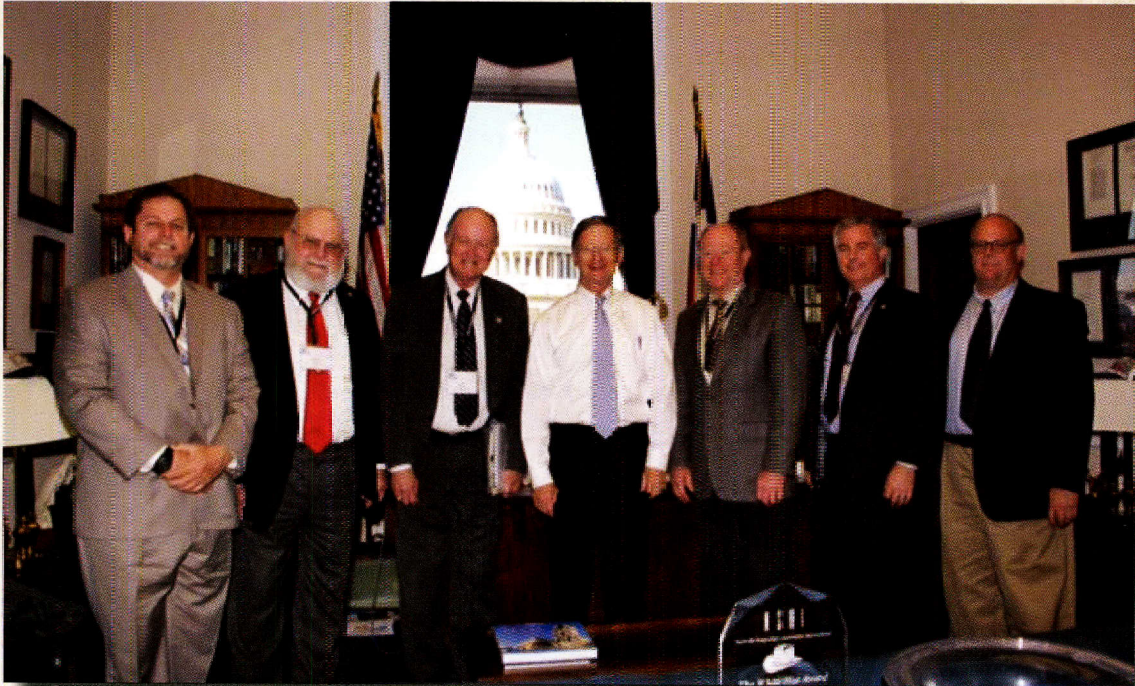


Photo by Shannon Moore

## Board Holds Meeting in Cuero

Guadalupe-Blanco River Authority officials held a workshop for its Board of Directors as well as its monthly Board of Directors meeting Wednesday, April 16, 2014, at the Chisholm Trail Heritage Museum, 302 North Esplanade in Cuero, Texas. Both sessions were open to the public. The board meeting followed GBRA's "Our Day to Shine," which also was held in Cuero this year.

It is a day when staff and family volunteers perform a community service project. The photo below shows Connie Rothe, board relations and publication specialist receiving a plaque for that project from a representative of the Green DeWitt Community Center.



Photos by LaMarriol Smith



# GBRA Volunteers Renovate the Green DeWitt Community Center

On March 29, 2014, GBRA volunteers chose the Green DeWitt Community Center near Cuervo in DeWitt County for their annual "Our Day to Shine" volunteer project.

Renovations included electrical work, installation of a central heating and air conditioning system, refinishing walls, replacing interior lighting and ceiling fans, remodeling the kitchen, rebuilding the front porch and installing outdoor security lighting.

About 45 GBRA employees and family members worked on the project.



GBRA Volunteers



Photos by Connie Rothe and Tammy Beutnagel

# HCP

## *The story within the story of the Edwards Aquifer Habitat Conservation Plan*

by Barbara Elmore

Water planners in the Edwards Aquifer Region want to tell people a series of important stories about water. But instead of a fairy tale that ends with “happily ever after,” these stories involve facts about Texas’ drought, the Edwards Aquifer Habitat Conservation Plan, and what’s happening to precious resources in the area served by the aquifer’s vital springs.

The happiest ending will arrive when the drought ends. Meanwhile, those charged with overseeing water have the HCP to help manage water use and to relate to the public what is occurring.

Some ongoing activities of the HCP, like spring flow protection, are unseen but necessary to conservation. Others are visible, said Nathan Pence, HCP program manager. “People are seeing things like vegetation restoration, removal of invasive species, and sediment removal.”

This story began in 2006 when U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service asked water planners to develop a way to recover endangered species that depend on the Edwards Aquifer. Planners included the Edwards Aquifer Authority, cities of New Braunfels and San Marcos, the San Antonio Water System board, GBRA, Texas State University, Texas Parks and Wildlife Department and USFWS.

By 2012, planners had created the HCP and began using it. Now they are developing another plan to keep the public informed as they act.

Droughts are never welcome, but for planning purposes, the current one began at the worst possible time: in the midst of the HCP’s creation. “We anticipated some time to get ramped up and prepared before drought got here, but we never realized the benefit of a ramp-up period,” Pence said. But the HCP’s measures are providing benefits by helping manage shrinking resources. As the drought continues, the HCP has anticipated events that will require specific actions, or triggers. These are based on things such as spring flow or aquifer levels. When actions are triggered, the public will know because issuing the message is part of the plan.

For example, the plan anticipates what would happen if a spring is no longer flowing in San Marcos or New Braunfels. “That would alarm the community, and we want them to know we are prepared for that, we knew this was going to happen, and that it would have happened even sooner without the HCP,” Pence said.

People are likely to hear regular messages as the drought continues. “Communicating the work of the HCP is important because people of the region need to understand the plan’s

benefit,” said GBRA public affairs officer LaMarriol Smith. “Without the HCP, the drought would have a much more significant impact on the Comal and San Marcos springs as well as the endangered species within those springs. People need to know the benefits of the HCP.”

Added Pence: “We can’t control the weather, but we can control how we prepare for extremely dry periods. That’s what the HCP is all about.”



*Fountain Darter*

Photo by Glenn Longley



*Texas Wild Rice*

Photo by Flo Oxley



*Texas Blind Salamander*

Photo by Gary Nails

# Wastewater Reclamation—A

These two opinion articles are reprinted with permission of the San Antonio Express-News. The articles originally appeared Sunday, Feb. 23, 2014, on the front of Section F in the San Antonio Express-News.

## Ratepayers, reclaimed water is yours – let's keep it

by Robert R. Puente  
FOR THE EXPRESS-NEWS



**A**t a time when Texas faces dwindling rivers, streams and lakes, as well as regulatory and legal pressures on all water supplies, San Antonio Water System is taking its next bold step as in industry leaders in sustainable environmental utility practices.

SAWS recently filed an application with the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality, which, when granted, would allow SAWS to retain ownership of its treated wastewater (or reclaimed water) even after it is released into the San Antonio River.

By retaining control of the water, we can utilize the bed and banks of the San Antonio River to transport water all the way to San Antonio Bay on the Gulf Coast, providing multiple benefits to the river along the entire route. This application is known as a “bed and banks” authorization.

Every day our ratepayers send more than 100 million gallons down the drain that is collected and treated by SAWS to near-drinking water standards. Once an environmental liability, this reclaimed water is now a valuable resource used to meet many competing needs.

For example, because San Antonio boasts the nation's largest direct recycled water system, reclaimed water is delivered each year to golf courses, Toyota, USAA, Microsoft and the San Antonio River Walk, among others.

Additionally, CPS Energy uses reclaimed water delivered under an earlier “bed and banks” authorization to cool its large power generation plants. SAWS sends reclaimed water down the river, and CPS Energy pumps it into Braunig and Calaveres lakes.

But the benefits of reclaimed water don't have to end there. Last year, regional stakeholders led by the San Antonio River Authority completed an extensive science-based effort recommending solutions to ensure adequate flows in the San Antonio River, even during drought.

A “bed and banks” authorization would help meet those recommendations. While in transit to the coast, SAWS reclaimed water would promote a broad range of instream uses, such as water quality and environmental protection, navigation, recreation, hydropower and aiding parks and game preserves along the 250-mile route.

None of the city's current uses of recycled water would be affected by this application. Moreover, a downstream user whose right to use river water was granted based on the availability of SAWS treated wastewater would be protected.

And as the amount of SAWS reclaimed water grows with San Antonio's population and the addition of new supplies, future additional quantities would be dedicated and protected to meet both environmental and future city needs.

San Antonio ratepayers own their reclaimed water, investing more than \$60,000 per day to clean it, and they deserve the authority to retain ownership and control of it even after it is discharged into the river. The right to do so was recognized by the Texas Legislature through the passage of SB 1 in 1997 and has been exercised by other responsible Texas cities.

Today, reclaimed water serves as a substitute for some Edwards Aquifer pumping, enhancing spring flows that contribute to the Guadalupe River. Tomorrow, it can be dedicated as a fresh water contribution to the bay and coastal estuaries that support important Texas wildlife resources, including the endangered whooping crane.

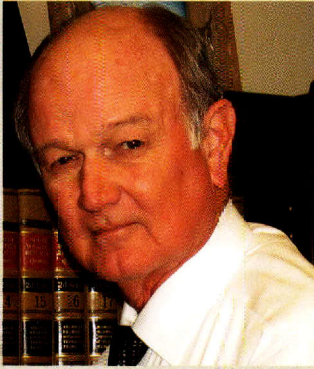
San Antonio's wastewater management and facilities were recently recognized by EPA administrator Gina McCarthy as the nation's best.

This application for a “bed and banks” authorization is the latest significant step by SAWS in successful water management, supporting the policies and investments made by our community to enhance the San Antonio River Basin all the way to the Texas coast.

*Robert R. Puente is president and CEO of the San Antonio Water System.*



# midstream change of rules?



## Hey, SAWS, there you go again sucking the region dry

by W.E. "Bill" West, Jr.  
FOR THE EXPRESS-NEWS

**W**ill the San Antonio Water System (SAWS) ever develop major NEW alternative water supplies before it severely depletes the Edwards Aquifer during a major drought?

Through its treatment centers, SAWS discharges about 132,000 acre-feet of treated effluent annually that ultimately flow into the San Antonio River.

On Dec. 26, 2013, SAWS submitted to the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality a "bed and banks authorization application."

SAWS' claim is that the return flows (treated effluent) comprise "developed" water derived from "privately owned groundwater." It proposes to use 50,000 acre-feet of return flows for instream use in certain counties and the remainder for municipal, agricultural, industrial, mining and instream use in Bexar and other counties.

In doing so, SAWS also requested a diversion point near the mouth of the Guadalupe River.

Here's why this "bed and banks," or B&B, permit is problematic regionally. Edwards Aquifer water serves an entire region.

Years ago, when aquifer pumping dried up the springs in San Antonio and practically depleted the San Antonio River, SAWS' predecessor, the City Water Board, told downstream parties not to worry because the spring flow would be replaced with its treated wastewater – fair and accepted for decades.

So, the B&B permit reneges on that deal.

SAWS has quite a history of manipulating the state's water laws in order to continue sapping the Edwards Aquifer rather than developing new sources of water. Consider:

➤ After years of work with multiple stakeholders, including SAWS, to reach an agreement on a U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service-approved Habitat Conservation Plan, or HCP, through the Edwards Aquifer Recovery Implementation Program, SAWS is competing with the HCP in acquiring available Edwards Aquifer Authority rights for the aquifer storage and recovery drought contingency. In developing the HCP, SAWS indicated it would not do that.

➤ Recently, SAWS has been supporting, if not instigating, the League of United Latin American Citizens lawsuit to give San Antonio a super majority on the EAA board of directors – a situation that would undermine regional support for the HCP.

➤ Several years ago SAWS was trying to buy water from the Guadalupe-Blanco River Authority, or GBRA, through the Lower Guadalupe Water Supply Project. Now it appears it just prefers to take it.

➤ SAWS put out a Request for Qualifications for a new water supply project and after repeatedly extending its deadline, SAWS staff has elected to abandon this option to further increase its dependence on the Edwards Aquifer using desalination.

➤ In July, TCEQ's executive director prepared a draft permit that would allow GBRA to develop a Mic-Basin Water Supply Project in Gonzales County that would supply about 24,000 acre-feet of water. When the Region L Water Planning Area, of which both SAWS and GBRA are members, adopted its 2011 plan, SAWS supported GBRA's Mid-Basin Project as a new water supply strategy. Yet last August, SAWS formally contested GBRA's permit application, claiming the permit may adversely affect SAWS' ability to reuse its "privately owned groundwater."

➤ GBRA is working with partners, including the General Land Office and the University of Texas San Antonio, on other water supply projects such as ocean water desalination on the gulf that could supply the region. When approached to consider being a partner, SAWS declined.

As President Ronald Reagan said, "There you go again."

Perhaps one day, SAWS will recognize it is not the only entity in South Texas that uses water and that interests downstream are not going to sit idly by to let SAWS dictate the rules of the game.

*Bill West is the general manager of the Guadalupe-Blanco River Authority.*

It's about

# Wato

now rath

by Barbara Elmore



# er er than later

“The bed and banks permit has the potential of dissolving all the hard work that we have done to develop water resources, to the detriment of the rest of the region.”

**A**s drought hovers over Texas for a fourth straight year, a decision about a GBRA water project that could help quench dry southern reaches of the state is ensnared in the state permitting process. The delay is no surprise to GBRA, but any holdup is a disappointment in the face of an ongoing lack of rain, the time required to move development projects forward, and ongoing water shortages for municipal, agricultural and industrial needs.

One of GBRA's most pressing water development endeavors, the Lower Basin Project, faces delays after San Antonio Water System applied to the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality for a "bed and banks" authorization on Dec. 30, 2013. In the application, SAWS asks for TCEQ permission to retain control of treated wastewater that it has been sending down the river for more than 50 years – water that GBRA has relied on in its estimates of supply when managing its water resources in the lower basin and planning for development of new water resources.

If approved, the permit would allow SAWS, which has more than 1.6 million customers in Bexar, Medina and Atascosa counties, to reuse more than 200,000 acre-feet of treated wastewater that it pumps from the Edwards Aquifer. SAWS claims this water as groundwater that it has developed because it would not exist without SAWS pumping and treating it. SAWS wants to divert the treated wastewater near the mouth of the Guadalupe River.

To get the matter quickly resolved and move the water development process along, GBRA filed a petition April 23 in Travis County District Court, asking for a declaration that GBRA has the authority to issue the bonds for its Lower Basin Project, and a resolution of legal issues that affect the Lower Basin Project, including the SAWS bed and banks application. Judge Stephen Yelenosky of 345th District Court heard arguments June 3 and ruled that TCEQ had primary jurisdiction, essentially dismissing GBRA's case. GBRA officials are consulting with their attorneys to consider options and determine their next steps, which may include an appeal.

GBRA points out that SAWS' claim to the treated effluent ignores historic use of the wastewater. Unlimited Edwards Aquifer pumping dried up the San Antonio and San Pedro springs within San Antonio in 1950. The treated effluent from the city replaced

much of the depleted spring water, and this new source was made available for users downstream. GBRA also claims that the treated effluent becomes state-owned surface water the moment it is released into the riverbed. Now SAWS wants to retrace its steps and hold onto the treated effluent after it is released into the river.

What SAWS should be doing, GBRA officials say, is moving forward on truly developing its own new water resources.

Greg Flores III, vice president of public affairs for SAWS, said the issue needs to be worked out at the TCEQ. "Our position is that GBRA's permits were issued prior to effluent being discharged," said Flores. "We did not discharge effluent into the river before 1950, and most of GBRA's permits were issued before that." SAWS also believes that the bed and banks application,

especially in times of severe drought. In the time that the proposal has been on the radar of state water planners, it has undergone changes in scope, but the goal has remained the same. The TCEQ has given its approval for part of the project by amending GBRA's senior water rights permits to allow for storage in off-channel reservoirs. The project would help meet downstream demands and relieve demands on Canyon Reservoir, making water available upstream.

For its start and completion, the Lower Basin Project would require the issuance of a maximum amount of \$100 million in bonds supported by revenues from the contracts that GBRA will have with the project's customers, and by GBRA's surplus revenues. GBRA plans to build off-channel storage, including pumps, pipelines and other equipment, in phases

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## **"San Antonio's bid to keep the treated wastewater throws a monkey wrench into GBRA's Lower Basin Project, which would create new water supplies for coastal communities."**

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if approved, would have little or no effect on GBRA's water rights.

But GBRA's general manager Bill West said San Antonio's bid to keep the treated wastewater throws a monkey wrench into GBRA's Lower Basin Project, which would create new water supplies for coastal communities – a project that has been included in regional planning efforts since 2011. The Lower Basin Project requires replacement wastewater for its start and completion, and counted on it because of the history of how it has been used. GBRA filed the court action so the matter can be dealt with quickly. "This issue will take years to resolve at the TCEQ, further delaying this badly needed project. This fast-growing region needs water sooner rather than later," West said.

But SAWS maintains that TCEQ is where the decision should be made. "The evaluation process of applications at TCEQ is in place to determine whether or not this is a change," Flores said. TCEQ is a "transparent place" for the issue to be worked out, he said. "GBRA is circumventing the process," he added.

### **The Lower Basin Project**

The Lower Basin Project is GBRA's long-term plan for providing a secure source of water to customers near the Texas coast,

Eventually, the storage would supply 100,000 acre-feet of water per year through an extension of GBRA's Canal System in Calhoun County.

But the water that SAWS has applied to retain is included in GBRA's 100,000 acre-feet estimates. GBRA included this treated wastewater in its figuring because it is water that has historically passed downstream. GBRA describes its use of the water as "early-priority water rights issued long ago by the State of Texas and adjudicated by the courts."

"A big component of that flow we are counting on is return flow," West said. "Our permits go back to the 1940s and 1950s, and we have been pumping that for a long time. Now SAWS is saying that it's a new class of water that is not subject to those claims. So, that argument bypasses our water rights."

A key part of the issue is the surface water/groundwater determination. SAWS' applications says that because the effluent is groundwater, state laws governing use of surface water do not apply in this case. That's an argument that Texas water managers and municipalities have been fighting for decades, West noted. If the issue goes to a hearing, finding a resolution could take years.

GBRA's declaratory request is designed to deal with the issue quickly.

West believes history is on GBRA's side. When aquifer pumping dried up the springs and almost dried up the San Antonio River in the 1950s, San Antonio's City Water Board, the precursor to SAWS, told downstream users it would replace lost spring flows with treated effluent, West said. Now SAWS wants to change that. "They dry up their springs and they keep their treated effluent – if you fast forward a few years, we would have a mud hole. That's why we have decided we must defend our constituents and build the Lower Basin Project."

The decision about the project cannot come too soon for GBRA. Said West, "The bed and banks permit has the potential of dissolving all the hard work that we have done to develop water resources, to the detriment of the rest of the region. We are trying to protect our senior water rights."

### Drought's Legacy

Arguments over who owns the water occur most often during droughts, when there is less water to go around. In the current drought, "abnormally dry" is the best ranking Texas residents can hope for. In mid-May, 75 percent of the state was suffering through various other drought rankings: severe, extreme or exceptional, according to a U.S. Drought Monitor map. Earlier in May, before heavy storms, more than 80 percent of the state was in drought.

While farmers, ranchers, homeowners and industries clamor for water, providers are getting creative. One Texas city, Wichita Falls, is working on a "toilet-to-tap" recycling program for residents' use this year. El Paso is home to the world's largest inland desalination operation, the Kay Bailey Hutchison Desalination Plant. A similar plant would convert brackish water in San Antonio, but no ground has yet been broken.

Meanwhile, the region needs a reliable water supply now, and droughts present a threat, said West. "Our senior water rights are 95 percent-plus reliable, but they are not reliable through a drought like the one of the 1950s." And in 2011, Texas' drought grew so severe that industrial customers feared they would not have the water they needed to do business.

As the drought worsens, support has grown for two of GBRA's projects – the previously mentioned Lower Basin and another, the Mid-Basin Project. The Mid-Basin Project would develop new water to

serve the rapidly developing Central Texas region that includes Hays, Comal, Caldwell, Guadalupe and Gonzales counties.

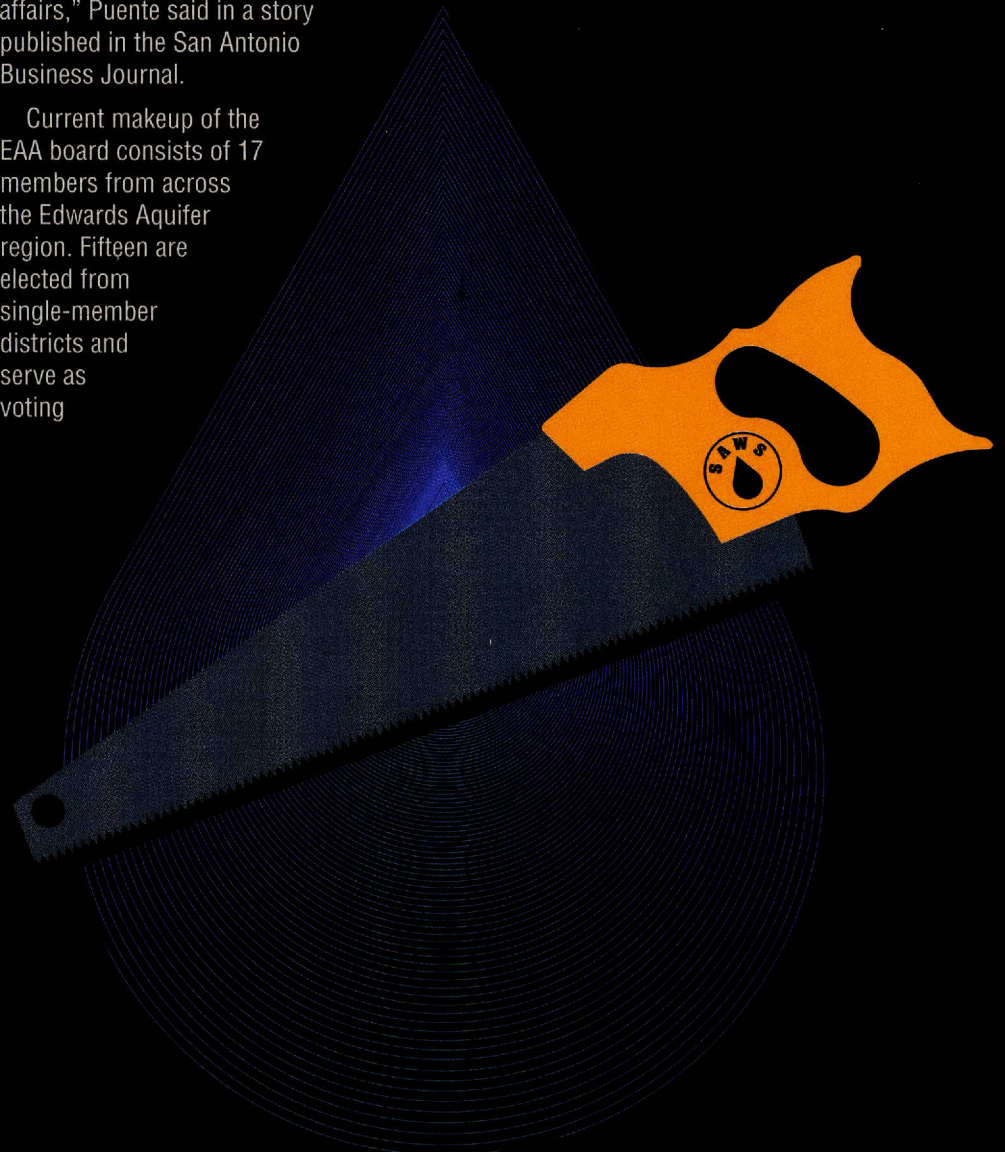
SAWS is contesting this project too, West said – although SAWS president and CEO Robert Puente previously supported it by voting for it in a regional water plan. By last August, however, SAWS was contesting a GBRA permit for the plan by saying the Mid-Basin Project might have an effect on SAWS' downstream interests.

SAWS has also joined a LULAC lawsuit against the makeup of the board of the Edwards Aquifer Authority. LULAC's suit claims that the method of electing the board does not provide equal representation of minorities. SAWS, as a party to the suit, wants to install more representatives from Bexar County to the EAA board. "If the Court grants the relief requested by LULAC, minority voters and residents of Bexar County — the great majority of whom are SAWS customers — stand to gain greater representation on the EAA Board and a more representative voice in the EAA's affairs," Puente said in a story published in the San Antonio Business Journal.

Current makeup of the EAA board consists of 17 members from across the Edwards Aquifer region. Fifteen are elected from single-member districts and serve as voting

members. Two are non-voting members and are appointed, one by the South Central Texas Water Advisory Committee and another by the commissioners courts of Medina and Uvalde counties. The EAA collaborates with other groundwater districts and related groups.

GBRA believes that SAWS' intervention into the LULAC lawsuit is a reach for power over water supplies in a large region, part of which SAWS has no responsibility to supply water to. GBRA does have that responsibility, however. "If they are successful, this will provide San Antonio and Bexar County with control of the Edwards Aquifer Authority board," West said.



“This would give SAWS super control over what happens with regard to the aquifer, to the detriment of the rest of the region.”

### Current, Future Water Supplies at Risk

In addition to the drought, the growth of Texas puts more pressure on planning future water supplies. Some projections

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**As the drought worsens, support has grown for two of GBRA’s projects – the previously mentioned Lower Basin and another, the Mid-Basin Project. The Mid-Basin Project would develop new water to serve the rapidly developing Central Texas region that includes Hays, Comal, Caldwell, Guadalupe and Gonzales counties.**

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say the population of Texas will grow from 26 million now to 40 million by 2050. The development of the Eagle Ford Shale in South Texas might continue for two more decades.

Development of water resources has not kept pace with population growth, and water planners at GBRA, politicians who are concerned about Texas’ economy and voters who approved Proposition 6 to help fund water projects say that Texas cannot afford to wait any longer to develop new water

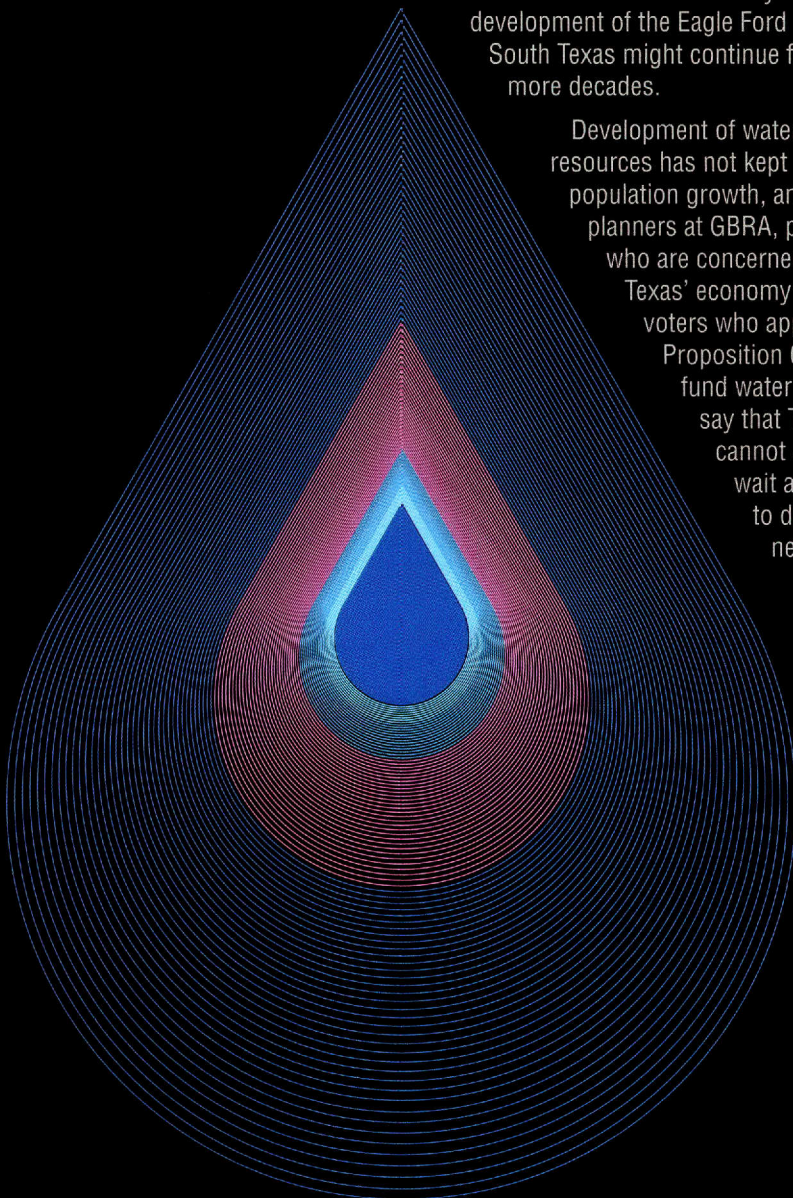
resources. Because approved projects sit on the shelf for decades, Texas’ House Committee on Environmental Regulation is studying the amount of time it takes for permits to be issued. Meanwhile, water projects for other areas are moving ahead of GBRA’s longtime projects, West noted. “Because of pending litigation on our project, we get sent to the back of the line.”

Intervenors in the declaratory petition that GBRA filed include several other entities, in addition to SAWS.

“Others are following the case intently and may intervene with GBRA,” said Tom Bohl, GBRA’s general counsel.

GBRA’s leaders want to see the matters settled quickly so that they can move ahead with water projects. They are trying to determine their path after the June 3 dismissal of their case. Once current obstacles to the Lower Basin Project are removed, the next step is to arrange for financing. West said the cost is palatable to the user, especially since the project would relieve water problems in growth areas.

Growth in the region makes moving forward now mandatory, he said. “As we go down that path, through the prescribed permitting process, we encounter various obstacles. But whether we are challenged by SAWS or some other entity, we are moving forward.”



# Land Conservation Education Efforts Continue Through the Watershed

by Jeff Crosby



Photo by Tara Bushnoe

**T**he mission of the Guadalupe-Blanco River Trust (GBR Trust) is to preserve the unique natural heritage of the Guadalupe River watershed for future generations by protecting open landscapes, working farms and ranches, and wildlife habitat through conservation easements, education and outreach that connects people to the water and the land. A critical component of that mission is outreach and education to farmers, ranchers, property owners and other members of the general public about the benefits of land conservation.

Some of these benefits include the preservation of productive farm and ranch lands, the protection of water quality, reducing the impacts of urban sprawl, creating recreational opportunities through the creation of greenbelts and trails and the overall enhancement of the quality of life in the region.

The importance of these benefits has never been more evident than with the release of recent statistics confirming the growth experienced in central and south-central Texas. Some

of the fastest growing counties are found in the Guadalupe River watershed. In the numbers released in March, the U.S. Department of Agriculture census found that the state of Texas lost 240,000 acres of open space in the previous five years, or over 75 square miles of wide open Texas. With 95 percent of Texas in private ownership and the continued projected growth of the state, reaching out to the private landowners and working with them to protect the natural resources of Texas is crucial.

This is where the GBR Trust comes in. Actively planning, organizing and participating in outreach efforts and educational opportunities throughout the basin is a key strategy to protecting the most cherished resources of the unique Guadalupe, Blanco, San Marcos and Comal River watersheds. To find out more about upcoming events, visit the GBR Trust website – [www.gbrtrust.org](http://www.gbrtrust.org).

# WHERE ARE THEY NOW?

## Judy Gardner

by Tammy Beutnagel



Photo by Bob Gardner

*Report*, and coordinated a water education program to more than 7,500 elementary students.

Gardner remembers standing at the top of the Canyon Reservoir in 1998 watching flood waters spew over the emergency spillway and flying over the Guadalupe River by helicopter to witness the extreme flood event.

Last May, the Gardners sold their Seguin home and moved to an apartment in Tomball, Texas, to be near their daughter Lisa and her family. "Our oldest grandson, Austin, will start college next fall, and we want to be there to share every day we have and not miss another minute of their lives," Gardner said. With their other daughter living in New York, not having a house with a lawn to upkeep anymore gives them time to also visit her.

Today, Gardner enjoys working with the Tomball Chamber of Commerce, assisting with media and publicity. Taking some continuing adult education classes at Houston Community College and completing her Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) training also keeps her busy.

Judy and Bob, married 46 years this year, love to travel. And if travel trunks were still used today, Gardner's trunk would be completely covered with stickers - the kind that sport exciting destinations, such as Italy, Greece, Turkey, Cyprus, Egypt, China, France, Spain, Canada, Alaska, New England, the western

U.S., and national parks. London, a Baltic cruise to the Scandinavian countries, and Russia remain on their bucket list for the near future.

Texan and country singer Lyle Lovett's song, "That's Right" (You're not from Texas, Texas wants you anyway) describes a friendly Texas disposition. When Judy Gardner moved to the Lone Star state in 1973, she felt that friendliness in Seguin. "I loved the small town atmosphere, and I had the privilege of working with some of the nicest people I ever met," she said.

Gardner's husband, Bob, had accepted a job transfer to San Antonio from New Jersey, resulting in the Texas move. For the next 40 years, they became "Seguinites." Raising two daughters, Lisa and Lauren, Gardner also received her Montessori teaching certification, and was president of the school board.

In 1991, Gardner was offered the position of public communications assistant at GBRA by David Welsch. Later, she was promoted to manager of communications and education by Bill West. She studied GBRA's various divisions, corresponded with media, wrote press releases, brochures, the *Water Resources Report* newsletter, and GBRA's *Comprehensive Annual Financial*

### Judy Gardner

Started at GBRA—1991 | Phone—(830) 305-1262

Retired at GBRA—2007 | Email—[jgautremail@gmail.com](mailto:jgautremail@gmail.com)



# employee anniversaries @ gbra

GBRA recognizes the following employees for the dedication of service. (These employees started with GBRA between the months of March and July.)

| March        |                   |                        |          | May       |                        |                         |    | June   |                    |                        |    |
|--------------|-------------------|------------------------|----------|-----------|------------------------|-------------------------|----|--|--------------------|------------------------|----|
| 3/4/2014     | Michael Schultze  | Hydro                  | 38       | 5/17/2014 | Juan Juarez            | Hydro                   | 38 | 6/25/2014  | David Welsch       | Water Resources        | 41 |
| 3/1/2014     | Jimmy Wyatt       | Water Resources        | 34       | 5/10/2014 | Thomas Hill            | Water Resources         | 38 | 6/27/2014  | Jeffrey McKee      | Hydro                  | 37 |
| 3/23/2014    | John Smith        | Water Resources        | 33       | 5/2/2014  | Joseph Downey          | Luling WTP              | 36 | 6/1/2014   | Carl Korth         | Coleta Creek Reservoir | 31 |
| 3/26/2014    | Michael Tompkins  | Calhoun Canal          | 30       | 5/5/2014  | James King             | Hydro                   | 34 | 6/10/2014  | Sammy Salas        | Luling WTP             | 28 |
| 3/31/2014    | Marlon McAdams    | Coleta Creek Reservoir | 28       | 5/4/2014  | Alvin Schuerg          | General                 | 33 | 6/7/2014   | Tamra Beutnagel    | General                | 15 |
| 3/21/2014    | Richard Matheaus  | RUD                    | 26       | 5/31/2014 | Alan Zolnosky          | Coleta Creek Recreation | 31 | 6/1/2014   | Todd Votteler      | General                | 14 |
| 3/15/2014    | Michael Helmke    | Hydro                  | 10       | 5/19/2014 | Michael Urrutia        | Water Resources         | 27 | 6/21/2014  | Janet Thome        | General                | 13 |
| 3/29/2014    | Christopher Lewis | General                | 9        | 5/1/2014  | Leroy Garza            | San Marcos WTP          | 25 | 6/23/2014  | Teresa Van Booven  | Water Resources        | 11 |
| 3/21/2014    | Leigh Crettenden  | General                | 8        | 5/1/2014  | Yolanda Pierce         | General                 | 13 | 6/30/2014  | Daphne Harder      | General                | 10 |
| 3/11/2014    | Russell Hester    | Hydro                  | 1        | 5/12/2014 | Cynthia Thomas-Jimenez | General                 | 11 | 6/15/2014  | Allen Lawson       | Western Canyon         | 5  |
| 3/10/2014    | Jeffrey Schuehle  | Hydro                  | New Hire | 5/2/2014  | Norma Harvey           | General                 | 9  | 6/6/2014   | Christopher Harder | Western Canyon         | 3  |
| 3/10/2014    | Robert O'Keefe    | Lab                    | New Hire | 5/11/2014 | Denise Lyssy           | General                 | 7  | <b>July</b>  |                    |                        |    |
| 3/3/2014     | Pamela Stark      | Lab                    | New Hire | 5/18/2014 | Hunter Duncan          | Western Canyon          | 7  | 7/6/2014   | Debbie Magin       | Water Resources        | 38 |
| <b>April</b> |                   |                        |          | 5/19/2014 | Jaynellen Ladd         | Water Resources         | 6  | 7/10/2014  | Joel Heideke       | RUD                    | 36 |
| 4/16/2014    | Darryl Jandt      | Hydro                  | 32       | 5/19/2014 | Joey Kisiah            | Port Lavaca WTP         | 6  | 7/2/2014   | David Kenda        | Hydro                  | 32 |
| 4/26/2014    | Jim Lumley        | Calhoun Canal          | 32       | 5/4/2014  | Clint Retzliff         | Hydro                   | 5  | 7/2/2014   | Allen Ognoskie     | Hydro                  | 30 |
| 4/24/2014    | Roland Henry      | Hydro                  | 27       | 5/23/2014 | Casey Salinas          | Lab                     | 3  | 7/28/2014  | Lee Gudgell        | Water Resources        | 11 |
| 4/7/2014     | Reagan Ploetz     | Hydro                  | 27       | 5/14/2014 | Joseph Tschatschula    | Port Lavaca WTP         | 3  | 7/15/2014  | Mark Wagner        | San Marcos WTP         | 1  |
| 4/11/2014    | David Maltony     | Hydro                  | 19       | 5/14/2014 | Charles Hickman        | Water Resources         | 2  | The information for the employee anniversary list was compiled by Daphne Harder, Human Resources Department of the Office of Finance and Administration. |                    |                        |    |
| 4/22/2014    | Curtis Gosnell    | Calhoun Canal          | 12       | 5/7/2014  | Daniel Beckendorf      | Coleta Creek Recreation | 2  |  |                    |                        |    |
| 4/13/2014    | Paulette Cowey    | General                | 8        |           |                        |                         |    |  |                    |                        |    |
| 4/5/2014     | David Garcia      | Port Lavaca WTP        | 8        |           |                        |                         |    |  |                    |                        |    |
| 4/17/2014    | Brent Howard      | Port Lavaca WTP        | 4        |           |                        |                         |    |  |                    |                        |    |
| 4/18/2014    | Billy Penney      | Calhoun Canal          | 3        |           |                        |                         |    |  |                    |                        |    |
| 4/24/2014    | James Kelley      | San Marcos WTP         | 2        |           |                        |                         |    |  |                    |                        |    |
| 4/8/2014     | Rodney Guice      | Calhoun Canal          | 1        |           |                        |                         |    |  |                    |                        |    |
| 4/14/2014    | Carl Westergard   | General                | New Hire |           |                        |                         |    |  |                    |                        |    |



Photo GBRA archives



Juan Juarez

Photo by Connie Rothe

# GBRA *Training & Licenses*

**Kyle Caraway** of Calhoun County RWSS attended trainings for Pumps and Pumping, Valve and Hydrant - PC0217/CC0961, TTWUA - CSI/CCC - PC0217/CC0173/0043, and Customer Service Inspection TWUA "Day School," Pipeline Safety, Pipeline Awareness for Excavator Operations and Cross-Connection Control.

**Don Koble** of Calhoun County RWSS attended the Water Conservation Plan Webcast #1, Water Conservation, TWUA "Day School," TWDB Water Audit, SCADA/IT Security Workshop, FISH/Supervisor, CMI-Drug and Alcohol and Water Conservation #2 training.

**Alan Schneider** of Coletto Reservoir attended GBRA Supervisor Training, received his Non-Commercial Political Pesticide Applicator License, and attended the SCADA/IT Security Workshop, attended the trainings for CMI-Drug and Alcohol, FISH/Supervisor, and Reservoir EAP, and Annual Midcoast Hurricane/Disaster Conference.

**Marlon McAdams** of Coletto Reservoir attended the Electric Power Custom - Electrical Safety, attended SCADA/IT Security Workshop, Reservoir EAP Training, and Annual Midcoast Hurricane/Disaster Conference.

**Wilfred Korth** of Coletto Recreation attended trainings for GBRA Supervisors, Pesticide Applicator Recertification - General Safety and Integrated Pest Management, Pesticide Applicator Recertification - Laws and Regulations, Pesticide Applicator Recertification - General Safety and Drift Minimization, Electric Power Custom - Electrical Safety, and attended the Texas Master Naturalists State Meeting. He received his Non-Commercial Political Pesticide Applicator License, attended the Level II Electrical Endorsement, Certified Park and Recreation Professional, and attended trainings for CMI-Drug and Alcohol, FISH/Supervisor, and Reservoir EAP.

**Daniel Beckendorf** of Coletto Recreation attended the Certified Guide and Reservoir EAP Training.

**Tirso Hinojosa III** of Coletto Recreation attended trainings for Certified Guide, Electric Power Custom - Electrical Safety, Certified Interpretive Guide, Level II Electrical Endorsement and Reservoir EAP.

**Curtis Seiler** of Coletto Recreation attended the Victoria Farm and Ranch Show - TDA CEUs, attended trainings for the Electric Power Custom Training - Electrical Safety, Level II Electrical Endorsement and Reservoir EAP.

**Joshua Dennis** of Luling WTP attended Electric Power Custom Training - Electrical Safety and received his "D" Water Operator license.

**Joe Downey** of Luling WTP attended trainings for Electric Power Custom Training - Electrical Safety, SCADA/IT Security Workshop, CMI-Drug and Alcohol, and FISH/Supervisor.

**Samuel Salas** of Luling WTP attended Electric Power Custom Training - Electrical Safety and the SCADA/IT Security Workshop.

**Scott Kolbe** of Canyon Hydro attended Electric Power Custom Training - Electrical Safety.

**Jason Eeds** of Lockhart WWTP attended Electric Power Custom Training - Electrical Safety, and SCADA/IT Security Workshop.

**Eric Mendez** of Lockhart WWTP attended the Electric Power Custom Training - Electrical Safety.

**Eduardo Montana** of Lockhart WWTP attended Electric Power Custom Training - Electrical Safety, he also attended trainings for CMI-Drug and Alcohol, FISH/Supervisor, and SCADA/IT Security Workshop.

**Daniel Wilhelm** of Lockhart WTP attended Electric Power Custom Training - Electrical Safety, and received his "D" Water Operator License.

**Joe Leal** of Lockhart WTP attended the Electric Power Custom Training - Electrical Safety.

**Richard Gonzales** of Lockhart WTP attended Electric Power Custom Training - Electrical Safety.

**Hunter Duncan** of Western Canyon earned his "B" Surface Water License.

**Richard Gaona** of Calhoun Canal attended TWUA "Day School," Pipeline Safety, attended trainings for FISH/Supervisor, CMI - Drug and Alcohol, and Hurricane Conference.

**Rodney Guice** of Calhoun Canal Division attended TWUA "Day School," and Pipeline Safety.

**Billy Penney** of Calhoun Canal Division attended TWUA "Day School," and Pipeline Safety.

**Michael Tompkin** of Calhoun Canal Division attended TWUA "Day School," Pipeline Safety, Feed Pumps, Solar Grid/Air Mixers, and Hurricane Conference.

## In Memoriam: John C. Taylor, Jr. 1925-2014

John Clifton Taylor, Jr., 88, died Friday, June 6, 2014, in Austin, Texas. Funeral services were held Saturday, June 14 at Goetz Funeral Home in Seguin with interment at the Thompsonville Cemetery.



Photo GBRA archives

Taylor served on the GBRA board of directors for 21 years having been appointed by four Texas Governors — Preston Smith, Dolph Briscoe, Mark White, and Ann Richards. He served four terms as Board Chair from 1989-1992. In 1997, the GBRA board bestowed upon Taylor the title of board member emeritus.

Taylor was born Aug. 8, 1925, in Gonzales, Texas, to John Clifton Taylor Sr., and

Eva Lincecum Kolar. He attended San Marcos Military Academy, graduated from Gonzales High School and joined the U.S. Marine Corps from 1943-1945. Taylor graduated from Southwest Texas State University in San Marcos, with a degree in journalism and began his writing career with the *San Antonio Light* as a correspondent. In 1954 Taylor bought the *Seguin Gazette* and ultimately sold it in 1979. Taylor earned numerous journalism and civic awards throughout his career and assisted with the campaign to build a new city hospital, and the Seguin-Guadalupe County Coliseum.

Taylor and his wife Juanita, who preceded him in death, were married 45 years and raised seven children.

Survivors include daughters, Elizabeth Ann Taylor of Cedar Creek, Kay Taylor of Gallup, N.M., and Eva Elise Weinstein and her husband, Dean, of Hunt; son-in-law Ron Watts of Austin; several grandchildren and many great-grandchildren.

Taylor also was preceded in death by his parents and his stepfather, Bill Kolar; his son, John Clifton Taylor III and daughters, Nancy Lee Taylor Watts, Marilyn Margaret Taylor and Bonnie Sue Taylor.

**Herbert Wittliff** of Calhoun Canal Division attended the Water Conservation, TWUA "Day School," and trainings for Pipeline Safety, FISH/Supervisor and the CMI - Drug and Alcohol.

**Ryan Boedeker** of Calhoun RWSS attended the TWUA "Day School."

**Jason Lewis** of Coletto Creek Recreation attended the Reservoir EAP Training.

**Sara Vazquez** of Coletto Creek Recreation attended Reservoir EAP Training.

**Sam Widmer** of Coletto Creek Recreation attended Reservoir EAP Training.

**Alan Zolnosky** of Coletto Creek Recreation attended Reservoir EAP Training.

**Jason Irby** of Coletto Creek Reservoir attended Reservoir EAP Training.

**Carl Korth** of Coletto Creek Reservoir attended Reservoir EAP Training and Annual Midcoast Hurricane/Disaster Conference.

**John Urban** of Coletto Creek Reservoir attended Reservoir EAP Training, and Annual Midcoast Hurricane/Disaster Conference.

**Gary Asbury** of General attended SCADA/IT Security Workshop.

**Patti Coggins** of General attended SCADA/IT Security Workshop.

**Leigh Crettenden** of General attended trainings for CMI-Drug and Alcohol, SCADA/IT Security Workshop, and FISH/Supervisor.

**Barbara Gunn** of General attended trainings for CMI-Drug and Alcohol Training, and FISH/Supervisor, and SCADA/IT Security Workshop.

**Daphne Harder** of General attended CMI-Drug and Alcohol, and FISH/Supervisor Training.

**Susan Hubbert** of General attended FISH/Supervisor Training.

**Alvin Schuerg** of General attended SCADA/IT Security Workshop.

**Sandra Terry** of General attended SCADA/IT Security Workshop, and FISH/Supervisor Training.

**Janet Thome** of General attended Illustrator Training Boot Camp.

**Wallis Gudgell** of Hydro attended SCADA/IT Security Workshop.

**Jeffrey McKee** of Hydro attended CMI-Drug and Alcohol, and FISH/Supervisor Training, and SCADA/IT Security Workshop.

**Allen Ognoskie** of Hydro attended CMI-Drug and Alcohol, and FISH/Supervisor Training, and SCADA/IT Security Workshop.

**Michael Schultze** of Hydro attended CMI-Drug and Alcohol Training.

**Josephine Longoria** of Lab attended Selftrack, CMI-Drug and Alcohol, and FISH/Supervisor Training.

**James Lucas** of Luling received his "D" Water Operator license.

**David Garcia** of Port Lavaca WTP attended SCADA/IT Security Workshop, Pipeline Safety, Electrician CE Course, and Hurricane Conference.

**Brent Howard** of Port Lavaca WTP attended Pump and Motor maintenance.

**Joey Kisiah** of Port Lavaca WTP attended Pipeline Safety.

**David Lundin** of Port Lavaca WTP attended Water Utility Calculations.

**Linda McPherson** of Port Lavaca WTP attended Water Conservation, and attended trainings for CMI-Drug and Alcohol, and FISH/Supervisor.

**Ronnie Parenica** of Port Lavaca WTP attended the TWUA-"Day School", Pipeline Safety, Water Utility Calculations, attended trainings for Feed Pumps, and Solar Grid/Air Mixers.

**Stephanie Shelly** of Port Lavaca WTP attended the Water Conservation, FISH/Supervisor, and attended trainings for CMI - Drug and Alcohol, and attended the Hurricane Conference.

**Joseph Tschatschula** of Port Lavaca WTP attended Pipeline Safety Training.

**Joel Heideke** of RUD attended SCADA/IT Security Workshop, and the FISH/Supervisor Training.

## In Memoriam: E.T. Summers, Jr. 1918-2014

E.T. Summers, Jr., age 95, died on May 13, 2014 in Cuero, Texas. Appointed to the GBRA board of directors from 1972-1989, Summers served as the representative for DeWitt County.

Summers graduated from Cuero High School and received his degree at University of Texas in Austin in 1939. He returned to Cuero to work at the family business, Coca-Cola Bottling Company. Summers then joined the U.S. Army and received rank as captain. In 1941, he married Lou Cretia Morris and they had three children. The couple was married 63 years, prior to her death in 2005.

While serving in the Army, Summers attended Harvard Business School and was deployed in Europe during World War II. After the war, Summers returned home to Cuero where he became President of Coca-Cola from 1955 to 1985.

Summers was also a member of the Trust Texas Bank Board of Directors (formerly Cuero Federal Savings & Loan Association), from 1951 until his death, serving as its Chairman from 1990 through 2013.

Summers is survived by his three children: Linda Summers Wagner and husband, Ed Wagner of Port Lavaca, Toby Summers and wife, Lana Summers of San Antonio, and John M. Summers and wife, Nancy Summers of Meridian, Mississippi, and grandchildren, Mary Rossi (Art), Benjamin W. Summers (Andrea), Raymond S. Wagner (Juliet), Zachary T. Summers (Jenny), Elizabeth Summers Gore (Rhett), Sarah Summers, and Caroline Summers.

A private graveside service was held on May 17, followed by a celebration of life at the First Baptist Church in Cuero.

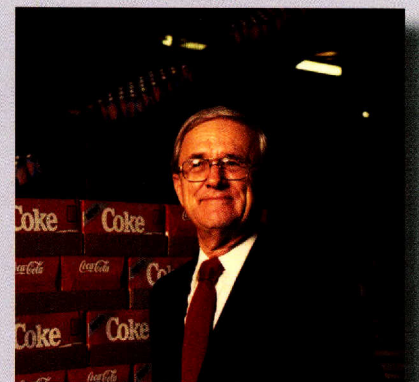


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## Mark Your Calendar

June 18, 2014

GBRA Board Meeting  
River Annex Bldg., Seguin, TX  
<http://www.gbra.org/board/meetings.aspx>

July 4, 2014

U.S. Independence Day Holiday

July 16, 2014

GBRA Board Meeting  
River Annex Bldg., Seguin, TX  
<http://www.gbra.org/board/meetings.aspx>

July 18, 2014

Water Environment Association of Texas  
Water Reuse in Texas Conference  
George R. Brown Convention Ctr., Houston, TX  
<http://www.weat.org/>

July 28-30, 2014

National Water Resources Association  
Western Water Seminar & Golf Tournament  
Little America Hotel, Flagstaff, AZ  
<http://www.nwra.org/general-information.html>

Aug. 20, 2014

GBRA Board Meeting  
River Annex Bldg., Seguin, TX  
<http://www.gbra.org/board/meetings.aspx>

Sept. 1, 2014

Labor Day Holiday

Sept. 11-12, 2014

Texas Desal 2014  
Hilton Austin Airport, Austin, TX  
<http://www.texasdesal.com/>

Sept. 17, 2014

GBRA Board Meeting  
River Annex Bldg., Seguin, TX  
<http://www.gbra.org/board/meetings.aspx>

Below Saltwater Barrier, Calhoun County

Photo by Bryan Serold

