

GBF GAZETTE

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Winter 2011 Gazette

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Save these dates!

- April 30 - Marsh Mania
- May 21 - Bay Day
- June 4 - Oyster Restoration Benefit
- June 11 - Marsh Mania
- September 4 - Redfish Raft Up
- September 28 - Guardian of the Bay Luncheon
- October 8-9 - Bike Around the Bay

Land Conservation Program Preserves Thousands of Acres

Most Galveston Bay Foundation (GBF) followers are well aware of the work GBF does to restore coastal habitats, educate citizens on environmental issues, and advocate for sound environmental practices surrounding the Galveston Bay estuary. What some of you may not know is that GBF is also a regional land trust dedicated to conserving property with high ecological function and value. Land conservation has been a priority for GBF since incorporation in 1987, and today preservation efforts are expanding as urban areas continue to encroach on critical wildlife habitats in the Galveston Bay region. GBF has successfully conserved 3,369 acres of coastal marsh, prairie, and forest in three counties, and new projects are in the works. Focal areas for land conservation include the immediate watersheds of Galveston Bay in Brazoria, Galveston, Harris, and Chambers counties.

In efforts to achieve land conservation goals, two approaches are commonly utilized. First, donations and grant funding are used to gain ownership of targeted conservation properties, and second, conserva-

tion easements are used to preserve privately owned parcels of land. With limited grant dollars available for land conservation and increased competition for the same annual funding sources, the conservation easement is arguably the most valuable tool a land trust can use to preserve land.

A conservation easement is a written real estate agreement between a private landowner and a qualified conservation organization. This voluntary easement restricts certain land uses and rights of a property in order to protect resources important to the landowner. The landowner retains full ownership of the property and can also reserve the right to build additional structures, grow crops, raise cattle, or employ other compatible land uses. The property can be sold, donated, or passed on to family members, but the restrictions negotiated within the conservation easement are permanently tied to the land.

Additionally, landowners who donate a conservation easement may qualify for some significant tax incentives. (Continued on Page 10)

Galveston Bay Foundation	News from the President	By Bob Stokes
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I usually reserve this column to discuss an issue, but I have decided to feature an organization this time-- EarthShare of Texas. Galveston Bay Foundation has been a member of EarthShare of Texas for several years. EarthShare of Texas is a coalition or federation of more than 70 local, state, national and international non-profit environmental groups that have joined together to participate in workplace giving programs.

Payroll contribution campaigns at workplaces are a cost-effective means for non-profit organizations to generate support for their program work. Traditional workplace giving programs focused only on local health and human service agencies, with environmental organizations almost always excluded. To fill that void, a group of Texas conservation leaders came together in 1992 and created what would become EarthShare of Texas. EarthShare of Texas is now part of the national EarthShare organization, which has affiliates in 18 different states.

In 2007, nearly \$300 million of charitable payroll donations were collected in the State of Texas. It's a huge sum of money. However, EarthShare of Texas's percentage of that was only about one-third of one percent, collecting just under \$1 million of that money. It is really just scratching the surface of the funding that is being donated through workplace giving.

This is primarily due to the fact that only a small fraction of companies offer their employees the opportunity to make a workplace donation through EarthShare of Texas. If your company currently offers you the opportunity to make a workplace donation through

EarthShare of Texas, you are one of the lucky few.

However, there is good news on the horizon. More and more employees are asking their employers for additional choices when it comes to their workplace giving contributions. Data shows that overall giving goes up when an employer adds EarthShare of Texas as an option and that EarthShare of Texas does not compete for the same funds already being donated to other charitable federations or causes.

Also, more and more companies are elevating being "green" to their corporate identity. What better way to be green than to add EarthShare of Texas as a giving opportunity for company employees? Recent additions to the list of corporate entities participating in EarthShare include Wal-Mart and JPMorgan Chase. But there are lots of smaller companies that participate as well. And employees can be confident that their donations through EarthShare of Texas are one hundred percent donor directed. If the employee chooses for his or her money to go to the Galveston Bay Foundation through EarthShare of Texas, then that is precisely where the money will go.

If you work for a company that does not currently offer its employees the opportunity to make a workplace donation through EarthShare of Texas and you would like more information, please contact me at bstokes@galvbay.org or visit their website at www.earthshare-texas.org for more information. We'd love to see you join the growing number of employees who donate through EarthShare of Texas!



GBF is a 501(c)(3) organization affiliated with EarthShare of Texas and with Restore America's Estuaries.

407 Crab Traps Removed During 2011 Abandoned Crab Trap Removal

Each year, the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department (TPWD) closes crabbing in all Texas waters for a 10-day period in February. Any trap left in the water during those ten days is considered litter under state law and is susceptible to being removed. TPWD and volunteers, statewide, have been removing crab traps during this closure since 2002, and have recovered nearly 28,000 traps. GBF aids the TPWD program to remove traps during the closed period by providing equipment and volunteers to help with the effort.

Not only are abandoned traps hazardous to wildlife, they are unsightly, problematic for fishers and boaters, and can even smother seagrasses.

GBF thanks all of the volunteers who helped make this event successful, especially the Anahuac Game Wardens, Chambers County Parks Department, Hurricane Club and the Texas Airboat Association.



This year, on February 19, GBF staff and over 50 volunteers pulled 407 abandoned crab traps from Trinity Bay and the Trinity River delta. This is more than double the amount of traps pulled last year!

The traps are left in the water for a variety of reasons. Some are misplaced, others are abandoned by crabbers no longer in business, and some are simply left out with the hope they will not be pulled during this annual 10-day period. The majority of traps found were empty, but several contained dead crabs and skeletons of some sort, and one contained the shell of a Texas diamondback terrapin, a turtle species that is federally listed as a "species of concern" and is unique to saltwater marshes and estuaries.



Volunteers helped to pull 407 abandoned crab traps from Trinity Bay and the surrounding delta.

EarthShare of Texas H-E-B 2011 Tear Pad Program

The Galveston Bay Foundation is pleased to announce that H-E-B has selected EarthShare of Texas to be the beneficiary of its in-store coupon promotion for April, in recognition of Earth Day. This means that customers H-E-B serves in Central Texas, Houston, Gulf Coast, Rio Grande Valley and Border, plus North Texas Central Market stores, can tear off and add check-out coupons worth \$1, \$3, or \$5 to their total bill to support environmental work.

H-E-B has supported many EarthShare of Texas organizations with corporate grants or in-kind contributions. The April tear-pad promotion enables H-E-B customers to support the environmental program work of more than three dozen EarthShare of Texas organizations. The Galveston Bay Foundation will benefit, because the contributions will be divided among EarthShare of Texas organizations with program work in Texas.

Look for the EarthShare of Texas display and tear-off coupons at the check-out stands in more than 200 H-E-B and Central Market stores in most areas of Texas in late March through April. And help support EarthShare of Texas and the Texas environment!

Thank You, 2010 Event Sponsors and Supporters!

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 Aikens, Raymond
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 Anderson, Floyd
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 Anderson, Tammy
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 Arboleda, John
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 Arceneaux, Matt
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 Bailey, William
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 Bartz, Christopher
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 Beck, James
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 Bhan, Sushma
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 Bittner, Brandon
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 Blackwell, William
 Blain, Christine
 Blain, William
 Blanco, David
 Block, Ray
 Blum, Ari
 Bonin, Greg
 Borghi, Marco
 Bosler, Fabian
 Bost, Stephen
 Boullion, Russ
 Boulte, Barry
 Bozic, Jason
 Branch, Michael
 Branham, Paul
 Bray, Alexander
 Bray, Jason
 Breaux, Michael
 Brewer, John
 Bruant, Robert
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 Burford, Kathy
 Burgess, Lisa
 Burnett, Carol
 Burrow, Dave
 Byers, William
 Caballero, Joseph
 Cain, Gene
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 Calderon, Cesar
 Callahan, David
 Camberg, Ellie
 Campbell, M
 Campion, Mary
 Cardamone, Teresa
 Carker, Joe
 Carmichael, Shannon
 Carranco, Andrea
 Carsey, Eben
 Cassidy, Julie
 Castaneda, Jaime
 Castillo, Ben
 Castillo, Celia
 Chancellor, Roy
 Chang, Kevin
 Chang, Pattie
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 Chauliagon, Linda
 Chen, Johnny
 Cheng, Jonathan
 Chimezie, Ebere
 Chisholm, Gabriel
 Choi, Jihye
 Christison, Leslie
 Christley, Leann
 Christoffel, Jacques
 Chu, Norman
 Clark, Cheryl
 Clem, John
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 Clifford, Courtenay
 Clifford, Peter
 Clifford, Steven
 Coker, Tom
 Colvin, A
 Combs, Adrian
 Conklin, David
 Content, Russell
 Cook, Troy
 Coons, Kyle
 Cooper, Debbie
 Corbello, Anita
 Corbello, Dale
 Cornejo, Federico
 Corpuz, Richard
 Cortes, Hector
 Cotner, Jeffrey
 Courtright, Sandra
 Cozad, Sabrina
 Criner, Claudia
 Criner, Jeff
 Critelli, Brian
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 Crudo, Kat
 Cruz, David
 Cuming, Connie
 Cummings, Chuck
 Cummings, Lisa
 Currid, Trey
 Daeumer, Matt
 Davis, Ann
 Davis, Kristina
 Dehart, Kent
 Dela Cruz, Victor
 Delgado, Douglas
 De Los Reyes, Abigail
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Dibert, Philip
 Dickson, Stuart
 Difede, Gerald
 Dinh, Viet
 Dokos, Karen
 Dominy, Emily
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 Dyson, Emma
 Dyson, Kim
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 Fancher, Karl
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 Faul, Sondra
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 Flores, Stephanie
 Floyd, Paul
 Fogg, Jonathan
 Fogg, Sonya
 Fontenot, Kimberly
 Ford, Meredith
 Fowler, Carla
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 Fox, Thomas
 Frahm, Karen
 Frakes, Roger
 Franco, Lydia
 Freeman, Kevin
 Fuxa, Jason
 Gabrysch, Marnie
 Galbraith, Reba
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 Garcia, Jessica
 Garcia, Regina
 Garland, Kathleen
 Garrett, Teri
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 Giot, Rebecca
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 Glass, Berkeley
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 Gordon, Bryan
 Gravell, John
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Guenther, Ric	Keller, Jennifer	Martinez, Joseph	Perez, Daniel	Schultz, Nancy	Velasco, Dean
Guerra, Theresa	Kelly, Brian	Marty, Kyle	Perkins, Jarrett	Schwartz, Eric	Velazquez, Esau
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Gutstein, Brett	Kerschbaum, Melanie	Mason, Durenda	Perry, Keith	Schwarz, Scott	Viator, Perry
Gutstein, Howard	Khan, Sofia	Mason, Robert	Persiani, Guido	Shannon, Brian	Vincent, Duane
Halal, Afif	Kim, Jun	Masterson, Harris	Peterson, Jill	Shaw, Thomas	Waddell, David
Hale, Chris	Kimla, Bill	Masterson, Stewart	Peterson, Joel	Shaw-Miller, Karen	Wagner, Christi
Hall, David	Kirk, Taylor	Mata, Henry	Pham, Lan	Sheiman, Jon	Waller, Randolph
Hall, Randal	Kissner, Jeff	Matz, Leane	Pham, Phiet	Shover, Jack	Ward, Charles
Hall, Sonia	Kissner, Robert	Mauterstock, Steve	Phelps, Patrick	Showalter, Kelly	Ward-Hecksel, Mary
Hamilton, Rachel	Kitay, Darryl	Mayo, Vicki	Phillips, William	Shrader, Sarah	Warudkar, Sumedh
Hansen, Steven	Kitay, Elizabeth	Mays, Stanley	Pickerill, Randy	Shriver, Loren	Wasden, Frederic
Harper, Jimmy	Klein, Robert	Mcallen, Earl	Pickering, Paul	Sickmen, Stephanie	Washington, Pamela
Harris, Adam	Kline, Alisa	Mccormack, Joshua	Pirnik, Jim	Silva, David	Watkins, Amy
Harris, Gary	Kogut, Andy	McCoy, Terry	Polite, August	Simmons, Richard	Watkins, Evan
Harris, John	Kohlman, Jacki	Mcdermid, Rowena	Polite, Rose	Simon, Camille	Watkins, Lynn
Harris, Misty	Kolat, Mike	Mcdonald, Patrick	Powell, Rod	Simpson, Douglas	Weber, Paula
Harris, Quin	Kreitzer, Tim	McGrady, Rogers	Prater, Sue	Simpson, Rick	Weeks, Brian
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Havasy, Sophia	Kubove, George	Mendoza, Karen	Pyle, Darren	Singer, Nichole	Wessels, Fred
Heath, Theresa	Kubove, Juraj	Metzmeier, Lythia	Pyle, Nickcole	Slaton, Rodney	Wessels, Gloria
Hecksel, Richard	Kurzawski, Scott	Meyer, Anthony	Quinton, Ben	Sloan, Denise	West, Dennis
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Hoffman, Carolyn	Lehmer, Leanna	Morrison, Denise	Rentas, Orlando	Spicer, Janet	Withem, Melissa
Hollier, Gary	Lehmer, Shannon	Morrisette, Steve	Revere, Beth	Spicer, Mark	Witson, John
Holloman, Benjamin	Leifeste, Mark	Moss, Karen	Richnow, Christine	Spry, Kate	Wolfe, Rick
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Holy, Royanne	Leonardo, Sarah	Mueller, Dirk	Rieck, James	Stait, Geoffrey	Wong, Brad
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Hoover, Sam	Lewis, Everett	Mugridge, Paul	Rine, James	Stanly, Carey	Wong, Colin
Horne, Curt	Leyden, Janet	Mulders, John	Rise, Carl	Starbuck, John	Wong, Tommy
Hough, Don	Leyden, Tim	Muniz, Majorie	Roberson, Jolene	Steele, David	Woo, John
Hough, Mauri	Leyva, Maria	Murdock, Marlin	Roberson, Mike	Steffek, Lisa	Wood, Cynthia
House, Caleb	Linthicum, Lance	Murphy, Donna	Roberts, Grant	Steffek, Shelley	Woodling, Kari
Hsu, Michael	Linzer, Debra	Navarro, Blanca	Robinette, Sharon	Steller, Louella	Woodruff, Shannon
Huang, Patrick	Linzer, Larry	Neathery, Lee	Robinson, Mark	Stephens, Brian	Wooley, Randy
Huerta, Edgar	Liston, Steve	Nelson, Tad	Robinson, Tandy	Stepp, Patricia	Wooster, K-Wayne
Humphries, Scott	Litewka, Adam	Nepomnick, Jill	Rodriguez, Christopher	Sterkel, Gary	Worthington, Melanie
Humphries, Stacy	Liu, Barbara	Nettles, Keith	Roesler, Gary	Sterkel, Peggy	Wright, Chris
Hurwitz, Kenneth	Livesay, Michael	Newell, Michael	Rohan, Richard	Sternat, Matthew	Wright, Larry
Isenberg, Travis	Livingston, Christopher	Nguyen, Deana	Roll, Jamie	Stokes, Bob	Wright, Melvyn
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Jackson, Jann	Loden, Steve	Nguyen, Hung	Rome, Harding	Stoll, Jim	Wyborne, Todd
Jankowski, Bohdan	Lodge, Allen	Nguyen, Tanya	Romero, Carmen	Stupi, Brian	Yale, Kathy
Janoch, James	Looney, Tom	Noureddine, Ghassan	Rorstad, Geir	Sullins, Nancy	Yarell, Ellen
Jaw, Helen	Lopez, Andrew	Nysveen, Rune	Rosado, Zel	Summers, Kathy	Yebaile, Layla
JBS Water Inc.	Lopez, Cassandra	Oaks, Anthony	Rosenbaum, Jana	Surguy, Randy	Yoder, Andrew
Jewett, Laura	Louis, Jane	O'Bert, Laura	Rosenhagen, Kurt	Swanson, Vivian	Yoder, John
Johantges, Paul	Louis, Scott	O'Brien, Douglas	Roth, Jerry	Sykes, Todd	Yozbatiran, Nuray
Johnson, Amy	Love, Ruth	O'Brien, Kathy	Roth, Laura	Tapper, Mark	Yu, Zhao
Johnson, Bruce	Loveless, Suzanne	O'Brien-Molina, Margaret	Rum, Tom	Tello, Fernando	Yuan, Herbert
Johnson, David	Lovins, Larry	O'Bryan, Ted	Saenz, Alvin	Theis, Melinda	Zachary, Mark
Johnson, Denise	Luman, Sean	Oleary, Stephanie	Salazar, Julio	Thomasson, Zeth	Zavala, Adam
Johnson, Elizabeth	Lumpkin, Wayne	Olson, John	Saldana, Andrew	Tietjens, Tim	Zavala, Edgar
Johnson, Justin	Luta, Adele	Olson, Katelynn	Sampaio, Carlos	Tollerene, Bryan	Zavala, John
Jones, Carla	Luu, Gloria	Olson, Kent	Samuel, Dave	Torregrossa, Allan	Zimmer, Kate
Jones, Charles	Luu, Steve	Ongany, David	Sanchez, Jose	Townsend, James	Zimmer, William
Jones, Whitney	Macaulay, Calum	Ottinger, Donnis	Sanders, Amanda	Tran, Thai	Zuteck, Michael
Jones, William	Macclies, Charlie	Padron, Nicolas	Sarnowski, Steve	Trenck, Max	Zuteck, Pamela
Jordon, Jeff	Mahaffey, Kent	Palmer, Richard	Savoie, Rebecca	Trimbur, Cheryl	
Juntti, Cynthia	Mahaffey, Leah	Papadakis, Jo	Scarcella, Anne	Truong, Quynh	
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Kao, David	Malone, William	Patel, Suraag	Schatte, Dawnelle	Ulrich, George	
Karian, Ara	Manners, Bruce	Peach, Steve	Scheetz, Bob	Urcia, Marlon	
Kaspar, Katelyn	Manzano-Kareah, Kim	Pearce, Kevin	Schetteck, Bob	Van Alstine, Eric	
Kaul, Kuldip	Maples, Corey	Pelikan, Holly	Schilly, Michael	Vance, Chad	
Kearns, David	Maples, Debbie	Pelikan, Matthew	Schindeler, John		
	Martin, Carol		Schleisman, Randy		



Living Shoreline Materials Available

The last issue of the Gazette included an article on “Living Shorelines”, a shoreline management option that provides erosion control benefits while working with nature to enhance the natural shoreline habitat, as an alternative to bulkheads. We hope you found the article interesting and will take a look at two new documents GBF has recently made available on Living Shorelines. The trifold brochure introduces the benefits of Living Shorelines while the bound hard-copy contains more details and addresses permitting, site assessment, possible methodologies and case studies. Both are available in downloadable .PDF format at http://galvbay.org/conservation_shoreline, and can be obtained from the GBF office.

The intended audience for both is property owners who are considering shoreline armoring to stop erosion on their land or anyone who wants more information on how the common practice of bulkheading negatively impacts our valuable bay system. When groups of landowners on a waterbody all take action, the cumulative impacts of the work provide an even greater benefit than the projects taken alone.

If you are interested in finding alternative methods for slowing erosion while increasing the habitat value of your shoreline property, or simply have questions about our Living Shoreline program, please contact Lee Anne Wilde at 281-332-3381 x205 or lwilde@galvbay.org.

We hope you will find these and other documents on the GBF website educational and that you'll share them with your friends!

Trash Bash 2011

GBF coordinated the Armand Bayou Trash Bash site on March 26th. An extensive on-the-water effort took place across Armand Bayou and its tributaries--with 100 paddlers cleaning up Armand Bayou, Horsepen Bayou, Big Island Slough, and Mud Lake. Additionally, hundreds of land-based volunteers spent the morning picking up litter alongside roads, parks, drainage channels, and trails within Armand Bayou watershed. Most of the trash along roadways ends up in the nearest waterway after heavy rainfall. The work the land-based volunteers did was critical in keeping trash out of Armand Bayou, which flows into Galveston Bay. In all, 850 volunteers collected over 600 bags of trash and over 240 bags of recyclable items! Thank you volunteers for cleaning up Armand Bayou and our bay area!



Trash Bash Sponsors

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Armand Bayou Site sponsors

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Special Thanks to

NRG - Reliant - Shell DeerPark - Pinnacle - Bay Area Rowing Club - Houston Canoe Club - Boeing - Diane Sheridan at BAYCAP & PECAP

Spotlight on ... Dow Chemical Company



The Galveston Bay Foundation would like to take this opportunity to spotlight the Dow

Chemical Company. Dow combines chemistry and innovation with the principles of sustainability to help address many of the world's most challenging problems such as the need for clean water, renewable energy generation and conservation, and increasing agricultural productivity.

Dow's diversified industry-leading portfolio of specialty chemical, advanced materials, agro-sciences and plastics businesses delivers a broad range of technology-based products and solutions to customers in approximately 160 countries and in high growth sectors such as electronics, water, energy, coatings and agriculture. Dow has five manufacturing sites in the Houston area located in Deer Park, Texas City and La Porte.

Dow is committed to using resources more efficiently, providing value to their customers and stakeholders, delivering solutions for customer needs and enhancing the quality of life of current and future generations. "The Galveston Bay Foundation's mission to preserve, protect and enhance the natural resources of the Galveston Bay estuarine system and its tributaries fits well with Dow's commitment to creating stronger, safer and sustainable communities where we operate. It also fits well with our company's overall global sustainability initiatives", said Houston Area Public Affairs Manager, Beth Dombrowa.

Dow is a generous contributor to community success initiatives around the globe. They contribute to organizations that promote environmental stewardship, enhance the quality of education at local schools and colleges, and pro-

Dow, we recognize that everything we do and how we do it has an impact on the planet. We are proud to partner with organizations like the Galveston Bay Foundation that are doing their part," said Dombrowa.

Through a recent \$22,500 donation, Dow is supporting GBF's efforts to restore the bay's oyster reefs and is providing funding for the Get Hip to Habitat program, which provides hands-on environmental education to area students. Dow is very involved in a number of science-based education programs that teach young people to protect our planet. They support a variety of school district education foundations, the San Jacinto Monument and Museum, the Battleship Texas Restoration Project, and numerous other charitable organizations that help our communities succeed. They are also large contributors to the United Way and Habitat for Humanity.

It is with support like that of Dow Chemical Company that we can work to ensure that Galveston Bay continues to be a beautiful and productive place for generations to come.



Dow's Houston Area Public Affairs Manager, Beth Dombrowa, pictured above with GBF's Habitat Restoration Coordinator, Philip Smith, bring in a "boat load" of crab traps during the abandoned crab trap removal event held on February 19th. Read more about the event on page 3.

Land Conservation Program (cont'd from Cover)

When the easement restricts land uses on a given property, the appraised value of that property will likely decrease. This decrease in property value is considered a charitable donation and is therefore tax deductible, creating some economic advantages for landowners.

Land trusts and conservation-minded landowners received a gift from Congress in December when it extended the enhanced tax incentives through December 31, 2011. These tax incentives allow landowners to take deductions up to 50% of their annual income for up to 16 years or until the total value of the donation has been used. These tax incentives make conservation easements much more attractive to landowners with moderate incomes.

As land conservation continues to gain strength nationally, so do concerns about the sustainability and permanence of land conservation organizations. In an effort to increase confidence and public awareness, staff is currently

positioning GBF to undergo a rigorous accreditation process in 2011 that will strengthen our governing policies and give credibility to our land conservation program. The Land Trust Accreditation program is a national effort sponsored by the Land Trust Alliance intended to build continuity among leading land trusts nationwide. So far, 130 land trusts have completed the Accreditation process; only two of those are Texas land trusts. Keep an eye out for updates on our progress at www.galvbay.org.

If you are interested in land conservation or want to learn more about conservation easements, contact GBF's Conservation Lands Manager, Matt Singer, msinger@galvbay.org or 281.332.3381 x206.



White ibis perch atop Hurricane Ike damaged yaupon trees at GBF's Sweetwater property in Galveston. The houses pictured in the background are on Sportsman Road and face West Galveston Bay.

Bay Harbor Community Restores Habitat Island

The West Bay community of Bay Harbor has spearheaded a project to restore a vegetated habitat island for local and migratory birds and other wildlife. This truly community-based initiative began several years ago and has now progressed through project planning, fundraising, engineering, and, finally, construction.

In late December 2010, construction of Bay Harbor's 2-acre habitat island was completed. The island was constructed by beneficially using dredge material from the adjacent navigation channel to construct an elevated marsh pad, which is intended to increase nesting habitat for birds and improve fishery habitat. The restored island was built on and around the remnant of an existing island that, like much of the bayside habitats on West Galveston Island and within the entire Galveston Bay system, had suffered from historic subsidence and shoreline erosion.

The project was led by the Bay Harbor Improvement Association which assembled and worked closely with an advisory group of local agency and NGO representatives to identify goals and help guide the project. GBF contributed \$66,500 in contractual funds through its annual allocation from the national partnership between

Restore America's Estuaries and the NOAA Restoration Center. An engineering firm was brought on to examine potential alternatives that would accomplish the project's habitat restoration and shoreline protection goals. The final design, approved by the advisory group, called for the restoration of a 2-acre habitat island—comprised of 0.9 acre of uplands and 1.1 acre of marsh—and the installation of up to 700 linear feet of protective geotextile tube breakwaters. The intertidal reaches of the island were planted with smooth cordgrass in February and early March; rather early in the season, but necessary in order to get the marsh portion of the project planted prior to birds beginning to nest on the upper parts of the island.

GBF commends Ms. Betsy Redfield and her Bay Harbor project team for their diligence in seeing this project through and for their contributions toward a healthy Galveston Bay habitat!

Aerial view of Bay Harbor's habitat island. Aerial support provided by LightHawk.



Galveston Bay Children's Art Calendar Award Ceremony & Reception

Proud families, art teachers, and heads of school gathered with the winners of the 2011 Galveston Bay Calendar at an award ceremony on Thursday, January 27th at Stephen F. Austin Elementary in Baytown. Each winner was awarded a certificate by GBF staff and their original art in a frame during the ceremony, followed by a reception with light refreshments. Since 1992, 5th graders around the Houston and Bay Area have been creating art depicting what Galveston Bay means to them. Some schools in Baytown have been participating for so long that the contest is anticipated by students in the first grade!

Calendar sponsors NRG and its retail electricity business Reliant Energy were also present to help celebrate the winners. GBF, NRG and Reliant have a shared mission to protect the natural ecosystems, restore essential habitat, and educate and involve the public in environmental stewardship. The contest is a great way to allow students from participating schools to become more aware of the Bay.

This exciting outreach program starts with the question, "What people, plants, or animals can you find in and around Galveston Bay?" With GBF's inspiration and their creativity, the 5th grade students draw pictures to interpret that question. Each year, over 350 entries are received. In its past 19 years, GBF estimates that this project has reached over 10,000 students.

In order to accommodate the increase in the number of participating schools, the number of winners was amplified from 14 to 17 this year. Each school that submitted entries had at least one winner selected. When asked what they learned from this project, Geoffrey

Hirsch replied, "I learned how to draw the Roseate Spoonbill better and that their color is reflective of the food they eat from their habitat." Leona Chen replied, "I learned that you can get up close and enjoy the sea life when you are in a canoe. It is very peaceful when you are on Galveston Bay surrounded by nature."

GBF, NRG and Reliant Energy would like to congratulate the following 2011 Galveston Bay Children's Art Calendar winners: Luis Algarate, Allison Antonini, Sergio Cantu, Victoria Chang, Leona Chen, Savannah Cushman, Ronaldo Lerma Garcia, Daniel Godinez, Geoffrey Hirsch, Elizabeth Koegel, Mia Munn, Sebastian Rodriguez, Hiya Sunjana Sawhney, Kristen Schank, Mary Sullivan, Alex Turman and Carissa Villarreal.



Winners pictured with Bob Stokes, President, Galveston Bay Foundation; Della Barbato, Manager of Education Programs, Galveston Bay Foundation; and Gene Fisseler, Director of Public Affairs, Reliant Energy are:

Middle Row L to R: Marry Sullivan, Geoffrey Hirsch, Savannah Cushman, Kristen Schank, Hiya Sunjana Sawhney, Victoria Chang;

Bottom Row L to R: Alex Turman, Carissa Villarreal, Leona Chen, Elizabeth Koegel, Sebastian Rodriguez



GALVESTON BAY FOUNDATION

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The mission of the Galveston Bay Foundation is to preserve, protect and enhance the natural resources of the Galveston Bay estuarine system for present users and for posterity.



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Photos in this month's issue of the GBF Gazette contributed by:
Bob Dempsey
Terry Marshall
GBF Staff
Aerial support provided by LightHawk

For event details and volunteer opportunities, visit our website at www.galvbay.org.

Follow GBF on Facebook, where all the latest events, articles, and photos are posted. Join in on the conversation and fun, and "Like" us today!
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Reliant EcoShareSM Program Will Help Reduce Your Carbon Footprint

GBF is pleased to announce the *Reliant EcoShareSM*, a program that allows Reliant Energy customers to help reduce their carbon footprints through the purchase of carbon offsets. For each customer-purchased offset, Reliant will make a contribution to EarthShare of Texas. As a participating organization of EarthShare of Texas, GBF will benefit from this program. For more information, visit www.earthshare-texas.org or go directly to reliant.com/ecoshare.

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