

# GBRA River Run

A publication of the **GUADALUPE-BLANCO RIVER AUTHORITY** Winter/Spring 2008



CLEAN  
ENERGY  
ON THE HORIZON

Exelon Picks Victoria County



GBRA Plants Earn Awards



Perry Names New Directors

# From the GM

## Understanding the Exelon Opportunity

The announcement that Exelon Nuclear has selected Victoria County as its site in southeast Texas for the proposed new nuclear plant has already generated electricity. You have heard the buzz, and in this issue of *River Run*, you can read about Team Exelon, a Victoria community consortium that worked hard to bring this opportunity for clean energy and significant economic development to the region.



We also have tried to provide you with an overview of the Exelon project itself. There are still many steps to take before the plant becomes a reality, but in this issue, we have tried to provide answers to some of the questions and concerns people have expressed:

- Can the proposed Exelon plant fit into the overall Region L Water Plan? (Is there enough water to go around?)
- How would the proposed Exelon plant and its water needs affect Region L water resources during times of drought? (How will we deal with unexpected water shortfalls?)
- Why is using some of Region L's water resources for the proposed Exelon plant better for the Victoria community than simply holding it in reserve for the future? (What might happen if we don't use it?)

Finally, we also talk a little about how GBRA, like all water resource agencies, has a vested interest in the broader implications of diversified energy sources. The quality of water resources depend to some extent on the quality of the air and the environment that contributes to and affects them. Coal-burning plants emit pollutants that can travel through the air and be washed into rivers and lakes. However, recent improvements in plant designs significantly reduce emissions. The efficiency of a nuclear energy generator could help conserve water in the long term because we would simply need fewer of them.

Coming to grips with how to supply the basics, like water and energy, while simultaneously protecting the things in our ecosystem that are crucial to everyone – such as the very air we breathe – is a complex task. Due diligence must be taken from beginning to end. The first step in finding a solution is understanding the issues. I hope you will find the information in this issue of the *River Run* helpful as you consider the Exelon opportunity and other projects and policies that can affect both your quality of life and the natural environment – because one is dependent on the other.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'W. E. West, Jr.'.

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



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GBRA River Run

Winter/Spring 2008

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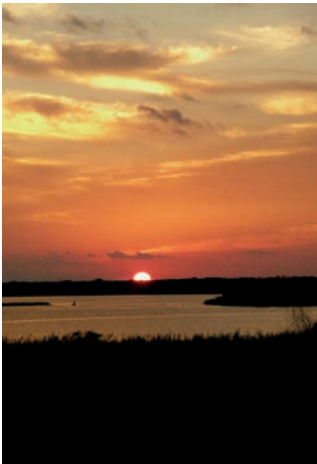


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Front cover photo by LaMarriol Smith

# FIELD & OFFICE

## New Executive Manager Hired to Head Water Resources and Utility Operations

**G**GBRA recently hired James “Jim” L. Murphy, former staff attorney, ethics officer, and secretary board of directors at Trinity River Authority (TRA), as its new executive manager of water resources and utility operations.

“The breadth of experience Jim Murphy brings to our team is incredible. Certainly, we are pleased that he is joining us and we look forward to the many contributions I know he will make for GBRA and all of its constituents,” Bill West, GBRA general manager said.

“Murphy’s experience in running TRA’s legal services division and land rights department are a tremendous benefit for GBRA,” West added.

Murphy will oversee the GBRA water resource division’s planning, budgeting, programming operations and engineering. Among his many duties, Murphy also will be responsible for managing existing operations as well as implementing new water, wastewater, and related utility projects.

“My background with the TRA has prepared me for the challenge to lead GBRA’s largest division; an opportunity I readily embrace,” Murphy said, adding, “And I feel like this is the right move for me and my family at this time.”

Murphy earned his bachelor of arts degree from Tulane University and his juris doctorate from Tulane University School of Law.

In addition to his work at TRA, Murphy has been an attorney for the Texas Department of Banking and the Texas Water Commission.

Photo by LaMarriol Smith



*James Murphy*

He has served on the Administrative Law Advisory Commission for the Texas Board of Legal Specialization, the Dallas Area Rapid Transit Trial Board, the Dallas County Bar Association Fee Committee, and the Tarrant County Bar Association Fee Arbitration Committee.

Murphy also received the “Tribute of Achievement Award” from the United States Environmental Protection Agency and is a member of the State Bar of Texas, the Dallas Bar Association, the Tarrant County Bar Association, and the United States District Courts for the Northern and Southern District of Texas.

## GBRA Lab Staff Gains Recognition

Photos by LaMarriol Smith



*Brian Lyssy*



*Clarissa Castellanos*

Two GBRA laboratory professionals earned awards at the 2008 Texas Water Utilities Association (TWUA) Annual School in Fort Worth in March.

Brian Lyssy, GBRA lab technician III, collected the Lab Analyst Section Laboratory Analyst Leadership Award for 2007, while Clarissa Castellanos, GBRA lab technician II, nabbed the TWUA Outstanding New Professional Award for 2007.

“We are so proud of our staff. All of them take great care in their work and safely perform the responsibilities required of lab technicians,” said Josie Longoria, GBRA’s regional lab director. “Because of their professionalism, the public we serve can be confident in the analyses and work performed by our lab.”

# Canyon Park Estates Named Treatment Plant of the Year

Canyon Park Estates Wastewater Treatment Plant, operated by the Guadalupe Blanco River Authority, was honored as the 2008 Wastewater Treatment Plant of the Year in Category 1 by the Water Environment Association of Texas (WEAT) at Texas Water 2008™ in San Antonio on March 27, 2008. The award recognized a wastewater treatment facility with flows less than 1 million gallons-per-day for consistently exhibiting outstanding performance in daily activities beyond the normal call of duty.

The Rural Utilities Team of the GBRA began operating the Canyon Park Estates Wastewater Treatment Plant following construction in 1976. The plant removes both conventional pollutants and has strict nutrient limitations as well. The treatment plant has an excellent compliance history and has had no permit violations the last two years. In addition to the plant, the staff maintains 4 miles of collection system and two lift stations.

The plant's health and safety programs have been recognized by Texas Water Utilities Association and the Texas Water Conservation Association Risk Management Fund. The objective of every Authority employee is zero lost time; a standard that has been achieved by the Rural Utilities Division for the past 19 years.

By blending technical expertise, a safe working environment, and facilities maintenance, the Rural Utilities Team has been able to operate a facility that consistently produces high quality effluent necessary to protect the sensitive waters of the Guadalupe River Basin. Joel Heideke is the Division's Chief Operator and supervises the operations of the

system. Richard Matheaus, Mike Gerdes and Jason Davidson operate and maintain the plant and perform process control monitoring.

"WEAT is thrilled to recognize Canyon Park Estates and GBRA for their excellent performance," said Carol Batterton, WEAT's executive director.

"We certainly are honored to receive this recognition from WEAT. It validates the hard work that our staff is doing on a daily basis at the plant," said John Smith, GBRA operations manager Upper Basin.

Photo by Tammy Beutragel



L-R Richard Matheaus, Jason Davidson, Mike Gerdes, Joel Heideke and Allen Ognoskie

The Water Environment Association of Texas is a member association of the Water Environment Federation (WEF). Formerly known as the Texas Water Pollution Control Association (TWPCA), WEAT was founded in 1928 by professionals in the field of water quality as a non-profit, educational organization. Association members have helped lead the way toward existing state and federal clean water programs. Today the association has more than 1,500 members representing diverse backgrounds and specialties, but all of which are involved in protecting and

enhancing Texas' precious water resources through sound science and good stewardship.

Texas Water 2008™ is the largest regional water conference in the United States. It is jointly sponsored by the Water Environment Association of Texas and the Texas Section of the American Water Works Association.

## Exelon Enters Water Agreement with GBRA

As part of its consideration in developing a nuclear power plant in Texas and in evaluating specific sites within Victoria County, Exelon Generation Company, LLC, requested reservation of a water supply of 75,000 acre-feet per year from the Guadalupe-Blanco River Authority through June 30, 2009.

The GBRA and Exelon reached an agreement on the terms of the reservation in December.

Because nuclear power plants require water for cooling, the availability of water from the GBRA was a key part of the company's decision to consider the Victoria County site.

The water supply would be provided from a point of take from the Canal System located in Calhoun County. The reservation is in place for the possibility that: (1) Exelon files and pursues an

application to the Nuclear Regulatory Commission for a license for the construction and operation of a plant; (2) Exelon decides that it desires a long-term agreement with GBRA; and (3) that Exelon and GBRA are able to reach an understanding on the terms and conditions of a long-term agreement – all occurring before June 30, 2009.

Nuclear plants, as do conventional power plants, use water to produce steam. The steam is used to propel turbines that spin a shaft inside an electricity generator. The turning shaft spins a coil of wire, producing a magnetic field, which creates electricity. The design of Exelon's proposed plant also includes a cooling reservoir that would cover about 4,800 surface acres, storing approximately 96,000 acre-feet of water.



# San Marcos WTP Earns T.O.P. Award from TCEQ

by LaMarriol Smith

**T**he San Marcos Water Treatment Plant recently earned the state's T.O.P. Award for meeting rigorous criteria in surface water treatment. The plant is owned by the City of San Marcos and operated by the Guadalupe-Blanco River Authority.

The Texas Optimization Program (T.O.P.) Award, presented by the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) technical review and oversight team, is a voluntary, non-regulatory program created to improve standards of existing surface water treatment plants without major capital improvements.

After a comprehensive performance evaluation and certain TOP optimization goals being met for the six-month period from May 2007 to October 2007, the TCEQ presents the recognition to the TOP performing plants.

"We are proud to earn this designation because it reflects the considerable

investments that San Marcos citizens, our City Council and staff have made in this plant and the outstanding performance of the GBRA team that operates the plant," said Tom Taggart, director of Water and Wastewater Utilities for the City of San Marcos.

"The San Marcos operators realize the importance of optimization in water treatment, and are very proud to be recognized for this accomplishment," said Jerry Sharp, GBRA's San Marcos Water Treatment Plant manager. "We look forward to participating in the TOP program for many years to come. We will continue to operate under these very stringent guidelines to assure that the City of San Marcos and our other customers receive the highest quality water possible," Sharp added.

In addition to Sharp, GBRA employees who operate the SMWTP include Leroy Garza, Joe Long, Allen "Sean" Martin, Larry Shahan and Steve Wallendorf.

GBRA is the contract operator for the City of San Marcos' water treatment plant that began operation in January 2000. This facility uses surface water from Canyon Reservoir to reduce the city's pumping from the Edwards Aquifer by an average of 75 percent and existing city wells are used to supplement peak demand periods.

Raw water from Canyon Reservoir is pumped from Lake Dunlap through a 21-mile pipeline, treated to meet state and federal drinking water standards, and delivered to the cities of San Marcos, Kyle, and Buda, and the Goforth Water Supply Corporation for distribution.

Photo by LaMarriol Smith



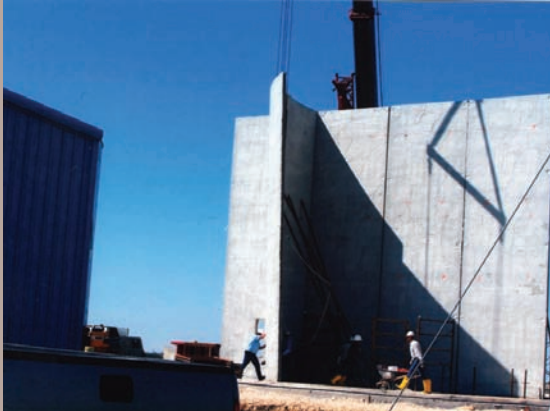
L-R Joe Long, Sean Martin, Jerry Sharp and Darel Ball

Did  
You  
Know

The Guadalupe River  
is approximately 432  
total river miles.

# Port Lavaca Gets New Storage Well

After nearly 200 days of construction, GBRA's Port Lavaca Water Treatment Plant is closer to bringing its new 1 million-gallon storage well online. Nat Gunn, Inc., of Grand Prairie, TX, constructed the storage well, which should be complete by the end of May 2008.



Photos by Stephanie Shelly



## Gate Arm Repaired at Coleta Creek Reservoir

Preventive maintenance repairs to the gate arm at Coleta Creek Reservoir began in March and should be complete by mid-May 2008. These necessary repairs, performed by Alltech Engineering of Arlington, TX, were structural improvements to critical connection points on the gate to maintain structural integrity.



Photo by Bryan Serold

## Haz-Mat Refresher Course Held

In February 2008, the Texas Engineering Extension Service provided hazardous materials training at the Western Canyon Water Treatment Plant. About 20 trainees from Western Canyon, San Marcos WTP, Lockhart, Buda, Luling, the City of Fair Oaks, and Canyon Lake Fire Department participated in the 8-hour refresher course.



Photo by Mike Urrutia



# GBRA Removes 7 Tons of Trash from Plum Creek Watershed

(Before)  
Copperas Creek at Wattsville Rd.



(After)



Debris from Plum Creek at Biggs Rd.


A recent Guadalupe-Blanco River Authority (GBRA) clean up of Plum Creek Watershed resulted in the removal of 14,320 pounds of trash.

“We are very fortunate to have the GBRA as our good neighbor who did the actual removal of the domestic illegal dumping at these six stream crossings,” said Tom D. Bonn, Caldwell County Commissioner Precinct 1, adding, “I was very pleased to see these stream crossings absent of domestic trash, unwanted refrigerators, tires bottles, cans, and whatever the local populace had previously discarded in our streams.”

“GBRA-led clean up crews spent 237 man-hours collecting trash and debris such as tires, batteries, scrap metal, construction materials, appliances, medical waste, mattresses and other furniture from the creek,” said Debbie Magin, GBRA director of Water Quality Services.

The 397-square-mile watershed serves as a major tributary of the San Marcos River and lies within the Guadalupe River Basin covering portions of Hays, Travis and Caldwell counties. Magin said clean-up sites included Plum Creek at Biggs Road (CR 131), Plum Creek at Old

Kelly Road (CR 186), Copperas Creek at Wattsville Road, Salt Branch at Salt Flat Road (Spruce Avenue), Plum Creek at Whisper Road (CR 135), and Plum Creek at Old McMahon Road (CR 202).

The clean up projects were funded by an outreach and education grant from the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). 



Debris from Plum Creek at Whisper Rd.

Photos by Lee Gudgell



## *Conservation Specialist Hired for Trust*

Photo by LaMarli Smith



Janae' Reneaud

**A**s the Guadalupe-Blanco River Trust undertakes more projects, the need for a staff person to evaluate and manage projects, identify and apply for grants, respond to public inquiries, and promote the trust continues to increase. Recently, a conservation specialist was hired to take on these responsibilities.

Janae' Reneaud, who joined the Guadalupe-Blanco River Authority in April after working several years as a biological science aid at the Detroit River International Wildlife Refuge for the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS), will be responsible for implementing and managing the Trust's multifaceted program of land and water conservation projects.

"We are so pleased to have someone with Janae's background to help get these conservation projects moving for the Trust," said Todd Votteler, GBRA's executive manager of Intergovernmental Affairs and executive director of the Trust.

"After she gets familiar with the basin and the existing projects," Votteler explained, "Janae's focus primarily will be on the areas of conservation project development and implementation, development and monitoring of conservation easements, and developing relationships with landowners."

Reneaud earned her master's degree in public administration with a concentration in land conservation from Eastern Michigan University, and earned a bachelor of science degree from Michigan State University.

Before her tenure with USFWS, Reneaud served four years as the development and grants manager for the Washtenaw Land Trust in Ann Arbor, MI.


While working for the Michigan Department of Natural Resources, Reneaud was a grant coordinator and project manager of the Michigan Natural Resources Trust, the Clean Michigan Initiative, and the Land and Water Conservation Fund.

## **Foester Whitmire Project Nears Completion**

**T**he repair of the canal system at the 3,440-acre Myrtle Foester Whitmire Unit in the Aransas National Wildlife Refuge serves as an important environmental project by providing food, water and shelter for a significant portion of the Central Flyways waterfowl population migrating to the Texas Coast.

The Whitmire Unit contains 750 acres of impoundments that require flooding at critical times for wintering and breeding waterfowl dependent on this wetland habitat. The Bolling Canal was built in the early 1950s and provides water to the Whitmire Unit. The canal stretches over 18,000 feet on flat pastureland. Maintenance and repair of the levees has been difficult and expensive due to extensive levee damage from livestock and limited access to the canal. So far, construction and repairs are about 80 percent complete.

This cooperative project between the Trust, GBRA and the Refuge, to repair the canal system is providing an efficient and reliable delivery system of water necessary of quality habitat that will help sustain waterfowl populations at recommended levels.

Partners and contributors to this project include ConocoPhillips SPIRIT of Conservation Migratory Bird Program, National Fish and Wildlife Foundation Coastal Coordination Council of Texas' Coastal Management Program, Friends of Aransas Wildlife Refuge, Formosa Environmental Trust Fund, and ALCOA. 

# IS CLEAN ENERGY FOR

by Joel Williams

**A**mid growing concern that burning fossil fuels such as oil, coal, and natural gas contributes to climate change (global warming), the Guadalupe Blanco River Authority may play an important role in the development of a new source of clean energy for Texas, if Exelon Nuclear decides to build a power plant in Victoria County.

This environmentally friendly source of electricity for energy-hungry Texas also would

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**“In the best possible case, it would begin producing electricity to the grid in the 2015-2016 timeframe.”**

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bring a major stimulus to the economy of Victoria County and Southeast Texas.

Exelon, the nation's leading operator of nuclear power stations, has filed an application with the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission for a license to operate the plant. In recent months, NRC officials have made site visits to the Victoria area as part of the agency's role in reviewing license applications.

Exelon officials have said the company will decide in mid-2009 whether to build the plant for which GBRA would provide surface water, necessary for the facility's cooling process.

“In the best possible case, it would begin producing electricity to the grid in the 2015-2016 timeframe,” said Craig Nesbit, vice president for Communications with Exelon Nuclear, a subsidiary of Chicago-based Exelon Corp.

If Exelon builds the power station in Victoria County, it would install two reactors, each capable of producing 1,540 megawatts at full power for a total of about 3,080

megawatts (a megawatt = 1 million watts). Three thousand eighty megawatts is enough electricity to power about 3 million typical Texas households, according to Exelon officials.

**Nuclear power generation cleaner than burning fossil fuels**

Traditional power plants burn fuel – a chemical process – to heat water and produce steam. Such plants that use these fossil fuels, such as coal, oil and natural gas, to produce electricity emit “greenhouse gases,” primarily carbon dioxide, believed to contribute to climate change by trapping heat in the earth's atmosphere. Recent advances in the way

these plants are designed, such as the second coal-fired unit being built by International Power America at Coleto Creek, feature technology to monitor pollutants – a step to help keep emissions at lower levels.

Nuclear powered plants produce heat by splitting atoms of uranium, which is a physical process that produces no greenhouse gas, as Exelon officials explain.

One uranium fuel pellet – the size of the tip of an average adult's little finger – is equivalent to 17,000 cubic feet of natural gas, 1,780 pounds of coal, or 149 gallons of oil. However, one thing that nuclear plants have in common with conventional power plants is that they use water to produce steam. In nuclear and conventional power plants, the steam is used to propel turbines that spin a shaft inside an electricity generator. The turning shaft spins a coil

of wire, producing a magnetic field, which creates electricity.

Some other alternative types of energy production use other means to spin turbines, but they have environmental consequences of their own, particularly for wildlife. In hydroelectric power plants, usually the result of dams built in rivers, water spins the turbines. Wind power uses wind to produce the same type of electricity-generating effect.

A wind farm would need 235 square miles to produce the same amount of electricity as a 1,000-megawatt nuclear power plant, or more than 700 square miles (an area nearly as large as Refugio County) to produce as much as the proposed nuclear plant in Victoria County.

Nuclear power produces electricity without burning fossil fuels, without altering the natural flow of a river, and without the use of

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**“Nuclear energy is the only large-scale, cost-effective energy source that can reduce these emissions while continuing to satisfy a growing demand for power. And these days it can do so safely.”**

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spinning blades that can create hazards for birds. Nuclear power generation facilities also do not produce harmful emissions, such as sulfur dioxide, nitrogen oxide, and mercury.

A growing number of environmental activists who used to be staunchly opposed to nuclear power production now support it, seeing it as the answer to reversing the global warming believed to be the result of greenhouse gases produced in the burning of fossil fuels. New advocates of nuclear energy include Patrick Moore, Ph.D., a founder of the



# ON THE HORIZON

## VICTORIA COUNTY?

environmental group Greenpeace, who in 2006 wrote in The Washington Post that “nuclear energy may just be the energy source that can save our planet from another possible disaster: catastrophic climate change” and that “Nuclear energy is the only large-scale, cost-effective energy source that can reduce these emissions while continuing to satisfy a growing demand for power. And these days it can do so safely.”

Moore now serves as co-chairman of the Clean and Safe Energy Coalition, an organization that promotes nuclear energy as a clean, safe, and dependable source of power. CASEnergy Coalition is funded by the Nuclear Energy Institute, the policy organization of the nuclear energy and technologies industry.

### **What is the role of the Guadalupe-Blanco River Authority?**

Because nuclear power plants require water for cooling, the availability of water from the Guadalupe-Blanco River Authority was a key part of the company's decision to consider the Victoria County site.

As with all nuclear plants, one of the principal factors in Exelon's decision to consider the Victoria County site is the availability of water. Exelon has entered into a two-year reservation agreement with GBRA, which provides for an estimated long-term supply of up to 75,000 acre-feet of water per year.

“We have worked to develop and collaborate on projects in the Guadalupe River's lower basin area using water rights on that end of the basin, but for various reasons some of the major projects did not reach fruition,” said William “Bill” E. West, Jr., GBRA's general manager, adding, “With the Exelon project, we have a great opportunity to

utilize lower basin water on a venture that will directly benefit the lower basin communities.”

The water is available from existing GBRA water rights, and its use is consistent with the 2006 Region L Water Plan. The water supply likely would be diverted from the GBRA canal system in Calhoun County and transmitted via pipeline to a cooling and storage reservoir adjacent to the power plant on property identified by Exelon as the facility site.

Exelon's proposed cooling reservoir would cover 4,800 surface acres, storing approximately 96,000 acre-feet of water. To put that in perspective, the South Texas Project nuclear facility has a cooling reservoir is about 7,000 surface acres in size, storing 200,000 acre-feet of water, and the cooling reservoir at Coleto Creek covers about 3,100 surface acres with a 35,000 acre-foot-storage capacity.

The primary concerns that have arisen with respect to water are available supply and the effects of warmed water from the cooling process.

West explained that when the Lower Guadalupe Water Supply Project was abandoned, GBRA's staff recognized the need to complete research by Texas A&M on the needs of the endangered whooping cranes that winter at Aransas National Wildlife Refuge. The GBRA, along with its colleagues at the San Antonio River Authority (SARA), continued the funding for this nationally important study because all the parties understood the ecological significance of San Antonio Bay.

“We also wanted the study completed so that the needs of the environment would be

considered when the next major water project arose,” West said.

In addition, GBRA and Exelon will continue to work with engineers and consultants on studies related to the proposed plant site and water supply.

In a nuclear power plant, reactor-coolant water must flow through the reactor to keep

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**“With the Exelon project, we have a great opportunity to utilize lower basin water on a venture that will directly benefit the lower basin communities.”**

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the fuel under water at all times for two purposes: to keep the fuel from overheating and to use the steam created in the reactor cooling process to generate power.

The steam blows through a series of huge turbines, which spin and turn the main generator to make electricity. After the steam passes through the turbines, the plant condenses it back into liquid water, then returns the water to the reactor and produces more steam.

The steam is condensed back into water by passing it through a “condenser,” a large piece of equipment that functions somewhat like a huge automobile radiator. The condenser has thousands of small tubes running through it. On the outside of the tubes is the cooling water from a lake or river. On the inside of the tubes is the steam being cooled into water.

While an automobile radiator uses outside air to cool the water inside the radiator tubes to keep the car engine cool, a power plant condenser uses outside water to cool the steam inside the condenser tubes. The same

# CLEAN ENERGY, CONT.

type of water cycle also is used at power plants that burn fuels such as coal, oil, and natural gas to produce steam that drives turbines to generate electricity.

Water provided by GBRA, stored in a reservoir at the plant site, would be the source of outside cooling water at the Victoria nuclear power station.

Sale of the water to Exelon will benefit GBRA and its constituents in more than one

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**“With an estimated project investment in the billions of dollars and the possibility of 600 to 700 new permanent jobs with average annual salaries in the \$70,000 range, this project will mean a larger economic impact than any project to hit this region in decades.”**

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way. It will create a new revenue source for the river authority, which can be used for a variety of purposes that benefit the communities throughout the GBRA region.

And the sale of water to Exelon would exercise GBRA's water rights, reducing the ability for other regions to place demands on that water.

## **A valuable economic development asset for the region**

Community leaders in the Victoria area see the proposed nuclear plant as a powerful economic development generator, said Dale Fowler, president of the Victoria Economic Development Corp., a public-private partnership primarily focused on creating new job opportunities in the region, as well as promoting new investment or tax base.

“The proposed Exelon Nuclear project satisfies each of these goals in colossal fashion,” Fowler said. “With an estimated project investment in the billions of dollars and the possibility of 600 to 700 new permanent jobs with average annual salaries in the \$70,000 range, this project will mean a larger economic impact than any project to hit this region

in decades. In addition to the permanent jobs created by this project, an estimated 2,000 to 2,500 construction jobs would be needed for a period of approximately four years. This project will have a positive economic impact on the entire region.”

After learning that Victoria County was a secondary site under consideration by Exelon, and that Matagorda County was the primary site, a community-wide effort dubbed “Team Exelon” was mobilized to recruit the nuclear company to Victoria County. Team Exelon was modeled after San Antonio’s successful “Team Toyota” mobilization that helped the city win the competition for a new Toyota truck manufacturing plant in 2003.

With VEDC taking the organizational lead, the primary local stakeholders joined in a unified effort to maintain a positive position with Exelon and to make sure that the team was making the most of every opportunity

to affect the decision. Members of Team Exelon included VEDC, the Victoria City and County governments, the Victoria Chamber of Commerce, and the GBRA.

Fowler said that although they knew that much of the decision would be based on practical engineering, “...our goal was to identify other areas that we could add value to the process, believing that if the engineering became close, we could win out over the competition. We have never slowed down.” He said community support has never been more broad-based than what has occurred with the Exelon project.

The VEDC began working with Exelon in September 2006, with unanimous support from the VEDC Board’s Executive Committee. Since then, it has received resolutions of support from the Victoria City Council, Victoria County Commissioners’ Court, Victoria Chamber of Commerce, African American Chamber of Commerce, GBRA, and VEDC itself. And since the announcement in December that Victoria County is the chosen

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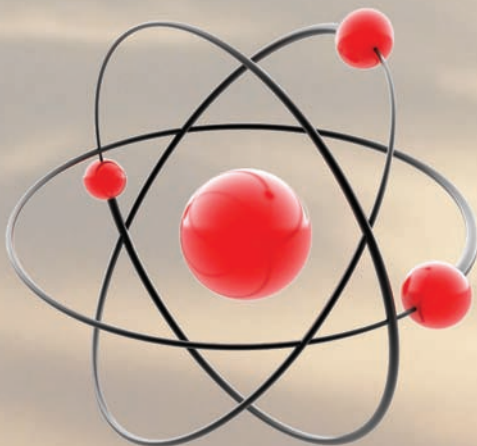
**“We want it, but more importantly, we want it done the right way.”**

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site for the licensing application, officials from Refugio County have offered similar support, Fowler said.

Recently, a team of local leaders traveled to Washington, D.C., to open a dialogue with their congressional delegation regarding the proposed nuclear plant.

“It is important for them to know that there is support for the project and that we are monitoring it closely,” Fowler said. “We want it, but more importantly, we want it done the right way. One way to ensure it is done in the right way is to have our key decision-makers in Washington briefed on the issue. This is a long-term project, and we believe it will be







*L-R Bill West visits with U.S. Senator John Cornyn, R-Texas.*

beneficial for all involved to have open lines of communication – thus, the reason for our recent trip.”


### **Energy demand increasing in Texas**

The plant in Victoria County would be Texas’ third nuclear power plant. The South Texas Project Electric Generating Station near Bay City, 90 miles southwest of Houston has been operating since 1988. The Comanche Peak Steam Electric Station near Glen Rose, located 80 miles southwest of Dallas, has been operating since 1990.

However, nuclear energy only produces about 10 percent of the state’s electricity, according to the Energy Information Administration, a part of the U.S. Department of Energy. Natural gas and coal plants generate more than 87 percent of the state’s electricity. Texas needs a diversification of

power sources to meet the state’s growing energy demands.

But Texas needs to add electrical generating capacity to keep up with increasing demand as the population grows. According to the U.S. Department of Energy, the Lone Star State’s need for power will increase by approximately 48 percent by 2030.

Nuclear energy will be an important part of the mix, due to its safety, reliability, relatively low operating expense, and ability to generate large amounts of electricity without polluting the air with carbon dioxide. 

# Team Exelon Formed to Help Lure Nuclear Facility

by Tammy Beutnagel

**T**eam Exelon may not exactly resemble the action heroes of Superman, Batman, Robin, Wonder Woman, and Aquaman who formed the animated team of Super Friends, but the group's actions seem to be yielding some super results.

Team Exelon was formed when members from the Victoria Economic Development Corporation, GBRA, Victoria County the City of Victoria, Victoria Chamber of Commerce, and the African American Chamber of Commerce – all parties with vested interests in securing a \$4 billion energy business for Victoria County – pulled together their collective forces on a super effort to influence the leadership of Exelon Generation Company, LLC.

Dale Fowler, president of the Victoria Economic Development Corporation and Team Exelon member explained that the team's initial goal consisted of helping to educate Victoria and surrounding cities about the positive effects of nuclear energy.

Now, Team Exelon serves as a voice for the community and keeps the community in front of Exelon in a positive way.

"One of the top criteria for Exelon was to choose a site in a community that would welcome them," Fowler said, adding, "Team Exelon has helped secure Exelon's understanding that they are wanted here." Exelon had also considered a site in Matagorda County for possibly building a nuclear facility, and initially, Exelon identified that site as the primary location.

"GBRA has been a part of Team Exelon from the very beginning and it's a great example of what can be accomplished when folks come together to achieve a common goal," said Bill West, GBRA general manager and Team Exelon member. "While the project has a long way to go, Team Exelon has already been a very important means of providing a laser-like focus to deal with questions and issues about the project," West added.

The team's successful efforts included securing initial support from Victoria and more recently from Refugio County Commissioner's Court, Refugio Community Development Foundation, Refugio County Chamber of Commerce and the Austwell City Council.

Key decision makers in Washington also were given a chance to learn more about this Texas nuclear project by Fowler and West in March at the Texas Water Conservation Association Conference. "We have never slowed down," said Fowler. "In addition to the Washington trip, we have been to Austin to meet with various agencies and key legislators, including Governor Perry."

Initially, Exelon officials had considered a site in Matagorda County as its primary location to build a nuclear facility.

Since Team Exelon's conception, Exelon has chosen the Victoria site as best suited to satisfy Nuclear Regulatory Commission's (NRC) requirements for the \$4 billion dollar plant. "We intend to be close partners in the community, but we will never take its support for granted. We intend to earn your trust," said Thomas O'Neill, vice president new plant development, Exelon Nuclear.

VICTORIA ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT  
EXELON GENERATION COMPANY, LLC  
GUADADALUPE-BLANCO RIVER AUTHORITY  
VICTORIA AFRICAN AMERICAN CHAMBER OF COMMERCE  
CITY OF VICTORIA  
VICTORIA COUNTY

"GBRA has been a part of Team Exelon from the very beginning and it's a great example of what can be accomplished when folks come together to achieve a common goal."



## Governor Perry Appoints Directors for Hays, Caldwell, Calhoun and Refugio Counties

**A**rlene N. Marshall of Port Lavaca, Oscar Fogle of Lockhart, and James "Jim" L. Powers of Dripping Springs became the newest members of the GBRA Board of



Directors appointed by Governor Rick Perry, along with Frank Pagel of Tivoli whom the governor reappointed. Marshall, Powers, and Pagel were administered the oath of office at the January GBRA board

meeting. Fogle was administered the oath of office by Caldwell County Judge H.T. Wright during Commissioners Court in March.

Arlene Marshall, a former County Judge for Calhoun County, will represent the Calhoun County position for GBRA. She serves as president of the Calhoun County Economic Development Corporation. Marshall received a bachelor of arts degree from the University of Houston. She also is a director for the Workforce Solutions of Golden Crescent Board, the University of Houston-Victoria President's Regional Advisory Council, the Victoria College Foundation Board, Victoria College Calhoun County Center Advisory Board, the Trinity Shores Board and was 2006-07 president of the Port Lavaca Noon Day Rotary Club. Marshall fills the place formerly held by Stephen F. Wilson, DVM of Port Lavaca with a term to run through February 2011.

Oscar Fogle will serve on GBRA's Board of Directors through February 2014. He replaces John Schneider, Jr., the director who formerly represented Caldwell County with GBRA.

Fogle operates commercial cattle business and conducts several wildlife management practices.

He is a veteran of the United States Air Force and retired from a career with Exxon Corporation. As a member of Exxon's International Oil Spill Response Team, Fogle was a Deputy Taskforce Commander during the Exxon Valdez oil spill clean-up operations.

Fogle attended Texas A&I University, now known as Texas A&M-Kingsville. He is a past president of the Texas A&I Alumni Association, and is serving his thirteenth year on the Board of Trustees for the Texas A&M-Kingsville Foundation.

Fogle serves as chair of the Agricultural Advisory Committee for the Caldwell County Appraisal District, is an active member of the Caldwell County Republican Party, a life member of the National Rifle Association and Texas State Rifle Association, an amateur radio operator, and a pilot.



Jim Powers, a former Hays County Judge, will fill the Hays County position. Powers is a business consultant for Stellargy Services LLC, in Austin. He attended Southwest Baptist University in Bolivar, Missouri. Prior to becoming county judge, Powers was the

director of Family and Marriage Resources, and along with his partners, owned several Popeyes

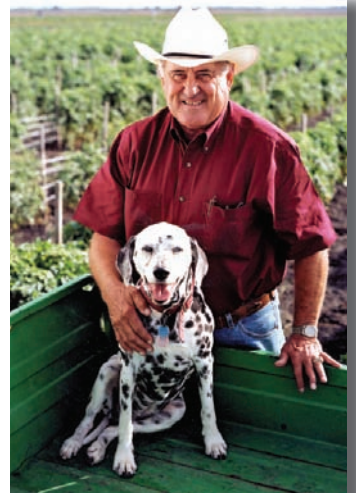
Restaurants and convenience stores in the Austin area.



During his tenure as Hays County Judge, Powers served on the CAMPO Board Executive Committee, Co-Chaired the Executive Committee for the Regional Water Quality Planning Board, and led the negotiations with LCRA and GBRA in bringing surface water to Hays County. In addition, Powers procured the 2nd largest grant in the nation from the federal government for conservation planning and protection of native wildlife and water quality to create the Habitat Conservation Plan. Powers fills the place formerly held by Jack R. Gary of San Marcos with a term to run through February 2014.

Frank J. Pagel of Tivoli has been reappointed to represent Refugio County. Pagel, a former instructor pilot for the United States Air Force, graduate of Texas A&M University and third generation farmer, has been

involved in agricultural production since 1957. Pagel also served as county chairman of the Refugio County Republican Party since 1996 and is a member of the Texas A&M Century Club and Former Students Association. Pagel's term will end in February 2013.



GBRA's 10 counties are represented on a rotating basis with each director serving a six-year term — three directors appointed or reappointed every two years.

# GBRA Directors Elect 2008 Board Officers

**D**uring the December board meeting in Seguin, the Guadalupe-Blanco River Authority (GBRA) Board of Directors elected new officers for 2008. Myrna P. McLeroy from Gonzales County will serve as chair, Clifton L. Thomas of Victoria County will serve as vice-chair and T.L. Walker of Comal County will serve as secretary/treasurer.

**McLeroy** of Gonzales was appointed to GBRA's board in 2001 to represent Gonzales County by Governor Rick Perry. McLeroy operates a farm that has been in her family since 1885 and is owner of the McLeroy Land Group in Gonzales, which conducts mineral title searches and negotiates oil and gas leases for various companies. McLeroy attended Southern Methodist University and the University of Houston. Her community activities include serving as a director of the Torch of Freedom Foundation, a commissioner of the Housing Authority of Gonzales, a member of the Empowerment Board of Gonzales, chair of the Gonzales County Republican Party since 1990, a member of the American Association of Professional Landmen since 1978 and a member of the Gonzales County Chamber of Commerce and Agriculture.



*Myrna McLeroy*



*Clifton Thomas*

Walker received a commercial banking degree from the American Institute of Banking and a graduate degree in commercial banking from the Southwestern Graduate School of Banking at Southern

Methodist University. He is a former member of the American Institute of Banking, the Bank Administration Institute, the American Bankers Association and the Texas Bankers Association. Walker also serves as the Comal County representative on the South Central Texas Water Advisory Committee. He is a board member and past president of the New Braunfels Industrial Foundation, member and former director of the Comal County Community Fund United Way, and committee member and past board member of the Greater New Braunfels Chamber of Commerce. Walker is a retired Wells Fargo executive.



*T. L. Walker*

## Did You Know

The Blanco River is approximately 90 total river miles.



# *employee anniversaries*

GBRA recognizes the following employees for their dedication of service. (These employees started with GBRA between the months of December and February.)

## **December**

12/10/79 Joe Gonzales, Victoria WWTP - 28 yrs  
 12/25/81 Roy Odom, Hydro - 26 yrs  
 12/6/83 Connie Rothe, General - 24 yrs  
 12/28/92 Dianne Fly, Coletto Reservoir - 15 yrs  
 12/10/99 Jerry Sharp, San Marcos WTP - 8 yrs  
 12/20/00 Wallis Gudgeon, Western Canyon WTP - 7 yrs  
 12/29/00 James Medrano, Hydro - 7 yrs  
 12/5/05 Felix Davis, Western Canyon WTP - 2 yrs  
 12/11/06 Arthur Samons, Western Canyon WTP - 1 yrs

## **January**

1/28/76 Bryan Serold, Water Resources - 32 yrs  
 1/11/77 Rodney Voss, Hydro - 31 yrs  
 1/14/80 Darel Ball, Water Resources - 28 yrs  
 1/14/80 Mark Henneke, Water Resources - 28 yrs  
 1/16/81 Curtis Seiler, Coletto Recreation - 27 yrs  
 1/31/81 David Lundin, Port Lavaca WTP - 27 yrs  
 1/4/83 Alan Schneider, Coletto Reservoir - 25 yrs  
 1/5/87 Samuel Widmer, Coletto Recreation - 21 yrs  
 1/27/88 Sara Vazquez, Victoria WWTP - 20 yrs  
 1/6/95 Sandra Terry, General - 13 yrs  
 1/11/02 Nita Krahn, Port Lavaca WTP - 6 yrs  
 1/27/04 Steve Wallendorf, San Marcos WTP - 4 yrs  
 1/24/05 Susan Hubbert, General - 3 yrs  
 1/2/07 Sheryll Kisiah, Canal RWSS - 1 yrs  
 1/21/08 James Murphy, Water Resources - New Hire  
 1/2/08 Edwin Boettner, Buda WWTP - New Hire

## **February**

2/18/80 Charles Fennell, Hydro - 28 yrs  
 2/29/80 Jimmy Wyatt, Victoria WWTP - 28 yrs  
 2/27/84 Linda McPherson, Port Lavaca WTP - 24 yrs  
 2/1/91 Richard Gaona, Calhoun Canal - 17 yrs  
 2/1/94 William West, General - 14 yrs  
 2/7/94 Curtis Davis, Victoria WWTP - 14 yrs  
 2/4/99 Cheryl Gorden, General - 9 yrs  
 2/18/06 Richard Gonzales, Lockhart WTP - 2 yrs  
 2/1/07 LaMarriol Smith, General - 1 yrs  
 2/19/07 Tony Saenz, Victoria WWTP - 1 yrs  
 2/25/08 Emily Knepp, Lab - New Hire

## **GBRA** *Training & Licenses*

**Guadalupe Aguillon** from the Calhoun Canal took Pipeline Awareness training.

**Clarissa Castellanos** of the Lab underwent ECLOX (a security tool for water treatment plants) training and took a Microsoft Excel class and Texas Fresh Water Fish Identification training.

**Curtis Davis** of Victoria WWTP took Intermediate Wastewater Laboratory training.

**David Garcia** of Port Lavaca WTP took Pipeline Awareness training.

**Ronald Gosnell** of the Canal RWSS attended trainings for Membrane Filtration and Pipeline Awareness.

**Dennis Gunter** from the Victoria WWTP underwent trainings for Electrical Trouble Shooting and Intermediate Wastewater Laboratory.

**Emmylou Gutierrez** of the Lab attended training for Microsoft Excel.

**Nancy Hawkins** of the Lab attended ECLOX training, Dionex Seminar IC Troubleshooting, and training for Texas Fresh Water Fish Identification.

**Carlton Hoefling** of the Victoria WWTP attended Intermediate Wastewater Laboratory training.

**Don Koble** of the Canal RWSS attended training for Membrane Filtration and Pipeline Awareness.

**Wifred Korth** of Coletto Recreation attended Texas Fresh Water Fish Identification.

**Allen Lawson** of Western Canyon WTP underwent trainings for Fundamentals of Connection Control and Backflow Prevention.

**Jason Lewis** of Coletto Recreation obtained a "B" Groundwater License.

**Jeff McKee** of Hydro obtained a "D" Wastewater Operator License.

**Cliff Prout** of Victoria WWTP attended the Back Flow Prevention Assembly and Intermediate Wastewater Laboratory training.

**Terry Ramey** from Victoria WWTP attended trainings for Surface Water Production and Intermediate Wastewater Laboratory.

**Stephanie Shelly** of Port Lavaca WTP attended trainings for Membrane Filtration and Pipeline Awareness.

**Frank Tompkins** of Victoria attended Herbicide training.

**Mike Tompkins** of Calhoun Canal attended Pipeline Awareness training.

**Keelyn Underwood** of Victoria WWTP obtained a "B" Wastewater Operator License.

**David Welsch** of Water Resources attended training for Microsoft Excel.

**Herb Wittliff** of Calhoun Canal attended Pipeline Awareness training.

**Bill Young** of Victoria WWTP obtained his "C" Wastewater Operator License and attended Intermediate Wastewater Laboratory training.

\*TWUA Day School was offered to Lower Basin employees.

\*Side-by-Side Team training was offered to Upper Basin Operators.

\*CPR, First-Aid training was offered to all GBRA employees.

# Jobs @ GBRA

The following positions are available with GBRA:

## **Executive Manager of Business Development & Resource Management**

Grade: Executive

Site: Seguin, TX

**Description:** This executive position has overall responsibility for evaluating and expanding strategic business alliances for the Authority, for the development of new projects and services, and for the management of water quality and environmentally related services. The position is the principal contact for chamber relations, new customers, economic development partners, and grant funding partners, and oversees the Authority's strategic planning activity. The position is a member of the Authority's Executive Team. (A full description is available from GBRA Human Resources.)

**Education:** At least a bachelor's degree in a natural resource-related discipline, or a bachelor's degree in business administration or liberal arts with significant experience in natural resource development and management; Professional Engineering license preferred.

**Experience:** At least eight (8) years' diversified experience in project development, water quality, and community relations. Experience in environmental permits and land acquisition is an asset.

## **Chief Operator**

Grade: 8

Site: Shadow Creek Wastewater Reclamation System

\*Detailed job descriptions available on GBRA's website.

Send résumé and cover letter to Attn.: Katherine Ray, Ray Associates, Inc., 1304 Guadalupe, Austin, TX 78701, or email [kray@rayassociates.com](mailto:kray@rayassociates.com).

To apply for other GBRA positions, prospective applicants may:

1. Download the GBRA employment application (<http://www.gbra.org/Documents/HR/GBRAEmploymentApplication.pdf>) and fax with résumé to (830) 379-9923; or
2. Mail application and résumé to Attn.: Human Resources, 933 E. Court, Seguin, TX 78155; or
3. Email résumé to [hr@gbra.org](mailto:hr@gbra.org); or
4. Stop by GBRA at 933 E. Court, Seguin, TX, Monday through Friday between 8 a.m. and 4 p.m. to drop off or complete an application.

## BOOKMARK

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Interests of the GBRA's staff are as wide and varied as the constituents they serve. Those varied interests are reflected in the books and novels they have taken the time to read lately. The following list contains selected recommended readings by GBRA staff members:

### ***Salty Piece of Land* by Jimmy Buffet**

Tully Mars, a 40-ish ex-cowboy turned guide at the Lost Boys Fishing Lodge island resort, finds himself regretting a decision to help find the missing lens belonging to the Cayo Loco lighthouse, in a madcap, tequila-inspired adventure featuring such characters as Indian shaman Ix-Nay, centenarian Cleopatra Highbourne, and boatman Captain Kirk.

— recommended by Tammy Beutnagel, public communications assistant

### ***One Ranger* by H. Joaquin Jackson**

Former Texas Ranger H. Joaquin Jackson starts off his memoir with the story of the toughest moment in his life, watching his son stand trial for murder. And, there were other personal stories for the ranger because he considered himself a part of the community for which he upheld the law.

— recommended by Darel Ball, division manager – Hays/Caldwell

### ***True Women* by Janice Woods Windle**

Filled with tales of the strength and bravery of Texas women, this first novel, a fictionalization of the author's family history, moves from 1831 to 1946. Featuring well-known historical figures as well as members of the King and Woods clans, it is a sort of a Texas-style *Gone with the Wind*. It is an intriguing blend of historical novel and family memoir.

— recommended by Sandra Terry, accountant

### ***Clear and Present Danger* by Tom Clancy**

When a U.S. president decides that drug smuggling has become a "clear and present danger" to national security, the response is a complex and covert military campaign against a Colombian Cartel. The book is about good conscience, law, and politics, with Jack Ryan and CIA agent John Clark as its dual heroes. Ryan relentlessly pursues what he knows is right and legal, even if it means confronting the president.

— recommended by Alvin Schuerg, executive manager of finance and administration

### ***More than a Hobby* by David Green, founder of Hobby Lobby**

This book takes readers inside the mind of a low-key, likable Oklahoma entrepreneur who created a unique shopping experience in Hobby Lobby. How did his company go from a \$600 loan to \$1.3 billion in annual sales in just thirty-one years? Green was willing to go against the tide, allowing faith to play a huge part in the business.

— recommended by Susan Hubbert, accountant

So, if one finds him/herself with a little free time this spring, why not pick up a book, sit out on the porch swing and give it a read? Don't forget your bookmark...and enjoy!





# SAFETY & WELLNESS

## As Temperatures Rise, So Do Chances of **Heat Stroke**

**H**eat stroke, an illness that occurs when the body is unable to regulate its temperature, can be deadly. The body's temperature rises rapidly, the sweating mechanism fails, and the body is unable to cool down. A person's body temperature may rise to 106 degrees or higher in a short amount of time, as quickly as 10 to 15 minutes. Heat stroke can cause disability or even death if immediate treatment is not provided.

Some warning signs of heat stroke include high body temperature, hot and dry skin, rapid strong pulse, throbbing headache, dizziness, nausea and confusion. Unconsciousness may occur.

If heat stroke is suspected:

- Call for emergency assistance
- Begin cooling the victim
- Monitor body temperature

Heat exhaustion may develop after several days of exposure to high temperatures and inadequate or unbalanced replacement of fluids. Some of the warning signs of heat exhaustion are heavy sweating, paleness, muscle cramps, tiredness, weakness, dizziness, headache, nausea and fainting. Typically, the types of individuals most prone to heat exhaustion are the elderly, people who have high blood pressure, and people who work or exercise in a hot environment.

## Tornado Time

**I**n the Central Plains and Texas, spring and early summer signal times of inclement weather, typically bringing flash floods, thunderstorms and tornadoes. Tornadoes also may spawn when tropical storms or hurricanes from the Gulf Coast make landfall.

It is important to know the difference in National Weather Service (NWS) alerts on weather conditions. When the NWS issues a "tornado watch," it indicates that conditions are favorable for tornadoes to form in the specified areas. Therefore, residents in those areas should stay alert to changing weather conditions.

When the NWS issues a "tornado warning," when spotters have sighted a tornado or one is indicated by Doppler radar. Essentially, the tornado is either occurring or is imminent in the specified warning area. In such instances, residents should immediately seek shelter, by moving to a small room/space in the central area of the house or go into a basement if available. It is safer to stay away from windows in order to avoid flying glass and debris.


Families should develop and practice tornado evacuation and communication plans for their homes. Have emergency kits that include

radios, flashlights and fresh batteries prepared and placed in an easily accessible location.

A tornado's wrath is nothing to take lightly. Scientists have developed a method of measuring tornadoes maximum wind speeds by examining the damage left in the aftermath. This scale of tornado wind speeds, called the Fujita Scale, is named for the developer of the scale and tornado researcher Theodore Fujita, Ph.D.



Photo courtesy of NOAA

F-Scale #	Intensity	Wind Speed	Types of Damage
F0	Gale Tornado	40-72 mph	Damage to chimneys, breaks some branches
F1	Moderate Tornado	73-112 mph	Peels shingles, mobile homes overturned
F2	Significant Tornado	113-157 mph	Mobile homes demolished, trees snapped
F3	Severe Tornado	158-206 mph	Trees uprooted, roofs torn off, trains toppled
F4	Devastating Tornado	207-260 mph	Constructed homes leveled, cars thrown
F5	Incredible Tornado	261-318 mph	Homes carried off, trees debarked
F6	Inconceivable Tornado	319-379 mph	(1999 Okla. City narrowly missed F6 class) 

# Mark Your Calendar

May 21, 2008 10 a.m.  
GBRA Board Meeting  
River Annex Bldg., Seguin, TX

May 26, 2008  
Memorial Day (observed)  
GBRA Offices Closed

Jun. 2, 2008  
Registration Deadline (\$125)  
Texas Water Safari  
[www.texaswatersafari.org](http://www.texaswatersafari.org)

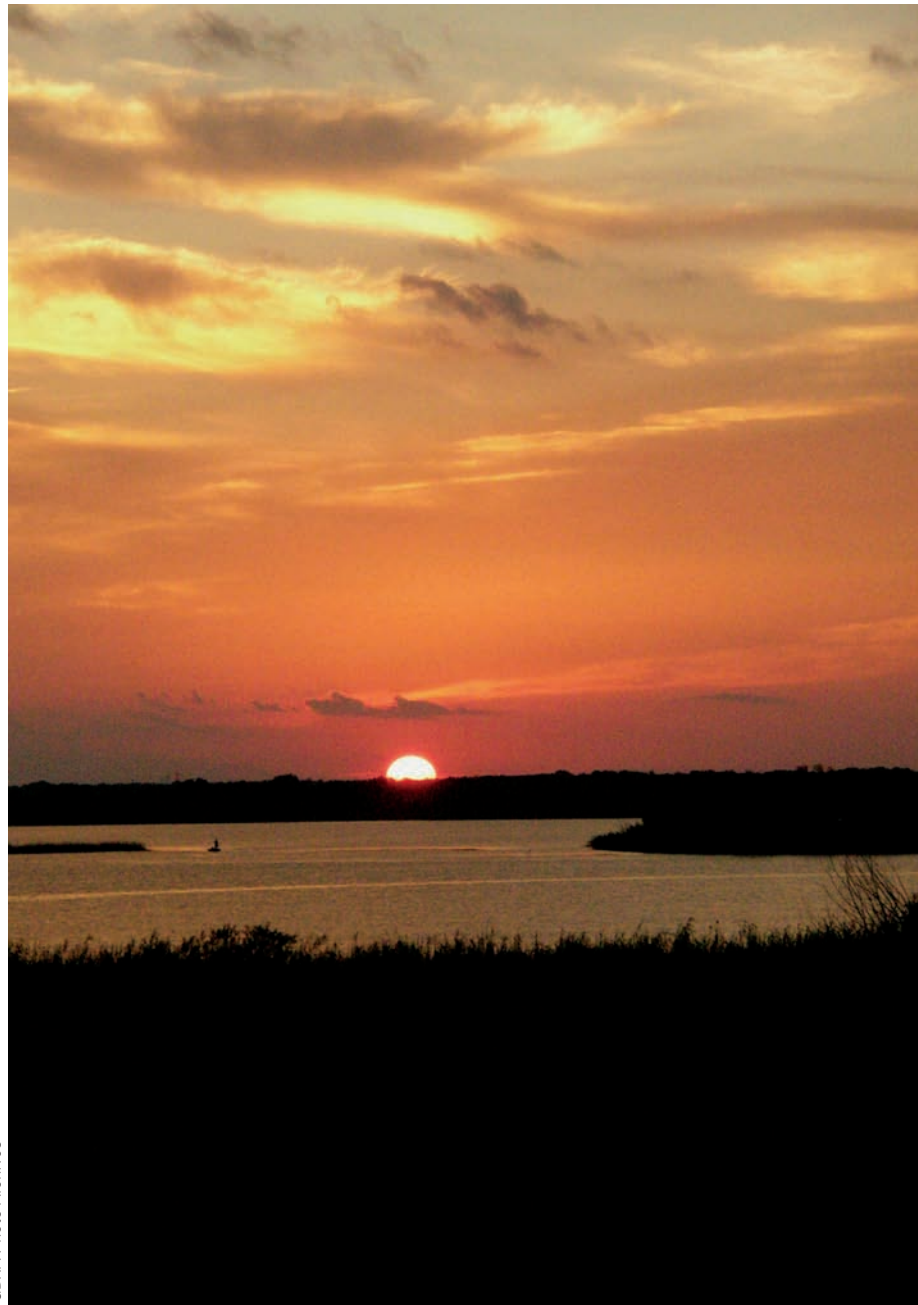
Jun. 14, 2008 9 a.m.  
Texas Water Safari starts  
Aquarena Springs, San Marcos, TX

Jun. 18, 2008 10 a.m.  
GBRA Board Meeting  
River Annex Bldg., Seguin, TX

Jul. 16, 2008 10 a.m.  
GBRA Board Meeting  
River Annex Bldg., Seguin, TX

Jul. 19, 2008  
Texas Lineman's Rodeo  
Nolte Island, Seguin, TX

Jul. 28-30, 2008  
NWRA Western Water Seminar  
Skamania Lodge, Stevenson, Washington



GBRA Photo Archives

Gen/GRR/Winter-Spring2008/Cap-4500

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Guadalupe-Blanco River Authority  
933 E. Court St.  
Seguin, Texas 78155

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