



GBRA RIVER RUN

A publication of the GUADALUPE-BLANCO RIVER AUTHORITY Fall 2013/Winter 2014

VOLUNTEERS ROCK

Reservists Train at Coletto

◆ *General Counsel Hired* ◆

EARIP Gets Award

From the GM

The Water Litigation Pendulum Is Swinging

The Guadalupe-Blanco River Authority, and indeed, various other entities in the region have become embroiled in significant water-related litigation over the past few years. Some of these issues are reaching a resolution while others remain in legal limbo. But all of these water disputes are important, have serious consequences, and most importantly, need to be understood and followed by all of our constituents. Below I have provided some brief summaries for your convenience:



➤ A lawsuit against the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) initiated by a group using the federal Endangered Species Act (ESA) to bring a halt to water permitting on the Guadalupe and San Antonio rivers by alleging multiple deaths of the endangered whooping cranes on the Texas coast in the winter of 2009 led the GBRA to intervene as a defendant. In March 2013, a federal district court judge held that the TCEQ caused the deaths of the whooping cranes by issuing water permits that resulted in diverting water from the cranes and ordered TCEQ to immediately stop issuing water permits on the Guadalupe and San Antonio rivers and ordered a federally-led habitat conservation plan for the species. That ruling was appealed to the United States Court of Appeals for the Fifth Circuit. The parties presented arguments to a three-judge panel during a hearing in August and are awaiting a ruling.

➤ A long-running dispute between Texas and New Mexico involving Rio Grande water will go before the U.S. Supreme Court. In a complaint filed with the court last year, the State of Texas argued that New Mexico had sidestepped a 1938 agreement to deliver Texas' share of water from the Rio Grande. Texas alleged that New Mexico is instead illegally allowing diversions of both surface water and groundwater hydrologically connected to the Rio Grande downstream of Elephant Butte Reservoir in New Mexico, according to the filing. In January, the Supreme Court agreed to hear the case.

➤ In *Edwards Aquifer Authority (EAA) vs. Glenn and JoLynn Bragg*, the Texas Fourth Court of Appeals ruled in September that the EAA owes landowners money for "taking" property by limiting groundwater pumping. Regulators are trying to adjust to the hurdles of such "takings" claims, which are becoming even more complicated given the ongoing drought situation and existing water management rules.

➤ In a lawsuit filed in federal district court in June 2012, the League of United Latin American Citizens charged that the EAA's system of selecting board members, along with other conditions, disproportionately favors voters outside of Bexar County and dilutes minority voters in violation of the Voting Rights Act and equal protection guarantees in the U.S. Constitution. By August, the San Antonio Water System (SAWS) sought to join LULAC in the lawsuit against the EAA. Conversely, GBRA has filed to intervene with the EAA as a defendant as have the City of San Marcos, New Braunfels Utilities and interests in the western counties of the EAA as well. A change in the board member configuration by election would give SAWS a majority on the EAA board, upsetting the balance struck by the Texas Legislature in the Edwards Aquifer Act.

➤ And finally, SAWS has filed to contest GBRA's Mid-Basin Project permit application, even though that project is 80 miles from San Antonio and located in a different river basin. Shortly thereafter, SAWS also sought a bed and banks permit in a disingenuous attempt to claim its return effluent flows that previously had been established as flows to offset SAWS' over-pumping the Edwards and comprised part of downstream water rights. The reliability of long-standing senior surface water rights would be significantly reduced by this action. Presumably these issues will be sorted out through negotiations or contested case hearings with the TCEQ.



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GBRA River Run

Winter 2013/Fall 2014

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GBRA River Run is published by the Office of Communications and Education of the Guadalupe-Blanco River Authority. The Office of Communications and Education retains the right to determine the editorial content and presentation of information contained herein. Articles or opinion written by guest writers do not necessarily reflect official views or policy of the GBRA or its Board of Directors.

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Front cover photo: LaMarriol Smith
Back cover photo: LaMarriol Smith

Assistant AG Joins GBRA as General Counsel

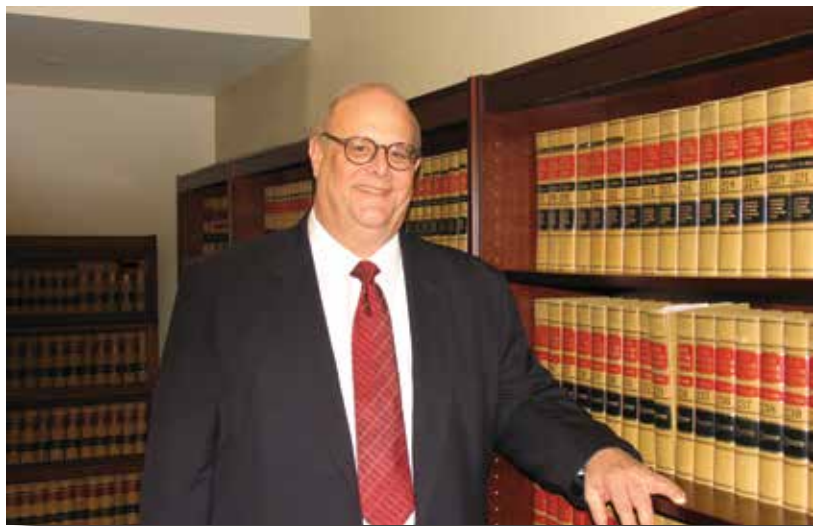


Photo by Connie Rothe

After an extensive career with the state, George Thomas “Tom” Bohl, an assistant attorney general for the Environmental Protection Division with the Office of the Attorney General (AG) will join the Guadalupe-Blanco River Authority (GBRA) as its General Counsel and member of the Executive Team.

GBRA officials announced Bohl’s hiring during its November Board of Directors meeting and Bohl officially began his general counsel duties in January 2014.

Bohl, who earned his law degree from Baylor University School of Law, and his bachelor’s degree in history from the University of Texas, will render legal advice to GBRA’s Board of Directors and management staff; prepare legal opinions, briefs and other

documentation; review contracts; interpret regulations; help resolve disputes; and manage other legal affairs.

“Bohl has the right blend of experience in water and environmental law to be a tremendous asset to GBRA and to do so quickly,” Bill West, GBRA general manager said. “We are looking forward to him sharing his expertise and talent with our team. GBRA has numerous initiatives underway that Tom’s expertise will be of tremendous value.”

He worked for more than 20 years with the Office of the Attorney General where he prosecuted civil cases for Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ), Texas Department of Health and Texas Department of Agriculture arising from violations of petroleum storage tank, municipal solid waste, safe drinking water, water district audit, dam safety and related issues. He also defended state agencies in appeals of permitting and enforcement cases and related matters. His consulting experience includes having served as Texas’ legal representative to the Sabine River, Red River, Canadian River, Pecos River and Rio Grande Compact Commissions and as legal counsel to the Texas Compact Commissioners.

Prior to his work with the AG’s Office, Bohl worked in attorney positions for the Texas Water Commission (a predecessor agency of the TCEQ) dealing with water rights and uses and petroleum storage tanks and contracts. He also previously served as an assistant county attorney for Travis County’s Civil Section.

GBRA Lab Analyst Earns Statewide Recognition

Kylie Gudgeon, laboratory analyst I in GBRA’s Regional Laboratory, collected an accolade as “Outstanding Lab Analyst Award” from the Texas Water Utilities Association (TWUA) in January 2014. The TWUA award recognizes an analyst for service in their profession above and beyond what is expected.

“In a relatively short time, Kylie has developed into an analyst that most lab managers dream of having. She is reliable, dependable, she leads by example and excels in solving critical problems that are common in any environmental lab setting,” Regional Laboratory Manager Josephine Longoria said. “She often exceeds normal output standards for the methodologies we cover. She continues to make substantial contributions to the operation and growth of our laboratory and I feel that we are extremely fortunate to have her as part of the GBRA Regional Lab Team.”

The award will be presented at the Opening General Session during the TWUA Annual School on March 2, 2014, at the Omni Hotel in Corpus Christi, Texas.



Photo by Janet Thome

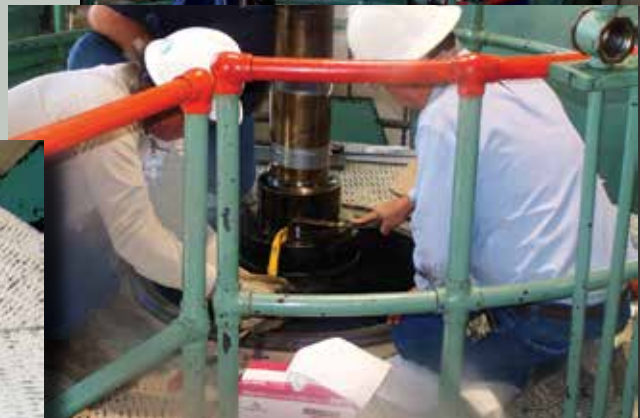
Hydro Crews Perform Maintenance on Lake Dunlap Dam

In October, Guadalupe-Blanco River Authority hydroelectric crews inspected a generator at Lake Dunlap Dam and lowered the “flashboards” on the dam, which lowered the lake level by about eight inches. On Monday, Nov. 18, 2013, the flashboards were put back in place, raising Lake Dunlap back to what many lake residents consider to be its normal level.

Flashboards are horizontal wood planks attached to the top of the gates on some dams. During the inspection of the generator, the flashboards had been lowered to facilitate the passing of flood flows during the heavy rainfall event at the time.

The results of the generator inspection indicated that an essential bearing had to be fabricated and replaced. Accordingly, GBRA crews kept the flashboards in place pending completion of repairs to the generator.

GBRA staff advised anyone using Lake Dunlap for recreation purposes during that time to exercise caution, because lower lake levels may expose debris and other potential hazards that are normally underwater.



Photos by Rod Voss

U.S. ARMY RESERVE GROUP CONDUCTS TRAINING AT COLETO PARK

In November, the U.S. Army Reserve's 288th Quartermaster Company stationed in Victoria, Texas, conducted a training exercise with its portable water treatment unit at GBRA's Coletto Creek Park and Reservoir near Victoria.

According to Sgt. Gregg Harpin, the Training NCO at the 288th Quartermaster Co., the unit used the park and reservoir to train on processing raw water from the reservoir into potable water.

GBRA's Lower Basin Manager Bryan Serold said that after processing, the potable water was filled into storage bags at the

site. At the end of the exercise, the unit members returned the water to the reservoir.

The photos on this page are from the training exercise and depict the Army Reserve vehicle that delivered the water treatment unit, and water treatment unit with deflated water storage bags that were filled as they processed the water.



Photos by Wilfred Korth

GBRA Staff Jumped into Action During Halloween Flooding

While rain fell throughout most of the Guadalupe River Basin during the Halloween Flood of 2013, Hays, Comal and Caldwell counties seemed to get the more significant amounts of rain. In all, the National Weather Service (NWS) reported that upwards of 12 inches of rain had fallen in the Wimberley area. As it became clear that it was no ordinary rainfall event, GBRA staff braved the weather conditions to get to work to insure and secure continuous operations at water and wastewater treatment plants and to disseminate river flow information to the public.

David Welsch, executive manager of Business Development and Resource Management, manages GBRA's "situation room," where he assembles a staff for the call center, coordinates the flow information and prepares consistent messaging about conditions. That information is provided to callers and passed on to KWED radio, emergency management coordinators of affected counties, homeowner associations along the hydroelectric lakes and to the chief communications officer to further disseminate to media outlets and post on social media sites. Tommy Hill, chief engineer manages Weather Net and also disseminates information throughout the basin.

Widespread rainfall occurred across portions of eight counties, but Hays, Comal, and Travis counties were hit with substantial accumulations of rain. Significant flash flooding occurred along the Interstate-35 corridor from Georgetown to New Braunfels with record flooding in several streams.

NWS 24-hour rainfall reports indicated 12.45 inches of rain recorded east of Wimberley, 11.89 inches near Driftwood, 9.55 inches southeast of Kyle, 7.50 inches west of San Marcos, 7.28 inches east-southeast of Canyon Lake Dam. Local news broadcast showed footage of numerous flash flood-related rescues and reported that more than 1,100 homes along Onion Creek were evacuated due to the rapidly rising flood waters.

The San Marcos River flooded across FM 1979 near Martindale in Hays County. In addition to the San Marcos River and Onion Creek, officials received reports of heavy flooding on the Blanco River, Cypress Creek and various other waterways in Hays and surrounding counties.

Maintenance Conducted on Coletto Creek Park Boat Ramp

Maintenance work was performed on the boat ramp at Coletto Creek Park and Reservoir in mid-January, requiring a temporary closure.

"GBRA staff scheduled the maintenance to take advantage of the current low reservoir level, which allowed easier access to perform the needed maintenance," Wilfred Korth, Coletto Creek Park chief ranger explained. "It also is a good time of year to perform maintenance because of the low volume of recreationalists using the reservoir," he added.

The boat ramp was closed from Jan. 13 through Jan. 22.

Coletto Creek Park and Reservoir are located midway between Victoria and Goliad off of Highway 59 where users have enjoyed outdoor recreational opportunities, including camping, picnicking, and fishing for more than 30 years.



Photos by Wilfred Korth



VOLUNTEERS

at heart of Canyon Lake Gorge

by Barbara Elmore

The initial bait luring workers to toil, unpaid, for hours at a time in the Canyon Lake Gorge is a tour.

Once hooked, some return several times a month, drawn by an ever-changing panorama and a sense of being a part of something grand.

Field trips into this flood-created natural phenomenon repeatedly draw new volunteers who speak eloquently about clambering among the rocks, pulling weeds and rebuilding trails. No one complains about the three hours that a tour requires. Instead, they say that they don't get to go into the gorge as often as they would like.

"You see springs, you see faults, you touch limestone. This is the hill country that I had never really known before," said Josie Gonzales of San Antonio, a member of Alamo Area Master Naturalists. She toured the flood-created gorge with fellow master naturalists in 2006, and was a member of the first class of volunteers trained to lead tours in 2007. She is a member of the gorge's core volunteer group, said Jaynellen Ladd, a natural resource specialist who works for the Guadalupe-Blanco River Authority to manage gorge operations.

Because the site is not open daily and visitors cannot go in on their own,



Photo by LaMarriol Smith

ge operations

“You see springs, you see faults, you touch limestone. This is the hill country that I had never really known before.” — Josie Gonzales

volunteers lead tours into the gorge on a schedule Ladd pre-arranges. The 75-person volunteer force is made up of individuals from different backgrounds, but most are Texas Master Naturalists. They bring a passion for conservation to the job of protecting the gorge.

Ladd organizes classes for new volunteers when enough are interested.

“I have a running list of those who would like to be docents. When I have 25, we offer a class.”

The gorge has 14 guides that lead tours, 37 docents to help on tours, and

12 volunteers maintaining trails and other areas.

Gracie Waggner of Kerrville, also a Texas Master Naturalist, is normally part of a two-docent team helping with tours. She goes in with different guides and learns something new from each one, she said. “The gorge is always changing. It’s an amazing place.” While the guides learn a script and explain what tour-goers are seeing, docents ensure that individuals don’t stray from the group. Some carry the first-aid kit that is part of every tour.

Volunteers are members of the Gorge Preservation Society, whose mission is to

promote the enjoyment and conservation of the gorge. Their energy and abilities fill an important role for the GBRA, which manages the federally owned gorge through a 25-year lease agreement with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers.

More than a mile long, 45 feet deep and a thousand feet wide, the gorge was revealed after a July 2002 flood. Almost 35 inches of rain in a week created a crushing force that left the area around the lake with close to \$90 million worth of damage.

Although the flood took no lives, it consumed homes, land and livelihoods. “This event took a big toll on the



“The gorge is always changing. It’s an amazing place.” — Gracie Waggener

community,” said Cinde Thomas-Jimenez, GBRA environmental education administrator. “And once people saw the gorge, they realized perhaps they could turn this around and make this a positive thing.”

Soon, people were asking for tours, but there was no structure in place to manage the demand. Thomas-Jimenez and others led tours into the gorge as they developed a more permanent solution. Through public

meetings with residents of the community, the GBRA put together a long-term plan and signed a lease with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers in 2005.

GBRA established the nonprofit Gorge Preservation Society, hired Ladd, and began training volunteers. They attend five classes: an initial session on the formation of the gorge, and four sessions covering geology, biology, interpretation and first aid.

The current process is organized and self-sustaining, Thomas-Jimenez said, a contrast to events that occurred when people discovered the gorge and arrived from all over the world to see it. “We wanted to open a few tours to folks in the Canyon Lake area, and we created a web link where people could sign up for tours online.” Plans for that slow opening were dashed when people read about the web link in a daily newspaper story and hundreds sought tours.



Photo by LaMarriol Smith



Photos by Brian Trock

Thomas-Jimenez led as many tours as she could and kept a waiting list of requests, and several GPS members stepped in to help. Gonzales, one of these early volunteers, credits her background as a corporate trainer for her ease in guiding tour groups and her ability to train others how to lead in the interpretation class. “This job is a lot more fun in this setting than working in a conference room,” she added.

GPS now has about 200 members. One of the benefits of membership is the chance to buy tickets in advance for the annual fundraiser, called “Moonlight in the Gorge.”

The event takes place in the Shell Flats area with shuttles delivering guests there. “There is no electricity—it’s illuminated by moonlight and firelight, so you feel like you have been transported in time,” Ladd said. The dress code specifies flat shoes and

flashlights—“gorge-casual attire.” The site can hold 200 people and the event sells out each year.

The GPS recognizes gorge volunteers in an annual appreciation dinner, Ladd said. “This is a social hour and we get to know each other. We have a full dinner and we give out awards.” This year volunteers received a gorge pin and volunteers who served five years or more received fossil pins. A star award to the guide that



Photo by LaMarriol Smith

led the most tours in 2013 went to Pete Bryant.

The docent with the most tours was Richard Barnett. The trail worker honored for the most years served was Dan Madden.

"We could not do what we do without these awesome volunteers," Ladd added.

"They have educated more than 16,000 visitors."

Van Green, GPS board chairman since 2009, called the saga of the gorge managed by volunteers "a remarkable story" and the canyon "a self-fulfilling reward. There is a feeling you get that you are providing an opportunity and managing a unique setting."

A birder and a Texas Master Naturalist, Green added that volunteers "flowed into that interest realm from different directions and coalesced around the gorge. It's really rewarding to see how it has evolved."

GORGE PRESERVATION SOCIETY VOLUNTEERS

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Teresa VanBooven
Jaynellen Ladd*

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Terry Cappetta

GUIDES

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Susan Bogle *
Coco Brennan *
Barry Brupbacher
Pete Bryant *
Barbara Geistfeld
Josie Gonzales *
Jamie Kinscherff *
Paul Mebane
Kerry O'Neal
David Reel
Cinde Thomas-
Jimenez *
George Wilkes
Dave Wright *

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Daneshu Clarke
Diana Cooper
Frank Cooper
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Jim Dyess
Carol Entringer
Mark Hammond
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Veronica Hawk
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Jim Geistfeld
Lea Gose *
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Bob Gray *
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Marie Miller
Laura Paulson
Sherry Reel
Lois Ricci *
Marty Rolleg
Jody Ruhl
Karen Sewell
Frank Stile *
Sallie Stile
Andy Swain
Gracie Waggener

TRAIL WORKERS

Allen Bartram
Sid Benus
Susan Bogle *
Coco Brennan *
Ron Butts
James Griffen
Toby Kerr
Dan Madden *
Brian Trock

**Earliest Volunteers*

Volunteers Beautify Plum Creek

by Nick Dornak



Almost 200 volunteers dedicated Saturday, Sept. 28, 2013, to “keeping Lockhart beautiful.” Volunteers spent the morning removing 1,580 pounds of refuse and 840 pounds of recyclable materials from 4.5 stream miles of Plum Creek and its tributaries.

In addition to debris removal, volunteers planted wildflowers at City Park and attended an environmental fair that delved into subjects such as litter prevention and aquatic invertebrates.

Now in its sixth year, the annual cleanup event is funded entirely by local individuals, families and businesses. “Thanks to the grassroots efforts of the Plum Creek Watershed Partnership, the City of Lockhart, the Guadalupe-Blanco River Authority and our dedicated volunteer cleanup leaders, the Lockhart community is truly taking ownership of their parks, waterways and natural areas,” said Nick Dornak, watershed coordinator for Plum Creek.



Photos by Mike McGregor

Support for the program continues to grow as fundraising in 2013 doubled from 2012 levels with 42 local sponsors contributing more than \$4,000 in cash and in-kind donations.

Officials with the city of Lockhart and the Plum Creek Watershed Partnership extended their thanks to the greater Lockhart community of sponsors and volunteers who helped make the Sixth Annual Keep Lockhart Beautiful Cleanup such a success.

Western Canyon WTP Earns “Runner-up” in Taste Contest

GBRA's Western Canyon Water Treatment Plant, which employs a membrane filtration system, placed “Runner Up” in the South Central Membrane Association (SCMA) 2013 Best Tasting Membrane Water Competition in August.

“We’ve always known the Western Canyon plant has some of the best tasting water in the state. Placing runner-up confirms what our taste buds tell us,” Mike Urrutia, GBRA division manager for Comal and Kendall counties.

Other competing entities included the Brazos Regional Public Utility Agency (Granbury, Texas), City of Pflugerville (Pflugerville, Texas), Robert W. Sokoll Water Treatment Plant (Waxahachie, Texas), and Upper Trinity Regional Water District (Lewisville, Texas).



Mike Urrutia, Jorge Rojas, Darrell Winslett

Photo by Marilyn Medlock

Fogle, Mathews, and Brockman Elected as 2014 Board Officers



Oscar Fogle



Tommy Mathews



Rusty Brockman

At the December meeting in Seguin, the Guadalupe-Blanco River Authority (GBRA) Board of Directors elected board officers for 2014. Oscar Fogle of Caldwell County will serve a second term as chairman, Tommy Mathews of Kendall County will serve as vice-chairman, and Rusty Brockman of Comal County will serve as secretary/treasurer.

Fogle, a resident of Lockhart, Texas, serves as chair of the Agricultural Advisory Committee for the Caldwell County Appraisal District, serves on the Executive Committee of Envision Central Texas, serves on the Steering Committee of the Plum Creek Watershed Partnership, serves on the Board of Trustees of the Guadalupe-Blanco River Trust, is an active member of the Caldwell County Republican Party, and is a life member of the National Rifle Association and Texas State Rifle Association.

Fogle attended Texas A&I University, now Texas A&M-Kingsville. He is a past president of the Texas A&I Alumni Association and served for 16 years on the Board of Trustees for the Texas A&M-Kingsville Foundation.

Fogle and his wife Susie own and operate Oak Hill Ranch, where they have a commercial cattle business and employ several wildlife management practices. He is a veteran of the United States Air Force and retired from a career with Exxon Corporation.

Mathews, a resident of Boerne, is president of Westward Environmental, Inc., a member of the National Registry of Environmental Professionals, Texas Board of Professional Geoscientists, Associated General Contractors of Texas, Texas Hot Mix Asphalt Pavement Association, and president of the Cow Creek Groundwater Conservation District.

Mathews is past board chair of the Allied Division of the Texas Aggregate and Concrete Association, and a past board member and past secretary of the National Stone, Sand and Gravel Association. He is also past president of the Hill Country Alliance of Groundwater Conservation Districts, past citizen representative of the Lower Guadalupe River Water Supply Project Advisory Forum, and past board secretary of the Winston School San Antonio Board. Mathews received a bachelor's degree from Trinity University.

Brockman, a resident of New Braunfels, is director of economic development for the Greater New Braunfels Chamber of Commerce Inc. He is vice-chair of the Texas Economic Development Council, economic development committee chair of the Austin/San Antonio IH-35 Corridor Council, a life member of the Texas Parent-Teacher Association, and a member of the International Economic Development Council. Brockman also is director and past president of the New Braunfels Breakfast Lions.

He received a bachelor's degree from the University of Houston, teaching certification from the University of Houston at Clear Lake, and a master's degree in education and certification as a professional administrator from Stephen F. Austin State University.

Fogle, Mathews, and Brockman are appointees of Governor Rick Perry.

GBRA *Training & Licenses*

Daphne Harder of General attended New Form, New Challenges: Employers' Guide to the I-9 and M-274, and Managing Employees During Time of Crisis.

Christopher Lewis of General attended Technology Based Training: Chlorinator Systems and Chemical Handling, and Technology Based Training: Pump and Motor Maintenance.

Patti Coggins of General attended the Texas Riparian and Stream Ecosystem Course and Microsoft Office - Project 2013.

Russell Hester of Hydro attended the Electric Power Custom Training - Electrical Safety.

Jeff McKee of Hydro attended the Operation of Activated Sludge Plants.

James Medrano of Hydro attended the Electric Power Custom Training - Electrical Safety.

Reagan Ploetz of Hydro attended the Electric Power Custom Training - Electrical Safety.

Richard Maxwell of Hydro attended the Electric Power Custom Training - Electrical Safety.

Steven Maricle of Hydro attended the Electric Power Custom Training - Electrical Safety.

Clint Retzlaff of Hydro attended the Electric Power Custom Training - Electrical Safety.

Ed Boettner of Shadow Creek attended the Electric Power Custom Training - Electrical Safety.

Brian Lyssy of RUD attended the Operation of Activated Sludge Plants, Electric Power Custom Training - Electrical Safety, and TDEM Hazardous Materials Emergency Response Technician Training.

Jeremy Stanton of RUD attended the Electric Power Custom Training - Electrical Safety, and TDEM Hazardous Materials Emergency Response Technician Training.

Mark Henneke of Water Supply attended the Pesticide Applicator Continuing Education.

Darel Ball of Water Supply attended the Public Drinking Water Conference, the TCEQ Storm Water/Water Quality Seminar, the Water Conservation Plan Webcast #1, and the Electric Power Custom Training - Electrical Safety.

Michael Urrutia of Water Supply attended the AMTA/SCMA Membrane Technologies are Solving Texas Water Shortage Problems Seminar, First Aid/CPR with AED, and Electric Power Custom Training - Electrical Safety.

Gerardo Rodriguez of Water Supply attended the Electric Power Custom Training - Electrical Safety.

Josephine Longoria of Lab attended the Implementing the 2009 TNI Standard for your Laboratory, Microsoft Office - Project 2013: Level 1, and First Aid CPR with AED.

Michael Tompkins of Calhoun Canal attended the Line Locates, the GCTWUA - Tools and Safety, and the Metering and Water Loss.

Herbert Wittliff of Calhoun Canal attended the Water Conservation Plan Webcast #1, GCTWUA - Tools and Safety, Texas Agrilife/Farm and Ranch Show - Pond Management, Texas Agrilife/Farm and Ranch Show - Oil Spill Control, Meter Technology, Water Conservation PT 2, and Metering and Water Loss.

James Kelley of San Marcos WTP attended the Electric Power Custom Training - Electrical Safety.

Jerry Sharp of San Marcos WTP attended the Electric Power Custom Training - Electrical Safety.

Tommy Walenta of San Marcos WTP attended the Electric Power Custom Training - Electrical Safety.

Dennis Walker of Buda WWTP attended the AMTA/SCMA Joint Technology Transfer Workshop "Membrane Technologies are Solving Texas Water Shortage Problems," Water Utilities Safety, and the Electric Power Custom Training - Electrical Safety.

Fred Hernanadez of Buda WWTP attended the Operation of Wastewater Treatment Plants, Volume 1.

Toby Dennis of Western Canyon attended the Basic Water Training, Grinder Pumps Training, and Electric Power Custom Training - Electrical Safety.

Allen Lawson of Western Canyon attended the Grinder Pumps Training, and Electric Power Custom Training - Electrical Safety.

Christopher Harder of Western Canyon attended the Grinder Pumps Training, and Electric Power Custom Training - Electrical Safety.

Jeffery Hebert of Western Canyon attended the Grinder Pumps Training, and Electric Power Custom Training - Electrical Safety.

Jorge Rojas of Western Canyon attended the Grinder Pumps Training, TDEM Hazardous Materials Refresher Training, and Electric Power Custom Training - Electrical Safety.

Enrique Segura of Western Canyon attended the TDEM Hazardous Materials Refresher Training.

Joe Simmons of Western Canyon attended the TDEM Hazardous Materials Refresher Training.

Joey Kisiah of Port Lavaca WTP attended the TRWA - "Chlorinator Systems and Chemical Handling" and TXWARN.

Linda McPherson of Port Lavaca WTP attended the TWCA RMF/GBRA - Supervisor Training, the AWWA - Cross-Connection/Hazard, and the Water Conservation Plan Webcast #1.

Stephanie Shelly of Port Lavaca WTP attended the TWCA RMF/GBRA - Supervisor Training, TAWWA - Legislative Update - Webcast, AWWA - Cross-Connection/Hazard, and TXWARN. Water Conservation Plan Webcast #1, and Water Conservation #2.

David Lundin of Port Lavaca WTP attended the TAWWA - Legislative Update - Webcast.

Ronnie Parenica of Port Lavaca WTP attended the TAWWA - Legislative Update - Webcast, Diesel & Stop Start Pump vs. Generator, Line Locates, GCTWUA - Tools and Safety, Water Conservation #2, and Metering and Water Loss.

Brent Howard of Port Lavaca WTP attended the AWWA - Cross-Connection/Hazard.

Joseph Tschatschula of Port Lavaca WTP attended the TRWA-Technology Based Training: Pump and Motor Maintenance.

David Garcia of Port Lavaca WTP attended the Electric Power Custom Training - Electrical Safety.

WHERE ARE THEY NOW?

Judy Robisheaux

by Tammy Beutnagel



Photo by Tommy Schulte

There are two things in life that Judy Robisheaux admits that she is not fond of: cleaning house and cooking. One might guess that others share her sentiment. "It's a waste of time," she says. Instead, Robisheaux said she prefers to spend her time volunteering with her church and community.

Although Robisheaux may not like to cook, she and her husband, Earl, do not mind delivering food for the "Meals on Wheels" program, distributed through her church, St. Francis Episcopal in Victoria. Along with one other couple, the Robisheauxs deliver approximately 30-45 meals a day to elderly and disabled residents.

Robisheaux said she loves being involved in an outreach program that assists lower income high school students stay in school. She and other volunteers communicate with the students throughout the school year and holidays and assist them with basic needs such as clothes and toiletries.

While she enjoys her current volunteer work, Robisheaux fondly remembers working as assistant to the chief ranger at GBRA's Coletto Creek Park. "Working at GBRA was absolutely a great experience, and I worked with a great group of people," she said. The first face park guests would meet usually was Robisheaux. She would help campers locate their campsites and introduced them to all the amenities in the park. She also took care of park reservations and many other clerical duties.

After her retirement in 2010, Robisheaux continued to meet interesting people while traveling with her husband and cruising to exciting ports-of-call in both tropical and arctic climates.

"It was a breathtaking trip, but a lot of hard work," Robisheaux said when she, her husband, son and daughter-in-law cruised the Interior Passage of Alaska to see Glacier Bay, and towns such as Juneau and Ketchikan.

"Arriving and departing the cruise ship was the hard part," Robisheaux said. With no public flights available in her home town of Victoria, Texas, traveling "North to Alaska" took some effort. They had to depart from Austin, connect two more times and then take a small boat to

the cruise ship. After that experience, Robisheaux decided she was done with cruises.

Today, she prefers to stay closer to home, along with Earl and their terrier, Roby. Volunteering in her community when needed is part of her life now as well as her extended family of three step-sons, daughters-in-law, and 10 great-grandchildren.

Judy Robisheaux

Started at GBRA—2002

Retired at GBRA—2010

Phone—(361) 570-2914

employee anniversaries @ gbra

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

November

11/1/1976	Michael Gerdes	RUD	37
11/19/1979	Wilfred Korth	Coleto Creek Recreation	34
11/10/1981	Don Koble	Calhoun County RWSS	32
11/14/1983	Jason Lewis	Coleto Creek Recreation	30
11/24/1997	Jeannine Herrmann	General	16
11/8/1999	James Asbury	General	14
11/22/1999	Eric Mendez	Lockhart WWTP	14
11/20/2000	Robert Scott	Hydro	13
11/1/2007	Gynna Hernandez	General	6
11/5/2008	John Moryl	Canyon Hydro	5
11/21/2009	Fred Hernandez	Buda WWTP	4
11/21/2011	Stuart Evans	Lab	2
11/5/2012	Kyle Caraway	Calhoun County RWSS	1
11/4/2013	Jeremy Stanton	RUD	New Hire

December

12/25/1981	Roy Odom	Hydro	32
12/6/1983	Constance Rothe	General	30
12/28/1992	Dianne Fly	Coleto Creek Reservoir	21
12/10/1999	Jerry Sharp	San Marcos WTP	14
12/20/2000	Wallis Gudgeall	Hydro	13
12/29/2000	James Medrano	Hydro	13
12/3/2012	Patti Coggins	General	1
12/3/2012	Daniel Alonso	Water Resources	1
12/16/2013	Richard Gerdes	San Marcos WTP	New Hire

January

1/28/1976	Bryan Serold	Water Resources	38
1/11/1977	Rodney Voss	Hydro	37
1/14/1980	Darel Ball	Water Resources	34
1/14/1980	Mark Henneke	Water Resources	34
1/16/1981	Curtis Seiler	Coleto Creek Recreation	33
1/31/1981	David Lundin	Port Lavaca WTP	33
1/4/1983	Alan Schneider	Coleto Creek Reservoir	31
1/5/1987	Samuel Widmer	Coleto Creek Recreation	27
1/27/1988	Sara Vazquez	Coleto Creek Recreation	26
1/6/1995	Sandra Terry	General	19
1/24/2005	Susan Hubbert	General	9
1/2/2007	Sheryll Kisiah	Calhoun County RWSS	7
1/2/2008	Edwin Boettner	Shadow Creek	6
1/21/2008	James Murphy	Water Resources	6
1/4/2010	Steven Maricle	Hydro	4
1/16/2012	Toby Dennis	Western Canyon	2
1/16/2012	Derek Schedlbauer	Western Canyon	2
1/7/2013	Jorge Rojas	Western Canyon	1
1/13/2014	Jesi Mann	Shadow Creek	New Hire
1/2/2014	George Bohl	General	New Hire

February

2/27/1984	Linda McPherson	Port Lavaca WTP	30
2/1/1991	Richard Gaona	Calhoun Canal	23
2/1/1994	William West	General	20
2/4/1999	Cheryl Gorden	General	15
2/18/2003	Richard Gonzales	Lockhart WTP	11
2/1/2007	LaMarriol Smith	General	7
2/27/2012	Enrique Segura	Western Canyon	2
2/20/2012	Manuel Lopez	Hydro	2

The information for the employee anniversary list was compiled by Daphne Harder, Human Resources Department of the Office of Finance and Administration.



Rodney Voss



Photo GBRA archives

In Memoriam: Larry Shahan 1946 - 2014



Larry Shahan, retired GBRA water treatment operator, died on Thursday, Jan. 9, 2014, at his home in Seguin, Texas. He was 67.

In 2002, Shahan began working at GBRA as a water treatment plant operator at a plant owned by the Canyon Regional Water Authority. He then worked as a start-up operator for the Western Canyon Water Treatment

Plant, before working at the San Marcos Water Treatment Plant. Shahan retired in 2011.

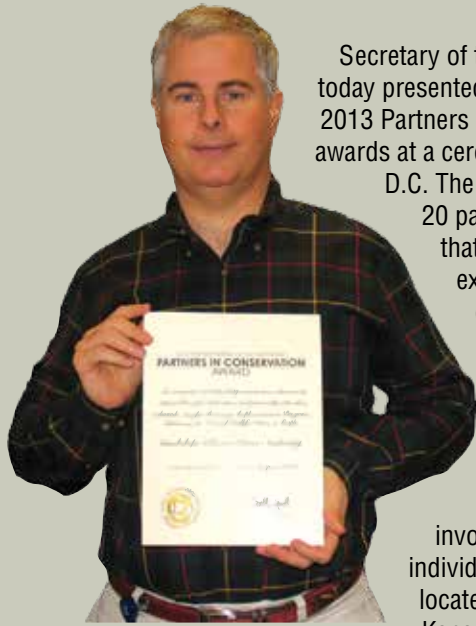
Before joining GBRA, Shahan was employed by Texas Parks and Wildlife (TPWD) as a utility plant operator and park ranger

at Lake Arrowhead State Park in Wichita Falls, Texas. He retired from TPWD after 26 years of service.

Shahan is survived by his wife of 44 years, Mary; daughter Tammy Wyatt-Johnson and her husband Don of Manassas, Virginia; daughter, Michelle Varnell and her husband Fred of Cleburne, Texas; three grandchildren Morgan Michelle Wyatt, Hudson Riley Wyatt, and Jethro Dane Varnell; sister, Judy Shahan of River Oaks, Texas, and brother, Richard Shahan and his wife Bonita of McNeil, Texas.

Family and friends remembered Shahan during a viewing, Jan. 12, at Tres Hewell Mortuary in Seguin and a graveside service and interment, Jan. 13, at Nocknut Cemetery in Nixon, Texas.

Edwards Aquifer Program Earns 2013 Partners in Conservation Award



Todd Votteler Photo by Connie Rothe

Secretary of the Interior Sally Jewell today presented the Department's 2013 Partners in Conservation awards at a ceremony in Washington, D.C. The Secretary honored 20 partnership projects that have demonstrated exemplary natural resource conservation efforts through public-private cooperation. Four partnerships nominated by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) involving nearly 60 individuals and organizations located in California, Oregon, Kansas and Texas received awards. In Texas, the

2013 award went to the Edwards Aquifer Recovery Implementation Program.

"The Department of the Interior is proud to recognize the accomplishments of those who are innovating and collaborating in ways that address today's complex conservation and stewardship challenges," Secretary Jewell said at an awards ceremony at the Interior headquarters in Washington. "These partnerships represent the gold standard for how the Interior is doing business across the nation to power our future, strengthen tribal nations, conserve and enhance America's great outdoors and engage the next generation."

"Partnerships are vital to wildlife conservation efforts nationwide as they allow us to combine the strengths of our stakeholders with the resources and abilities of our staff," said Service Director Dan Ashe. "Almost anything is possible when you leverage the skills, talents, dedication and abilities of diverse groups of stakeholders that share a common conservation agenda."

Located at the edge of the Texas hill country, the Edwards Aquifer is thought of as one of the most biologically diverse aquifers in the world. The Edwards Aquifer is home to species found nowhere else in the world, including eight species that are listed under the Endangered Species Act (ESA). This prolific aquifer is also the source of the two largest springs in Texas and perhaps the Southwestern U.S. – the San Marcos and the Comal springs – and flows into the Guadalupe River, ultimately providing freshwater inflows to the Aransas National Wildlife Refuge, home to the whooping crane.

For over a century, the Edwards Aquifer has provided clean drinking water to more than 2 million residents of San Antonio, the nation's seventh largest city, in addition to providing water for farming and ranching communities, the rapidly growing cities of New Braunfels and San Marcos, and communities downstream of the springs all the way to the Gulf of Mexico.

Eight years ago, the USFWS, along with the Department's U.S. Geological Survey (USGS), approached stakeholders in an effort to balance human needs and species recovery. This resulted in development of the Edwards Aquifer Recovery Implementation Program's (EARIP) Habitat Conservation Plan (HCP), which was supported by a diverse partnership of more than 40 groups and individuals and was approved by the USFWS in early 2013. Five stakeholder groups – the Edwards Aquifer Authority; the cities of New Braunfels, San Marcos and San Antonio through the San Antonio Water System; and Texas State University – agreed to jointly lead implementation of the HCP.

"The EARIP stakeholders worked to develop and implement the HCP that balances the needs of both listed and non-listed species with the needs of the community serves as a shining example of how the ESA can and does work," said Benjamin Tuggle, the Service's Southwest Regional Director. "The work of those involved in the EARIP will help ensure that millions of Texans continue to have water and the species dependent upon the Aquifer will survive into the future."

"The Edwards Aquifer Habitat Conservation Plan represents years of often arduous work by dozens of stakeholders across the region. It is an historic milestone in the management of the aquifer, conservation of Comal and San Marcos springs, and protection of the waters of the Guadalupe River Basin," said Todd Votteler, Ph.D., GBRA's executive manager for science, intergovernmental relations and policy and liaison for the EARIP. "Tremendous challenges, such as the continuing drought, still face the stakeholders who came together to reach this historic agreement, but the HCP provides a vehicle for addressing these challenges."

"This project has been successful because of the hard work and collaboration of stakeholders with varied interests and goals," said Bob Joseph, USGS Texas Water Science Center Director. "This partnership is a wonderful example of how to address complex topics that involve endangered species and water resource issues."

Additional information on the EARIP is available at <http://www.fws.gov/southwest/es/AustinTexas/>.

The mission of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service is working with others to conserve, protect, and enhance fish, wildlife, plants, and their habitats for the continuing benefit of the American people.

The USGS Texas Water Science Center provides scientific data, interpretive studies, and other resources that EARIP stakeholders and resource makers use to make informed decisions. The USGS serves the nation by providing reliable scientific information to describe and understand the Earth; minimize loss of life and property from natural disasters; manage water, biological, energy, and mineral resources; and enhance and protect quality of life.

National Fish and Wildlife Foundation Awards Funding to the GBR Trust

by Jeff Crosby

As part of the Wells Fargo Environmental Solutions for Communities Program, the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation (NFWF) awarded a grant for \$25,000 to the Guadalupe-Blanco River Trust (GBR Trust). Over the past year, the GBR Trust has been delivering a series of streamside landowner workshops in portions of its 13-county service area. As part of the ongoing mission to preserve the unique, natural heritage of the Guadalupe watershed, the GBR Trust is working to provide outreach and education opportunities to landowners throughout the basin.

The NFWF funding will allow the GBR Trust to expand the education programs to more locations throughout the Guadalupe watershed. With this region being one of the fastest growing in the state, there are a number of changes occurring across the landscape within the basin, including land fragmentation, which is of particular concern around coastal and freshwater habitats, and oil and gas production. Through this project the GBR Trust will present to landowners the options and tools they have at their disposal for protecting the valuable natural resources on their properties.

The intent of this two-year project is to evaluate and elevate general interest in conservation in the watershed and provide

specific information on certain land management practices such as riparian zone function and protection, wildlife management, and invasive species control. In addition to the land management information, the workshops will feature discussions of conservation options for landowners, whether through the various cost-share programs that are offered through state and federal programs or through conservation easements with private land conservation organizations such as the GBR Trust. Conservation easements allow landowners to protect valuable natural resources while still maintaining private ownership, private management and private uses.

These workshops have been well received by attendees and organizations that have worked as partners with the GBR Trust, including soil and water conservation districts, the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department and the Natural Resources Conservation Service. This funding from the NFWF will allow the GBR Trust to expand the conservation education programs throughout the basin over the next two years at a time that is critical for the region.

Photo by Steve Jester





Guadalupe-Blanco River Authority
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Feb. 24, 2014
Flag Day, United States

Feb. 25, 2014
Employee Health Fair (Employees Only)
GBRA Main Office, Seguin, TX

Feb. 25-28, 2014
AWWA-WEF The Utility Management Conference™
Hyatt Regency Hotel, Savannah, GA
http://www.wef.org/conferences/page_details.aspx?id=1288490

March 5-7, 2014
Texas Water Conservation Association 70th Annual Convention
The Woodlands Waterway Marriott Hotel
The Woodlands, TX
<http://www.twca.org/meetings/annual/2014/index.html>

March 19, 2014
GBRA Board Meeting
River Annex Bldg., Seguin, TX
<http://www.gbra.org/board/meetings.aspx>

March 29, 2014
GBRA's Our Day to Shine (Volunteer Day)
Green DeWitt School House
Community Project in Cuero, TX

April 16, 2014
GBRA Board Meeting
Chisholm Trail Heritage Museum
302 N. Esplanade, Cuero, TX 77954
<http://www.gbra.org/board/meetings.aspx>

May 6-7, 2014
TCEQ Environmental Trade Fair and Conference
Austin Convention Center, Austin, TX
<http://swift-solutions.datatrium.com/tceq/TradeFairHomePage.php>

Photo by LaMarriol Smith Canyon Lake Gorge

