

April/May 2011



Newsletter of the Trinity River Authority of Texas



# LLP staff help TPWD stock Texas lakes

## Ward named WEAT Outstanding Public Official

Trinity River Authority General Manager J. Kevin Ward recently earned recognition as the Water Environment Association of Texas' Outstanding Public Official.

This prestigious award recognizes an elected official or regulator who has actively promoted sound science in the policy and regulations affecting water environment issues in Texas through contributions to legislation, public policy, government service or other areas of public prominence.

"WEAT grants the Outstanding Public Official Award infrequently and only to an exceptional individual who has demonstrated a lifelong commitment to public service," said WEAT Executive Director Carol Batterton.

Ward was nominated for performing his job with integrity and for dependably making fair and sound decisions in his public service role.

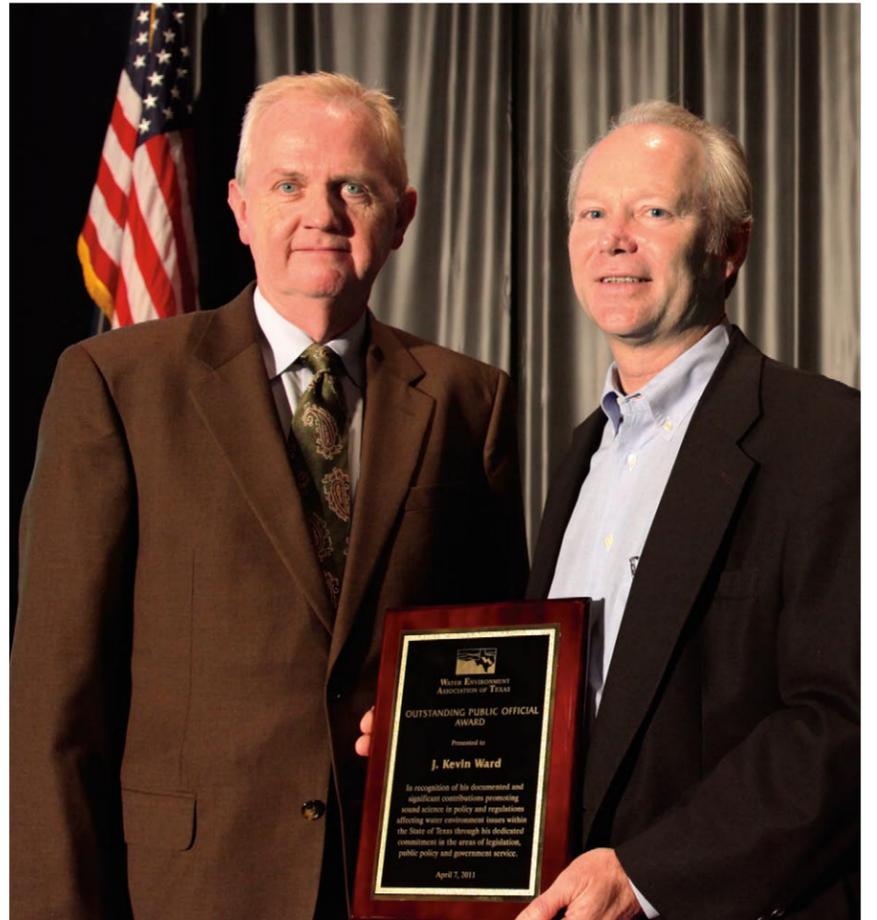
Candidates are limited to elected or appointed government officials selected from among the WEAT membership. Nominations are first

reviewed by WEAT's Government Affairs Committee and its executive director. The Management Review Committee grants final approval.

"This was an incredible and totally unexpected honor," said Ward. "I am deeply grateful for the recognition; it makes for a nice segue between my time at the Texas Water Development Board and the exciting things I'm looking forward to here at TRA."

Ward came to TRA after 23 years with the TWDB. He served as executive administrator from May 2002 to February 2011 and held several other prior positions. The TWDB is responsible for planning the statewide development of water resources, financing water-related infrastructure, and maintaining and disseminating natural resource data for Texas.

Ward's current role as chief executive officer of TRA tasks him with oversight of the largest river authority in Texas and the largest wholesale provider of wastewater treatment services in the state.



TRA Board Vice President Harold L. Barnard and General Manager J. Kevin Ward at the Texas Water Conference awards breakfast in Fort Worth.

## Brewer wins WEAT Pillars of the Profession Award

The Water Environment Association of Texas recently recognized retired Northern Region Manager Warren N. Brewer with the Pillars of the Profession Award for meaningful and substantial contributions toward the improvement of the water environment during his distinguished career.

"It is such an honor to join the group of professionals who have been selected as Pillars of the Profession," said Brewer. "I am humbled to be added as a part of that group. There are many others who are equally deserving, and I will do my best to live up to the professional standards this honor signifies for the water industry."

Brewer's career in the water and wastewater industry spanned 43 years, the last 33 at the Trinity River Authority. His work in developing and operating regional wastewater systems that met stringent discharge standards resulted in substantial improvement in water quality in the upper Trinity and its tributaries.

Brewer also supported the professional and technical

development of his staff, including the wastewater and water treatment operators, which served to improve water quality by strengthening both operators' skills and their commitment to protecting the environment. As a result, TRA's regional systems received numerous awards for excellence in meeting permit requirements during Brewer's tenure.

In addition, Brewer demonstrated his commitment to improving water quality through his extensive involvement in state and national water organizations and by encouraging his staff to participate as well.



Retired Northern Region Manager Warren Brewer (left) with Water Environment Federation President Matt Bond.



On the cover: The Texas Parks and Wildlife Department gathered striped bass brood fish from the tail race below Lake Livingston Dam in early April. The boats seen here are outfitted with electroshock equipment and large fish-holding tanks. See the story and more photos on page 2.

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# Lake Livingston Dam assists TPWD in collecting striped bass brood stock

Early April marked the 31st year that the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department has gathered striped bass brood fish from the tail race below Lake Livingston Dam. Fingerlings resulting from these efforts are used to stock lakes across Texas.

Each year, the Trinity River Authority assists TPWD by providing access to the restricted area just below Lake Livingston Dam where striped bass of appropriate size and age congregate in large numbers. In addition, LLP staff members prepare a ramp to the river for TPWD's trucks and trailers to reach the water's edge. After a sufficient number of fish have been

captured, LLP personnel tow the trucks onto level ground with a bulldozer.

TPWD staff collect striped bass in two boats outfitted with electroshock equipment and large fish-holding tanks. A mild shock to the water temporarily stuns the fish, bringing them to the surface where they are netted and placed in tanks.

On shore, TPWD staff sort the bass into larger holding tanks. Biologists extract eggs from the females and examine them under a microscope to determine the developmental stage. If the fish is 12-14 hours away from spawning, she is weighed and tagged in preparation for transport to the



*This female striped bass is tagged and ready for transport to one of two fish hatcheries. Her eggs will produce young fish that TPWD will stock in lakes across Texas.*

hatchery. The female fish are also injected with hormones to maintain fertility, which can be impacted by the trauma of capture and transport.

Striped bass brood fish from Lake Livingston Dam are taken to either the Possum Kingdom Hatchery at Graford or the Dundee Hatchery at Electra. This year, TPWD collected 128 females weighing an average of 7.81 pounds and 53 males weighing 4.2 pounds on average.

When the fish arrive at the hatchery, TPWD personnel extract approximately 55 million eggs for fertilization, resulting in millions of fingerlings that are used to stock lakes throughout Texas. Between 800,000 and one million of the young striped bass are returned to Lake Livingston.

This year, representatives from the city of Houston and the East Texas Electric Cooperative were on hand to observe TPWD's activities. ETEC has plans to build a hydroelectric power generating plant at Lake Livingston Dam. The project has been designed to have minimal impact on the fish, and observing the procurement process deepened ETEC's understanding of the importance of protecting the fish below the dam.

In addition, two members of

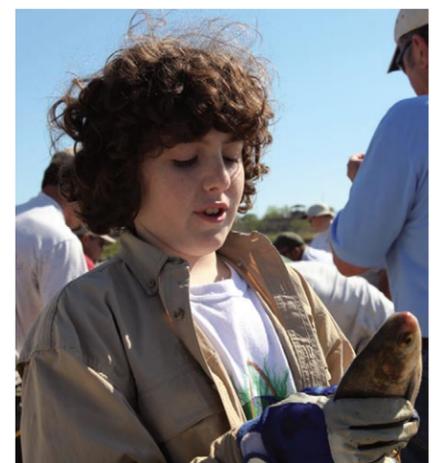
TRA's board of directors were present at the collection. Chambers County Director Shirley Seale and her husband Mark were joined by Liberty County Director David Leonard and his daughter Kayla.

Finally, 10-year old Enzo Monfre with the educational program Exploration Nation, along with his parents, spent several hours shooting video of the operation for inclusion on the website [www.Enzoology.com](http://www.Enzoology.com).

See additional photos on the Texas Parks and Wildlife Inland Fisheries – District 3B Facebook page at [www.Facebook.com/TPWDif3b](http://www.Facebook.com/TPWDif3b).



*A TPWD staff member examines striped bass eggs under the microscope to determine the developmental stage. If the female that produced the eggs is ready to spawn within the next 12-14 hours, she is transported to a fish hatchery.*



*Enzo Monfre holds a gizzard shad that TPWD netted along with striped bass. Monfre and his family produce science education videos.*

## Bennett wins Bedell Award

Denton Creek Regional Wastewater System Project Manager John Bennett recently received the Arthur Sidney Bedell Award for outstanding contributions to the water environment profession as well as to the Water Environment Federation and its member associations.

"I am deeply honored to be recognized by this award, and I am humbled to be included in the select group of people who have received the Bedell Award," said Bennett. "I consider many of the past winners to be mentors and true champions of our industry."

Bennett was nominated for the award by a member of the North Texas Section of the Water Environment Association of Texas. The nomination included a detailed description of his career and contributions, along with letters of

recommendation from wastewater professionals.

Bennett proved a prime candidate for the Bedell Award because of his long years of service to the wastewater industry as well as to his fellow professionals.

Bennett has worked in wastewater for 25 years. Immediately after graduating high school in 1986, he joined Central Regional Wastewater System as a seasonal grounds care employee. Within weeks he was promoted to maintenance mechanic I, advancing to chief maintenance mechanic just three years later. Bennett was named manager of DCRWS in 2003. Under his leadership, DCRWS recently earned a National Association of Clean Water Agencies Platinum Award for six years of continuous compliance with its discharge permit.

Throughout his career, Bennett has accrued more than 1,200 Texas Commission on Environmental Quality-approved training hours and a class A wastewater certification. He also graduated Phi Theta Kappa with an associate's degree in management from Tarrant County College in December 2001.

Bennett shares his experience and training with operators at TRA and throughout the state, teaching a variety of maintenance, wastewater operations and safety classes. He is also an approved instructor for TCEQ-accredited courses, and has encouraged hundreds of his colleagues to pursue professional development and to work safely.

Bennett has been an active member of WEAT and WEF since 1994. He contributed to WEAT's Operations Challenge effort starting in 1995 as captain of TRA's team, the CREWSers. After retiring from

the competition, Bennett organized and led the Texas Operations Challenge competition as the state's professional wastewater operator chair, and contributed at the national level as special assistant to the WEF Operations Challenge committee.

Locally, Bennett is active in WEAT's North Texas Section. He has served as vice president and president and currently serves as past president.

At the state and national levels, he participates on many WEAT committees and gives technical presentations at seminars and conferences nationwide. In 2011, Bennett became the WEAT board president elect.

Northern Region Assistant Manager Patty Cleveland and CRWS Quality Assurance Coordinator Cathy Sieger have also received this national award.

# Despite setbacks, CReWSers win 14<sup>th</sup> consecutive state championship

The Trinity River Authority CReWSers Operations Challenge team faced multiple setbacks and still managed to come out on top at the state championship competition held recently at the Texas Water Conference in Fort Worth. The team retained the title with three first-place and two second-place wins.

The first challenge came in the collection system event when the team placed second as the result of an equipment malfunction. During this fast-paced event where teams repair an in-service PVC pipe, a damaged section of pipe is removed and a new piece is cut to fit. The team joins the new pipe to the old with rubber gaskets and finishes by tightening metal clamps around each end to hold the pieces together. To assess the team's performance, judges pressurize the repaired line and check for leaks, awarding penalties according to the volume and rate of any observed drips. For the CReWSers, judges inadvertently over-pressurized the pipe, causing the rubber gaskets to bulge and resulting in a small leak. The team had the option of challenging the penalty and repeating the event but decided against it.

"We had an excellent time on collections even with the penalty," said Dale Burrow, team captain. "We opted to accept the penalty and focus on the next event."

Despite the judges' mishap, the CReWSers managed a second-place win just one second behind the first-place team.

The team also placed second in the laboratory event, where they are tasked with growing and counting *E. coli*. The first-place team, Austin's Dillo Xpress, gave an outstanding performance.

This year, the CReWSers were proud to take first place in the process control event, a timed pencil-and-paper test of five

wastewater treatment processes. The team has steadily improved its performance in this event over the last few years.

"Turning in reliable and consistent performances in process control will help us stay at the top of our game overall," said Burrow.

The team also took first place in the safety event, a nerve-wracking scenario during which a mannequin is "rescued" from a below-ground confined space.

Most impressively, the CReWSers beat out the other teams in pump maintenance, the most physically challenging event in the competition, lifting a 212-pound submersible pump and a 180-pound mixer from a wet well with a manually operated jib crane.

After the Texas Operations Challenge, the CReWSers advanced to an informal regional competition in Atlantic City.

"We are proud of the CReWSers' performance at regionals," said Bill Tatum, CRWS project manager. "They took second place overall against some of the strongest teams across the nation with no practice in the month prior to the competition."

Competing at the regional contest gives the team a chance to practice for national competition since the events are designed much the same.

Next up for the CReWSers is the national Operations Challenge competition in October at WEFTEC.11 in Los Angeles. TRA's team has won four national championships and is sure to be in contention again this year. If you attend WEFTEC.11, stop by the competition and cheer for the CReWSers. Stay tuned for national competition results on TRA's website at [www.trinityra.org](http://www.trinityra.org) and in the October/November issue of *inTRA*.



Three members of the CReWSers Operations Challenge team compete in the pump and motor maintenance event, during which the team lifts a 212-pound submersible pump and a 180-pound mixer from a wet well with a manually operated jib crane. The CReWSers finished first in this event as well as two others.

## About Operations Challenge

Operations Challenge, supported statewide by the Water Environment Association of Texas and internationally by the Water Environment Federation, is designed to showcase the skills and education of wastewater operators. Four- and five-member teams compete in five events: laboratory, collection system, pump and motor maintenance, safety, and process control. Each event requires technical knowledge and physical skill, and teams are judged for both accuracy and time.



TRA CReWSers accept the first-place overall win at the state Operations Challenge competition at Texas Water. The team won first place in three of the events to retain the state championship title. Seen here from left to right are Team Captain Dale Burrow, interceptor system specialist; Jeff Sober, operations challenge coordinator; Jake Burwell, construction inspector II; Water Environment Association of Texas President Jody Zabolio; David Brown, senior maintenance mechanic; Team Coach Patrick Lynn, operator II; and Water Environment Federation President Matt Bond. Not pictured: CReWSer team member Steve Price, chief operator.



CRWS Operator II and CReWSers Team Coach Patrick Lynn, left, took first place in the the Texas Shootout saw-cut competition cutting a seven-inch PVC pipe in just 10 seconds. CRWS Interceptor System Specialist and CReWSers Team Captain Dale Burrow took second place in the event.

# General Manager's Message

## Meeting customers and sharing good news at advisory meetings

Over the last few weeks as I've settled into my role as general manager, I've made it one of my goals to reach out and get to know the customers that TRA has served with such a history of excellence. Toward that end, TRA has convened a series of customer advisory meetings to give me and new Northern Region Manager Fiona Allen an opportunity to meet and discuss issues with the representatives of our customer base.

Universally we've been received with grace and warmth – our customers are enthusiastic and fully confident that they will continue to receive the level of service they have come to know and trust. This is certainly a testament to TRA's operations and development staff and their dedication to giving their very best on the job every day. Let me take this opportunity to thank everyone I've met thus far for the hospitable welcome and the vote of confidence.

During these introductory meetings, we've had plenty of good news to share about the closeout of fiscal year 2010. Since TRA's services are provided on an at-cost basis, any funds collected but not expended at year-end are returned to the customers. Based on final FY 2010 figures, we are in a position to provide refunds to our customers that stem chiefly from savings in the areas of energy, supplies, chemicals, etc. In addition, all of our facilities performed well within their permit limits, and all TRA wastewater treatment facilities qualified for Peak Performance Awards from the National Association of Clean Water Agencies.

We are also at the point during our current fiscal year that we typically reassess expenditures and customer flow projections to adjust billing expectations based on actual flow during the year thus far. We have been pleased to report that all facilities are tracking well under budget, attributable to many of the same types of savings previously mentioned. Having this face-to-face time with our customers has afforded us the opportunity to talk through FY 2011 operations to date, plus expectations for the remainder of the year and how TRA can help our customers communicate current and future facility needs with their city leadership and their citizens.

We've also had great news to share from our operations team – our project managers have walked us all through the ups and downs of plant operations thus far, and hearing their presentations makes me proud to be part of an organization with such a dedicated team of people on the front lines. We all understand that man-made equipment sometimes fails, natural disasters occur, and life often throws us the unexpected just when we think we've seen everything. Even in those extreme cases, some of which you'll read about in this issue, it's



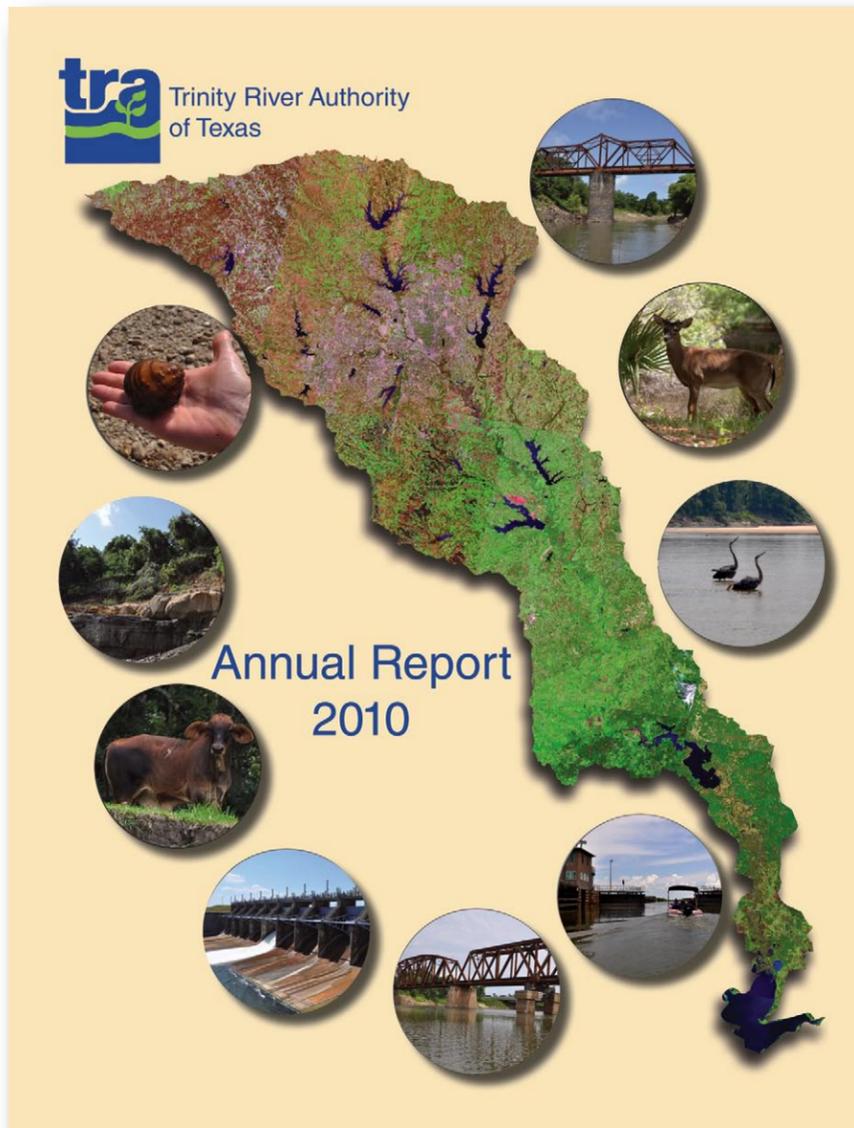
**General Manager J. Kevin Ward**

amazing to see how the TRA team pulls together to solve problems and maintain customer service in challenging and unexpected conditions.

I have also enjoyed this opportunity to visit with our customers, and to learn more myself, about ongoing construction and expansion at our facilities. We can never rest when it comes to keeping up with population growth and ever-expanding customer needs. In fact, one of our greatest ongoing challenges is maintaining our standards of excellence for customer service and regulatory compliance in the face of rapid population growth in our service areas.

Of course, among all the good news TRA has shared, I have also valued the opportunity to listen to our customers when it comes to their approaches and concerns in terms of budgeting for FY 2012. TRA is currently developing its FY 2012 budget, so hearing from customers about needs related to their own budget procedures is invaluable at this early stage. We remain committed to transparency and a spirit of cooperation in developing budgets for each of our facilities, so I greatly appreciate the candid feedback we've garnered from our contracting parties during these conversations.

Overall, everything I've experienced during my short tenure at TRA solidifies how thankful I am to be part of this organization. I believe we have the best group of board members, employees and customers that we could ask for, and I look forward to getting to know each of them as we continue TRA's level of exemplary service.



*If any of our readers are interested in further information about the FY 2010 performance of TRA and its respective facilities, please review our recently published annual report, available online at [www.trinityra.org](http://www.trinityra.org) under Business Services. If you would prefer a printed copy, please contact our public information division at 817-467-4343 or [clarkm@trinityra.org](mailto:clarkm@trinityra.org) to request a copy.*

## Browning given AWWA Life Membership Award

Dr. Richard Browning, retired senior manager of the Trinity River Authority's planning and environmental management division, recently received a Life Membership Award for 30 years of service to the water community and the American Water Works Association.

Browning retired in late 2010 after 38 years with TRA. Throughout his career, he provided oversight and vision for responsible water use and reclamation to ensure a healthy Trinity River basin. He oversaw water quality planning and

assessments and was considered the resident expert on everything from various federal and state statutes to environmental flows, plus the overall history of the Trinity River and its tributaries.

Browning also played a key role in developing and managing the Upper Trinity Basin Water Quality Compact, a cooperative organization of cities and agencies committed to improving the quality of the Trinity River by establishing best-practice standards for wastewater treatment.



**Dr. Richard Browning, retired senior manager of the TRA's planning and environmental management division, received a Life Membership Award for 30 years of service to the water community and the American Water Works Association. Browning is seen here third from the right.**

**Employee Milestones**

**New Hires**

ROCRWS welcomes Barry Beeson as operator II. CRWS welcomes Paul Nelson as maintenance mechanic II. DCRWS is excited to have Tracy Paul as maintenance mechanic I and Eric Heidman as maintenance mechanic II. GO welcomes Jona Hollis as senior accounting clerk.

**Promotions**

Jeffrey Ramsey-El was promoted to electronic technician II and Sean Krystal was promoted to operator II at CRWS. Marcus McAdams was promoted to CSS inspector I.

**Current Events**

TCRWSS Operator I John Mark Stephens celebrated the births of two grandchildren in April. John Wayne Stephens was born April 5 at 6 pounds, 2 ounces and 20.25 inches long to mother Karan Louanne Stephens. Justin Marcus Rodriguez was born April 29 at 8 pounds, 4 ounces and 19.75 inches long to mother Veronica Breeanna Monk.

Michelle and Justin Critz celebrated their third wedding anniversary April 5. Michelle Critz is laboratory technician/bookkeeper at CRWS.



Allison Bennett, daughter of DCRWS Project Manager John Bennett, is enjoying an eventful spring. Here she is seen performing with country and western band Dr. Honky-Tonk. Lead guitarist Jamie French is a former TRA employee. Allison is a junior at Martin High School and pitches for the softball team. She recently pitched relief in the Girls Texas 5A high school playoffs against Midland High School.



Ryan Thomas, son of Pam Thomas, land rights senior secretary, was inducted into the National Junior Honor Society at Wester Middle School in Mansfield.



Kevin Rowe, son of Senior Real Estate Specialist Don Rowe, was recently named pilot and manager of aviation services for a DFW metroplex corporation where he pilots a Hawker 800 business jet throughout the Southern United States and Midwest. Kevin has been a private pilot since he was 16 years old and a corporate pilot for the last 10 years.



Stephanie Gutierrez, daughter of Maryann Gutierrez, CRWS office coordinator, earned an honorable mention in the district 5-5A Mansfield women's soccer awards for Legacy High School.



CSS Manager Thomas Sanders and his wife, Melba, celebrate the birth of a new granddaughter. Deven Jean Fowler was born May 3 at 7 pounds, 10 ounces and 20 inches long. Deven's parents are Keith and Amanda Fowler.



Audrey Chen was born April 28 at 6 pounds, 6 ounces and 19 inches long. Audrey's proud parents are General Services Senior Secretary Tina Chen and Information Technology Supervisor Wayne Chen.



Lacy Miles, daughter of Michelle Orbeck, CRWS assistant buyer, graduated from Elysian Fields High School in East Texas. Lacy plans to attend Panola Junior College in the fall.



Abigail Gabrielle Encinas Ferrell, daughter of GO Maintenance Mechanic II Art Encinas and Helen Encinas, recently graduated with an associate's degree in business from Tarrant County College.



Southern Region Manager Jim Sims and his wife, Mary Ellen, welcome their second grandchild. Allie Leighton Milam was born April 22 to Jim's daughter, Brooke, and her husband Michael Milam. Allie was 8 pounds, 11 ounces and 21 inches at birth.



Morgan Lantrip, daughter of LLP Permit Administrator Lisa Lantrip, signed a letter of intent to play volleyball at LeTourneau University in the fall. Seen here on the front row, from left to right, are Lisa, Morgan and Livingston High School Head Coach Amanda McMeans. On the back row, left to right, are Livingston High School Principal Barbara Shaw; Morgan's father, Robert Lantrip; brother, Andrew Lantrip; and Girls Head Basketball Coach and Associate Athletic Director Pennee Hall.



Engineering Services Manager Karen Stafford-Brown won the female individual category at the second annual Water Environment Association of Texas-North Texas Section Sporting Clays Tournament.



Brett Munoz, son of LLP Biologist Kristie Munoz and her husband Johnny, received his first communion April 30 at St Mary's Catholic Church in Plantersville. Brett's sister Brooke turned 5 years old April 22 and is very excited about starting kindergarten next fall.

# Volunteers clean Lake Livingston shores

More than 250 volunteers collected 100-plus yards of trash from the shores of Lake Livingston in early April. The inaugural Come Clean Lake Livingston trash pickup brought together teams of students and adults from three counties to don rubber gloves and fill trash bags with litter.

The Come Clean Lake Livingston committee began meeting in January to divide the lake into sections and appoint a representative to organize cleanup and designate dumpster sites. Representatives reached out to youth and student organizations, subdivisions and homeowner associations to form teams to participate in the cleanup. Eddie Knight, park supervisor for TRA's Wolf Creek Park, represented the Wolf Creek area.

The Trinity River Authority, through the Clean Rivers Program, provided financial support for the effort while Pro-Star Waste provided trash bags and dumpsters.

After collecting trash all morning, the teams gathered at the fire station in Onalaska for a hotdog lunch prepared by the Onalaska

Methodist Men's group. Organizers awarded prizes for the most unusual trash items, with the Onalaska Youth Sports Association winning two prizes: one for a check issued in the 1980s and another for part of a door knocker. The Yaupon Cove subdivision also pulled an old boat out of the water and hauled it to a dumpster site for disposal.

"We certainly want to thank our sponsors and everyone who participated," said Sydney Murphy, Polk County Chamber of Commerce executive director. "Congratulations on making Come Clean Lake Livingston a great event. We are encouraged by our success and we plan to continue the event in future years."

The Come Clean Lake Livingston committee will meet in the coming months to plan next year's event. To get involved contact Murphy at 936-327-4929 or [sydneymurphy@livingston.net](mailto:sydneymurphy@livingston.net). Also visit Come Clean Lake Livingston on Facebook at <http://www.facebook.com/ComeCleanLakeLivingston> for further updates and information.



*The Onalaska branch of the United States Army Junior Reserve Officers' Training Corps gathered on the shores of Lake Livingston for the Come Clean Lake Livingston trash pickup event. The JROTC joined more than 200 other volunteers that filled bags and dumpsters with garbage found in and around the lake. Visit Come Clean Lake Livingston on Facebook at <http://www.Facebook.com/ComeCleanLakeLivingston> to see more photos and learn about future plans to clean the lake.*

# Severe weather brings prolonged power outages to ROCRWS and TMCRWS

According to the National Weather Service, severe thunderstorms erupted across North Texas in the early hours of Monday, April 11, bringing with them at least four tornadoes, substantial hail and numerous reports of wind damage.

Energy provider Oncor reported scattered power outages throughout North Texas, and as of 6:30 a.m. that day showed approximately 40,000 customers without power in the Fort Worth metro area and 33,000 in the dark in the Dallas metro area. Two of those customers – TRA's Ten Mile Creek Regional Wastewater System and Red Oak Creek Regional Wastewater System – faced the challenge of containing influent from the communities they serve despite going without power for several hours. Redundancy is a way of life in the wastewater treatment business, but even with the provision of a dual-feed power supply to the facilities, TRA experienced an unprecedented loss of power from all lines leading into the plants. Thus began a day filled with challenges unlike any the project teams had faced before – a day that ultimately became a testament to the staffs' quick thinking and cooperative approach to problem-solving.

At approximately 2:30 a.m. TMCRWS Project Manager Ed Mach learned that inclement weather had moved through the treatment plant, causing a power outage and substantial wind damage. His first discovery was that a construction trailer had come to rest

against the facility's administration building after rolling over in the strong winds. "At first, it was a little spooky," said Mach. "Until the sun was completely up, we couldn't see any signs of the trailer rolling or sliding, so we thought the winds had picked it up and slammed it into the administration building. But after we had better light, we could see where the trailer had rolled across the property."

In addition, a power pole had blown down and was damaged, along with five light standards. The plant also lost the roof and a wall from one of its storage buildings and sustained damages to the rollup door of the boiler building.

Fortunately, TMCRWS operators had prepared for the coming storms by making sure the level of the plant's wet well remained low. The facility did see a slight increase in flow, but made use of available storage capacity within the pipeline, plus influent gravity flow diversion into a surface disposal cell, to contain the flow. TMCRWS remained without power from 2:30 to 11 a.m. This 11 a.m. restoration proved especially fortuitous – plant operators were then able to divert a portion of Cedar Hill's flow from ROCRWS during its prolonged power outage to help lower the amount of influent that would need to be contained at the ROCRWS plant.

At ROCRWS, operators faced a different set of challenges. Though the facility itself did not suffer any damages, the plant remained without electrical service from approximately 1:30 a.m. to 6:30 p.m. that day. Diverting flows to TMCRWS was a tremendous help, but the loss

of power to the plant's pumping facilities led to overflows at three locations within the system's Red Oak Creek Interceptor collection system. All three outflows occurred in close proximity to the plant, at approximately 75 feet, 475 feet and 1,200 feet west to northwest of the plant. As is usually the case during heavy rains, their impact was minimized by large quantities of storm water that served to dilute wastewater in the collection lines. TRA notified all required city, county and state officials, including the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality, along with the general public.

To help get the facility back up and running, ROCRWS was able to borrow a generator from TRA's Tarrant County Water Supply Project, and was also able to use pumps from both TMCRWS and Central

Regional Wastewater System to divert influent into dry basins for storage. Operators decided to keep a generator on hand as a precautionary measure even after power was restored – and that turned out to be a sound decision, since in another unprecedented development, ROCRWS briefly lost power again the very next day.

"This was certainly one for the record books," said ROCRWS Project Manager Billy Hill. "We don't ever want to have to go through a day like that again, but I'm awfully glad to know we have the kind of cooperation among our facilities and the kind of support from TRA leadership that can help us minimize service disruptions and negative environmental effects even in the most challenging conditions."



*For the first time since the plant came online in 1990, no water flowed from the ROCRWS outfall after the system lost power. The system discharges an average of 3.3 million gallons of clean, clear effluent everyday.*

## LLP and WCP staff share top honors at 2011 Relay for Life

Lake Livingston Project and Wolf Creek Park personnel recently raised more than \$2,200 during the Polk County Relay for Life to benefit the American Cancer Society. TRA's team, organized by Team Captain Marie Burns, LLP custodian, was one of 44 teams that decorated campsites and walked the track at Pedigo Park in Livingston.

During the relay, team members take turns walking or running around a track with at least one representative in motion for an entire 24-hour period.

The event begins with a survivors' lap, as all survivors in attendance are invited to circle the track and celebrate their victory over cancer.

Another important part of the relay takes place after dark during the luminaria ceremony when participants honor and remember loved ones lost to the disease. Candles shine inside bags filled with sand, each one bearing the name of a person lost to cancer. Participants pause for a moment of silence or walk a lap in silence.

The relay ends with the fight back ceremony, in which

team members make a personal commitment to save lives by taking up the fight against cancer. Individuals may commit to do something as simple as getting a screening test, quitting smoking or talking to elected officials about funding cancer research.

2011 marked the 10th anniversary of the Polk County Relay.

"TRA has participated every year since the relay started," said LLP Assistant Manager Mark Waters. "We all have family members or loved ones that have been touched by cancer."

In line with this year's Hawaiian theme, TRA personnel built a volcano and a jungle complete with a waterfall and a canoe. TRA's team shared the Best Camp Award with Eastex Telephone, a team that boasted an authentic hula dancer.

"More than 1,200 people joined the Polk County Relay for Life and donated more than \$230,000," said Waters. "We want to thank everyone who was able to participate and give to the cause, especially in the current economy, as we move closer to a cure."



*LLP and WCP personnel pose in front of the volcano they constructed to decorate their Relay for Life campsite in the spirit of the Hawaiian theme. Seen here on the back row, from left to right, are Eddie Knight, park supervisor; Terry Burks, senior maintenance mechanic; Linda Kuntz, office coordinator; Stacy Rosetta, accounting clerk; Mark Waters, assistant project manager; Jacob Young, field inspector. The front row, left to right: Brett and Brooke Munoz; Kristie Munoz, biologist; Marie Burns, custodian; Debbie Baker, permit administrator; and Joe Sheets, field inspector.*

## Source to Tap presentation wins Watermark Award



*Debbie Bronson, public information assistant, and TCWSP Office Coordinator Emma Sheard accepted the Watermark Award at the Texas Water conference.*

The Texas Section of the American Water Works Association, in conjunction with the Water Environment Association of Texas, recently awarded TRA's Tarrant County Water Supply Project and public information division with a Watermark Award for communications excellence for its *Source to Tap* animated presentation. TCWSP Office Coordinator Emma Sheard and Debbie Bronson, public information assistant, accepted the award at the Texas Water conference in Fort Worth.

Sheard and Bronson created the project as a substitute for framed photography to decorate the lobby of TCWSP's administration building. The presentation uses a combination of aerial and ground photography, maps and animation fused within a PowerPoint presentation that runs continuously on a 42-inch video

screen mounted in the lobby of the TCWSP administrative building. *Source to Tap* illustrates the source of TCWSP's raw water, its transportation to the treatment plant, the treatment processes and the distribution of potable water to the plant's customer cities.

"We are so honored to receive this recognition," said Sheard. "It makes all those weeks of shooting photography and video in the July sun seem worthwhile."

Sheard and Bronson plan to use new technologies and equipment to produce improved iterations of the project in the future.

"We are in the process of adding more video to better illustrate plant processes such as filter back wash and chemical mixing," said Bronson.

Soon, they hope to be able to house the finished product on TRA's website or on YouTube for educational purposes.

## Seven Trinity River paddling trails dedicated

The Texas Parks and Wildlife Department, in partnership with North Texas communities, recently dedicated seven paddling trails in the northern reaches of the Trinity River basin.

"The DFW area paddling trails represent the largest concentration of official Texas Paddling Trails in the state," said Shelly Plante, TPWD's nature tourism manager.

The new trails stretch for a total of 57 miles through four counties. They incorporate the waters of Lake Bridgeport, Lake Ray Hubbard and Joe Pool Lake; the Trinity River and its West Fork; Boons, Bed, Willow and Walnut creeks; and a beaver pond located just below Lake Lewisville Dam near the confluence of the Elm Fork of the Trinity River.

"These trails showcase some of the state's most remarkable natural areas convenient to our growing urban population," said Carter Smith, Texas Parks and Wildlife Department's executive director.

TRA staff members participated

in the paddling trail dedication at River Legacy Park in Arlington. Executive Services Manager Sam Scott and Richard Browning, retired senior manager of the planning and environmental management division as well as staff from the city of Arlington and TPWD gathered at the park's canoe launch near Collins Street for the ceremony. Arlington Mayor Dr. Robert Cluck and Arlington Parks and Recreation Board Chairman Glenn Troutman as well as Melissa Parker, riparian ecology team leader with the inland fisheries division of TPWD, spoke about the river's beauty and the benefits of engaging in outdoor activities. To mark the end of the ceremony, Webster Mangham, TRA planning and environmental management assistant, joined several others on the water in a parade of kayaks and canoes.

To get out on the water, visit [www.lifesbetteroutside.org/paddling](http://www.lifesbetteroutside.org/paddling) to select a paddling trail and rent or buy kayaks, canoes and gear.





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## Anniversaries

### 35 Years

Patty Cleveland, assistant manager, Northern Region  
Donald Thompson, TMCRWS operator chief

### 30 Years

Keith Bass, Southern Region operations and  
maintenance chief

### 25 Years

James Swords, TCWSP chief maintenance mechanic  
Sam Colvin, TMCRWS chief operator  
Cecil Alec, LLP security guard

### 20 Years

David Hatley, CRWS lab supervisor  
Stephen Lee, TCRWSS senior operator

### 15 Years

Kelly Logsdon, CSS inspector supervisor  
Melvin Blaylark, CRWS field technician II  
Randy Brooks, Northern Region manager, engineering  
services

### 10 Years

Edwin Harvey, CRWS lab division chief  
James Metcalf, LLP lab technician II  
David Poole, TCRWSS operator II

### 5 Years

Kenneth Moore, CSS inspector II  
Dustin Taylor, CSS inspector II

### 3 Years

Howard Slobodin, staff attorney  
Jeri Callahan, senior secretary  
Andrew Esquibel, DCRWS maintenance mechanic II  
John Dyess, CRWS environmental inspector

## LLP tweets dam discharge and lake level

TRA's Lake Livingston Project recently began reporting lake level and dam discharge via the social network and micro-blogging service Twitter. Twitter users can now "follow" the dam (@LivingstonDam) to receive notification each time the discharge level changes. Tweets can also be sent directly to users' cell phones as text messages, depending on a user's settings.

The dam's discharge, or flow of water through the dam, is provided in cubic feet per second with one cubic foot equal to 7.48 gallons. The lake's level is reported in feet above mean sea level; normal pool level is 131 msl.

Lake level and discharge information are also continuously updated on the front page of TRA's website at [www.trinityra.org](http://www.trinityra.org).

Find Lake Livingston Dam on Twitter at [www.twitter.com/#!/LivingstonDam](http://www.twitter.com/#!/LivingstonDam).

**Lake Livingston Dam**  
**@LivingstonDam**  
Texas' second-largest lake at more than 83,000 acres, Lake Livingston has a normal level of 131 msl.  
<http://www.trinityra.org/default.asp?contentID=114>

Following

Click here to have tweets sent directly to a cell phone.

Tweets Favorites Following Followers Lists

**LivingstonDam** Lake Livingston Dam  
Current lake level: 131.44 msl. Current discharge: 4000 cfs. Visit <http://www.trinityra.org> for up-to-the-minute lake information.  
8 minutes ago

**LivingstonDam** Lake Livingston Dam  
Current lake level: 131.30 msl. Current discharge: 3000 cfs. Visit <http://www.trinityra.org> for up-to-the-minute lake information.  
15 hours ago Favorite Reply