

April/May 2013



Newsletter of the Trinity River Authority of Texas

# TRA brings home high honors from Texas Water 2013



## TRA, Houston, ETEC take next steps toward hydropower project



The proposed hydroelectric facility at TRA's Lake Livingston Project will generate, on average, enough electricity to serve approximately 12,000 households per year.

At its regularly scheduled April meeting, the Trinity River Authority board of directors approved a contract for engineering services related to construction of a hydropower facility at TRA's Lake Livingston Project. A collaborative project among TRA, the city of Houston and the East Texas Electric Cooperative, the proposed 24-megawatt facility will generate, on average, approximately 124 million kilowatt-hours of electricity per year. This amount can serve approximately 12,000 households while offsetting roughly 64,000 tons of carbon dioxide emissions

from fossil-fuel power-generating plants.

"While the primary purpose of Lake Livingston is to provide water for Houston and other communities, being able to also develop a clean, renewable energy source is a tremendous secondary benefit," said Jim Sims, TRA's Southern Region manager. "Moving forward with engineering services allows us to advance the project while making sure that its construction protects the integrity of the existing dam and its effective operation."

ETECC is currently evaluating

design/build proposals in anticipation of a contract award in August, and with final design taking approximately six months, expects to begin construction during the first quarter of 2014. Construction is expected to last approximately 18 months.

Once the plant becomes operational, a minimum release of 200 cfs will be maintained through the spillway to sustain aquatic life, and power will be generated only with flows released to meet downstream commitments or to pass stormwater runoff through the dam. Water will not be released for the sole purpose of generating power, nor will Lake Livingston be drawn down to accommodate construction or to generate power.

### Hydropower project timeline

- 2001: ETECC expresses interest in hydropower project
- 2007: Memorandum of Understanding among TRA, city of Houston, ETECC
- 2009: ETECC submits license application to Federal Energy Regulatory Commission
- 2011: FERC issues ETECC license
- 2013: Parties execute agreements to proceed with hydropower project



On the cover: The TRA CReWSers, shown here as they complete the Operations Challenge safety event, brought home their 16th consecutive state title. Full story p. 2.

Inside:

CReWSers' state victory ...2

Larry Teague takes fourth-place.....2

DCRWS staff recognized for WEAT presidency support.....2

Pre-treatment: water detectives.....3

New governance committee to guide technology decisions.....3

TRA mourns loss of Tom Borden.....3

General manager's message.....4

Public information division earns Watermark Awards...4

Texas Shootout competition.....4

Employee milestones.....5

CRWS operators receive Medal of Honor.....6

Bennett receives WEF Outstanding Service Award.....6

TPWD striper extraction.....7

TRA, TIFP middle Trinity River study.....7

ROCRWS named Municipal Wastewater Plant of the year.....Back

## TRA welcomes new manager of engineering services



Northern Region Manager of Engineering Services Sherri van der Wege

Sherri van der Wege recently joined the Trinity River Authority as Northern Region manager of engineering services. She comes to TRA from AECOM, where she served as a project manager since 2008, providing engineering expertise in locales as close as TRA's Central Regional Wastewater System and as far-reaching as Saskatchewan and

Libya. Van der Wege brings with her a wide array of experience working on municipal water and wastewater treatment projects in various engineering firms across the globe.

"I'm confident that Sherri will be a strong addition to our team," said Bill Smith, Northern Region manager of development. "Her solid engineering background, attention to detail and extensive experience will be invaluable as we continue developing our Northern Region facilities to best meet our customers' growing needs."

Van der Wege earned a bachelor's degree from the University of Texas at Arlington, a master's degree from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, and is currently pursuing an additional master's degree from the University of Texas at Dallas.

## Woolsey receives WEF Life Member Award



Congratulations to Mike Woolsey, process systems automation engineer at the Trinity River Authority's Central Regional Wastewater System, for receiving the Water Environment Federation's Life Membership Award. This distinction recognizes individuals who have been a member of WEF and one or more membership associations for 35 or more consecutive years and are at least age 65. Woolsey joined 18 other individuals who received this recognition this year.

See more stories online in Current News.



## CRWSers celebrate 16th consecutive Operations Challenge state victory

The Trinity River Authority CRWSers Operations Challenge team now boasts its 16th consecutive state title, captured at Texas Water 2013, held in early April in Galveston. The team took first place in four of the five individual competition events – safety, laboratory, collection system and pump and motor maintenance – and brought home a third-place win in process control. The CRWSers also placed first in a new exhibition event: a timed race to see which team can change a rotor and stator the fastest. This event did not count in the final scoring of the overall competition, but did come with bragging rights and its own trophy.

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; each event requires technical skill, and teams are judged for both accuracy and time. This year marked Texas' 25th annual competition.

This year also marked a change in the CRWSers team, with Chief Operator Steve Price moving from competitor to coach/alternate and Senior Operator Raudel Juarez rejoining the team. Juarez previously served on the CRWSers team in 2008. Price has been a team member since 1995.

"This was a good change for us," said Bill Tatum, project manager of TRA's Central Regional Wastewater System. "Steve has been such a strong

competitor and a member of our four national championship teams, so he knows a lot about the events and offered great insight. And Raudel's strength and experience gives us a great advantage in several events."

The CRWSers competed this year against two other Texas teams: the Austin Dillo Xpress and the Dallas Aquatechs, all of whom were vying for spots at the national competition scheduled for October in Chicago. In addition, for the first time, three out-of-state teams competed in a separate division: the Jacksonville, Ark. Mixed Liquors; the Lafayette, La. Lus Cajuns and the Littleton/Englewood, Colo., Commode Commandos.

**"I push them hard; I know I do. That's why we're so successful."**

*Mike Young, CRWS manager of systems operations*

"Having the out-of-state teams compete was exciting for us," said Mike Young, CRWS manager of systems operations, who trains the CRWSers. "It's more fun for us with more competitors; it seems more like a mini-national competition, and it gave us all a good dress rehearsal."

This year's competition included an extra challenge: the weather. Galveston suffered an



The TRA CRWSers, shown here as they complete the Operations Challenge Maintenance event, brought home their 16th consecutive state title.

overnight storm, plus morning rain and strong winds during the second day of competition, adding another dimension to the safety, collection system and maintenance events.

Despite the additional challenge, the CRWSers emerged the overall winner. In Division II, the Littleton/Englewood Commode Commandos took home the title. This team also has two national wins to its name.

In addition to the category wins and the overall victory, the CRWSers' David Brown received the David Barber Competitive Spirit Award, given to the competitor with the best spirit and drive. This distinction represents one of the highest honors a competitor can receive and is voted on by fellow competitors. This award was created in 2008 in memory of the late David Barber, a

longtime member of the Dillo Xpress team.

Next steps for the CRWSers include training for and competing in the national Operations Challenge competition at WEFTEC.13 in Chicago.

"Our goal is to continue honing our strong points and shoring up our weakest event, which is the process control competition," said Young. "I push them hard; I know I do. That's why we're so successful."

The October/November 2013 issue of *inTRA* will update readers on the CRWSers' success.

The TRA CRWSers:

**David Brown  
Dale Burrow  
Jake Burwell  
Raudel Juarez  
Steve Price**

## Teague takes fourth-place win in statewide Junior Meter Madness Competition

Larry Teague, the Trinity River Authority's Water Careers Education intern from the Arlington Independent School District, placed fourth in the statewide Junior Meter Madness Competition held as part of Texas Water 2013 in Galveston. This fast-paced contest pits competitors against each other and the clock to assemble a working water meter from a bucket of assorted parts. Teague competed against other students from Arlington ISD, along with students from Irving ISD. Prior to Texas Water, the teams also met in Irving at the Valley View Municipal Center for a preliminary competition, in which Teague placed second. He is a senior at Arlington High School.



AISD student and TRA intern Larry Teague assembles a water meter as part of a preliminary Meter Madness competition.

## DCRWS staff recognized for support of WEAT presidency

John Bennett, project manager for the Trinity River Authority's Denton Creek Regional Wastewater System and immediate past president of the Water Environment Association of Texas, recently recognized DCRWS staff members Mike Roser, Robert Ray and Julie Wilson for their support during his presidency.

"They kept the plant operating smoothly and kept me informed anytime I was busy taking care of WEAT business," said Bennett. "They all took on additional workloads in order to lighten mine, and I will forever be grateful to them for their support."

In recognition of their efforts, Bennett formally presented Roser, Ray and Wilson with the WEAT President's Service Award

during the TRA board of directors' regularly scheduled April meeting.

**"They all took on additional workloads in order to lighten mine..."**

Bennett also publicly recognized Patty Cleveland, assistant Northern Region manager, for her encouragement and support of Bennett's participation in WEAT activities throughout his career.

## Pretreatment: TRA's "water detectives" keep plants running smoothly, protect environment



TRA's pretreatment team, L-R: Eric Jones, field technician II; Dwain Morgan, field technician II; Dale Burrow, interceptor system specialist; Mary Thomas, senior secretary; Jennifer Moore, environmental services coordinator; Silvia Zavala, environmental inspector; Jesse Borries, environmental inspector; Brandon Wooddell, senior field technician; Brad Dyess, environmental inspector.

The Trinity River Authority's pretreatment division plays a vital role in protecting TRA employees and facilities, and, ultimately, the health of the Trinity River basin. The work they do largely assures TRA's compliance with the U.S. Clean Water Act, designed to keep pollutants out of the nation's waters and ensure fishable and swimmable water quality levels.

As efficient as the wastewater treatment process may be, most facilities, TRA's included, are designed to treat domestic wastes from households, but not to treat toxic or non-conventional pollutants that may be present in industrial waste. Instead, such waste streams must be handled separately, sometimes as hazardous waste, with all corresponding safety procedures and disposal protocol. Pretreatment requires commercial and industrial facilities to remove harmful pollutants and/or conduct best management practices before they send wastewater to a municipal treatment facility.

TRA and its contracting parties adhere to national pretreatment regulations adopted by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency as part of its National Pretreatment Program, with oversight by the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality. Doing so

provides several benefits: it prevents interference with the operation of a treatment facility; it prevents the introduction of pollutants that could pass through a treatment facility into the receiving body of water; it improves the opportunity for reuse or recycling of treated effluent and biosolids; and it prevents the introduction of pollutants that could cause health or safety problems to the environment or the general public.

According to Environmental Services Coordinator Jennifer Moore, a chief purpose of TRA's pretreatment program is also worker safety. "I like to think of our team as our facility workers' first line of defense," said Moore. "The work that we do protects them from fumes, sparks, explosions, or other hazards associated with toxic pollutants that might otherwise make their way into the system."

The National Pretreatment Program requires all large facilities, defined as those designed to treat flows of more than 5 million gallons per day, along with smaller plants that accept wastewater from industrial users that could affect the plant or its discharges, to establish local pretreatment programs. In Texas, pretreatment program requirements are part of each publicly owned treatment

facility's Texas Pollutant Discharge Elimination System permit. These local programs must enforce all national pretreatment standards and requirements in addition to any more stringent local requirements necessary to protect site-specific conditions at the treatment facility.

Currently across the nation, more than 1,600 treatment facilities have developed and are implementing local pretreatment programs designed to control discharges from approximately 23,000 significant industrial users. TRA's five wastewater treatment facilities receive flows from 165 such users, which may include food manufacturers, metal finishers, soap and detergent manufacturers, and a variety of others.

Successful administration of TRA's pretreatment program requires intense collaboration with contracting parties. For example, TRA requires each contracting party to implement a local ordinance and an enforcement response plan. The ordinance establishes legal authority to make sure industrial users adhere to national pretreatment requirements, while the enforcement response plan formalizes procedures for investigating and responding to noncompliance. Thus, most enforcement responsibility rests on the shoulders of contracting parties. TRA has limited enforcement ability, but works in tandem with contracting parties to advise and report appropriate data. "Enforcement cannot come from TRA," said Moore. "The contracting party has the power of an ordinance behind it, but we don't." Though TRA cannot issue either permits or citations, the pretreatment team often serves in an advisory capacity to help contracting parties make the best enforcement decisions.

Additionally, TRA and its contracting parties must develop and implement appropriate procedures that help ensure compliance. To this end, they work together to identify and locate all possible industrial

users that might be subject to the program; identify the character/nature and volume of pollutants from such users; notify users of applicable standards; and receive and analyze monitoring data and reports from industrial users. In addition, the pretreatment team samples and analyzes industrial user discharges and investigates noncompliance claims. "We survey industries on a regular basis to make sure they're classified correctly," said Moore. "We also work closely with our contracting parties to help them classify industries."

On top of national standards, TRA also develops technically based local limits, designed for pollutants that could cause interference, pass-through, sludge contamination or worker health and safety problems for a specific facility and/or receiving stream. "These are limits designed specifically to protect our plants," said Moore.

When a pretreatment inspector hears of potential noncompliance, he or she must become a "water detective." This involves tracking down the prohibited pollutant to its source and working with the appropriate contracting party on enforcement, which usually begins with a cease-and-desist order. The violator then usually cannot discharge to the contracting party or a TRA facility until compliance criteria are met. Depending on the specific ordinance, violators also may have to pay fines and/or reimburse the contracting party and/or TRA for funds expended toward solving the pollutant mystery.

"Everyone on our team loves being part of something important – we all take great pride in ultimately safeguarding the water quality of the Trinity River," said Moore. "There's something new every day, and the work we do helps make sure that the industrial development many of our communities depend on is compatible with safe and effective operations at our facilities and an overall healthy environment."

## New governance committee to guide information technology decisions

The Trinity River Authority's status as critical infrastructure under the auspices of the Department of Homeland Security means that it must make every effort to ensure that operations systems have a strong defense against any type of intentional or inadvertent breach.

In order to protect system integrity, TRA has developed an Information Technology governance committee, tasked with making recommendations for the overall IT activities of the organization. General Manager Kevin Ward serves as the committee chairman. The committee has, because of current national concerns and cybersecurity challenges faced by similar entities across the country, established

network security as its priority.

The committee's first step was to draft an updated Information Security Acceptable Use Policy, which was shared with employees earlier this year. The policy's most pronounced departure from previous versions was to specifically ban the use of USB flash drives and all external hard drives/storage devices on any TRA network. The use of USB flash drives has been linked to cyberattacks on facilities in the United States and abroad.

The change initially created challenges for many of TRA's employees and partners – challenges that the committee has recognized and worked to address.

"We knew the risk of continuing to allow the use of these

devices – we'd seen how other similar organizations' security had been compromised, and we felt we needed to move quickly," said Ward. "I'm thankful that our employees, customers and partners have been patient with us as we worked to find effective solutions that best protect our systems."

Additional items the committee is scheduled to address include effective Supervisory Control and Data Acquisition system operation and expansion; appropriate Geographic Information System implementation; effective expansion of radio telemetry at TRA facilities; overall IT risk assessment and strategic disaster recovery planning. The committee will update the TRA board of directors on its progress in June.

## TRA mourns loss of Tom Borden

Tom Borden, senior storekeeper at TRA's Central Regional Wastewater System, passed away in early April after a short illness. Borden joined TRA in 1992 and celebrated his 20-year anniversary in late 2012. In his position in the warehouse, Borden came into contact with nearly every CRWS employee and was truly loved by all.

"Tommy was a gentleman and an excellent employee," said Bill Tatum, CRWS project manager. "He was a cowboy at heart and gave his all to his family and to TRA."

An avid horseman, Borden received a custom-made saddle blanket signed by all CRWS employees, along with several other TRA staff, shortly before his death.

## GENERAL MANAGER'S MESSAGE

### Option agreement helps implement state water plan



General Manager J. Kevin Ward

Water has been a source of life, prosperity and conflict ever since settlement first began in Texas. And over the years, our state has developed one of the most successful means of stewarding this resource: regional water planning. Under Senate Bill 1, every five years, the 16 regional water planning groups across Texas create and submit a water plan to the Texas Water Development Board, which then approves and combines all regional plans into a single state water plan. The most recent state water plan was adopted in December 2011 and forecasts planning efforts through 2060. One of each region's tasks is to identify both needs and surpluses, with the understanding that the future may require transferring surpluses from one basin to meet the needs of another.

While we might see some debate about the best ways to meet future demand, there is little disagreement that water shortages will become a reality if planners can't find a way to access new supplies. Such inter-basin transfers may play an important role in that process.

In the Trinity River Authority's case, the majority – 81 percent – of the Trinity River basin falls into either Region C, including the Dallas/Fort Worth Metroplex, or Region H, which includes the Houston metropolitan area. In fact, the Trinity River basin accounts for the majority of Region H's surface water supplies. Since 2008, one of the key strategies of the Region H water plan has been to assume an inter-basin transfer at some point from TRA to the San Jacinto River Authority to meet the needs of SJRA's Montgomery County customers.

Toward that end, at its regularly scheduled April meeting, the TRA board of directors voted to approve an option agreement with SJRA for the sale of up to 50,000 acre-feet per year of water from Lake Livingston. The SJRA board of directors previously approved the same agreement during its regularly scheduled meeting in March. The agreement requires SJRA to pay an annual option fee.

This agreement accomplishes several things and represents a key step toward fully

implementing the ideals of the state water plan. At its simplest, it provides up to a 15-year option period for the two river authorities to complete all steps – including necessary approvals for an inter-basin transfer – necessary to move water from Lake Livingston to Lake Conroe. We have a long way to go and many steps left in the process, but this is an important first step. We've taken action on an important component of the state water plan that has been in place and supported by the Region H planning group for several years.

Conducting long-term water supply planning is a responsibility TRA takes very seriously. We know it's essential to our state's success. We have to get water to the people who need it, and that simply can't be done without strategic partnerships, especially between river basins. What we have been able to achieve through our partnership with SJRA is a great example of what Texas' major water providers can do when they work together.

We're still very early in the process. At a future date, TRA and SJRA will collaborate to determine appropriate timing and logistics for delivering water from Lake Livingston to Lake Conroe. TRA will keep *inTRA* readers apprised of progress and milestones along the way.

### Public information division earns Watermark Awards for photography, e-magazine



The Trinity River Authority's public information division has earned two Watermark Awards for projects completed in 2012. These awards, presented jointly by the Water Environment Association of Texas and the Texas section of the American Water Works Association, recognize members who have produced top-quality communications.

The first award went to *exTRA*, TRA's collection of water industry news items. Using the online service Scoop.it, PID staff are able to search the Web for articles on topics of interest and then curate them into a user-friendly e-magazine that offers several levels of functionality including photos, video and sharing via social media platforms. Interested users can access *exTRA* via the Internet at [www.scoop.it/t/traextra](http://www.scoop.it/t/traextra), by using the Scoop.it application for smartphones and tablets, or by integrating into a news reader such as the Pulse News Reader application.

The second Watermark Award recognized TRA's efforts to update its facility photography, both in-studio and on-location. Using a team of volunteer photographers including Brenna Witt, senior secretary, executive services, and Charles Burns, information systems analyst, PID collected photos snapped using a wide variety of techniques, equipment and perspectives. These photos now help TRA visually tell the story of the important work that goes on at its treatment facilities, and to do so in a way that is timeless and artistic, celebrating the beauty of everyday work processes.



### TRA proves strong competitor in Texas Shootout



TRA Northern Region Manager Fiona M. Allen, P.E., and Assistant Northern Region Manager Patty Cleveland prepare for the first round of competition in the Texas Shootout.

Texas Water attendees are likely familiar with the Texas Shootout event, which allows anyone to race the clock and other competitors as they saw through pipe, similar to the Operations Challenge teams. The ultimate goal: bragging rights and the title of Fastest Saw Cut in Texas. Divisions include men's, women's and pro. This year's event also marked the first time that utility executive staff had a chance to

compete for the title.

The Trinity River Authority's Northern Region Manager Fiona M. Allen, P.E., and Assistant Northern Region Manager Patty Cleveland stepped up as the first two competitors in the tournament. The two went head-to-head, saw-cutting an eight-inch pipe. Cleveland emerged the victor with a time of 58.25 seconds, advancing to compete against Austin Water Utilities Director

Greg Meszaros in the next round. Meszaros, who cut a four-inch pipe in just under three seconds, edged out Cleveland by only .2 seconds.

TRA's Raudel Juarez, senior operator at CRWS, won second place in the pro division with a time of 8.75 seconds for cutting through an eight-inch pipe. The event raised more than \$200 for the Joe King II Memorial Fund.

**EMPLOYEE MILESTONES**

**New Hires**

CRWS welcomes **Marius Eugenio** as interceptor system specialist; **Marcus Montbriand, Christopher Farris** and **Dennis Randle** as operators I; **Kendrick Lane** as maintenance mechanic I; **Kenneth Hagewood** as lab technician II; and **Vincent Ball** as senior electrician.

HRWSS is glad to have **James Wars** as maintenance helper.

**Beverly King** joins TCWSP as operator I, and **David Terry** is welcomed as maintenance mechanic II.

GO is excited to have **Janet Marcello** and **Sherri van der Wege** as senior accountant and engineering services manager.

LLP welcomes **Caleb Shelly** as maintenance helper.

**Promotions**

**Sid McCain** was promoted to TCWSP project manager.

**Elias Ruiz II** was promoted to electronics technician II at TMCRRS.

**Clifford Woods** was promoted to operator II at DCRWS.

**Melissa Saniuk** was promoted to accounting manager at GO.

**Mark Reeves** was promoted to operator II, **Christopher Salazar** was promoted to senior storekeeper and **David Monroe** was promoted to senior operator at CRWS.



Assistant Southern Region Manager **Bill Holder** and his family welcome granddaughter **Kynlie Rae Holder**, born April 12, 2013. **Kynlie** weighed 7 pounds, 5 ounces. Her parents are **Will** and **Alicia Holder**.



**Amber Carrington**, great-niece of **Linda Vice**, senior secretary, construction services, emerged as an early frontrunner this season on the television series *The Voice*. As of press time, the show's viewership had voted for **Amber** to be part of the top 10 contestants left to compete in the popular series.



Congratulations to TRA's team for winning Best Camp for its drive-in movie set as part of the 2013 Polk County Relay for Life. Special thanks to **Marie Burns**, LLP custodian, who has served as team captain for the past two years, and to **Terry Burks**, LLP senior maintenance mechanic, who created the roadster and old pickup for the drive-in. Event participants raised more than \$235,000 for the American Cancer Society.



Congratulations to the staff at TRA's Tarrant County Water Supply Project for winning the North Central Texas Regional School Best Tasting Water contest. The panel of judges for the 20th annual contest determined that the water TCWSP submitted was the winner of the contest in the surface water category. The contest is sponsored by the Laboratory Analysts Section of the Texas Water Utilities Association.



**Suzanne Wen**, daughter of **Hong Wu**, planning and environmental management assistant, graduated from **Martin High School** with summa cum laude honors. She will attend **Rice University** this fall, majoring in biomedical engineering.



Congratulations to **Carion Taylor**, southern region services coordinator, on receiving her five-year service award. She is shown here with **Dewayne Coburn**, manager of southern region support services.



**Sarah Elizabeth Mikus**, daughter of **Greg Mikus**, CRWS chief maintenance mechanic and his wife **Tracy**, graduated this spring from **L.D. Bell High School**. **Sarah** plans to attend **Tarrant County College** to earn her basic credits and then move on to a larger university that will prepare her for her passion for social work.

**Congratulations, TRA Families!**

**LeAnne**, wife of Operator I **Shawen Potts**, TCWSP, and a sergeant in the United States Marine Corps, has received a general's challenge coin for her outstanding performance on an inspection at the Naval Air Station Joint Reserve Base Fort Worth. Much like a certificate of commendation or letter of appreciation, such a coin is awarded to service members who go above and beyond the call of duty.

**Mikey**, son of **Mike Drouin**, maintenance mechanic I, CRWS, qualified to participate in the Texas high school state track meet in Austin. He and his teammates represented Colleyville Heritage High School and the Grapevine ISD in the 4 x 400 relay. The team won first place in district competition and took second place in regional competition, missing the top slot by less than a second. **Mikey** runs varsity track and has already lettered this year.



From L-R: WEF President Cordell Samuels; CRWS Chief Operator Steve Price; CRWS Chief Operator Daniel Gonzalez; and CRWS Senior Operator Raudel Juarez

## CRWS operators receive Medal of Honor for Heroism

Chief operators Steve Price and Daniel Gonzalez, along with Senior Operator Raudel Juarez at the Trinity River Authority's Central Regional Wastewater System, received the Water Environment Association of Texas' Medal of Honor for Heroism at Texas Water 2013. This award recognizes individuals or groups who demonstrate exceptional bravery in the performance of heroic behavior toward their fellow man.

In late March 2012, the control room at CRWS received news that a contractor had fallen into the wet well at pump station 6. Price immediately secured the pumps at the pump station, while Juarez and Gonzalez called first responders and secured the gates at pump stations 6 and 6A, thus preventing the person being pulled into the opposite well.

Once first responders arrived, Juarez and Gonzalez coordinated rescue efforts. As soon as crews successfully located the individual, Gonzalez secured the valve at the pump station to isolate the well. Back in the control room, Price monitored the wet well and manipulated the pumps to protect the area and ensure continued operation of pump station 6A to prevent backflow into pump station 6.

After securing pump station 6, Juarez and Gonzalez continued to assist first responders, while Price helped direct the fire department to the accident location. Juarez led paramedics to the accident victim, who, by this time, had been retrieved from the bar screen area of pump station 6. With the arrival of several more

ladder units and paramedics, Juarez and Gonzalez continued to assist with directions while the fire department assumed command of the incident.

***“As a result of their expertise, professionalism and outstanding safety training, the trio assisted in saving a life.”***

“As a fellow TRA employee and a WEAT leader, I cannot commend these gentlemen enough,” said John Bennett, project manager of TRA's Denton Creek Regional Wastewater System and immediate WEAT past president. “They were thinking quickly, relying on their safety training and doing everything they could to help.”

As a result of their expertise, professionalism and outstanding safety training, the trio assisted in saving a life. All three received a standing ovation, first at Texas Water 2013, where they formally received their awards, and again at the April meeting of the TRA board of directors, where they also were honored as special guests.

## Anniversaries

### 40 Years

Jim R. Sims, southern region manager, SRO

### 35 Years

Dewayne Coburn, southern region support services manager, SRSS

### 25 Years

Rusty Huff, chief maintenance mechanic, CRWS  
James A. Williams III, inspector II, CSS

### 15 Years

Cheryl Abbott, executive secretary, GO  
John M. Nelson, operations services manager, GO  
Glenn C. Clingenpeel, planning and environmental management division senior manager, GO

### 10 Years

David C. Monroe, operator II, CRWS

### 5 Years

Brad Dyess, environmental inspector, CRWS  
Andrew Esquibel, maintenance mechanic II, DCRWS  
Jeri Callahan, senior secretary, GO  
Ray Davidson, senior maintenance mechanic, CRWS  
Howard S. Slobodin, general counsel, GO

### 3 Years

Michelle Clark, public information officer, GO  
Debra Wright, clerk/messenger, TCWSP  
Taylor Huynh, personnel services manager, GO

## Bennett receives WEF Outstanding Service Award



DCRWS Project Manager and WEAT Past President John Bennett receives the WEF Outstanding Service Award from WEF President Cordell Samuels.

John Bennett, project manager of the Trinity River Authority's Denton Creek Regional Wastewater System, has received the Water Environment Federation's Outstanding Service Award. This award recognizes an individual who has made outstanding contributions to the water environment profession and to WEF and its member associations.

Bennett began working for TRA the day after he graduated from high school. Originally hired as a seasonal grounds care employee for TRA's Central Regional Wastewater System, he soon advanced to maintenance mechanic I and soon after to chief maintenance mechanic. His skill, intelligence and perseverance in that position led to his reputation for getting the job done. During his career, Bennett has accrued more than 1,200 hours of TCEQ-approved training hours and earned his Class A wastewater certification in 2000. He graduated Phi Theta Kappa from Tarrant County College in 2001, and is a past recipient of the V.M. Ehlers Scholarship. He is currently pursuing a degree in management from Dallas Baptist University.

Bennett has participated tremendously in the benefit of others in the water and wastewater industry. His knowledge of maintenance procedures and process control allows him to serve as technical adviser not only to operators at TRA, but also at facilities across the state. He has served the industry as an instructor in several capacities and is a past team captain of TRA's CREWSers Operations Challenge team. He has also held various leadership positions in WEF and the Water Environment Association of Texas, of which he is the immediate past president.

## TPWD striper extraction event proves great success



*TPWD collected a total of 178 female and 141 male striped bass at this year's extraction event, and hopes to stock Texas lakes with nearly 9 million striped and hybrid striped bass.*

Since 1980, the Trinity River Authority's Lake Livingston Project staff have assisted the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department by providing access to the restricted area just below Lake Livingston Dam, where the oxygen-rich waters attract large numbers of striped bass. Over the years, this area has proven an ideal location for capturing brood stock to use in fingerling production and stocking programs.

LLP staff provide additional support by preparing a ramp to the river for trucks and trailers to reach the water's edge and towing trucks onto level ground when the extraction effort is complete.

Last year's warmer-than-normal

temperatures caused the fish to spawn a few weeks before the scheduled brood stock harvest, leading to lower collection numbers and prompting TPWD officials to approach this year's event with cautious optimism and intense prior planning.

"We knew this year was important for maintaining the integrity of the program," said Brian Van Zee, TPWD inland fisheries regional director. "Starting in March, every couple of weeks we were collecting and examining fish to make sure they weren't staging quicker than we thought. The staff at Lake Livingston also checked water temperatures once a week so we'd

know for sure when we reached ideal spawning temperatures."

TRA board members Steve Cronin, San Jacinto County; John Jenkins, at large; Manny Rachal, Polk County; and David Leonard, Liberty County, attended the event this year, with Director Leonard hosting all participants at a much-appreciated post-event fish fry. Science students from Livingston High School also observed, along with members of TPWD's Freshwater Fisheries Advisory Committee.

TPWD was prepared with alternate collection dates and sites if needed, but on the big day, conditions proved optimal.

"We started the event with a 2,000 cfs discharge from the dam," said Mark Waters, LLP project manager. "Later in the day, our gate calculations called for us to increase the discharge to 4,000 cfs. Once we made that change, we really saw an increase in how quickly the crews were able to gather fish."

TPWD collected a total of 178 female and 141 male striped bass, which staff then transported to hatcheries, where fingerlings are produced and grown until they are big enough to release into lakes throughout Texas. Thus far, the process bodes well for fishermen – the collected fish have shown a nearly 99 percent spawn rate, and TPWD hopes to stock Texas lakes with more than 6 million hybrid striped bass and 2.7 million striped bass. In fact, some lakes were already being stocked as early as mid-May.

"We can't thank TRA and the staff at Lake Livingston enough," said Van Zee. "Every fisherman who enjoys fishing for stripers and hybrid striped bass in Texas lakes owes that privilege, to some extent, to TRA's support of this program."

## Wolf Creek Park hosts Texas Vintage Trailer Club



*Vintage trailer enthusiasts gathered at Wolf Creek Park in April for their annual rally.*

On a beautiful weekend in April, the Trinity River Authority's Wolf Creek Park played host to the Texas Vintage Trailer Club, an organization of vintage trailer enthusiasts formed in 2009 to share information and convene at various times per year at campgrounds around Texas. This year, the group chose Wolf Creek Park as the location for its spring rally.

Activities included potluck meals, a costume contest in which owners dressed for the era of their trailers, a professional photo shoot and an open house tour open to other campers at the park. Club members also enjoyed concerts and a variety of games and camping activities. In addition, the group collected canned goods over the weekend for later donation to a local food pantry.

Many families also enjoyed a relaxing Easter weekend at the park, which included an Easter egg hunt for campers ages 12 and under, hosted by the Wolf Creek Park marina.



*Campers enjoy an Easter egg hunt hosted by the Wolf Creek Park marina.*

## TRA, TIFP seek public input on design of middle Trinity River study

The Trinity River Authority and the Texas Instream Flow Program recently teamed up to host two public meetings in the mid-Trinity River basin to explain the purpose of a detailed study of the Trinity River that will be conducted over the next several years. Attendees also discussed the geographical area covered and how the public and stakeholders can participate in the study.

The project, centered on the area downstream of Dallas to Lake Livingston, seeks to identify how much water should flow in the middle reach of the river to ensure a healthy aquatic environment. This stretch of river travels approximately 270 miles through Kaufman, Ellis, Henderson, Navarro, Anderson, Freestone, Houston, Leon and Madison counties. The public meetings took place in

Tennessee Colony and Cedar Hill.

This process affords the public an opportunity to provide direction by identifying aspects of the river that are important to local stakeholders. "Rather than having outside entities tell us what we should want, this gives us – the locals who benefit most from the river – an opportunity to voice why the river is important and what we need from it," said Webster Mangham, TRA's manager of special studies and assessments.

Similar grassroots-level approaches have been used successfully in other river basins and are useful not only in making sure there is local support for a project, but also for identifying issues and concerns that may not be obvious to someone unfamiliar with the river system.

"We're thankful to everyone

who came out to participate in these meetings," said Mangham. "This was a tremendous opportunity for the public to participate in helping us answer the question, 'what makes a healthy environment for the mid-Trinity River?' Their input is invaluable."

The Texas Instream flow Program was created by the Texas legislature in 2001 to assess how much water rivers need in order to maintain a sound ecological environment. The program is administered by three agencies: The Texas Commission on Environmental Quality; the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department; and the Texas Water Development Board. For more information about the Texas Instream Flow Program, please visit <http://www.twdb.state.tx.us/surfacewater/flows/instream/index.asp>.



*TRA's Webster Mangham, manager of special studies and assessments, leads a group of stakeholders in discussion of a middle Trinity River study.*



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## ROCRWS named Municipal Wastewater Treatment Plant of the Year



*Front row, L-R: Richard Dennie, chief operator; Lewis Watson, operator II; Jerry Smith; operator II; David Luther, senior operator. Back row, L-R: Omar Maisonet, maintenance mechanic I; Wendy Derdeyn, senior secretary; Claud Lesly, senior maintenance mechanic; Billy Hill, project manager; John Wardell, operator II; Barry Beeson, Operator II*

The Trinity River Authority's Red Oak Creek Regional Wastewater System now holds the title of Texas' Municipal Wastewater Treatment Plant of the Year for Category 2, which includes facilities treating from one to 15 million gallons per day. This award, given by the Water Environment Association of Texas, is presented to a municipal wastewater treatment plant in Texas that has consistently exhibited outstanding performance of daily activities beyond the normal call of duty.

"We couldn't be prouder of Project Manager Billy Hill and his team at ROCRWS," said Northern Region Manager Fiona M. Allen, P.E. "They work so hard every day to make sure the plant is operating to its fullest potential, and this recognition is a well-deserved public acknowledgement of their dedication to producing the highest quality effluent."

Facilities nominated for this award are subjected to a high level of scrutiny by representatives from 14 regional WEAT sections across Texas. Nominees must show a history of excellent permit compliance; an effective system of historical records and annual reports; a strong safety program; highly qualified operators and a detailed description of the facility, including treatment processes and capacity. Winning nominations must fulfill all requirements.

"I can't thank my team enough for their continued effort and dedication," said Hill. "Without them being on the front line, 24/7, observing, testing, adjusting, operating and maintaining the system, we could never achieve something like this. This award is dedicated to them for their outstanding loyalty

and professionalism."

Capable of serving a population of 60,000, ROCRWS consists of a 4.6-million-gallon-per-day treatment plant, plus nearly 28 miles of pipeline, and treats water to meet one of the most stringent limits in the DFW Metroplex. The treatment plant includes drum screens, aeration basins, aerobic digesters and final clarifiers. Odor-reducing biofilters dewater biosolids, and the facility uses ultraviolet light to disinfect treated water before discharging it into the Red Oak Creek ecosystem.

Designed to preserve the rural ambiance of the area surrounding the plant site, the treatment facility is sheltered from the road by trees and gently rolling berms, and it features a pastoral landscape design with low-intensity lighting, noise control features and an administration building designed to resemble a country home.

The system began service in 1991 and is currently permitted to treat 4.6 million gallons per day, with an average daily flow of approximately 3.3 MGD. The system serves all of Ovilla, Glenn Heights and Red Oak, along with portions of DeSoto, Cedar Hill and Lancaster.