

inTRA

Newsletter of the Trinity River Authority of Texas

Summer 2016



TRA at Texas Water 2016



Our shared vision

The Trinity River Authority of Texas is an innovative, adaptive leader, enriching the Trinity basin as a resource for Texans.

The TRA mission

The Trinity River Authority's mission is to promote conservation, reclamation, protection and development of the natural resources of the river basin for the benefit of the public.

trinityra.org

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Commitment, hard work, *the right people*

In the last couple of years, TRA has bid farewell to several longtime employees. With each retirement goes a wealth of knowledge and history. Because of that, we continuously look at how to best catalog retirees' pertinent knowledge while grooming potential internal staff.

Since day one, I have focused on having people ready to step up when retirement or other life changes lead to the departure of longtime employees. TRA's human resources staff has ramped up training and development. Current professional development initiatives include: leadership development, executive development and management and staff development. Another major component will be our mentoring program, which will further help us groom the next generation of TRA leadership.

Our board of directors supports our goal of looking at homegrown talent. They understand that much of what we do is specialized and unique to this organization. In some key positions, it is difficult to bring in someone with all of the knowledge, background or credentials that fit. It is not impossible. We have done it before.

In the five years that I have been here, we've been fortunate that new team members have fit very well, and they have grown thanks to support from their peers, superiors and coworkers. TRA's culture strives to foster people's development.

A recent *Chicago Tribune* article printed in the *Dallas Morning News* titled "Training increases loyalty" caught my attention. It opened with this subheadline:

"Grooming workers for new positions makes them more likely to stay, research finds." I agree, and I would add that

It's about...
Having the right people,
with the right abilities,
in the right place,
at the right time.



General Manager J. Kevin Ward

growth in one's current duties and programs that promote health and well-being also add value. The article noted the importance of professional and career development to help employees remain relevant and competitive.

Organizational growth and stability are tied to a well-trained workforce. To that end, we will do our best to help staff members grow their knowledge, skills and abilities. It also is important to me to make sure that we

don't overlook or lose people who may be a couple of steps back, outside the management-supervisor level. Some of them are looking forward, but they haven't been identified—yet.

I encourage staff at all levels to develop themselves. TRA needs the commitment of all to adapt and move forward. Ideally, the next group of leaders at TRA will stay here like some of the longtime employees who retired after 30 to 40 years with us, which is a great testament to this organization.



TRA CREWSers take on the collections event at Texas Water 2016

TRA shines *at Texas Water 2016*

In April the Trinity River Authority made a stellar showing at Texas Water 2016, the largest regional water conference in the United States, which was held in Fort Worth. First place for the best tasting water went to TRA's Tarrant County Water Supply Project in a competition that included utilities from across Texas. The panel of judges included a representative from MillerCoors, a local brewmaster, two media reps and the vice president of the American Water Works Association. TRA staff continued to rack up wins throughout the conference.

In the Top Ops competition, water operations personnel impressed the audience with their technical knowledge by competing in a quiz show-style event. Tarrant County Water Supply Project earned a second-place win. The Ops team members were Gary Smith, senior biologist; Marion Tims, chief operator; and Kevin Burks, operations and maintenance chief.



TRA's wins in the Operations Challenge competition, the most visual action at the conference, were earned in each of the five events. The competition is structured to test and demonstrate the skills and knowledge needed to operate a wastewater treatment facility. Competing teams are timed in each event, and penalties are assessed for failing to perform a required function, wrong answers or poor technique. The penalties are assigned a time that is added to the teams' overall raw scores.

Cover Photo: Waste Warrior Andrew Moore simulates rescuing an unconscious coworker in the safety event.

OPERATIONS CHALLENGE EVENTS

TRA's teams, the CReWSers from the Central Regional Wastewater System plant and the Waste Warriors from the Denton Creek Regional Wastewater System plant, participated in the Operations Challenge events. The process control event consists of a written test, as well as a computerized model that checks the team's ability to answer questions related to design criteria, mathematics, troubleshooting and general treatment knowledge. The CReWSers won second place. Four other events were also a part of the challenge.

Laboratory

Teams perform pH and ammonia exams on five different samples in order to determine the alkalinity and performance of a facility. The CReWSers took first place and the Waste Warriors came in third.

Maintenance

Teams prepare a 6-inch mobile pump for service and simulate connecting it to a lift station. First place went to the CReWSers. They not only had the fastest time but also had no penalties.

Safety

Teams prepare for and make a simulated confined space entry into a workspace in order to rescue an unconscious coworker and repair a faulty check valve. The CReWSers came in first and the Waste Warriors earned a third-place finish.

Collections

Teams simulate repairing an 8-inch PVC line by cutting out a damaged section of pipe and installing a new section. The CReWSers won first place.

In the Operations Challenge events, the CReWSers finished first place overall for the 19th consecutive time in state competition. They beat all other teams by more than 105 points. The Waste Warriors finished fourth overall, among the Texas teams. Both teams will represent Texas at the national competition in September.

CReWSers team

- Dale Burrow, interceptor system specialist, captain
- Jake Burwell, construction inspector II
- David Brown, senior mechanic
- Raudel Juarez, chief maintenance mechanic
- Steve Price, chief operator, coach
- Quintin Winters, operator II, alternate

Waste Warriors team

- Andrew Moore, senior operator
- Clifford Woods, operator II
- Howard Williams, operator II
- Zack Johnston, operator II
- John Bennett, DCRWS, project manager

Other Texas Water events in which TRA staff excelled include the Texas Shootout, which is designed to demonstrate elements of the Operations Challenge Collection event in order to see who can cut an 8-inch PVC pipe the fastest using a handsaw.

Men's Open Division

Basilio Chavez, TMCRWS, chief mechanic, took second place overall with a time of 12.91 seconds, missing first place by less than one second.

Men's Pro Division

Howard Williams, Waste Warriors, won first place with a time of 8.32 seconds.

Worldwide connections and the shirt off your back, kind of



It has become kind of a tradition to exchange shirts with the home country when attending the IFAT competition. IFAT is the world's leading trade fair for water, sewage, waste

and raw materials management. Dale Burrow (the captain of TRA's CReWSers Operations team), was a member of the U. S. team that attended IFAT in June, in Munich, Germany. Burrow shared a CReWSers jersey with Achim Höcherl (pictured second from the left). Achim is the superintendent

of the wastewater treatment plants in Bonn-Beuel and Bonn-Duisdorf. He was instrumental in training the U.S. team before the 2015 IFAT competition. In 2012, Pedro Rondinelli (pictured right), director of AySA in Buenos Aires, Argentina, was the jersey-exchange recipient. Rondinelli helped bring the U. S. team to the competition. The Argentina competition marked the first, and Germany marked the second time for a Water Environment Federation international team to compete outside the United States.





TRA CReWSers receiving Ops Challenge Exhibition Event Award



TRA receiving the Ops Challenge Managers Award presented to CRWS



TRA CReWSers receiving Ops Challenge Collections Event Award



TRA CReWSers receiving first place overall Ops Challenge Award



TRA CRWS named Municipal Wastewater Large Treatment Plant of the Year



TRA CReWSers receiving Ops Challenge Laboratory Event Award



TRA communications division receiving Communications Program Award

ADDITIONAL TRA TEXAS WATER AWARDS

The CReWSers won first place, and the Waste Warriors took home second place in the Victaulic exhibition event. Teams work together to assemble a 6-inch section of ductile iron pipe that includes two valves and a check valve.

The Gupta electrical event involves a team of two people who work together to troubleshoot and repair an electrical panel and submersible pump. The CReWSers garnered a third-place win in the Pro Division. Placing second overall in the Open Division were DCRWS staff members Bobby Ray, chief maintenance mechanic, and John Bennett, DCRWS project manager.

Additional Texas Water awards earned by TRA include:

CRWS earned two prestigious awards. The George Burke Safety Award recognizes facilities for active and effective safety programs, and the plant also was named the Municipal Wastewater Large Treatment Plant of the Year.

TRA's communications division received a Watermark Award for Excellence in Communications in four categories. The team included Vanessa Joseph, manager; Rémy McCool, outreach and communications associate; and Trenton Jones, multimedia specialist.

- Communications programs – TRA's 60-year celebration campaign
- Online communications – Implementing a social media plan
- School curriculums – Peter Potty Toilet Game, activity book and bookmarks
- Audio/visual – TRA's PowerPoint presentation redesign

The WEAT President's Service Award was presented to John Bennett, DCRWS project manager, for outstanding commitment and service to the WEAT President. The Silver Water Drop Award went to Sid McCain, TCWSP project manager, and Malcolm Cowdin, maintenance mechanic II, who were recognized for 30 years of service to the water community and AWWA. To see who's who in the photos, stop by our website.



Trinity River Authority of Texas

VITAL LINK

FORT WORTH ISD



Students spend a week at TRA, *connect education and career options*

Fifteen W.P. McLean Middle School seventh-grade students spent a week learning the ropes at the Trinity River Authority's main location. The students devoted part of their summer to participating in Fort Worth Independent School District's Vital Link program.

The program is a weeklong, half-day internship designed to demonstrate the connection between what is learned in the classroom and what is needed for success in the workplace. During their visit, the students heard from several speakers. Planning and Environmental Services' Aaron Hoff, environmental scientist I, and Angela Kilpatrick, senior environmental scientist, kicked things off for the group. Hoff introduced the students to a watershed and discussed its importance, tying it to math and science. Kilpatrick helped spread the word about bad pollutants by playing a visual, thought-provoking game called "Guess the Contaminant." Her presentation complemented the watershed segment and helped the students begin planning to create a watershed as their capstone project. James McDonald, engineer, planning and development, sparked their interest in engineering by sharing some of the processes related to taking a large wastewater project from paper to reality. Candi Nash-Trautmann, cash and capital projects, manager, helped underscore the ways that math is used in everyday life, making it one of the most important skills to hone. Multimedia Specialist Trenton Jones communicated how he has been able to create a near-perfect mix of his passion for photography, graphics and film with his education in a work environment.

Additionally, the students visited with staff members from some other departments and learned more about the connection between school and jobs related to human resources, land rights and construction services. During this part of their visit, they heard from Taylor Huynh, manager, human resources; Michelle Harlan, senior real estate specialist; Nancy Whitlock, administrative assistant; Brenda Porter, land administrator; Linda Vice, executive assistant; and Sharon Gattis, accounting clerk, Construction Management Services.

Midweek, the students attended TRA's board of director's June 22 meeting to experience the formal process involving items that are submitted by staff for board discussion for potential approval. For a close-up look at the importance of what TRA does, the group toured Tarrant County Water Supply Project, where they were able to gain a better understanding of TRA's project operations.

On their final day, the students presented their watershed project (pictured on previous page), on which they worked in groups. It involved applying what they had learned about watershed protection, engineering, construction and environmental science. The project's objective was to build a watershed model that exhibited water pollution prevention strategies. It was a huge success.

"The students worked hard, and it showed," commented Outreach and Communications Associate Rémy McCool. "It all came together, thanks to our great staff, the students, their teacher, Katy Wampach, and coordinator Peg Murphy." McCool coordinated and structured the students' visit as part of TRA's continuing effort to build mutually beneficial relationships throughout our service area.

"The goal in participating in this program was to offer the students a glimpse into the various career opportunities within our organization while encouraging them to stay dedicated to their education," added TRA's General Manager Kevin Ward.

Learn more about the Vital Link students' visit to TRA and see more photos by checking us out online and following us on Facebook, Instagram and Pinterest.



Angela Kilpatrick



Photo left: Yen Cao, Ret Thuang, Marie Watts, Ed Mach

International visitors tour wastewater plant

Two international fellows, Yen Cao from Vietnam and Ret Thuang from Cambodia, visited Ten Mile Creek Regional Wastewater System in late May. Marie Watts, assistant to the city manager in Cedar Hill, arranged their visit to TMCRRWS. The women visited as part of their participation in a Southeast Asia young leaders program. Ed Mach, TMCRRWS project manager, spent several hours showing the women around the plant and answering their questions.

They spent their time in North Texas studying sustainability best practices from Cedar Hill and the surrounding area. The Professional Fellows program is coordinated through a partnership between the U.S. Department of State and the International City and County Management Association.

Cao works for the Vietnam Department of Industry and Trade. She conducts outreach and education initiatives to encourage

Expanding TRA's reach

Julie Hunt, assistant regional manager, operations, discusses why TRA has added biofiltration to its water treatment process. Read the article on page 4 at the following web address: <http://www.advancesinwaterresearch.org/awr/20160306?pg=6#pg6>



"Much More Than a Contest" is the title of the article in *Treatment Plant Operator* magazine that features TRA's Operations Challenge teams the CREWSers and the Waste Warriors. Read the article on page 34 at the following web address: www.tpomag.com/ezine/2016/06



energy and water conservation. She is also interested in sustainability plans.

Thuang is a research conservation scientist with the International Flora and Fauna Association in Cambodia. She has researched nearly extinct animals such as birds, the fishing cat and elephants.



SAVE THE DATE

Trinity River Authority of Texas



OPEN TO ALL 1st - 8th GRADE STUDENTS

Check our website and social media for more details.

THE ZEBRA MUSSEL THREAT

The first Texas infestation was found in Lake Texoma in 2009.

- **Infested Lakes** - Six Texas lakes in three river basins can be classified as fully infested with zebra mussels, meaning the water body has an established, reproducing population: Texoma, Ray Roberts, Lewisville, Bridgeport, Dean Gilbert (a 45-acre Community Fishing Lake in Sherman) and Belton.
- **"Positive" Lakes** - Zebra mussels or their larvae have been detected on more than one occasion in lakes Eagle Mountain, Lavon, Livingston, Waco, Worth and Fishing Hole Lake (a small lake connected to the Trinity River below Lake Lewisville). So far there is no evidence of a reproducing population in these lakes.
- **"Suspect" Lakes** - Zebra mussels or their larvae have been found once in recent years in Lake Fork and Lake Ray Hubbard. These water bodies are classified as "suspect."



ZEBRA MUSSELS HIDE HERE.
CLEAN, DRAIN AND DRY YOUR BOAT.

Three More Texas Lakes *Affected by Zebra Mussels*

Three more Texas lakes are being added to the list of lakes affected by zebra mussels. Lake Livingston (owned and operated by the Trinity River Authority), Eagle Mountain Lake and Lake Worth all tested positive for zebra mussels. As we head into the Labor Day weekend, these new findings serve as a good reminder to boaters to “Clean, Drain and Dry” their boats, trailers and gear every time they travel from one lake to another to prevent the spread of zebra mussels and other invasive species.

Sampling funded by the Trinity River Authority and conducted on Lake Livingston from June 22-23 by the United States Geological Survey confirmed the presence of zebra mussels. Dr. Christopher Churchill with the USGS found four adult zebra mussels attached to settlement samplers that were deployed at three different locations throughout the lake. Churchill stated that “At this point in time, it is not possible to determine whether the zebra mussels in Lake Livingston are the result of reproduction within the lake or if they are the result of downstream dispersal or overland introduction.”

Likewise, the Tarrant Regional Water District has been monitoring Eagle Mountain Lake and Lake Worth for the presence of zebra mussels. Both lakes are downstream of Lake Bridgeport, which is known to be infested. Plankton samples collected by TRWD on May 18 found what appeared to be zebra mussel larvae. Those specimens were later confirmed by the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department (TPWD) through genetic analysis. Additional monitoring conducted on June 28 by TRWD and TPWD resulted in the discovery of several adult zebra mussels in both Eagle Mountain Lake and Lake Worth.

Since zebra mussels were first found in Texas in 2009, six Texas lakes in three river basins are now fully infested, meaning that they have an established, reproducing population. Zebra mussels have been found on occasion in six other Texas lakes, but at

this time it is uncertain if those lakes have a viable reproducing population. The rapidly reproducing zebra mussels, originally from Eurasia, can have serious economic, environmental and recreational impacts on Texas reservoirs. Zebra mussels can clog public-water intake pipes, harm boats and motors left in infested waters, completely cover anything left under water and litter beaches with their sharp shells.

In Texas, it is unlawful to possess or transport zebra mussels, dead or alive. Boaters are also required to drain all water from their boats and on-board receptacles before leaving or approaching a body of fresh water in order to prevent the transfer of zebra mussels that might be trapped inside. This regulation applies to all types and sizes of boats whether powered or not: personal watercraft, sailboats, kayaks/canoes or any other vessel used on public waters. Movement from one access point to another on the same lake during the same day does not require draining.

“Boaters’ actions are absolutely vital to help prevent zebra mussels from spreading to any new river basins. Three simple steps can help stop them and help you stay within the law,” said Brian Van Zee, inland fisheries regional director for TPWD. “Clean, drain and dry your boat every time you leave a body of water.”

TPWD and a coalition of partners have been working to slow the spread of zebra mussels by reminding boaters to clean, drain and dry their boats, trailers and gear before traveling from one water body to another. The partners in this effort include: North Texas Municipal Water District, Tarrant Regional Water District, City of Dallas Water Utilities Department, Trinity River Authority, San Jacinto River Authority, Sabine River Authority, Brazos River Authority, Guadalupe-Blanco River Authority, Lower Colorado River Authority, Upper Trinity Regional Water District, Water Oriented Recreation District of Comal County and the Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center.

Holder sworn in as DETCOG second vice president

Bill Holder, southern region assistant manager, was sworn in as second vice president of the Deep East Texas Council of Governments. His election was unanimous following the recommendation of DETCOG’s officer nominating committee. He started his 2017-2018 term on July 1.



Fostering leadership

Glenn Clingenpeel, manager of planning and environmental services, graduated from the North Texas Commission Leadership North Texas Class 7 in May. The class included 32 leaders from throughout the region. Leadership North Texas is a graduate-level, regional leadership program designed to recruit, develop and support area leaders.

40 years of service, plus cake

Donald Thompson, chief operator, was recognized for 40 years of service to TRA. Ed Mach, TMCRRWS project manager, and Julie Hunt, assistant regional manager, operations, presented his commemorative certificate. His celebration also included cake and ice cream!



Hydraulics tool kickoff meeting

The Planning and Environmental Services Department announced the kickoff of the Hydraulics Department. This department will allow for increased planning and hydraulic analysis capabilities for the Authority’s wastewater and water projects. A presentation covered the background of PES and an overview of the new capabilities provided by the Hydraulics Department for TRA.

Pictured: Nick Dons, Engineer, Planning and Environmental Services.





Lake Livingston cleanup

“Come Clean Lake Livingston” was a success! On May 21, an event was held to clean up Lake Livingston’s waterfront and the surrounding area and raise awareness in the community about the importance of keeping the lake clean. The continued efforts of the volunteers help make Lake Livingston a welcome place for visitors and locals.

Safety Day

Safety Day 2016 was held at CRWS and TCWSP this past spring. Employees attended and gained awareness of safety procedures and reminders that help every day. Keynote speakers and vendors attended the events to speak on a multitude of subjects including the importance of a full-night’s rest, electrical safety and animal awareness.



John Bennett, DCRWS project manager, graduated on May 8 from Dallas Baptist University. He received a degree in management.



Marcus Montbriand, electronic tech I, has taken over as safety chair at TRA’s CRWS.



Gene Paul, training coordinator, received a North Central Texas Regional School award for 2017 Educator and Training for Texas Water Utilities Association annual school.



At the Texas Water 2016 conference, **Ron Tamada**, northern region planning and development engineer, was approved by the Texas Section AWWA as the section’s vice chair for 2016-17.



Keith Bass, southern region assistant manager, and **Steve Lee**, senior operator, received awards for years of service — Keith for 35 years and Steve for 25 years.



Brooke Munoz, daughter of **Kristie Munoz**, assistant manager LLP, is the XCEL gold jr. vault and balance beam state champion with a third-place win on bars and a second-place all-around win.



Jennifer Whitaker, lab supervisor, graduated with a master's of applied science in environmental management from the University of Denver.



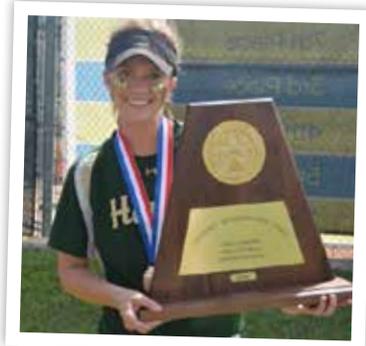
Marley Willow Bryson, granddaughter of **Paul Carter**, senior maintenance mechanic, was born April 7, weighing 7 pounds 15 ounces.



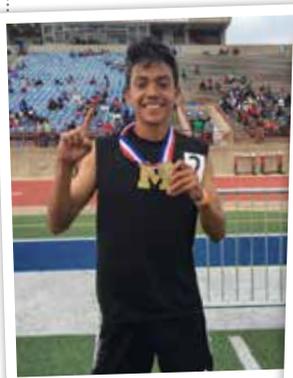
Shelbe' Probasco, daughter of **Kim Probasco**, operations financial administrator, graduated with her MBA from UTA. Her next step is to take the Series 7 exam.



Prerana Karki, senior accountant, was joined by a group of TRA staff at her wedding on April 30. The ladies chose to wear traditional attire. Check our website to see who's who.



Maygan Paul, daughter of **Gene Paul**, training coordinator, won the UIL 5A state softball tournament in Austin on June 4. She is a sophomore at North Richland Hills. It also happened to be her 16th birthday—what a present!



Marco Ramirez, northern region planning and development engineer, has multiple announcements for his kids. **Maximiliano Ramirez**, after a great soccer season with Mansfield High School, placed first in the 1600m and 2200m track events. **Luisa Mariana Ramirez's** soccer team, Lightning, completed the season in first place with only one loss. **Marco Lorenzo Ramirez's** soccer team, the Cyclones, also took first for the season on a team which TRA's **Marco Ramirez** coaches. **Marco Lorenzo Ramirez** also received the president's award for making all A's and B's in fourth grade.



Jessica Davis, daughter of **Susan Davis**, office coordinator, CSG, has been accepted into the Diagnostic Medical Sonography program at Weatherford College after completing her prerequisite courses at Tarrant County College.



Jarod Hamm, son of **Suzanne Hamm**, office coordinator, TMCRWS, won the 2016 Texas state champion auctioneer distinction and was appointed to the Texas Auctioneers Association Board of Directors.



Sophie Davis, organizational development and training specialist, and husband **Stuart Davis** renewed their vows for their 15th wedding anniversary.

HAPPY ANNIVERSARY:

40 YEARS

Patty Cleveland, assistant regional manager, planning and development, GO

20 YEARS

Melvin Blaylark, field technician II, CMS
 Kelly Logsdon, inspector supervisor, CMS
 Richard Postma, manager, CMS

5 YEARS

Fiona Allen, northern region manager, GO
 Barry Beeson, operator II, ROCRWS
 David Hill, operator II, DCRWS
 Jona Hollis, accounting associate, GO
 Paul Nelson, maintenance mechanic II, CRWS
 Tracy Paul, collection system technician I, CSG
 Stephen Renfro, inspector II, CMS
 Michael Scamp, operator I, CRWS
 Kevin Ward, general manager, GO

WELCOME TO NEW HIRES:

CRWS

Marlon Date, operator I
 Nathan Dollar, maintenance mechanic II

PES

Nicolas Dons, engineer planning and development

LLP

Cherylyn Douglass, custodian
 Caleb Shelly, part-time maintenance helper

HRWSS

Charles McMillian, part-time maintenance helper

CONGRATULATIONS ON YOUR PROMOTION:

CRWS

Darrin Button, maintenance mechanic II
 Miguel Nava, senior operator

GO

Jesus Gomez, maintenance mechanic II
 Julie Hoppe, risk manager, safety and faculty
 Prerana Karki, senior accountant

LLP

Kristie Munoz, assistant manager

TMCRWS

Michael Minkley, senior operator

TCWSP

Mrugen Patel, operator II

HAPPY TRAILS TO THESE RETIREES:

CSS

Barry Vancampen, maintenance mechanic II - 29 years

Recognitions from March 1 - June 1

CHANGE SERVICE REQUESTED



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Enriching the Trinity Basin as a Resource for Texans



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