

WATER ENVIRONMENT FEDERATION

OUTSTANDING SERVICE AWARD
OUTGOING WEAT PRESIDENT 2008-2009

...recognizing an individual who has made outstanding contributions to the water environment profession and to the Federation and its Member Associations.

Brad B. Castleberry

Brad Castleberry is currently serving as the President of the Water Environment Association of Texas (WEAT). Brad was born in Colorado Springs, Colorado in 1970 and obtained a B.S. in Civil Engineering with highest honors from the University of Texas at Austin in 1993, and a J.D. and his Graduate Portfolio in Dispute Resolution from the University of Texas School of Law in 2002. While in engineering school, Brad was a member of Tau Beta, Phi Kappa Phi, and an officer and member of Chi Epsilon. While in law school, Brad served as the student Managing Editor for the *Texas Environmental Law Journal*. Brad is currently serving as adjunct Professor of Water Law at Texas Tech University.



In 1993, Brad began work as a project engineer with HDR Engineering, Inc. He worked on various projects involving hydrology and hydraulics associated with railway and highway bridges and performed water quality modeling. He also performed pressure system hydraulic modeling, as well as transient analysis for large and complex water delivery systems. Brad has been involved in the planning, design, and construction of a number of water and wastewater treatment and storage facilities, and he is a licensed engineer in the State of Texas.

Upon completing his law degree, Brad took a job with Lloyd Gosselink Rochelle and Townsend, P.C. in Austin, Texas. He started as an associate with the firm in 2002 and was named as a partner and principal shareholder January 1, 2008. In his law practice, Brad practices in the areas of water law, natural resources, environmental permitting, and construction litigation. He represents clients on a variety of issues, including water supply planning, water quality management, and environmental defense. Brad also works on water policy and regulatory issues and has successfully addressed dozens of permitting and rulemaking initiatives within the TCEQ.

Brad is a member of the Water Environment Federation (WEF) and WEAT, as well as a number of other water-related organizations. Brad has been an active member of WEAT, serving in executive level positions for both WEAT and the Central Texas Section of WEAT since 2002. Brad was the 2005 recipient of the TAWWA Service Award and has a history of serving TAWWA at the Capital Area Chapter level and on AWWA national committees since 1996. Brad is a co-author of the AWWA M50 on Water Resources Planning.

WATER ENVIRONMENT FEDERATION

ARTHUR SIDNEY BEDELL AWARD

...acknowledging extraordinary personal service to the Water Environment Association of Texas. The honoree must be a member of WEAT and should exemplify organizational leadership, administrative service, membership activity, stimulation of technical functions, or similar contributions to WEAT.

Carol V. Batterton

Carol Batterton currently serves as the Executive Director of the Water Environment Association of Texas (WEAT). In this position, she is responsible for coordination of WEAT's legislative activities with a primary focus on promoting WEAT as a technical resource in the legislative process. She also coordinates WEAT's interaction with regulatory agencies involved with water issues.

Carol has been a member of WEAT (formerly the Texas Water Pollution Control Association) since 1981. As section representative in 1988-89, she was instrumental in re-starting the Central Texas Section, which remains an active section today. Carol later served as President of WEAT in 1990-91 and again as Section Representative from 1999-2002.

Following her retirement from TCEQ in 2004, Carol began working for WEAT as the first part-time Executive Director. She has concentrated on raising WEAT's profile as a technical resource for water quality issues at state regulatory agencies by participating on several advisory committees at TCEQ and coordinating WEAT's efforts to provide comments on agency rulemaking.

Carol has also focused efforts on promoting WEAT as a technical resource to the Texas Legislature. She actively tracks legislation for WEAT and coordinates comments. She also prepares and delivers testimony to the legislature on behalf of WEAT. During the past two legislative sessions, she has organized two successful legislative briefings on wastewater infrastructure needs and current water quality topics.

Carol has also been the point of contact in WEAT for the promotion of Water is Life and Liquid Assets. She has successfully coordinated numerous presentations and outreach activities promoting infrastructure awareness. In her professional career, Carol worked for the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) for 25 years. At TCEQ, she served in a variety of positions related to compliance and enforcement, including Director of Field Operations Division, where she coordinated the activities of the agency's 14 field offices and compliance investigators. She later served as Director of the Compliance Support Division, and was Special Assistant to the Deputy Director of the Office of Compliance and Enforcement at her retirement. During her tenure at TCEQ, Carol was also involved in an EPA and multi-state initiative to assure the quality of environmental laboratory data used in agency decision-making. As a part of this effort, she served as chair of the National Environmental Laboratory Accreditation Conference, and chair of the Institute for National Environmental Laboratory Accreditation.

Carol is a native of Fort Worth, Texas. She received a B. S. in biology from Baylor University and a M.A. in biological sciences from the University of Texas, Marine Science Institute. She has been married to John Batterton for 35 years. They have two sons, Dane and Seth, and a granddaughter, Calista.



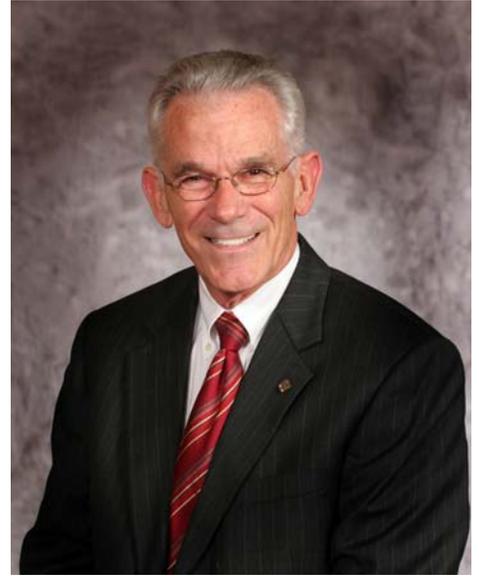
WATER ENVIRONMENT ASSOCIATION OF TEXAS LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT AWARD

...honoring an individual who has demonstrated continual and tireless contributions toward the improvement of the water environment throughout a long and distinguished career in the wastewater treatment industry and in WEAT and WEF. The nominee shall be a person of proven preeminence in numerous WEAT activities and shall have held positions of leadership in the WEAT organization.

Alan H. Plummer, Jr.

Alan H. Plummer, Jr., is a recognized expert in North Texas with more than 40 years of wastewater systems planning and design experience. A key to Alan's success in the field has been his ability to envision long-term water and wastewater needs and provide an innovative eye for special needs and solutions for individual municipalities in the context of the region as a whole.

Alan began his career in 1964 after graduating from Lamar University in Beaumont, Texas, with a degree in Civil Engineering. He received his Master of Science degree in Environmental Health in 1968 from the University of Texas at Austin. Graduate studies at the University of Texas in Austin equipped him to help clients transition from the trickling filter process to the activated sludge process during the 1960s. Alan has planned and designed multiple water and wastewater systems. He has also performed water quality assessments for most of the river basins and reservoirs throughout Texas. A particular focus of his career has been the Trinity River Basin, where he has helped his clients greatly improve the quality of water in the river.



Plummer has promoted the development of odor technologies that have significantly reduced odorous emissions from many of his clients' plants. Alan's involvement in water reuse began in 1986, and his expertise in planning and designing water reuse applications has contributed to major water reuse projects in Texas.

Since 1978, Alan has provided leadership in the firm of Alan Plummer Associates, Inc., a consulting engineering firm recognized as a leader in the environmental field in Texas. Alan is a registered professional engineer in Texas and four other states and is a Board Certified Environmental Engineer (BCEE). He has been an active member in professional engineering organizations including Texas Water Conservation Association (TWCA), Water Environment Federation (WEF), American Water Works Association (AWWA), Water Environment Association of Texas (WEAT), and the WaterReuse Association, serving as President for TWCA, North Texas WEAT, and the Texas Section of WaterReuse Association. He has been recognized as an Outstanding Young Engineer by Texas Society of Professional Engineers (TSPE), a Distinguished Alumni of Lamar University's Civil Engineering Department, and he received the WEF Arthur Sidney Bedell Award. In 2007, he was awarded membership in the University of Texas's Civil, Architectural, and Environmental Academy of Distinguished Alumni. He was presented the 2008 Award of Merit by the WaterReuse Association for his contributions to water reuse.

WATER ENVIRONMENT ASSOCIATION OF TEXAS

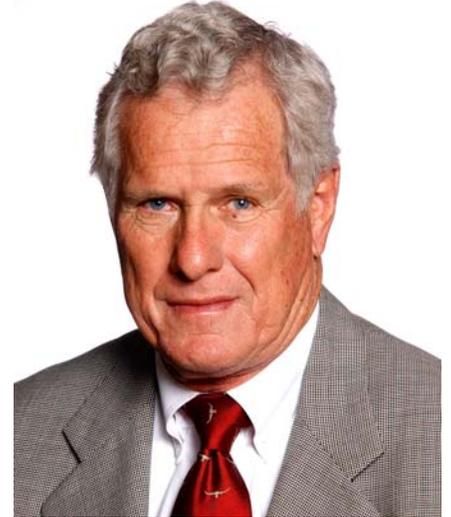
T. L. SATTERWHITE AWARD

...recognizing a member of WEAT, an engineering firm, or an industrial entity for the development of a solution to an industrial wastewater treatment problem.

Davis L. Ford, Ph.D., P.E., DDE

While Dr. Ford has been a consultant to municipalities, water utilities, state, federal and foreign government agencies for over 45 years, the vast majority of his work has been as an environmental consultant solving industrial wastewater treatment problems and improving water quality not only for the industries but for the surrounding environment as well.

Dr. Ford's environmental engineering experience clearly illustrates how wide-ranging his contribution has been. He has consulted with over 200 companies in his career and he is the author or co-author of over 80 publications, including 7 books. His books include *Water Pollution Control* (1970) co-author W.W. Eckenfelder, Jr.; *Development of Design and Operational Criteria for Wastewater Treatment* (1981) co-authors Carl E. Adams, Jr. and W.W. Eckenfelder, Jr.; *Toxicity Reduction: Evaluation and Control* (1991) editor, and *Industrial Water Quality* (2008) coauthors W.W. Eckenfelder, Jr. and Andrew J. Englande, Jr. The last book was published by WEF Press and McGraw-Hill, and was the best seller at WEFTEC'08. In conjunction with the publication of the book, Dr. Ford and his co-authors conducted a one-day Industrial Water Quality workshop for WEAT in Houston in December 2008 that was attended by almost 90 people and was extremely well-received.



Dr. Ford has been a member of WEAT and WEF since 1970. He served as the Chair of the WEF Program Committee from 1986 through 1989. He also served as the 2001 President of the American Academy of Environmental Engineers, and he is a member of the National Academy of Engineering, the highest recognition for an engineer in the United States. Dr. Ford has left an impressive and indelible mark on the environmental engineering profession not only in Texas and the U.S. but also all over the world with his engineering work, with his numerous books, publications and presentations, and with his teaching as an adjunct professor of Environmental Engineering at the University of Texas at Austin where he has taught hundreds of students throughout his long and distinguished career.

Dr. Ford is not only a natural born educator and a mentor to young students and engineers, but also an exceptionally productive consultant to hundreds of industries, municipalities, government agencies and organizations. He has served WEAT, WEF, and other professional organizations with great distinction. He is the recipient of numerous honors and awards from many professional organizations now including WEAT's prestigious T. L. Satterwhite Award.

WATER ENVIRONMENT FEDERATION

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WATER ENVIRONMENT ASSOCIATION OF TEXAS

MUNICIPAL WASTEWATER TREATMENT PLANT OF THE YEAR Category 1 (<1 MGD)

...presented to a municipal wastewater treatment plant in Texas that has consistently exhibited outstanding performance of daily activities beyond the normal call of duty.

City of Somerset Wastewater Treatment Plant San Antonio River Authority

The San Antonio River Authority (SARA) began operating the City of Somerset Wastewater Treatment Plant (WWTP) on October 1, 2006. The treatment plant prides itself on having no permit violations since SARA has taken over operations. The SARA operators are also responsible for ten miles of collection system and two offsite lift stations. In July 2007, crews from SARA Collection System Maintenance Department cleaned and televised 40,000 ft. of the cities collection system for analysis and evaluation for future growth potential.



Robert Cruz is the Chief Operator and supervises plant operation. He holds a Class B Wastewater license. Ricky Carrasco, who also holds a Class B Wastewater license, operates and maintains the plant as well as performs process control. Leon Gayoso and Gerard Rodriguez are the operators in training, responsible for plant maintenance and clean-up; Leon and Gerard both hold a Class D Wastewater license. Every Friday the operators travel to the San Antonio Main Facilities for activated sludge training that includes microscopic analysis of plant microorganisms and review of plant parameters included in the Texas Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (TPDES) permit. Safety is the #1 priority at SARA. Every accident is investigated by the supervisor and the safety committee. Recently, SARA received a letter commending their employees for their exceptional dedication to safety from the Texas Water Conservation Association Risk Management Fund. The employees meet monthly with other SARA departments for safety meeting and are encouraged to notify their safety team leader with any safety concerns or ideas. Since SARA has taken over operations of the City of Somerset WWTP, workers have zero lost time accidents.

The City of Somerset WWTP is staffed Monday through Friday 7:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. All operators are on call 24 hours a day and make weekend checks on a rotating basis.

WATER ENVIRONMENT ASSOCIATION OF TEXAS

MUNICIPAL WASTEWATER TREATMENT PLANT OF THE YEAR Category 2 (1-15 MGD)

...presented to a municipal wastewater treatment plant in Texas that has consistently exhibited outstanding performance of daily activities beyond the normal call of duty.

Lockhart Wastewater Treatment Plant No. 2 Guadalupe-Blanco River Authority

The Lockhart Plant No. 2 was designed and built by the Guadalupe Blanco River Authority (GBRA) in 1999 to help the City of Lockhart meet discharge permit requirements by diverting a portion of the wastewater flow from the Lockhart Larremore Street Plant. Both are operated by GBRA. The Lockhart Plant No.2 is rated as a 1.5 MGD facility and discharges into Plum Creek, a tributary of the Guadalupe River. Both Plants have an excellent compliance history. For the past two years, the Lockhart Plant No.2 has had no permit violations other than four 2-hour peak flow violations. The Plant has never failed biomonitoring requirements including the 7-day chronic and the 24 hour acute tests.



Eduardo Montana, Lockhart Operations Manager, supervises the operations of the System. Jason Beds, Angel Castillo, Eric Mendez, Richard Gonzales, Joe Leal, Jr., and Robert Delgado operate and maintain the two plants, performing process control laboratory analyses and monitoring. Eduardo and Jason hold an “A” wastewater license from the TCEQ, Angel has “B” wastewater license, and Eric, Richard, and Joe have a “C” license. GBRA’s health and safety programs are outstanding, having been recognized by the Texas Safety Association, the Texas Water Conservation Association Risk Management Fund and the Texas Water Utility Association. The staff of the Lockhart Wastewater System has never had a lost-time injury or illness. Health and safety is managed with strict adherence to the GBRA Safety Manual and the GBRA Health and Safety Policy Manual. The objective of every GBRA employee is “Zero Lost Time” and that goal has been achieved every year the GBRA Lockhart Wastewater Treatment Plant System has been in operation.

Safety meetings are conducted monthly. Also, the Lockhart System is represented by membership on the GBRA Safety and Health Committee that includes representatives from every division of GBRA. In order for a plant to consistently meet its permit requirements, the operators not only have to be technically competent and work safely, but they also have to incorporate facilities maintenance into their daily activities. GBRA utilizes an aggressive preventive and predictive maintenance program to ensure that equipment operates at peak performance. GBRA uses a computerized maintenance management system (CMMS). The system tracks preventive and predictive maintenance activities, generates work orders, and logs scheduled and non-scheduled tasks as they are completed. All major and critical equipment and related components are integrated into the CMMS. Predictive maintenance practices use advanced technology for anticipating and diagnosing equipment problems. This predictive maintenance consists of vibration analysis of rotating equipment, motor circuit evaluation, infrared thermography, and oil analysis. By blending technical expertise, a safe working environment, and facilities maintenance, the staff of the Lockhart Wastewater Treatment Plant No.2 has been able operate a facility that consistently produces high quality effluent necessary to protect the water resources of the Guadalupe River basin.

WATER ENVIRONMENT ASSOCIATION OF TEXAS

MUNICIPAL WASTEWATER TREATMENT PLANT OF THE YEAR Category 3 (>15 MGD)

...presented to a municipal wastewater treatment plant in Texas that has consistently exhibited outstanding performance of daily activities beyond the normal call of duty.

Keegans Bayou Wastewater Treatment Plant City of Houston

The City of Houston's Keegans Bayou Wastewater Treatment Plant has a permitted flow of 23.1 MGD and treats wastewater from a large area of Southwest Houston. The plant is a part of the wastewater treatment system owned and operated by the City of Houston, which treats 277 MGD of wastewater generated by residential, commercial, and industrial customers in the Houston vicinity. The total wastewater system consists of 6,250 miles of collection piping, 420 lift stations, and thirty nine treatment plants. The Keegans Bayou plant has an outstanding record of permit compliance and was awarded a Gold Peak Performance Award for 2006 and 2007 by the National Association of Clean Water Agencies.



Safety is very serious business at Keegans Bayou WWTP and the City of Houston. Safety meetings and tailgate talks are held on a regular basis. When accidents do occur, the supervisor must file a report showing the cause of the accident and must notify the Safety Department. The reports are evaluated and recommendations to prevent another such accident are then implemented. There were no lost time accidents or injuries in all of 2008. The Keegans Bayou WWTP is operated and maintained as a good neighbor in the community. Ferrous sulfate is injected both off-site and onsite to eliminate hydrogen sulfide in the influent wastewater and reduce odors around the plant. Additionally, return activated sludge is pumped to the headworks to further reduce odor. These efforts have mitigated odor problems to maintain the status of *good neighbors*. Wastewater Operations undertook a special project in 2006 to reduce the energy cost at its treatment facilities. The Keegans Bayou plant was chosen, partially based on its relatively high energy consumption. Engineering staff worked with maintenance staff and an outside consultant to implement a dissolved oxygen control system. This project was able to reduce the energy consumption and save well over \$100,000 per year. Due to this success, the City of Houston has expanded this effort to several other wastewater treatment facilities.

The Keegans Bayou plant is attended only 8 hours per weekday. At all times, however, critical equipment and systems are closely monitored through a Supervisory Control and Data Acquisition (SCADA) system. The SCADA system allows the City to meet all federal and state regulatory requirements and to provide 24-hour per day wastewater treatment service to the customers. The Keegans Bayou plant is served by a very professional group of operators and support staff that includes maintenance, electrical, instrumentation, engineering and laboratory to name a few. Together they make Keegans Bayou WWTP a source of pride for the City of Houston and a model plant for other municipalities to emulate.

WATER ENVIRONMENT ASSOCIATION OF TEXAS

EMERGING LEADER AWARD

...presented to a young member of WEAT who has provided outstanding service in support of the Association in the form of committee involvement, recruiting, volunteer time, event participation, or other contributions.

Tarlton “Trooper” Smith, P.E.

Mr. Tarlton Smith, better known as Trooper, received his Bachelor of Science and Master of Engineering degrees in Environmental Engineering from Texas Tech University in 1999 and 2000, respectively. He joined the firm of Freese and Nichols, Inc. upon graduation in May 2000 and currently acts as a project manager in the firm’s Water, Wastewater and Reuse Treatment group in Dallas, Texas. Trooper is heavily involved in wastewater treatment design projects with clients throughout North Texas.



Mr. Smith served our country in Iraq during the entirety of 2005. In his service, Trooper’s daily responsibilities included the protection of civilian and military VIP personnel at multiple locations in Iraq, including the “red zone” areas of Baghdad, Baji, Al Kut, Kirkuk and Al Basrah. In this role, Trooper commanded military escort personnel, planned safe ingress and egress to specific military locations and provided armed personal protection for these important individuals. As Platoon Leader of Alpha Company, 111 Engineering Battalion, 36th Infantry Division, Trooper strove to provide safe working and observation environments for his charges while minimizing risk in the most extreme of hazardous and dangerous conditions.

Trooper has been an active volunteer and avid supporter of WEAT and its initiatives over the last five years. Trooper has served WEAT in numerous capacities including co-chair of the Young Professional Committee. Trooper was also instrumental in developing WEAT’s student design competition resulting in sending WEAT’s first team to the national competition at WEFTEC 2008. He continues to serve as a Region 6 liaison to WEF on this and other Young Professional activities. Trooper also serves the North Texas Section (Dallas/Fort Worth) of WEAT in various committee member roles.

WATER ENVIRONMENT ASSOCIATION OF TEXAS

PILLARS OF THE PROFESSION AWARD

...honoring an individual who has demonstrated meaningful and substantial contributions toward the improvement of the water environment via a distinguished career in the wastewater or water quality industry. The honoree shall be a person of proven preeminence in the water environment profession whose career has positively impacted the success and growth of these fields within the State of Texas.

M. Truett Garrett, Jr., Sc.D., P.E.

Clean water has been Truett Garrett's passion for a lifetime. Growing up in Houston as the son of an engineer, he was able to see firsthand his father's work with wastewater systems and how clean water and sanitation helped Texas cities grow. This was the beginning of what would become a career of service in the water and wastewater fields that's lasted more than half a century.

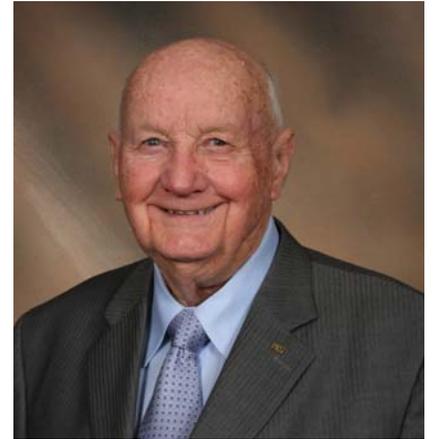
In 1942 Dr. Garrett attended the Agricultural & Mechanical College of Texas (now known as Texas A&M University). After finishing his sophomore studies in civil engineering, he was called to active duty in the U.S. Army Air Corps and began his pilot training. World War II ended before he was finished with training, allowing him to return to A&M to complete his Bachelor of Science degree in civil engineering. He then went on to earn his Master of Science and Doctor of Science degrees in sanitary engineering from Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT), and in 1953 became a registered professional engineer in Texas. That same year, Dr. Garrett went to work for the City of Houston Department of Public Works and Engineering, the beginning of a 40-year career of service to the city. During his time with the city, Dr. Garrett brought its wastewater laboratory into a new age of technology that helped advance and improve the water industry as a whole while saving time and money in the process. Encouraging innovation and efficiency in his field soon became a recurring theme in Dr. Garrett's career.

In his role as manager of research, evaluation, and development with the City of Houston, he oversaw the wastewater quality control laboratory. His time at MIT and the city's lab had taught him that chemists spend as much time calculating and tabulating their data as they did performing their analyses. So, in 1975, Dr. Garrett had an idea that would greatly improve productivity in the lab. He installed cutting-edge HP desktop calculators to log data directly from lab instruments, calculate results, transfer that data to a central computer database, and then print weekly, monthly, and annual reports. At that time, the computer-like calculator used cassette tapes for storage instead of hard disks and had a core memory of 7,600 bytes, about as much as a single one-page word processing document holds today. This new technology doubled the chemists' productivity.

Dr. Garrett improved the data process once again when he transferred the Industrial Wastewater Service file management system from typewriters and file cabinets to desktop computers and modem transferred data. Meanwhile, he also made advances in the field as well as the laboratory. He holds the patent for a system that eliminates oxygen loss through leaks in the reactor cover of high-purity oxygen (HPO)-activated sludge plants. In 1990, he managed a project that provided computer controlled start, stop and operation of blowers at the Sims Bayou South Plant, saving the facility 20 percent in energy costs.

Dr. Garrett continued to implement new technology and bring innovative ideas to his projects when he designed a facility for automatic chlorination and de-chlorination control programs. That same design was then used by PBS&J (formerly Espey, Huston & Associates, Inc.) in 25 other City of Houston plants, saving the addition of two shifts per day in each of the plants for manual control of chlorination and de-chlorination.

Dr. Garrett remains active in numerous professional associations including the Water Environment Association of Texas, American Chemical Society, International Water Association, American Society of Civil Engineers, and the Water Environment Federation. He served as a past president and member of the executive council for the American Public Works Association Institute for Water Resources. He is a member and a past president of the Water Environment Association of Texas. Other previous memberships include the Texas Natural Resources Conservation Commission and the National Council on Public Works Improvement.



In addition to publishing numerous reports on his work, Dr. Garrett was awarded the Water Environment Association of Texas Lifetime Achievement Award in 2003 and the Hatfield Award in 1978. He also received the Sam Houston District Association Award for Outstanding Man of the Year in 1981. Dr. Garrett is currently a senior engineer at PBS&J, where he continues his lifetime of service in the water and wastewater field.

WATER ENVIRONMENT FEDERATION

WILLIAM D. HATFIELD AWARD

...recognizing operators of wastewater treatment plants for outstanding performance and professionalism.

Gurdip S. Hyare

Gurdip S. Hyare was born and raised in India. After receiving a degree in general sciences (Chemistry, Physics and Mathematics), he went to England for further education and obtained an Honors degree in Chemical Engineering from the University of London in 1974. He then continued to further enhance his academic skill by obtaining a Masters in Chemical Engineering from the University of Aston in Birmingham, England.

Gurdip began his career in England as a Junior Process Engineer working for Courtd Ltd. In 1978, Gurdip came to the United States and married a beautiful girl from California. After marrying, he moved to Houston to pursue his career in the industry. In 1979, he joined City of Houston as a Research Engineer in the Research, Evaluation and Development section of Wastewater Operations Branch. As a research engineer, he worked on numerous research projects, and he was directly involved in the start up of three, large, new wastewater treatment facilities. He was a team leader and a process controller during start up of the 69th St. Wastewater Treatment Complex. He developed and implemented a quality assurance program for online analyzers at this high-tech facility.

Gurdip then became the process controller for all forty (40) wastewater treatment plants and developed control strategies to keep them in-compliance. In 1989, Gurdip was promoted to Assistant Manager, where he was responsible for the operations and maintenance of three large wastewater treatment facilities as well as two sludge disposal facilities. Later on, he was promoted to Supervising Engineer and then in 2000, promoted to Managing Engineer. Since then, he has overseen the operations and maintenance of five large wastewater treatment facilities and three sludge disposal facilities. During this time he has been involved in the career development of the work force, and he has been involved in the development of scope of work for capital improvement projects to upgrade existing facilities. He is always willing to try new cost effective technologies and diligently works to improve efficiency of wastewater processes.

Gurdip has been involved in the Water Environment Association of Texas over the years in various capacities. He is also a member of Sam Houston Water Utilities Association. Gurdip is authorized to practice as a Professional Engineer in the State of Texas, and he also has Class A Wastewater License from TCEQ. He has been married for thirty-one years and has two beautiful daughters. Gurdip Hyare has been and continues to be committed to the wastewater treatment operations that protect citizenry and the water of the United States.



WATER ENVIRONMENT ASSOCIATION OF TEXAS

WINFIELD S. MAHLIE AWARD

...recognizing a member of WEAT who has made significant contributions to the art and science of wastewater treatment and water pollution control.

Theo Glanton, P.E.

Mr. Glanton holds both a Bachelor of Arts Degree from the University of the Pacific in Stockton, California that he received in 1971 and a Bachelor of Science Degree in Civil Engineering from the University of Houston that he received in May 1983. Mr. Glanton has been a registered professional engineer in the state of Texas since 1990.

Prior to receiving his BA degree from U. of P. Mr. Glanton worked in a variety of endeavors including a stint in retail, a few years as a construction craftsman for several firms including Payne and Keller Inc., Brown and Root, Becket Erection Co., Van Dusen Associates, and US homes. While he worked in advertising sales at the Southwestern Art Review he maintained a column in the Sun Shine Artist publication. He was owner and proprietor for the Natural Light Company and had a partnership interest in the Love lite Candle business. In 1979 he renewed an interest in engineering and enrolled at the University of Houston. During his engineering degree pursuit, he worked for the University of Houston's engineering school, as a student proctor and Fortran programmer and also for Rice University as a Research Technician.



In 1983 Mr. Glanton took a starting engineering position with the City of Houston working in a small group supervised by Dr. Truitt Garrett, which was appropriately named, Research, Evaluation, and Development. He remained in that group until Dr. Garrett retired. Mr. Glanton has worked for the City of Houston over the past twenty five years doing numerous projects that include; a chlorination automation control project for a 60 MGD WWTP, implementation of TPDES storm water requirements at thirty-seven POTWs, engineering studies and implementation of power saving strategies for WWTPs, permitting and implementation of NPDES Storm water program for forty-eight WWTPs, engineering study of City of Houston on-site waste treatment systems and sewage refuse collection in the lake Houston watershed, technical expert representing PW&E in Doty Landfill Vs. City of Houston lawsuit, Buffalo Bayou remediation project and the development and implementation of procedures to quickly identify sewage contamination using water quality analysis techniques.

Mr. Glanton has also served as mentor for a number of Rice and University of Houston students and published a number of papers. He has served on the Galveston Bay National Estuary Program as a Committee Chair. He served as a board member for the Bayou Partnership Association and he is past president of the Southeast section of WEAT and served as the section's science fair coordinator for many years. Mr. Glanton is married to the lovely Mrs. Theresa Goodwin, who works as an adjunct professor in San Jacinto College art department. His daughter Anna, attends Savannah School of Art and Design where she is majoring in 3-D animation and son, Will, is in the eighth grade WAVE Program for gifted students in the Clear Creek school district and a member of the Clear Creek regional band. In his off time these days Mr. Glanton serves as the U9 & U10 division director for the Space City soccer club and coaches a U14 boy's team.

WATER ENVIRONMENT ASSOCIATION OF TEXAS

SIDNEY L. ALLISON AWARD

...presented to a person who has made significant contributions to the engineering, science, and/or operation and maintenance of wastewater collection and pumping stations with the mission to transport wastewater to a treatment plant.

Leigh A. Cerda, P.E.

Ms. Leigh Cerda earned her Bachelor's Degree in Civil Engineering at the University of Texas at Austin in 1994. She is a registered Professional Engineer in the State of Texas. Ms. Cerda has over sixteen years experience in water and wastewater systems. She has served as project manager/engineer for over 100 Inflow/Infiltration and Sanitary Sewer Evaluation Studies with extensive experience in applying and specifying system monitoring and rehabilitation technologies. Ms. Cerda has managed the rehabilitation of over 600,000 linear feet of sanitary sewer pipe using trenchless processes such as foldn-form, t-lock lining, cured in place, sliplining, pipe bursting and boring. In addition, she has identified rehabilitation needs through the inspection of pipeline systems and written technical specifications for the installation and testing of wastewater pipe and manhole rehabilitation methods.



Leigh is a member of the Water Environment Federation, the Water Environment Association of Texas, and the National American Society for Trenchless Technology. Ms. Cerda has been an active volunteer and avid supporter of WEAT and its initiatives, including the activities of WEF as they relate to collections system management. Leigh has demonstrated both technical expertise and a personal commitment to educating and protecting human health and the environment in the collection and transportation of wastewater.

Ms. Cerda has presented technical papers at the local, state and national level on the subject of wastewater collection systems, with specialty in system assessment and rehabilitation. In 2003, Leigh served as co-chair of the WEF Collection Systems Specialty Conference held in Austin, Texas, and was responsible for planning and coordinating all conference activities. Leigh is currently the chair of WEAT's Collections System Committee and has been instrumental in developing technical sessions for Texas Water™ related to same. Leigh has also served as a speaker for a number of WEAT events and has committed her time to furthering the goals of WEAT. Leigh also assisted WEAT during the 80th legislative session and in rulemaking (Chapter 217) to offer comments and language that would be adopted to regulate collection systems in Texas.

In November 2008, Leigh served as a professional delegate for the People to People Ambassador program (founded by President Dwight D. Eisenhower), spending two weeks traveling through China to promote water sustainability. Through meeting with professional counterparts in China, the program works to build understanding between the cultures in an effort to preserve and protect clean water resources. Ms. Cerda served on the writing team for the current WEF Manual of Practice FD-6 3rd Edition, *Existing Sewer Evaluation and Rehabilitation*, responsible for drafting Chapter 2, *Systematic Approach to Evaluation and Rehabilitation* (published February 2009).

Ms. Cerda's six year old daughter is by far her proudest achievement. Much of her personal time is spent driving to and from her daughter's Montessori School, dance, swim and piano lessons. Leigh's hobbies include yoga, cooking/baking and visiting art museums, typically with her daughter's participation.

WATER ENVIRONMENT ASSOCIATION OF TEXAS

RONALD B. SIEGER BIOSOLIDS MANAGEMENT AWARD

...presented to a WEAT member(s), an engineering firm, a specific project, a municipality, or a specific municipal or industrial facility that has made significant accomplishments in the field of biosolids technology and management practices within the boundaries of the State of Texas.

Central Regional Wastewater Systems Biosolids Program Trinity River Authority

TRA pioneered the concept of regional wastewater treatment by establishing the Central Regional Wastewater System (CRWS) in 1957. The plant began operations in December 1959, serving the cities of Irving, Grand Prairie, Farmers Branch, and a portion of western Dallas in Texas. The system has since expanded to serve all or part of 21 contracting parties and approximately 1.2 million people in the Dallas/ Fort Worth geographical area.



As of 2007, the CRWS Plant, now the third largest in the state of Texas, has a rated treatment capacity of 162-million gallons per day with both total secondary and tertiary treatment, as well as the ability to treat a 2-hour peak of 405 MGD. The CRWS Biosolids Program has evolved into a sterling, cost-effective model of top quality biosolids production through the use of cutting-edge biosolids technology and excellent management practices. The CRWS biosolids facility produces Class biosolids in the largest EnVessel pasteurization unit process in the United States. In 2007, CRWS beneficially reused 100% of the biosolids in a land application program. The CRWS Biosolids Program has developed, in large part, as the result of design and technical advice by the late Ronald B. Sieger. The program serves as a monument to his professional dedication and vast technical knowledge of wastewater biosolids. CRWS land applies 100% of the biosolids produced at the plant in direct reflection of Sieger's passionate beliefs in the environmental benefits of biosolids when applied as a soil amendment to agricultural lands.

Prior to 1996, CRWS disposed of biosolids in an onsite mono-fill; a convenient and low-cost method of disposing biosolids. In March 1996, CRWS implemented a partial biosolids reuse program, land applying 20% of CRWS biosolids. The benefits and cost effectiveness of beneficial biosolids reuse for land application quickly outweighed other biosolids disposal options. By November 1996, CRWS was land applying 100% of its biosolids in a beneficial reuse program. Land application of biosolids is not only a cost-effective option of sludge disposal, it is tremendously beneficial for agricultural business and the environment as well. Biosolids cost 86% less than commercial inorganic fertilizers. Land applying biosolids results in bigger, lusher crops that grow 50% faster than those grown with commercial fertilizers. Cows and calves have been shown to prefer crops grown with biosolids, and calves fed with biosolids supplemented crops have demonstrated approximately 30% more weight gain. Additionally, land applying biosolids improves the soil and results in less soil erosion and runoff, a direct benefit for the environment.

By mid 2001, all Biosolids generated at CRWS were certified Class A and met the criteria for Exceptional Quality Biosolids. Recent changes to the biosolids treatment process, designed by Ron Sieger, will allow for the continued treatment of CRWS biosolids to a Class A standard for the foreseeable future at one of the lowest costs of any facility in the United States. Careful attention to contract negotiations in partnering with a private firm for land application of CRWS biosolids, also facilitated and overseen by Ron Sieger, will allow for the continued beneficial reuse of CRWS biosolids for at least another seven years. Over the last twelve years, more than 600,000 tons of dry CRWS' biosolids have been land applied by contractors to more than 50 individual application sites in over a dozen counties surrounding the DFW area.

WATER ENVIRONMENT ASSOCIATION OF TEXAS

OUTSTANDING MUNICIPAL OPERATOR OF THE YEAR

...presented to a municipal wastewater treatment plant operator in the State of Texas who has demonstrated outstanding professionalism at his/her facility and has performed his/her duties tirelessly and with dedication to the betterment of the water environment.

Ron Lucero

Mr. Ronald L. Lucero began his career in the United States Navy, serving from 1982 to 1988. After leaving the service, Ron went to work for the City of Lewisville as an unlicensed operator. Within three years he had not only received his operator's license but had also been promoted to a Chief Operator. In 1997 Ron began his tenure at the Upper Trinity Regional Water District as a Senior Operator at the Lakeview Regional Water Reclamation Plant (WRP). Promoted in 2006 to his current position of Superintendent of Operations, Ron is responsible for the day-today operations of the Lakeview facility.



The original Lakeview Plant was purchased from the Lake Cities Municipal Utilities Authority in August of 1996. A new 3.5 MGD activated sludge facility was constructed on the site in 1998 to address the needs of Upper Trinity members. The original plant facilities are now used to process sludge for all of Upper Trinity's water reclamation plants. The Lakeview WRP was modified in 2003 and rated to its current 5.0 MGD capacity. Most recently the plant was renovated to provide biological phosphorous removal. Ron was there every step of the way keeping the plant operating successfully through the numerous construction projects and expansions.

From the day it was commissioned as UTRWD's Lakeview WRP in 1998, the staff has operated the plant in perfect compliance with its TPDES discharge permit. In recognition of that achievement, the plant was recently awarded the coveted Platinum 9 Peak Performance Award from the National Association of Clean Water Agencies. The plant was also honored in 2008 with WEAT's Municipal Plant of the Year award.

Ron's diligence and commitment - day or night and through all weather conditions - have been the consistent factor, that have played a large part in the success the Lakeview Plant has achieved. As superintendent Ron takes safety at the Lakeview WRP very seriously. He regularly holds safety meetings and tailgate talks and rotates responsibility for these meetings among his operators. A supervisor's report must be submitted following any injury, which describes the nature and cause of the accident and makes recommendations for preventing the same incident from occurring in the future. Since Ron became superintendent, there have been no lost-time injuries. And, within the last four years, there has been only a single accident that led to one day of lost-time. In addition to his regular duties as superintendent, Ron also provides tours and has represented UTRWD at the City of Lake Dallas Council meetings. He also diligently maintains the plant so as to be a good neighbor. This was noted with a recent Yard of the Month honor from the City of Lake Dallas where the plant is located.

Ron is a certified operator in the State of Texas and holds a Class B Wastewater and a Class C Surface Water license. He is a member of WEF and is active in the North Texas Section of WEAT. Ron is also a very active member of the Texas Water Utilities Association, having served in every leadership position in the local chapter, including his current second tour as President.

WATER ENVIRONMENT ASSOCIATION OF TEXAS

EXEMPLARY EMPLOYER AWARD

...recognizing Texas employers that support and facilitate employee involvement and activities within the Water Environment Association of Texas and the Water Environment Federation.

City of Austin Water and Wastewater Utility

Austin Water Utility (AWU) owns and operates the major water and wastewater facilities in the Austin area and supplies water and wastewater services to over 850,000 people in a 580 square mile service area. The utility draws water from the Colorado River and treats it at two water plants with a combined capacity of 285 million gallons per day (MGD). Water is distributed through 3,600 miles of transmission and distribution lines using 45 pumping and booster stations and 37 reservoirs with a combined capacity of 167 million gallons. Wastewater is collected through 2,600 miles of gravity sewers and force mains and treated at two large and 10 small wastewater treatment plants with combined permitted capacity of approximately 155 MGD. Some of the treated effluent is used for golf course irrigation and industrial use. Biosolids from all wastewater treatment plants are treated at a central biosolids treatment plant by thickening, anaerobic digestion, dewatering and composting.



AWU encourages all of its employees to become active in professional organizations such as WEAT and WEF. The management at AWU recognizes that the benefits of participation in professional organizations far outweigh the costs. To support this goal, AWU reimburses one-half of the membership dues in two professional organizations related to employee job function to all AWU employees. AWU also provides job flexibility and support for its employee's participation including travel funds, time and other resources.

AWU has provided many significant leaders for WEAT and WEF over the years. Current leaders include Raj Bhattarai, Orren West, and Dana White just to name a few. Raj Bhattarai is the current past president of WEAT and is a Bedell Award recipient. Raj is an exceptional role model for WEAT as well as AWU. Orren West, a Hatfield Award winner, is active in supporting the Operations Challenge activities and serving to support sound biosolids management practices through his activities in WEAT's biosolids committee. Through Orren, and others, AWU has promoted the Operations Challenge by allowing its staff to train and compete, and by supporting and funding these endeavors. Dana White is currently serving as chair of WEAT's laboratory knowledge committee and has worked very hard to get this committee back running. Dana and her committee are in the process of planning a seminar on NELAC for 2009.

Through the support of its dedicated staff and management, the Austin Water Utility has demonstrated all the qualities of an employer dedicated to supporting WEAT and its mission of environmental education and stewardship.

WATER ENVIRONMENT ASSOCIATION OF TEXAS

LABORATORY ANALYST EXCELLENCE AWARD

...recognizing a member of WEAT for outstanding performance, professionalism, and contributions to the water quality analysis profession.

Josephine “Josie” C. Longoria

Josie Longoria was born in Levelland, Texas. She received her Bachelor of Science Degree in Biology and Chemistry from West Texas A&M University in Canyon, Texas on May 1993 (lettered in Basketball 4 years) Ms. Longoria is a Certified Laboratory Analyst (level C) and has been the president of the TWUA Lab Analyst Section-Alamo Chapter since 2004. She is also part of the WEAT Lab Committee.



Ms. Longoria's 16 years in the lab have included working for the Texas A&M Extension Lab, the A&L Agricultural Lab, as well as the South East Water Reclamation Plant Laboratory, all of which are in Lubbock, Texas. She arrived in South Texas in 2002 and has been working for the Guadalupe-Blanco River Authority Regional Laboratory, initially as a Lab Analyst and is currently the Lab Director as well as their Quality Assurance Officer. Her lab work experience ranges from soil, to plant tissue, food microbiology, surface water (Clean Rivers Program-partners with the TCEQ) along with drinking water and wastewater. She, along with her lab staff, were responsible for organizing the GBRA Regional Lab's first attempt in acquiring their NELAC accreditation for both drinking water and wastewater, which was made final on May 20th, 2008.

Ms. Longoria has also assisted with addressing the TNI (The NELAC Institute) requirements in the state of Texas to her extensive network. She has coordinated and assisted in coordinating the Texas Water Operations Challenge for the last few years and has been the TWUA/LAS- Lab Analyst Section Chair for the Operations Challenge since 2006 and is currently their Vice Chair. She will be the Chair Elect in March 2009.

Ms. Longoria is a member of the following organizations: TNI-The NELAC Institute-since 2003, TWUA/LAS/Alamo Chapter since 2003/was also a member of the Caprock District (currently the President for her local Alamo Chapter), AWWA-American Water Works Association since 1998 and WEF-Water Environment Association since 2000.

She is also very active with the local career fairs for the students in the surrounding schools and assist with local student's Science Fair Projects and has participated in judging when time allows. Ms. Longoria's most noted achievement includes being a proud mother to her 3 ½ year old son. She has also coached various basketball teams for young girls and hopes to inspire young girls to play basketball by letting them know that even at 5'5" ...she was part of a 3 time state Championship team from a small town in Texas (Levelland) and was able to play 4 years for West Texas A&M University...which in turn allowed her to do what she does today...help to take care of our planet via the lab...one sample at a time.

WATER ENVIRONMENT FEDERATION

GEORGE W. BURKE, JR. AWARD

...acknowledging an active and effective safety program in municipal and industrial wastewater facilities. The facility must have a documented and illustrated safety program and safety record for the preceding calendar year.

Denton Creek Regional Wastewater System Trinity River Authority

The Denton Central Regional Wastewater System was placed into operation in 1990. It has experienced three expansions to its current size of 5 MGD and is currently under construction to expand to 11.5 MGD. There are currently 27.5 miles of collection system pipelines that receive flow from 11 customer cities. Another 12.5 miles of collection system pipe are under construction along with 6.5 miles of distribution pipe for an alternate discharge location. Safety awareness and education permeates every aspect of daily work life at the Trinity River Authority's Denton Creek Regional Wastewater System (DCRWS). The purpose of the multifaceted Safety Education Program, beginning with the first day of employment at DCRWS and continuing for the duration of an employee's tenure, is to ensure the safest possible work environment for all employees.



Safety education for new employees includes training and certification to make confined space entries and perform lock-out/tag-out procedures, as well as biohazard and blood borne pathogen training. Employees receive ongoing training and annual certification on confined space, lock-out/tag-out, right-to-know, forklift safety, emergency response, pathogenic bacteria/blood borne pathogens, trench safety, plant evacuation, and risk management training.

DCRWS tracks each employee's training in a database designed to make sure everyone receives accurate, up-to-date information that is compliant with mandated training requirements. Actual test results are placed in the employee's personnel file. In addition to DCRWS' extensive training program, an Employee Safety Committee checks for possible safety issues at the plant on a regular basis. The committee is comprised of members of the DCRWS staff with representatives from Administration, Operations and Maintenance, and Electronics. The committee meets to discuss safety issues and conduct safety inspections. Any safety issues that have been noted by the inspections are then brought to the attention of the Chief Operator and Project Manager. Additionally, the committee reviews safety suggestions for implementation and performs accident investigations. The DCRWS Project Manager, John Bennett, serves as a liaison between the Safety Committee and the TRA Executive Safety Committee. Bennett provides technical information for topics the committee is discussing based on his involvement with the Risk Management Program and WEAT Safety Committee.

To ensure the surrounding community's safety, DCRWS Management is involved in the Denton County Local Emergency Planning Committee. Participation in the LEPC disseminates risk management planning information to the local fire and police departments as well as the DCRWS Safety Committee. DCRWS' commitment to safety has resulted in numerous safety awards. Most notable are the Awards of Merit from the Texas Safety Association from 1995 - 2005 and the Award of Honor for a Perfect Safety Record from 2006 - 2008. DCRWS received the 2007 WEAT Municipal Plant of the Year, Category 2, in part because of the

system's outstanding safety record. Safety is a way of life at DCRWS. With only five operators and three maintenance technicians on staff, employees must rely on each other to make safe decisions. Because plant operators work independently for the most part, each individual's safety and life is literally in their own hands. In an industry with so many hazards, staff must maintain safety awareness at all times. The numbers tell the story. DCRWS has not had a single lost time accident in the years 2006 -2008.

WATER ENVIRONMENT ASSOCIATION OF TEXAS

MEDAL OF HONOR FOR HEROISM

...recognizing an individual or group of individuals who have demonstrated exceptional courage and bravery in the performance of heroic behavior towards their fellow man. Several individuals and agencies are being honored this year.

Mr. Steve Hodges and Mr. Andrew Esquibel

In the early morning hours of Saturday, September 13, Hurricane Ike, packing 110 mile an hour winds and a strong storm surge, caused extensive damage to communities along the Texas coast. Bayou Vista, a community of approximately 1,700 located next to Galveston Bay, endured hurricane force winds and a seven-foot storm surge. City officials estimated storm damage to Bayou Vista at \$79.5 million, including about \$65,000 per home and extensive damage to the city's infrastructure. Damage to the infrastructure included a disabled water distribution system and wastewater lift stations. The compressor that pressurizes the water system's hydro-pneumatic tank was out, as was the system's SCADA. The majority of the damage to the water distribution system was to residential water meters and service lines in residential streets. Many meters and pipes were broken and some were missing altogether.



An official request for assistance in restoring water and wastewater service to the Bayou Vista community was issued by Texas Water/Wastewater Response Network (TXWARN). Steve Hodges, Electronic Technician II, and Andrew Esquibel, Maintenance Mechanic II, at the Trinity River Authority's Denton Creek Regional Wastewater System, volunteered to travel to Bayou Vista to provide immediate assistance. The pair left on the morning of Thursday, September 25, 2008. Not knowing if shelter, food, or water would be available, they took a tent, sleeping bags, water, and non-perishable food. They would need everything they brought. Hodges and Esquibel arrived in Bayou Vista at 2:00 pm on September 25. By 2:15 pm, city officials had given the men supplies and dispatched them to evaluate water service to the city's 780 homes. They went house-to-house, replacing water meters and repairing pipes as needed. Hodges and Esquibel put in 12 and 15-hour days in hot, humid conditions. Nights, which were relatively cool, were spent sleeping in a tent across the street from the water plant. By Saturday, Hodges and Esquibel had attended to 250 homes, restoring water service to most of the residences. At the plant, they brought the compressor and SCADA back online.

Councilman Larry Jones expressed Bayou Vista's appreciation to all the volunteers involved in cleaning up and restoring the community. "The list of those who've helped is amazing," Larry Jones said. "They've kept Bayou Vista thriving during this time."

WATER ENVIRONMENT ASSOCIATION OF TEXAS

MEDAL OF HONOR FOR HEROISM

...recognizing an individual or group of individuals who have demonstrated exceptional courage and bravery in the performance of heroic behavior towards their fellow man.

City of Galveston, Municipal Utilities Department

As a result of Hurricane Ike, which made landfall on the Texas coast on September 12-13, 2008, the City of Galveston suffered a complete water and wastewater system failure. In addition to strong category two winds and erosive waves, a 12 foot storm surge covered most of the Island. Much of the city's infrastructure was inundated by the tidal flood.



On September 15th, only 50 hours after the event, utility crews restored limited water service to the Emergency Operations Center located on Seawall Boulevard. This site housed many of the City's first responders, emergency personnel, and essential staff. Nine days later, on September 24th, water and sanitary sewer service was restored to the Island's residential core. With these systems back up and functioning City leaders made the re-entry announcement allowing all citizens to return to their homes and businesses. The boil water notice was lifted for most of the service area within 21 days of Ike. Five months later, water and sewer infrastructure are still operating thanks to repairs and post-storm maintenance performed by the City of Galveston Municipal Utilities Department. Six key employees are to be recognized for their extraordinary dedication and resolve: Eric Wilson – Director of Municipal Utilities; Dennis Zajak – Wastewater Superintendent; Raul Silvas – Wastewater Superintendent; Robert Diaz – Superintendent of Distribution and Collections; Dennis Stark – Superintendent of Water Supply; and Keith Ware – Superintendent of Municipal Drainage. Additionally, crews from Hidalgo County organized and led by the City of McAllen, the San Antonio Water System, the City of Houston, several local contractors working pro bono, and the men and women of the U.S.S. Nassau supplied disaster assistance and aided Galveston's recovery efforts.

The City of Galveston operates five wastewater treatment plants (WWTP) on the Island. Gulf Coast Water Authority supplies Galveston's drinking water from their mainland facilities. Currently all facilities are operational, although some lift stations are still functioning on bypass pumps. All WWTPs have met permit requirements since sampling began after Hurricane Ike. The City of Galveston is currently working with FEMA and the State of Texas to mitigate and harden these facilities in anticipation of future catastrophic events.

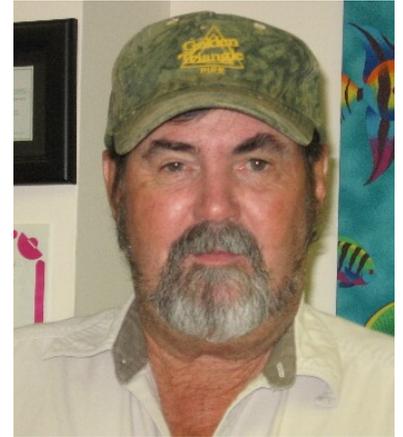
WATER ENVIRONMENT ASSOCIATION OF TEXAS

MEDAL OF HONOR FOR HEROISM

...recognizing an individual or group of individuals who have demonstrated exceptional courage and bravery in the performance of heroic behavior towards their fellow man.

Galveston County M.U.D. #12

Mr. James R. Ward is the District Operator for Galveston County MUD # 12 which serves 4,182 residents in the communities of Bayou Vista and Omega Bay. The homes in these communities are all on waterfront canals in West Galveston Bay. These communities were severely impacted by Hurricane Ike which made landfall September 12-13, 2008. The tidal surge from Ike destroyed the lower portions of the homes, causing numerous drinking water lines to break. Additionally, the water plant, wastewater treatment plant and lift stations were under fourteen feet of water during the storm.



On Sunday, September 14th Mr. Ward and Assistant Operator Wayne Pierce were in the District surveying the damage. Mr. Ward began operating the water and wastewater plants on generators. Beginning Monday, Mr. Ward evaluated the water and sewer systems. During the week he called for service and parts on the SCADA system, lift station pumps and control panels, and the wastewater plant chlorine and sludge pumps. Temporary pumps were installed at all of the lift stations. Mr. Ward worked with FEMA and the US Army Corp of Engineers in obtaining working generators for the District Office. On Sunday, September 21st grid power was restored at the wastewater treatment plant, but the lift stations still required generators because the control panels were wiped out. Although Mr. Ward had worked on the water plant all week it was difficult to get the entire system pressurized because of the many broken water lines at the homes and the need to replace those lines and water meters. On Friday, September 26th the Trinity River Authority sent two operators from Fort Worth to help with repairs.

On Saturday, September 27th Mr. Ward opened the water valve to Omega Bay in the morning and the system held pressure. He then began pressurizing Bayou Vista later that same day. In addition to the physical work, Mr. Ward was in frequent contact with the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality giving updates on the damage and repair progress. Mr. Ward also collected water samples and issued a boil water notice once the water plant was back in operation. Mr. Ward worked 40 to 43 hours of overtime per week in the three weeks following the storm. To this day, Mr. Ward continues to make repairs and restore the system to proper working order. His long hours of hard work are evidence of his dedication to his job. Mr. Ward is to be commended for his efforts to restore the water and wastewater systems of Galveston County MUD # 12.

WATER ENVIRONMENT ASSOCIATION OF TEXAS

MEDAL OF HONOR FOR HEROISM

...recognizing an individual or group of individuals who have demonstrated exceptional courage and bravery in the performance of heroic behavior towards their fellow man.

Mr. Thomas Barnett

Mr. Thomas Barnett, Wastewater Investigator with the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) was very instrumental in the planning and execution of the response by the Water Section in the Houston Regional office to Hurricane Ike. The Houston Region has approximately 1150 active Wastewater Treatment Plants (WWTP) and approximately 4,000 Public Water Supply (PWS) Systems. The WWTPs were not mapped and different information has historically been maintained in several databases or spreadsheets. This posed a problem in efficiently responding to all the facilities after a disaster. Thomas very quickly developed a new database and combined all of the information from the other databases and spreadsheets. He also developed maps and helped in the day to day planning for the different teams that were visiting facilities in the region. His remarkable computer skills allowed him to improvise, as new direction came down from the TCEQ Central Office each day.



Additionally, Thomas assessed PWS systems and WWTP in the most damaged areas, driving long distances day after day. Without these efforts the Agency would have not been able to respond to as many facilities as they did. Thomas is originally from McAllen, Texas and graduated with a bachelor's degree in biology from Stephen F. Austin State University (Nacogdoches, Texas) in December 2003. He began working for the TCEQ in 2005 as a graduate intern while studying for his Master's degree in Aquatic Biology at Texas State University in San Marcos.

In his off time, Thomas enjoys outdoor activities with his wife Christene and son Jonathon Barnett. He is also active with his son's high school band program.

WATER ENVIRONMENT ASSOCIATION OF TEXAS

MEDAL OF HONOR FOR HEROISM

...recognizing an individual or group of individuals who have demonstrated exceptional courage and bravery in the performance of heroic behavior towards their fellow man.

Trinity Bay Conservation District

On September 13, 2008, Hurricane Ike struck the Southeast Texas Gulf Coast with tremendous force and devastating effects. Small communities along the Bolivar Peninsula, High Island, Smith Point and Oak Island were utterly decimated. Damages inflicted by Ike were of an astronomical scale, surpassing what Hurricane Rita did to these communities only three short years before. Damage costs exceeded 27 billion dollars. In the wake of such a disaster, the true morals and values of people shine brightly or fade away into the Ike inflicted darkness.



Trinity Bay Conservation District is a Special Utility District that provides potable water and wastewater service to 14,000 people through-out Chambers County. TBCD owns and operates 2.5 MGD surface water treatment plants, one conventional activated sludge wastewater plant and three man-made, environmentally thriving wetlands wastewater treatment facilities. During this natural disaster, with recorded, sustained winds of over 120 mph, TBCD's Management Team and employees hunkered down, dug in and "rode the storm out" in the name of duty and dedication to their customers. Even before the last remaining gusts of Ike had subsided, TBCD employees donned the disaster stricken streets, obstacles and dangers to re-gain operation of their water and wastewater facilities. During Ike's relentless destruction, while thousands of people were without electricity and phones, these same people had the ability to take a shower, collect fresh water and the taken for granted comfort to use the restroom in their home.

The community of Oak Island was virtually destroyed causing the infrastructure of the water and wastewater systems to be compromised and taken off-line. Immediately, decisions were made and actions were initiated to restore these essential needs to the community. Many feet of wastewater line had to be jet-vacuumed free of salt water, sand and debris. Wastewater lift stations had to be cleaned and lift pumps pulled for repair or replacement. Major repairs to the wastewater treatment plant included replacement of electrical equipment, panels and blowers. On October 9, 2008 the Oak Island water and wastewater systems were brought back on-line; an unbelievable task.

As with any natural disaster of this magnitude, local, state and federal forces alike came to the aid of the region. Organizations such as WEAT recognize the actions and efforts of groups such as TBCD. Due to the extraordinary work put forth that occurred both during and after Hurricane Ike, Trinity Bay Conservation District, its General Manager Robert K. Jones, and all employees have been awarded a medal of heroism. In a thankless industry that is almost always taken for granted and underappreciated, knowing people such as these exist is a priceless comfort.

WATER ENVIRONMENT ASSOCIATION OF TEXAS

INDUSTRIAL WASTEWATER TREATMENT PLANT OF THE YEAR

...presented to a industrial wastewater treatment plant in Texas that has consistently exhibited outstanding performance of daily activities beyond the normal call of duty.

Bayport Central Wastewater Treatment Plant Gulf Coast Waste Disposal Authority

Gulf Coast Waste Disposal Authority's (GCA) Bayport Central wastewater treatment plant is located on Bay Area Boulevard in Pasadena, Texas. This facility serves 63 industrial customers, which are largely petrochemical, in the Bayport Industrial District plus 2 municipalities. The Bayport plant has a treatment capacity of 25 MGD, and utilizes an activated sludge process. The operations team includes GCA General Manager Charles Ganze, Assistant General Manager Ricky Clifton, Operations Manager Lori Gernhardt and Bayport Facility Manager Jack Wahlstrom.



The staff at the Bayport plant were responsible for getting the facility back in service within only 4 days following Hurricane Ike, which was a significant accomplishment. Discounting impacts of Hurricane Ike, the Bayport plant has achieved 100% discharge monitoring report compliance for the last 2 years, reflecting the experience and dedication of the Bayport plant operations team. There were no lost time accidents at the plant during the past year. Recent improvements include air emission control for the 4-step aeration basin, which have reduced volatile organic emissions by more than 70%. In addition, Texas Water salutes GCA's sponsorship of and participation in the annual "Rivers, Lakes, Bays 'N Bayous Trash Bash", which is one of Texas's largest volunteer efforts to preserve and protect the water quality environment from Bastrop to Houston to Galveston.

This facility will be available for tour during the Texas Water 2009 Conference in Galveston, and it is hoped that many WEAT members will take the opportunity to witness the operations and advances employed at this facility.

WATER ENVIRONMENT ASSOCIATION OF TEXAS

RECRUITMENT AWARD

...recognizing a member of WEAT for his outstanding recruitment effort.

Dennis Laskowski

Mr. Dennis Laskowski is a registered Professional Engineer in the State of Texas, holds a Class B Water Distribution System Operator License, and is a certified NASSCO PACP operator. He received a Bachelor of Science degree in Civil Engineering from the University of Texas at San Antonio (UTSA) where he graduated Cum Laude. He recently earned an Associates of Applied Science degree in Surveying Engineering Technology from San Antonio College. While attending and upon completion of college at UTSA, Dennis worked for the Texas Department of Transportation, San Antonio Public Works Department, and the San Antonio Water System (SAWS) where he is currently a Project Engineer. While employed with SAWS for the past 10 years, such duties have included the development and/or implementation of Annual Construction Contracts for Pipe bursting, Cured-in-place pipe, Asphalt, Concrete, Excavation/Backfill and sewer line cleaning, all a first for SAWS. Other responsibilities have including the design of sewer emergency projects for collapsed pipe, scheduling and coordinating work for the survey department, design and review of water and sewer main projects, and the project manager of contracts to name a few.



Dennis has been actively involved in his local WEAT section since 1999 when he and his former boss founded the section and Dennis was voted Secretary. Mr. Laskowski played an instrumental role in defining the section by starting a newsletter, gaining sponsorships, opening up a bank account, scheduling meetings, recruiting members, implementing the Constitution and Bylaws, and instigating the sections 1st bowling social. Mr. Laskowski continues to help his local WEAT section in numerous ways including setting up happy hours for the young professionals in the area, participating in annual science fair activities on behalf of WEAT and TAWWA, holding many officer positions in the section including President and now currently the active Section Representative, and initiating a student membership award with the University of Texas at San Antonio and the local section. Dennis notes that his participation has been a pleasant and rewarding experience and encourages everyone to volunteer in their local section if they choose to do so.

Dennis previously won WEAT's prestigious Emerging Leader Award in 2003. In addition he has won a WEAT Recruitment Award for five years in a row. WEAT wishes to recognize, thank, and congratulate Dennis for his continued service.

WATER ENVIRONMENT FEDERATION

**SERVICE AWARD
OUTGOING WEF DIRECTOR 2005-2008**

...The WEF Service Award, Outgoing WEF Delegate 2005-2008, is presented to honor the dedication, outstanding service, and tireless efforts in support of the objectives of WEF and WEAT.

Foster D. Crowell

Foster D. Crowell holds a Bachelors Degree in Political Science from the University of Texas/Pan American at Edinburg. Mr. Crowell also has both "A" Water and "A" Wastewater Certificates of Competency issued by the Texas Natural Resource Conservation Commission. Mr. Crowell has worked for the City of Corpus Christi in the Wastewater Department for 29 years, 18 years as Assistant Wastewater Director and the last 11 years as Wastewater Director. He is entrusted with the overall responsibility of the operation, administration and management of the Wastewater Department that provides for the collection and treatment of wastewater for over 78,000 customer accounts. The City operates 6 wastewater treatment plants.



Mr. Crowell began his professional career with the City of Raymondville in 1970 as Wastewater Superintendent. In 1976, he went to work for the City of Kingsville as the Director of Water and Wastewater Utilities. Throughout his career, Mr. Crowell has been active in professional/industry organizations at the local, state and national level, and has served on numerous boards and committees. He has received numerous awards from the Water Environment Federation. In 1975, he received the Hatfield Award making him the youngest in WEF history to receive the award at that time. In 1997, he also received the Quarter-Century Operation's Club Award and the prestigious Arthur Sidney Bedell Award in 1997.

Mr. Crowell is still an active member of the Water Environment Federation, Water Environment Association of Texas and a lifetime member of the American Water Works Association. He has been an Eagle Scout since 1964.

WATER ENVIRONMENT ASSOCIATION OF TEXAS

2008-2009 PRESIDENTIAL AWARD

...recognition of outstanding effort towards promoting the use of reclaimed water.

The City of Midland

The City of Midland initiated rulemaking to facilitate the use of off-site reclaimed water production facilities. The City invested the time, energy, and capital to develop a proposal for regulatory approval and served as a leader for the industry in promoting the use of reclaimed water. To recognize the City's efforts in promoting and ensuring rules were adopted to simplify the construction and approval process for reclaimed water production facilities,

WEAT hereby honors the City of Midland with the 2008-2009 Presidential Award In Recognition of Outstanding Effort Towards Promoting The Use of Reclaimed Water.