



Looking for a green activity
or outing? Or need volunteers
and guests for your event?

There are more than 100 environmental organizations
working to make our communities greener.

Great education and volunteer opportunities await - many
are free and all are waiting for you.

The Citizens' Environmental Coalition tracks them all on
our web site through a community calendar and event
listing. We also offer a weekly electronic newsletter.

www.CECHouston.org

To learn more about getting your
events listed, contact
news@cechouston.org
or 713.524.4232



Tuesday, March 12, 2013

1:00 pm to 6:00 pm

United Way Community Resource Center

50 Waugh Drive

Houston, TX 77007

Dinner by Pat Greer's Kitchen



Mission: To foster dialogue, education, and collaboration on environmental issues in the Houston/ Gulf Coast region.

Executive Committee

Helen O'Connor – President
Shawn McFarland – President-Elect
Aaron Tuley - Vice President
Emily Merrell – Secretary
Nicholas Eusepi - Treasurer

Board of Directors

Jaime Gonzales
Steve Hupp
Sarah Mason
Hayley Pallister
Steve Rosencranz
Geri Wells
Lily Wells

AGENDA

12:30 – 1:00 Check in/mingle/booths/refreshments

2013 Annual General Meeting

1:00 – 1:20 Opening remarks and Annual Business Meeting - *Auditorium*
Helen O'Connor, President of the Board, CEC

Visions for a Greener Houston 2013

- 1:20 – 2:00 Keynote Speaker -
TEDxHouston 2010 speaker - **Dan Phillips,**
Phoenix Commotion
- 2:00 – 2:05 Goals for the event
Helen O'Connor, President of the Board, CEC
- 2:05 – 2:15 Visions 2012 – Reflections
Jeff Taebel, Houston-Galveston Area Council
Lisa Lin, City of Houston
- 2:15 – 2:30 Coffee, networking, exhibitions



Thank you to our non-profit sponsors

Terry Hershey
Allegiance Bank
Garland Kerr & Jim Blackburn
Shawn McFarland
Helen O'Connor

2:30 – 3:40 Workshop Session A

* Walkable Cities and Green Space -
Room F
Peter Brown, Better Houston
Jen Powis – Houston Parks Board

*Air and Water Quality and Supply –
Room E
Jim Lester, HARC

Larry Soward, Air Alliance Houston

*Wetlands, Green Spaces and Development –
Room D
Matt Buckingham, Bayou Land
Conservancy
Fred LeBlanc, The Woodlands
Development Company

*Local Food and Local Issues –
Room C
Scott Howard, Urban Harvest
Mark Juedeman, Transition Houston

3:40 – 4:00 coffee, networking, exhibitions

4:00 – 5:10 Workshop Session B

* Will Density Save the Prairies? –
Room F
David Crossley, Houston Tomorrow
Jaime Gonzales, Katy Prairie
Conservancy

*Waste and the Carbon Footprint –
Room E
Tyson Sowell, Texas Campaign for the
Environment
Richard Johnson – Director of
Sustainability, Rice

*The Lone Star Coastal National Recreation
Area and the Gulf Coast –
Room D
Jim Blackburn, Blackburn & Carter
Scott Jones, Galveston Bay Foundation

*Solar Energy and Green Building Resources –
Room C
Cas VanWoerden, Animal Farm
Steve Stelzer, Green Resource Center

5:10 – 6:00 **DINNER by Pat Greer's Kitchen**

5:30 – 6:00 Summary and Audience Reflection
CEC Board

SPEAKER BIOGRAPHIES

Jim Blackburn – An attorney for more than 30 years, Jim Blackburn is a partner in Blackburn Carter, P.C., a firm devoted to environmental law and planning. Cases include environmental impact and energy facility siting, wetlands, air and hazardous waste litigation; strategic environmental planning; flood-related litigation; and sustainable development and environmental dispute resolution. Blackburn is also a Professor in the Practice in the Department of Civil and Environmental Engineering at Rice University, teaching courses in sustainable development. He serves as Director, Interdisciplinary Minor in Energy and Water Sustainability, Civil and Environmental Engineering, Rice University and is a Faculty Associate for the SSPEED Center and China-U.S. Center at Rice University. Mr. Blackburn is also active in community issues. He is the co-founder of Houston Wilderness, the Matagorda Bay Foundation and the Galveston Bay Foundation. He serves on the Board of Directors of the Galveston Bay Conservation and Preservation Association and the Matagorda Bay Foundation. Among his honors, he was the recipient of The Barbara C. Jordan Community Advocate Award presented by Texas Southern University in 2007, the National Conservation Achievement Award in 2001 from the National Wildlife Federation and the Bob Eckhardt Lifetime Achievement Award for coastal preservation efforts from the General Land Office of the State of Texas in 1998. He was awarded an honorary membership in the American Institute of Architects for legal work associated with urban quality of life issues in 2003. In October 2004, Texas A&M press published his manuscript titled *The Book of Texas Bays*, which focuses upon the current environmental health of bays in Texas and the efforts undertaken to protect them. Blackburn received both a B.A. in History and a J.D. at the University of Texas at Austin and an M.S. in Environmental Science at Rice University.

Peter Brown - Peter H. Brown, a native Houstonian, is the co-founder and Director of **BetterHouston**, a non-profit civic improvement organization, dedicated to the betterment of our neighborhoods and of the urban environment. He also serves as the Chair of the Mayor's International Trade and Development Council; Mayor Annise Parker's new initiative to bring global talent, jobs and business investment to the city. A Member of Houston City Council (2006-2010) and former candidate for Mayor (2009), he previously directed a nationally-recognized design firm, known for innovative public and private projects in Houston and 22 other American cities. He has a strong belief in the transformative and innovative power of cities in the global economy. Mr. Brown

has devoted his career to public service, especially to improving the quality and character of the urban environment. Mr. Brown holds a B.A. from the University of Houston, and a B.Arch, M.Arch, and Master of City Planning degrees from the University of Pennsylvania. A proud U.S. Army Veteran, he is a devoted family man with 5 children and 15 grandchildren.

Matt Buckingham - Matt Buckingham is a Conservation Lands Biologist for Bayou Land Conservancy. Bayou Land Conservancy is a non-profit land trust that works to protect wildlife habitat, wetlands, and riparian corridors in the Houston Region. Matt evaluates candidate properties in order to determine their conservation values, and surveys the flora and fauna of future conservation easement areas. He also monitors each conservation easement area annually. Matt has also worked for Texas Parks and Wildlife, the United States Fish and Wildlife Service, Stephen F. Austin State University, and other non-profit conservation groups including the Audubon Society.

David Crossley – David Crossley is president and founder of Houston Tomorrow, an independent nonprofit organization dedicated to improving the quality of life for all the people of the Houston region through research, education, and discussion. Houston Tomorrow's vision is that, on its 200th birthday in 2036, the Houston region will be home to the healthiest, happiest, most prosperous people in the United States. Mr. Crossley has led the Livable Houston/Smart Growth Initiative in the Houston Gulf Coast region since the organization's founding as the Gulf Coast Institute in 1998. Mr. Crossley serves on many committees and panels, including three at the Houston-Galveston Area Council: the Sustainable Communities Partnership Grant's management team, the Technical Advisory Committee of the Transportation Policy Council, and the Forecast Advisory Group. Crossley is co-founder and former Chair of Blueprint Houston, an initiative toward a comprehensive plan for the City of Houston that began as a Houston Tomorrow program in 2001. He served from 1996-2000 as President of the Citizens' Environmental Coalition. Nationally, he is a board member of Smart Growth America, a member of the steering committee of America 2050.

Jaime Gonzales – Jaime González, Katy Prairie Conservancy, Conservation Education Director/Volunteer Manager, is responsible for developing and implementing an annual schedule of activities and outreach programs to augment public access and awareness of the prairie. Mr. González's work also involves expanding collaborative efforts with other organizations and agencies,

including local universities. He is also responsible for coordination and training of volunteers and for managing KPC's online presence (website, social media, etc.). Jaime earned a Master of Education in Curriculum & Instruction - Science Education (2007) and a B.S. in Biology (1996) both from the University of Houston. He serves as President of the Coastal Prairie Partnership and as a member of the Texas Children in Nature Coalition Steering Committee. Mr. Gonzalez has been awarded the Alban-Heiser Award from the Houston Zoo (2011) in recognition of preserving Texas' heritage of living creatures and their environment, the Elizabeth Hull Abernathy Award (2011) from the Garden Club of America for outstanding contribution to environmental education of youth and the Army & Sarah Emmott Conservation Award (2009) from the Citizens' Environmental Coalition for his prairie conservation efforts.

Scott Howard – Scott Howard is a partner at John L. Wortham & Son, LP. He is currently the President of the board of directors at Urban Harvest and have been active in the community gardens and farmers market programs there. He coordinates the North Montrose Community Garden which is a donation garden. He has also been active with the Houston Food Policy Workgroup for the past 4 years on the executive committee and past co-chair.

Scott Jones - Scott Jones is Galveston Bay Foundation's Director of Advocacy. In this capacity, Scott guides the Foundation's efforts to protect the natural resources of Galveston Bay. Scott ensures that the Foundation is an active participant in the public review of projects, initiatives and issues that impact the estuary – from individual wetland dredge and fill projects to protecting seafood consumption safety to influencing freshwater inflows standards. Scott works with stakeholders and the public to encourage balance among the multiple users of Galveston Bay so that the long-term interests of the bay itself are not compromised.

Mark Juedeman - Mark Juedeman retired in 2010 from a 30 year career as a geophysicist. He grew up on a ranch in Montana and attended Montana State University and the University of Houston. Mark and his family have lived in both Houston and New Orleans. While in New Orleans, Mark was involved with bicycle advocacy as a founding board member of the Metro Bicycle Coalition, environmental advocacy as a volunteer and board member of The Green Project, and education as board member and board chair of St. Paul's Episcopal School. Since returning to Houston he has become a founding member of Transition Houston, a member of the executive committee of the Houston Food Policy

Workgroup, a member of the Technical Review Board of the Shell Center for Sustainability at Rice University, and a Board member of Urban Harvest. Mark recently began teaching at the University of Houston as adjunct faculty in the Department of Petroleum Engineering.

Fred LeBlanc – Fred LeBlanc was born in Port Arthur, Texas and grew up in Covington, Louisiana, attended LSU, then earned a Bachelor of Science degree from Texas A&M University in Wildlife and Fisheries Sciences and an MBA from Texas State. He worked at Espey, Huston and Associates in Austin, Texas 5 years as an environmental consultant, mostly in Section 10/404 permitting. He worked at Texas Parks and Wildlife Department for 5 years in Resource Protection Branch as area Resource Protection Biologist, Seabrook, Texas. He is currently with The Woodlands Corporation, since 1991, as Environmental Manager and Project Manager. He is married with 3 children.....the youngest a senior in college.

Jim Lester – Dr. Jim Lester, President and CEO of HARC, an independent research hub helping people thrive and nature flourish, has worked on environmental issues in the Houston region for more than 20 years. He previously served as the Director of the Environmental Institute of Houston for the University of Houston System. Dr. Lester is a recognized expert on watershed management for the Upper Texas Gulf Coast.

Dan Phillips – Dan Phillips is a designer/builder working in Huntsville, Texas, who, working with his wife Marsha, builds low-income housing, with unskilled workers, from free, salvage and recycled materials. Their company is recently trying to move into a commercial market for clients who have a taste for recycling and social entrepreneurship. Having been associated with the construction industry in many capacities for over twenty years, he is now concentrating on using one social problem to solve another, with his low-income housing initiative, The Phoenix Commotion. Experience in his business of art and antique restoration has served him well in the reclamation of construction waste in fabricating attractive, energy-efficient houses. *Fine Homebuilding, People, The New York Times, Natural Home, Houston House and Home, Change Magazine, Reason*, and many others--as well as CBS, ABC, HGTV, CNN, PBS, TNN, The Texas Country Reporter, and The Discovery Channel--have all featured his projects in their respective media, in addition to television and print media around the world. He regularly lectures for civic groups, at regional, national, and international conferences, and at universities, including A&M School of

Architecture, University of Texas-Austin School of Architecture, University of Kansas School of Architecture, Boston College, Austin Community College, Yale University and Sam Houston State University. His website, www.phoenixcommotion.com, includes discussion of his philosophy with numerous photographs. Last Spring he lectured at the 9th International Convention on Architecture in Budapest. He was awarded the 2003 Award for the Most Innovative Housing Model Worldwide by the Institute for Social Invention in London. In 2009 he was awarded the Beacon of Light Award by the National Interfaith Council. And in 2010 he received the Edison Green Award in New York, sponsored by Rutgers University, and the Environmental Excellence Award sponsored by the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality. The background leading to his current activity is eclectic. He variously rode Brahma bulls, worked in intelligence in West Berlin during the cold war, served on the dance faculty of Sam Houston State University for ten years, and has a number of degrees. His wife, Marsha, has recently retired as an art teacher. Their son, Ian, flies an F-16 for the Air Force, and their daughter, Phoebe, is a patent attorney in Chicago. They have four grandchildren.

Jen Powis - Jen Powis is the Advocacy Director for the Houston Parks Board, a non-profit dedicated to creating, improving, protecting, and advocating for parks in the Greater Houston area. As part of that mission, the organization is guided by four principles to (1) increase equitably distributed parks and trails for all Houstonians (2) provide connectivity along the bayou corridors (3) support the physical and biological diversity of Houston's park system including its bayous and streams, and (4) increase resources available for parks and greenways. HPB's signature project, Bayou Greenways 2020, meets those criteria by uniting seven of the major ten bayous that flow through the city with urban greenspace and a single strip of all weather trail, creating an urban park system like no other in the nation. Prior to joining HPB, Jen worked in energy policy and litigation for a non-profit and previously in private practice. A recovering trial lawyer, Jen's negotiation skills are now put to good use with her two young boys, ages 4 and 1. She's lived in Houston since 2004 and spends as much time as possible outside playing.

Larry Soward – Larry Soward is a former Commissioner of the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality, appointed by the Governor to the Commission in October 2003 and serving until his term expired August 31, 2009. He is currently serving as Transition Director for Air Alliance Houston, the grassroots environmental and community advocacy organization in the Houston

region whose goals are to reduce air pollution and protect public health and environmental integrity. He will serve in that capacity until a new, permanent Executive Director is selected and in place. He also currently serves as an independent consultant, primarily in the Houston area, to various clients on environmental, regulatory and legislative related matters. He assists and/or advises such clients on issues, strategies, and policies associated with: Texas air permitting and enforcement and related matters, Texas Sunset Review process relating to the TCEQ and Port of Houston, Texas surface and groundwater water rights and uses laws, regulations and policies; and local air quality issues and policies. Prior to his appointment to the TCEQ, he served as executive assistant to the Texas Lieutenant Governor during the 78th Legislative Session and during two special sessions held during 2003. He has more than 32 years of experience leading state agencies, and served as the deputy land commissioner of the Texas General Land Office and Veterans' Land Board, the deputy commissioner of the Texas Department of Agriculture, and the deputy executive director of the Texas Public Utility Commission. In addition, Soward has been executive director of the Texas Water Commission, the predecessor to the TCEQ, the culmination of a 12-year tenure at that agency. During his time at the Water Commission, he was also its general counsel and chief hearings examiner. He was also appointed by the Governor to serve on the Texas Energy Planning Council in 2004. He graduated from the University of Texas at Austin with a law degree in 1974 and has practiced environmental law and water law as a solo practitioner and as partner of a small law firm. Soward also holds a bachelor's degree in mathematics from UT.

Tyson Sowell – Tyson Sowell, Program Director (Houston), grew up in the Austin area before completing his Bachelor's Degree in Political Science from Texas Tech University and his Master's Degree from the University of Illinois in Environmental Studies. Tyson joined Texas Campaign for the Environment in 2010 as a community organizer and policy intern. He believes in the power of individuals to affect change and that democracy only works when we work at it. He is passionate about social and environmental justice and working to endure humanity a future.

Steve Stelzer - Steve Stelzer currently serves as the Program Director for the Code Enforcement Green Building Resource Center in the Houston Permitting Center at 1002 Washington Avenue. He orchestrated the original Center implementing a LEED for Commercial Interiors Gold certified renovation of a portion of the first floor of the 3300 Main Code Enforcement facility. In the

Center, Steve offers green building strategies to plans brought in by the public, develops and maintain green strategy displays and education programs, and maintains codegreenhouston.org, the green building portal of the City of Houston. He coordinated the activities for the Mayor's Green Building Advisory Council, a group of building owners of LEED certified buildings, and other leaders in the energy saving community in 2008, and organizes free public tours of Houston LEED certified buildings. Steve's technical background includes 30 years of diverse architectural firm experience in Houston, with construction administration as his predominate focus, including such firms as Heights Venture Architects, Courtney Harper+Partners, RWS Architects, Ray Bailey Architects, Kendall/Heaton Associates, and others.

Cas VanWoerden – Cas VanWoerden is a Dutch citizen, but has been a resident of Houston for 30 years, is trained as an electrical engineer, has 30 years experience in design of Industrial Control Systems for the Oil & Gas Industry, 20 years experience in International Business and Marketing development, Operation and Strategic Management, in organizations from 5-100 people, and 8 years experience in designing for sustainable societies, as part-time instructor of Permaculture Design. He has three children and two grandchildren. He and his wife own Animal Farm in Austin County. Animal Farm was born to satisfy their desire to get out of the city and be close to nature. In the summer of 1991, they purchased 70 beautifully wooded acres in Cat Spring, 60 miles from Houston. The property is located just 5 miles south of Bellville, where the scenery begins to roll, in anticipation of the Texas Hill Country. At the end of a 3.5 mile winding dirt road, bordered by absentee owners and a spring fed creek they built their new paradise in the summer of 1992. Facilities at Animal Farm include horse stables, goat pens with nubians and pigmies, chicken runs for fresh eggs, a pond with ducks and geese, and an extensive organic garden which supplies farmers markets in addition to the finest restaurants in Houston and Austin. The result of all this needs to be seen and felt, to believe that living in Texas without air conditioning is not only possible, but provides a quality of comfort, which cannot be equalled by mechanical means. The closeness to nature, the serenity of the surroundings, and the peace it brings, have all contributed to an enriched and happier life for them and their children.