



GREATER HOUSTON ENVIRONMENTAL SUMMIT 2016

5th Annual Environmental Conference in the Region



CITIZENS'
ENVIRONMENTAL
COALITION



*Representing over 120 nonprofits,
governmental and educational organizations.*

Conference Program

Thursday, March 24, 2016
United Way of Houston
Community Resource Center

- 9:00 - 9:30 Registration & Networking
9:30 - 9:45 Opening Remarks
9:45 - 10:00 Elected Official Welcome
10:00 - 10:45 **Keynote: Selling Investments in Environmental Programs to Disinterested Public Stakeholders**
Dr. John Crompton, Texas A&M Distinguished Professor in Parks & Recreation
10:45 - 11:00 Networking Break
11:00 - 11:25 Table Talk* Round 1
11:25 - 11:50 Table Talk* Round 2
11:50 - 1:00 Networking Lunch
1:00 - 1:20 **Philanthropic Trends for Environmental Community: Kimberly Sterling**, Sterling & Associates
1:20 - 1:25 Transition
1:25 - 1:50 Table Talk* Round 3
1:50 - 2:05 Networking Break
2:05 - 2:50 **Closing Panel: Paris Climate Talks, with Bill Dawson, Tracy Hester, and Rives Taylor**
2:50 - 3:00 Closing Remarks & Survey

* Table Talks: Small group discussions with experts, with a focus on either environmental issues—such as air quality—or building capacity of the environmental community—such as increasing board diversity. A cross between a breakout session and speed networking. Each 20-minute discussion will be repeated three times over the course of the day.

Table Talk Topics

- 1: Air Quality with Adrian Shelley, Air Alliance Houston Executive Director
- 2: Connecting Urban Youth with the Outdoors with Brandi Bradford, USFWS Houston Urban Program Education Coordinator
- 3: Taboo Topics: Religion, Politics, and Diversity in the environmental community with Jaime González Katy Prairie Conservancy Community Conservation Director
- 4: Sustainable Transportation & Planning with Jay Blazek Crossley, Executive Director, Houston Tomorrow
- 5: Superfund Sites with Jennifer Ronk, Sr. Research Scientist, Program Director Environmental Science and Energy Efficiency
- 6: Building the Business Case for Sustainability with Lesley Lucas, Sustainability Program Manager at Hewlett Packard Enterprise
- 7: The Value of Conservation Easements in Protecting Private Lands with Mary Anne Piacentini, Katy Prairie Conservancy Executive Director
- 8: Why Board Diversity Matters with Nicole Harris, Program Manager of Leadership Development, United Way of Greater Houston
- 9: Influencing PolicyMakers: Questionnaires, Forums, Platforms, Public Comment, etc. with Jen Powis
- 10: Local Food with Reed Shelger, LocalLocal Founder
- 11: Environmental Impacts of Agriculture with Justin Duncan, Research Assistant, Texas A&M University
- 12: Environmental Issues in the Home with LaVerne Williams, AIA, LEED AP,
- 13: Houston's Environmental Past with Terry Tomkins-Walsh, Ph.D., Historian

Opening Keynote Speaker

Selling Investments in Environmental Programs to Disinterested Public Stakeholders:

Dr. John L. Crompton holds the rank of University Distinguished Professor and is both a Regents Professor and a Presidential Professor for Teaching Excellence at Texas A&M University. He came to Texas A&M University in 1974. He received his doctorate in Recreation Resources Development in 1977. He has taught graduate and undergraduate courses in both the Department of Recreation and Parks and the Department of Marketing, but now teaches exclusively in the Department of Recreation, Park and Tourism Sciences.

Dr. Crompton's primary interests are in the areas of marketing and financing public leisure and tourism services. He is author or co-author of 18 books and a many articles which have been published in the recreation, tourism, sport and marketing fields. He is the most published scholar in the history of both the parks and recreation and the tourism fields. He is a renowned speaker, giving keynote addresses at national and international conferences.

He has won numerous awards for both teaching and research, and contributions to parks and conservation, tourism and leisure services. He has received the Bush Excellence Award for Public Service, presented personally by President H. W. Bush.

In 2006, the city of College Station named a new 16 acre neighborhood park, John Crompton Park. Dr. Crompton served 4 years as a city councilman for College Station from 2007-2011, and was Mayor Pro Tem in 2010-2011.

Philanthropic Trends for Environmental Community

Kimberly Sterling is the founder and president of Sterling Associates, a Houston-based consulting firm that offers a range of fundraising and management services to nonprofit organizations. She began her development career after working for Ogilvy & Mather Advertising in both New York and Houston, where she served

Compaq, Shell Oil Company, Houston Grand Opera and other clients. Kimberly joined the American Leadership Forum in 1984 as Director of Development, and in 1988 began working as a consultant to nonprofits. In addition to her professional responsibilities, Kim served on the Board of Directors of Episcopal Health Charities and is a sustaining member of the Junior League of Houston. She has served on a variety of community boards, is the past president of the Board of Directors of AIDS Foundation Houston, and is an elder of First Presbyterian Church. Kim received her BA from Williams College and a Master's degree in Public Policy from the LBJ School of Public Affairs at the University of Texas. Her husband, David, is a senior partner with Baker & Botts, LLP. They have three children.

Panelists

Bill Dawson is the founder and editor of Texas Climate News, an independent, nonprofit, nonpartisan magazine, published online at texasclimatenews.org. He was formerly the environment writer at the Houston Chronicle for 17 years, the senior writer for environmental issues at the Center for Public Integrity (a nonprofit investigative reporting organization in Washington), and an adjunct faculty member at Rice University. He has been covering climate change since 1988.

Professor Tracy Hester teaches environmental law and emerging technology courses at the University of Houston Law Center. His research focuses on the innovative application of environmental laws to emerging technologies and risks, such as climate engineering, nanotechnologies, genetic modification, wind and other renewable power projects, and on novel compliance and liability issues. Prof. Hester served as a partner in Bracewell & Giuliani LLP for sixteen years and led the Houston office's environmental group. He has previously taught classes on Environmental Law, Climate Change Liability and Litigation, Emerging Technologies and Environmental Law, Advanced Hazardous Waste Law, and Practice of Environmental Law.

Panelists, *cont*

Prof. Hester was inducted into the American College of Environmental Lawyers in 2015, elected as a member of the American Law Institute in 2004, and named the Top Environmental Lawyer in Houston in 2011 by Best Lawyers of America. He currently chairs SEER's Special Committee on Congressional Relations, and is vice-chair of the Greater Houston Partnership's Environmental Policy Advisory Committee.

Rives Taylor, FAIA, LEED® AP BD+C is Gensler's Regional Sustainability Leader, Principal. Rives directs Gensler Firmwide Design Performance teams and initiatives. He is a recognized global expert in resilient, high-performance and sustainable design and has been a faculty member of both Rice University and the University of Houston for 25 years. Rives has authored more than 150 articles for diverse publications like ULI's Urban Land, WIRED, Fast Company and Texas Architect and has been an invited speaker at symposiums on five continents. He founded the Houston Chapter of the USGBC and recently received the Center for Houston's Future's Impact Award. A member of the prestigious AIA Fellowship, Rives holds a B.A. in Architecture from Rice University and a Masters from MIT.

Table Talk Leaders

Connecting Urban Youth with the Outdoors. Brandi Bradford is the Education Coordinator for the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Houston Urban Wildlife Refuge Partnership (Houston Urban). Houston Urban's goal is to create a diverse and connected conservation constituency among the urban population in and around Houston, including enhancing access to the national wildlife refuges within 100 miles of Houston. Since Brandi's graduation from Texas A&M University in the Recreation, Park, and Tourism Science Department in 1994, she has been focused on creating opportunities for kids of all ages to connect to public lands, through play, learning, service, and work. She's also committed to building community partnerships that make those connections for youth

Table Talk Leaders, *cont*

easier to reach, as a partner in the Citizen's Environmental Coalition collaborative.

Sustainable Transportation & Planning. **Jay Blazek Crossley** is Executive Director of Houston Tomorrow, an independent non-profit dedicated to improving the quality of life for all the people of the Houston region. Crossley has a MPAff from the LBJ School of Public Affairs at UT-Austin and serves as the Chair of the Houston - Galveston Area Council Pedestrian Bicyclist Subcommittee, Co-Chair of the Houston Coalition for Complete Streets, on the Executive Committee of the Houston Food Policy Workgroup, on the Programs Committee of LISC-Houston, on the City of Houston Bicycle Advisory Committee, on the City of Houston PlanHouston Implementation Committee, on the Texas Food Systems Workgroup, and was a member of Mayor Turner's Traffic and Transportation Transition Team. Crossley was the CEC's summer intern in 1996 or so.

Environmental Impacts of Agriculture. **Justin Duncan** Kevin holds a Bachelor's in Poultry Science from Texas A&M University, and worked there as a research assistant specializing in nutrition and animal health. He was also a member of two national championship winning teams in collegiate poultry judging, including a first overall individual ranking, and won a proficiency award from the Future Farmers of America for raising poultry. Prior to joining NCAT, Kevin worked with Garden Harvests Farm, a Texas organic CSA. When not thinking about poultry, he likes to read and cook, and he collects music records.

Taboo Topics: Religion, Politics, and Diversity in the Environmental Community. **Jaime González**, Katy Prairie Conservancy Community Conservation Director 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 around the issues of con-

Table Talk Leaders, *cont*

servation and education. He also assists with grassland restoration efforts on several Katy Prairie preserves and at over fifteen Prairie Builder Schools and Parks locations throughout the Greater Houston area. Mr. González is Vice President and Co-Founder of the Coastal Prairie Partnership (CPP). He has won numerous awards in recognition for regional leadership as well as his outstanding contribution to environmental education of youth and further restoration of the Texas Coastal Prairie .

Why Board Diversity Matters. **Nicole Harris** serves as Program Manager of Leadership Development, for the United Way of Greater Houston. In her capacity with United Way, Nicole is responsible for building relationships among diverse communities, managing the Project Blueprint Board Leadership program, and connecting nonprofits seeking board members with qualified candidates. In addition, she is a part of United Way’s internal talent management team, working with Human Resources to create and manage opportunities for staff professional development; she also supports capacity building services through facilitation of workshops and board development trainings for area nonprofit organizations. Nicole has 16 years of experience in the nonprofit field with a strong emphasis in program management, development, community outreach, and public speaking.

Building the Business Case for Sustainability. **Leslie Lucas** is a Sustainability Program Manager at Hewlett Packard Enterprise, focusing on customer engagement and sales enablement. She recently finished her Professional Masters of Science in Environmental Management and Sustainability from a dual, international partnership program between St. Edward’s University and Université Catholique de l’Ouest. In order to finance her education, Lesley’s worked in wine and fine dining—even serving former Texas governor Rick Perry wine—, education, and environmental non-profits. She received her Bachelor of Arts in English Writing and Environmental Studies from Loyola University New Orleans and was able

Table Talk Leaders, *cont*

to both write a fiction novel and feed penguins for her dual thesis. In her free time, Lesley loves going on long bike rides, playing the banjo and volunteering in the local community.

The Value of Conservation Easements in Protecting Private Lands. **Mary Anne Piacentini**, Katy Prairie Conservancy Executive Director, is responsible for coordinating land protection programs, conservation assistance to private landowners, fundraising, and facilitating community partnerships with diverse stakeholders. Ms. Piacentini is the past chair of the Board of Directors of the Texas Land Trust Council and is currently a member of the Advisory Board of Directors of American Festival for the Arts. Areas of focus: urban and regional planning, conservation strategies, master planning, financing instruments for conservation related efforts, and conservation easement and acquisition strategies. In 2014, Ms. Piacentini was awarded the Terry Hershey Texas Women in Conservation Award from Houston Audubon and Texas Audubon. She also received the Army and Sarah Emmott Conservation Award from the Citizens' Environmental Coalition for her prairie conservation efforts (2005).

Influencing PolicyMakers: Questionnaires, Forums, Platforms, Public Comment, etc. **Jen Powis** has over a decade of experience in Texas representing clients in oil and gas disputes, clean air and water cases, and before state agencies and in the courts. Prior to starting The Powis Firm, Jen managed advocacy efforts for two different non-profits, combining legal analysis with strategic decisionmaking on media and budgets. Acting as a general counsel for various non-profits, Jen understands the unique needs faced by non-profits working for sound public policy in Texas. Prior to these campaigns, Jen was a trial associate at Baker Botts LLP in Houston with a primary focus in energy. Representative matters included breach of contract under a joint operating agreement, breach of a coal seam gas lease agreement, and various matters related to the secondary market for structured settlements.

Table Talks Leaders, *cont*

Superfund Sites. Jennifer Ronk holds a Masters of Environmental Management from the Yale University School of Forestry and Environmental Studies. She joined Houston Advanced Research Center (HARC) in 2009, and is currently the Program Director for Energy Efficiency and Environmental Science. Previously, she served as the Deputy Director for the Renewable Energy and International Law (REIL) Network, an international think tank for clean energy and climate change law and policy. Ms. Ronk is a Professional Geologist (PG) licensed in the State of Texas, a Certified Environmental Manager (CEM), and a certified Project Management Professional (PMP). During her tenure at HARC, Ms. Ronk has been engaged in a wide variety of projects and programs that are designed to facilitate the transition to a low carbon future, including energy efficiency, renewable energy, and transportation projects. She also manages a project that reviews scientific data (groundwater, surface water, soil, sediment, and tissue) related to a contaminated site and provides information and feedback on the data to community members.

Local Food. Reed Shelger is the founder of LocalLocal, a website dedicated to promoting food from local and sustainable sources. Prior to launching LocalLocal, Reed worked as a management consultant in the food and beverage industry. He holds an MBA in Entrepreneurship from Rice University. For more information about LocalLocal go to <http://www.locallocal.com>

Air Quality. Adrian Shelley, Air Alliance Houston Executive Director is a native Texan from the City of Houston. He has served as the Executive Director of Air Alliance Houston since 2013. He first worked with Air Alliance Houston as a legal fellow in 2010, then as a Community Outreach Coordinator in 2012. Adrian is a proud husband and father. He enjoys reading, playing music, and photographing frogs in the mud.

Table Talk Leaders, *cont*

Houston's Environmental Past. Dr. Teresa (Terry) Tomkins-Walsh is historian and archivist for the Houston History Archives with the Welcome Wilson Houston History Collaborative in the Center for Public History at the University of Houston. Located in Special Collections at the UH Libraries, the Houston History Archives collects historical documents on the growth and development of Houston with particular concentrations in energy, environmental, and ethnic history.

Environmental Issues in the Home. LaVerne Williams, AIA, LEED AP, is one of the nation's top green building professionals and a Texas pioneer of energy-efficient green home design that strives for sustainability. Williams dared to open an ecologically oriented architectural practice in 1975, when few people cared about buildings that attempted to work in harmony with the environment and micro-climates. Even back in the '70s, he understood that current building practices were unsustainable. So he put his philosophy to work – literally – and created a niche company, an architectural practice called Environment Associates, Architects & Consultants that has become a national leader. Williams became an outspoken, positive educator about the need for sustainable, energy-saving, healthful buildings and lifestyles. Through his willingness to teach and mentor others, his practice and his influence grew. In Texas, he is regarded as the “Grandfather of Green Building.”

Member Organizations

New Members shown in bold.

350.org

Air Alliance Houston
American Institute of
Architects: Houston
American Institute of Chemical
Engineers: South Texas Local
Section
American Lung Association of
Houston
Armand Bayou Nature Center
Artist Boat
Avenue Community
Development Corporation
Bayou Land Conservancy
Bayou Preservation
Association, Inc.
Baytown Environmental
Education
Big Thicket Association
BikeHouston, Inc.
Biomimicry Texas
Blackwood Land Institute
Blueprint Houston
Brays Bayou Association
Buffalo Bayou Partnership
Center for Houston's Future
The Center for Recycled Art
Central City Co-Op
The Children's Museum of
Houston's EcoStation
Christmas Bay Foundation
**Citizens' Climate Lobby 3rd
Coast Region (CCL)**

Citizens' Transportation
Coalition
City of Houston Environmental
Health Division
City of Houston Green Building
Resource Center
Coastal Prairie Partnership
Council for Environmental
Education
Cypress Creek Flood Control
Coalition
Cypresswood Water
Conservation Garden
EarthShare of Texas
**Emerson Unitarian Universal-
ist Church**
Endangered Species Media
Project
Energy Corridor District
Environment Texas
Environmental Defense Fund
Environmental Educators
Exchange
Environmental Institute of
Houston, EIH UHCL
Executive Service Corps of
Houston
Exploration Green
Conservancy
Flower Garden Banks National
Marine Sanctuary
Friends of Mandell Park
Friends of Woodland Park
Galveston Bay Foundation
Galveston Baykeeper

Member Organizations, *cont*

Galveston Island Nature Tourism Council	Center
Galveston Ornithological Society	Houston Renewable Energy Group
Greens Bayou Corridor Coalition	Houston Tomorrow
Gulf Coast Bird Observatory	Houston Urban Gardeners
Gulf Restoration Network	Houston Wilderness
HARC	Houston Zoo Wildlife Conservation Program
Help Endangered Animals - Ridley Turtles (HEART)	Jesse H. Jones Park & Nature Center
Hermann Park Conservancy	Katy Prairie Conservancy
Houston Access to Urban Sustainability (HAUS)	Keep Houston Beautiful
Houston Arboretum & Nature Center	Keep Kingwood Green
Houston Archeological Society	Keep Pearland Beautiful
Houston Audubon	KPFT Radio
Houston Canoe Club	Last Organic Outpost
Houston Climate Protection Alliance	League of Women Voters in the Houston Area
Houston Community Tool Bank	Living Paradigm CDC
Houston-Galveston Area Council	Living Planet Foundation
Houston Habitat for Humanity	Mayor's Office of Sustainability
Houston History Archives (UH-HHA) Center for Public History	Memorial Park Conservancy
Houston Land/Water Sustain- ability Form	Mercer Botanic Gardens
Houston Parks and Recreation Department	National Parks Conservation Association, Texas Gulf Coast Chapter
Houston Parks Board	Native Plant Society of Texas: Houston Chapter
Houston Peace and Justice	Native Prairies Association of Texas
	The Nature Conservancy
	Nature Discovery Center
	Outdoor Nature Club
	Planned Parenthood Gulf Coast
	Preservation Houston

Member Organizations, *cont*

- The Progressive Forum Archive
Recipe For Success
Rice Design Alliance
SCENIC GALVESTON, Inc.
SCENIC HOUSTON
The Shell Center for Sustainability at Rice University
Sierra Club Houston Regional Group
SPARK School Park Program
Student Conservation Association
Surfrider Foundation, Texas Upper Coast Chapter
Texans for Clean Water (formerly Plastic Pollution Texas)
Texans Together
Texas Association of Environmental Professionals
Texas Campaign for the Environment
Texas Coastal Partners
Texas Coastal Watershed Program
Texas League of Conservation Voters Educational Fund
Texas Master Naturalists Heartwood Chapter
Texas Southern University, Barbara Jordan-Mickey Leland School of Public Affairs
Texas Wildlife Association
Transition Houston
Trees For Houston
The Trust for Public Land
TWRC Wildlife Center
University of Houston: Office of Sustainability
Urban Harvest
U.S. Green Building Council Texas Chapter - Texas Gulf Coast Region
Vegan for Life
White Oak Bayou Association
Wildlife Center of Texas
Willow Waterhole Greenspace Conservancy, Inc.
The Woodlands G.R.E.E.N.
The Woods Project, Inc.

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

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