

Greater Houston Environmental Summit 2014

CITIZENS' ENVIRONMENTAL COALITION



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

The CEC gratefully acknowledges the donors who made this conference possible:

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Purpose of the Conference:

Each year, the greater Houston environmental community gathers to discuss topical environmental issues facing our region. For each of the issues, attendees are asked to envision collaborative actions for the coming year that will support environmental improvement. Your input is a critical part of this process.

Conference Program

- 12:30-1:00 Registration & Networking
- 1:00 - 1:20 Opening Remarks, CEC Annual Business Meeting
- 1:20 - 2:00 Keynote: *Luke Metzger, Environment Texas*
- 2:10 - 2:55 Discussion Groups Round 1
- Room A:* Transportation Planning: METRO's Transit System Reimagination Plan, *Christof Spieler* & Environmental Planning at TxDOT, *Pat Henry*
- Room B:* Regional Sustainability Planning, *Meredith Dang* & Open Space Planning, *Marc Reid*
- Room C:* Bayou Greenways, *Jen Powis* & Water Quality, *Todd Running*
- Room D:* What is Urban Wilderness...in Memorial Park? *Thomas Woltz* & ...along Buffalo Bayou? *Frank Salzhandler*
- 2:55 - 3:00 *Elizabeth Love*, Houston Endowment
- 3:00 - 3:20 Speed Networking
- 3:20 - 3:50 Networking Break
- 3:50 - 4:35 Discussion Groups Round 2
- Room A:* The Environment in the Media, *Dave Fehling* & Your Story on the Radio, *Teresa Allen* and *Ted Weisgul*
- Room B:* Galveston Bay Oysters, *Lance Robinson* & Freshwater Flows, *John Bartos*
- Room C:* Local Carbon Credit Market, *Randall Lack* & Energy, *Gavin Dillingham*
- Room D:* Social Media, *Jaime Gonzalez* & Conservation, *Jennifer Lorenz*
- 4:35 - 5:05 Live Birds of Prey, *Mary Anne Weber*, Houston Audubon
- 5:05 - 6:00 Dinner
- 5:15 - 5:45 Closing remarks

Annual Business Meeting

Proposed Board Slate

* New Board members

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New Member Organizations

City of Houston Green Building
Center

Endangered Species Media
Project

Exploration Green Conservancy

Harris County WCID 132 Water
Conservation & Demonstration
Center

Houston Wilderness

KPFT Radio

Lunar Solar Power Group

League of Women Voters in the
Houston Area

Mayor's Office of Sustainability,
City of Houston

Texasn Together

Texas Southern University,
Barabara Jordan-Mickey Leland
School of Public Affairs

Texas Wildlife Association

Keynote Speaker

Luke Metzger is the Founder and Director of Environment Texas, a statewide, citizen-funded advocate for clean air, clean water and open spaces. The San Antonio Current has called Mr. Metzger “long one of the most energetic and dedicated defenders of environmental issues in the state.” He has played a key role in dozens of successful environmental campaigns, including winning permanent protection for the Christmas Mountains of Big Bend, getting Shell and ChevronPhillips to cut air pollution at two Texas refineries and chemical plants, and getting the Legislature to dramatically boost funding for water conservation and states parks. He regularly testifies before the Texas Legislature and appears frequently in the media including in the New York Times, MSNBC, USA Today, and others. He is the author or co-author of several reports including Keeping Water in Our Rivers: Strategies for Conserving Limited Water Supplies. His essay “Polluting the Brazos, Sullyng the Soul of Texas” was chosen for publication in the college writing textbook, “The Longwood Guide to Writing.”

Mr. Metzger currently serves as a Commissioner on the Austin Resource Management Commission and has previously served on the Pollution Prevention Advisory Committee of the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality, the Open Records Steering Committee of the Office of the Attorney General and the Joint Committee on Austin Water Utility’s Financial Plan. He has been named one of the “Top Lobbyists for Causes” by Capitol Inside and was chosen for the inaugural class of “Next Generation Fellows” by the Robert S. Strauss Center for International Security and Law at UT Austin. Prior to founding Environment Texas, Mr. Metzger worked as a consumer advocate for TexPIRG, the Texas field organizer for U.S.PIRG and a campus organizer for CALPIRG.

An amateur actor, Luke recently appeared in stage productions of Ghostbusters and The Princess Bride. Luke, his fiancée Rachel and his seven-year old son Gus are working to visit every state park in Texas.

Speaker Biographies

Christof Spieler - Christof Spieler, P.E., LEED AP was appointed to the board of the Metropolitan Transit Authority of Harris County (METRO) by the Mayor of the City of Houston. Spieler leads METRO's effort to re-imagine our bus system, imagining how to best connect the residents of our region. A director of technology and innovation at Morris Architects, he is a licensed professional engineer and has written and spoken extensively on transportation projects. More information about Mr. Spieler and METRO's Transit System Reimagining Plan are available on the METRO website.

Dave Fehling - Dave Fehling is KUHf's Energy and Environment Reporter. His reporting is a part of StateImpact, a collaboration with KUT in Austin and NPR. Dave likes to say he started delivering the news early: as an 11 year-old at 5 AM! That was as a newspaper carrier for the Cincinnati Enquirer in his hometown of Aurora, Indiana. His news career continued as a reporter at DePauw University, and afterwards in Kentucky, Ohio, and Texas, and for CBS News. His award-winning reporting has ranged from the secrets of buried radioactive waste and mismanagement at a Federal facility for processing uranium for nuclear weapons to the scene of the Gianni Versace murder in Miami. In 1998, KHOU-TV lured him back to create "11 Up Close," an in-depth segment that was part of what became the highest-rated late TV newscast in Texas. He also was a substitute anchor on all the station's main newscasts. In addition to being a part of the KUHf news team, Dave teaches broadcast journalism as a lecturer at the University of Houston.

Frank Salzhandler - Frank Salzhandler is a native Texan who received a BFA degree in filmmaking from the University of Texas at Austin, and did graduate studies at the University of Houston. He has produced educational film and museum exhibitions which have toured Texas and North America, as well as documentaries on River Conservation and Natural History for the Environmental Protection Agency and the Texas Education Agency's Science Outreach Program. Frank received Houston Mayor's Proud Partner

Speaker Biographies, *cont.*

Award for habitat restoration work with over 3,000 students and teachers. He is currently Chair of the Natural Heritage Program for the Harris County Historical Commission and President of the Buffalo Bayou Project and Endangered Species Media Project.

Gavin Dillingham - Dr. Gavin Dillingham joined HARC as a Research Scientist in 2012, and conducts research related to energy policy innovation and diffusion and evaluates of these policies based on program design and implementation. Projects include studies on school district energy management programs, residential utility weatherization programs and city sustainability action planning. Prior to HARC, he worked as the Manager of Energy and Sustainability at Houston ISD and as Sustainability Director for the General Services Department at the City of Houston. Dr. Dillingham received his PhD in Political Science from Rice University in 2008.

Jaime González - Conservation Education Director, Katy Prairie Conservancy. 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 conservation and education. Lastly, he is the point person for grassland restoration efforts on several Katy Prairie preserves and at over a dozen Prairie Builder Schools and Parks locations throughout the Greater Houston area. He earned a Master of Education in Curriculum & Instruction - Science Education (2007) and a B.S. in Biology (1996) both from the University of Houston-Main Campus. Jaime 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' hertiage of living creatures and their environment, the Elizabeth Hull Abernathy Award (2011) from the Garden Club of America for outstanding contribu-

Speaker Biographies, *cont.*

tion to environmental education of youth and the Army & Sarah Emmott Conservation Award (2009) from the Citizens' Environmental Coalition for his prairie conservation efforts.

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 ten major 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 5 and 2. She's lived in Houston since 2004 and spends as much time as possible outside playing.

Jennifer Lorenz - Jennifer Lorenz has been the Executive Director for Bayou Land Conservancy since 2000. She oversees 51 conservation easements protecting more than 11,000 acres of land in the Houston region with willing public and private landowners. She was the author and supervisor of the only In-Lieu Fee wetland mitigation program in the state of Texas, approved through the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Galveston District. This program helped protect wetlands, which protects the water quality flowing into Lake Houston by permanently protecting floodway and floodplains of the Spring Creek and San Jacinto watersheds. Ms. Lorenz is a certified Texas Master Naturalist and a former national Commissioner for the Land Trust Accreditation Commission. She was recently chosen for the national Land Trust Alliance's Excellence Leadership

Speaker Biographies, *cont.*

Program for Executive Directors and was named “Houstonian of the Year” by the Houston Chronicle for 2013 for spearheading the fundraising for the Deer Park Prairie project.

John Bartos - John Bartos is a civil attorney in Houston. He has been a member of the Region H Water Planning Group since its inception in 1997 focusing on environmental flows. He is Chair of the Trinity and San Jacinto and Galveston Bay and Basin Stakeholder Group under SB3. John has had board and leadership positions with a number of CEC member organizations including Houston Canoe Club, Galveston Bay Foundation, BPA and Houston Audubon. He is President-Elect of Houston Audubon. In his spare time John enjoys canoeing, kayaking and birding.

Lance Robinson - Lance Robinson has worked for Texas Parks & Wildlife Division's Coastal Fisheries Division for over twenty years, first as the Galveston Bay Ecosystem Leader and currently as Regional Director, Fisheries Management Branch. During this time he has been involved with fisheries independent and fisheries dependent monitoring programs for oysters and other marine resources and as Principal Investigator on several special projects ranging from evaluating bycatch reduction devices on commercial shrimp vessels, synoptic surveys of non-indigenous aquatic species, to policy development. At present he is responsible for operational management of the four fishery field stations along upper Texas coast - Sabine Lake, Galveston, Matagorda and San Antonio Bays and the commercial oyster lease fishery in Texas. Additionally, Lance oversees the Oyster Habitat Mapping and Restoration Program for TPWD which utilizes state of the art side scan sonar and habitat mapping sonar technology to map submerged bottoms of Texas inshore and offshore waters and coordinating oyster habitat restoration projects in Texas' coastal bays.

Speaker Biographies, *cont.*

Marc Reid - Marc is the Director of Conservation, Projects, & Partner Services at Houston Wilderness. He has a strong passion for nature-based outdoor recreation, natural resource planning, and conservation. As an avid outdoorsman his passion is reflected in his wide range of field experience and educational pursuits ranging from wildlife sanctuaries management with Houston Audubon, conservation enforcement with Texas Parks and Wildlife, park operations with Travis County Parks, outdoor recreation planning with Texas AgriLife Extension Service and watershed planning with the Texas Coastal Watershed Program. Marc holds the following degrees from Texas A&M University: B.S. in Recreation, Park & Tourism Sciences, Master of Natural Resources Development, and Master of Recreation and Resources Development.

Mary Anne Weber - Mary Anne Weber has been teaching about birds for over 20 years. She studied Wildlife Biology and Forestry at Virginia Tech. Before working for Houston Audubon, Mary Anne created and managed Wind Rock Wild Bird Rescue in Montana. She is currently the Education Director for Houston Audubon and manages the Sims Bayou Urban Nature Center. Mary Anne is married and has an 14 year old son.

Meredith Dang - Meredith Dang serves as the Land Use Transportation Coordinator for the Community and Environmental Planning Department with the Houston-Galveston Area Council. Her responsibilities include managing the Sustainable Communities Regional Planning Grant, managing H-GAC's Livable Centers program, and training local governments on land use transportation coordination principles. Ms. Dang received her Masters in Planning from the University of Southern California and BA from Rice University.

Pat Henry - Pat began his career with the Department in 1984 in Central Design/Plan Review as a roadway design engineer. He then moved to the West Harris Area Office where he worked in design

Speaker Biographies, *cont.*

and construction. In 1989 he was selected to be in the first group to participate in the Master's program at Texas A&M University. Other assignments included 2.5 years in District Maintenance and six years supervising design support functions such as pavement design, railroad coordination, mapping, traffic control, design concept conferences, utility coordination, and design exceptions. He spent nearly three years as the Assistant Director of Design for the Houston District. Since 2001 he has been the Director of Project Development for the Houston District. Pat received his Bachelor of Science in Civil Engineering from the University of Houston and his Masters in Civil Engineering from Texas A&M University in 1991. He is a registered Professional Engineer in Texas. He and wife, Judy, are the proud parents of two children and a daughter-in-law, all of whom are Aggies. They have one grandbaby, Maddie. They are longtime residents of Jersey Village.

Randall Lack - Chief Marketing Officer, Element Markets. Randall Lack is a successful entrepreneur within the environmental commodity and alternative energy industries for over a decade. In 2005, he co-founded Element and currently serves as a Chief Marketing Officer. Mr. Lack has extensive experience in structuring environmental commodity transactions including biomethane, emissions, renewable energy credits and greenhouse gases. Mr. Lack is an acclaimed speaker and media resource in the areas of Biomethane, Renewable Energy Credits, Greenhouse Gas Trading, Regional Emission Markets, and pending emissions legislation and currently serves on the Board of the Renewable Natural Gas Coalition. Mr. Lack received his BBA in Business from the University of Houston.

Thomas L. Woltz, CLARB, FASLA, Principal and Owner, Nelson Byrd Woltz Landscape Architects. Thomas Woltz is the owner of Nelson Byrd Woltz Landscape Architects (NBW) with offices in New York City, Charlottesville VA, and San Francisco CA. In 2011, he was invested into the American Society of Landscape Architects Council of Fellows, among the highest honors achieved in the

Speaker Biographies, *cont.*

profession. During the past 18 years of practice, Woltz has forged a body of work that integrates the beauty and function of built form and craftsmanship with an understanding of complex biological systems and restoration ecology that has yielded hundreds of acres of reconstructed wetlands, reforested land, native meadows, and flourishing wildlife habitat. His design work infuses places where people live, work, and play with narratives of the land that inspire stewardship. Many of these projects focus on restoration of damaged ecological infrastructure within working farmland and create models of biodiversity and sustainable agriculture. The work of NBW has been recognized with over 80 national and regional awards and been published widely. The firm has worked in 25 states and 9 countries.

Todd Running - Todd Running, Water Resources Program Manager, has served at the Houston-Galveston Area Council for over 21 years. He is responsible for conducting water quality assessments for one river and three coastal basins in the Houston-Galveston area. He has also developed and directed over two dozen special studies regarding water quality issues. Under his leadership, H GAC's Clean Rivers Program has produced several innovative reports that have taken advantage of advances in computer technology and the web. Mr. Running is also responsible for overseeing the development of TMDL Implementation Plans, Watershed Protection Plans and the annual update of the Regional Water Quality Management Plan at H-GAC. In his tenure at H-GAC, he has been responsible for a variety of water quality tasks and projects which included conducting wasteload estimates and projections for domestic wastewater treatment plants, Quality Assurance for the Clean Rivers Program, managing data collected for the Clean Rivers Program, coordinating the ambient water quality monitoring between local agencies, establishing the Regional Monitoring Workgroup, and training and certifying Texas Stream Team volunteer monitors.

Menu

Catering provided by **Pat Greer's Kitchen.**

Coffee and Tea

Snacks:

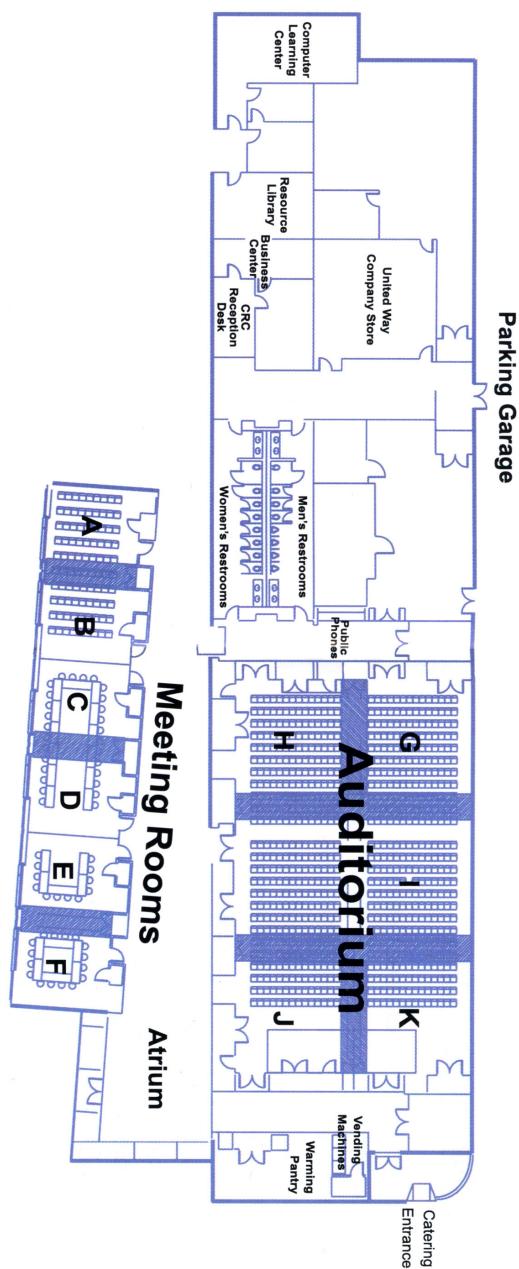
- Apple Kale, Pecan Butter Wraps - GF, Vegan
- Goat Cheese and Sun-dried Tomato Wraps - GF
- Everything Bars from Sinfull Bakery - Vegan
- Coconut Kookies - GF, Vegan
- Black-eyed Pea and Veg Hummus - GF, Veganserved with Cros-
tini and Veggie Chips - Vegan
- Cubed cheddar and jalapeno cheese

Dinner:

- Salad of the Season - arugula, spinach, parsley, sorrel and Or-
ange Herb Dressing - GF, Vegan
- Brussel Sprout, Red Cabbage, Marinated Kale, Raisins, and
Pecan Salad with Dijon Sauce - GF, Vegan
- Rice with Roasted Peppers and Herbs - GF, Vegan
- Pesto, Peas, and Cauliflower Soup, GF, Vegan
- Sourdough Bread from Angela's Oven - Vegan

Dessert: Chocolate and Vanilla Pie with Strawberries - GF, Vegan

Facility Map



Member Organizations

Air Alliance Houston	Cypress Creek Flood Control Coalition
American Institute of Architects: Houston	EarthShare of Texas
American Institute of Chemical Engineers: South Texas Local Section (STS-AICHE)	Endangered Species Media Project
American Lung Association - Plains-Gulf Region	Energy Corridor District Environment Texas
Armand Bayou Nature Center	Environmental Defense Fund
Artist Boat	Environmental Educators' Exchange
Bayou Land Conservancy	Environmental Institute of Houston, EIH UHCL
Bayou Preservation Association, Inc.	Exploration Green Conservancy
Baytown Environmental Education	Friends of Mandell Park
BetterHouston	Galveston Bay Foundation
BikeHouston, Inc.	Galveston Baykeeper
Big Thicket Association	Greener Living in Houston
Blueprint Houston	Greens Bayou Corridor Coalition
Brays Bayou Association	Gulf Coast Bird Observatory
Buffalo Bayou Partnership	Gulf Restoration Network
Center for Houston's Future	HARC (formerly the Houston Advanced Research Center)
The Center for Recycled Art	Harris County WCID 132 Water Conservation & Demonstration Center
Central City Co-Op	Help Endangered Animals - Ridley Turtles (HEART)
The Children's Museum of Houston's EcoStation	Hermann Park Conservancy
Citizens' Environmental Coalition	Houston Arboretum & Nature Center
Citizens' Transportation Coalition (CTC)	Houston Audubon
City of Houston Green Building Resource Center	Houston Canoe Club
Coastal Prairie Partnership	Houston Climate Protection Alliance
Council for Environmental Education	

Member Organizations, *cont*

Houston-Galveston Area Council	The Nature Conservancy
Houston Habitat for Humanity	Nature Discovery Center
Houston History Archives (UH-HHA)	Outdoor Nature Club
Center for Public History	Planned Parenthood Gulf Coast
Houston Parks & Recreation Department	Plastic Pollution Texas
Houston Parks Board	Preservation Houston
Houston Renewable Energy Group (HREG)	The Progressive Forum
Houston Tomorrow	Rice Design Alliance
Houston Urban Gardeners	SCENIC GALVESTON, Inc.
Houston Wilderness	SCENIC HOUSTON
Houston Zoo Wildlife Conservation Program	Sheldon Lake State Park & Environmental Learning Center
Jesse H. Jones Park & Nature Center	Sierra Club Houston
Katy Prairie Conservancy	Regional Group
Keep Houston Beautiful	Student Conservation Association
Keep Kingwood Green	Surfrider Foundation, Texas Upper Coast Chapter
KPFT Radio	Texas Association of Environmental Professionals
League of Women Voters in the Houston Area	Texas Campaign for the Environment
Living Paradigm CDC	Texas Coastal Partners
Living Planet Foundation	Texas Coastal Watershed Program
Lunar Solar Power Group	Texas Master Naturalists Heartwood Chapter
Mayor's Office of Sustainability	Texas Southern University
Memorial Park Conservancy	Barbara Jordan-Mickey Leland School of Public Affairs
Mercer Arboretum & Botanic Gardens	Texas Wildlife Association
Native Plant Society of Texas: Houston Chapter	Transition Houston
Native Prairies Association of Texas	Trees for Houston
	The Trust for Public Land

Member Organizations, *cont*

TWRC Wildlife Center
Urban Harvest
U.S. Green Building Council
Texas Gulf Coast Chapter
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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HydroShack

IREX International Research
Kirksey EcoServices
Lisa Robertson
Mark Juedeman
Sarah Mason
Shawn K. McFarland
Cheryl Mergo
Emily Merrell
Helen O'Connor
Tom Olson
Pat Greer's Kitchen
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Saturday, April 14, 2014

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*"The Houston area's premier celebration
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The **FREE** one-day celebration will focus on the merits of mindful, sustainable living while educating and encouraging Houstonians to do their part to preserve, conserve and enhance our city and the Earth.

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