

# Soundings

A PUBLICATION OF THE COLORADO RIVER FOUNDATION

VOL. 4, NO. 1

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## HYATT LOST PINES HOSTS 2006 AWARDS DINNER



CRF event will preview new Bastrop resort  
and golf course.

CRF is excited to announce that the 5th annual "Kids on the Colorado" Awards Dinner and Golf Tournament will be held at the new Hyatt Lost Pines Resort in Bastrop on May 22 & 23, 2006, before the resort opens its doors to the public on June 1!

Like the popular Hill Country Hyatt in San Antonio, the Hyatt Lost Pines will be a wooded escape with luxurious accommodations and championship golf. The new resort will feature a full service spa and outdoor recreation opportunities such as a fly-fishing camp and river rafting on the Colorado River.

The Colorado River Foundation will be the first organization to host an event at the new resort. The Awards Dinner and Golf Tournament will be one of the first events surrounding the grand opening on June 1.

Artists rendering of future sight of  
Hyatt Lost Pines.

As in years past, the Awards Dinner will honor six individuals and businesses that make a positive impact on the health of the Colorado River. All proceeds from the golf tournament and awards dinner will go towards the programs and services of the Colorado River Foundation.

The golf tournament will be held on Monday, May 22; the Awards Dinner and Auction will be held on Tuesday, May 23rd. Sponsorship opportunities and individual tickets are available; please contact Emily George at 512-458-8844 for more details. Please visit [www.lost-pineshyatt.com](http://www.lost-pineshyatt.com) for more information on this exciting central Texas resort.

**AWARDS DINNER  
CONTINUED**

**We are now accepting nominations for the 2006 Award Winners.** If you know of an individual or business who should be recognized for their dedication to conservation, particularly as it pertains to the Colorado River, let us know! Send your nomination with a brief bio or description of work to [egeorge@colorodriver.org](mailto:egeorge@colorodriver.org). Past winners include:

2001:

- Governor Rick Perry
- The Honorable Pete Laney
- Senator Ken Armbrister
- The Honorable Kirk Watson
- Les Appelt
- The Honorable Mark Rose

2002:

- Commissioner Susan Combs
- Representative Robby Cook
- Tex Robertson
- Elizabeth Welsh
- Haskell Simon
- The Lake LBJ Fish and Habitat Committee

2004:

- Mayor Will Wynn
- Mary Eastberg
- John Graves
- Wyman Meinzer
- Quentin Martin
- John Moore

2005:

- Senator Jeff Wentworth
- Judge Greg Westmoreland, Matagorda County
- The Honorable Kathleen Hartnett White
- CH2M Hill
- Vanishing Texas River Cruise
- Pam Meier

# Lessons Learned

## from 11th Annual Lake Travis Underwater Cleanup

### Leading By Example

Lake Travis can “breathe” a little easier these days, thanks to the efforts of thousands of shoreline, dive and event volunteers at the annual Lake Travis Underwater Cleanup. Roughly 1,200 volunteers gathered 5 tons of trash from the shores and waters of Lake Travis, making it our biggest turnout ever and officially the biggest underwater and shoreline cleanup in Texas.

While the majority of the trash was beer cans and bottles, this year we found a satellite dish, a steering wheel, sports equipment, Arabic money, numerous bathing suits, toys, sunglasses, cell phones, and even an office chair. You name it, it probably is – or has been – at the bottom of the lake.

Some of the most problematic trash includes fishing line, batteries and styrofoam. Fishing line can entangle aquatic organisms and remain in the ecosystem for hundreds of years. Many batteries leak heavy metals - such as cadmium, lead and mercury - into the water or air when the battery casing corrodes. Although styrofoam does break down in to smaller particles, it takes hundreds or thousands of years to biodegrade! In short, all trash takes its toll on water quality and aquatic life.



It is important to keep in mind that Lake Travis, like all other Highland Lakes, is part of a system – the Colorado River system. Everything that is dumped upriver makes its way through Lake Travis and continues southeast to the coast. No matter where we are, our actions have repercussions downstream. It's also important to remember how much we depend on a healthy Colorado River for drinking water, irrigation, electricity, recreation, wildlife habitat – and so much more.

It truly is up to all of us to keep the river clean and healthy, and it doesn't take a large scale cleanup effort – like the Lake Travis Underwater Cleanup – to make a difference.

### HOW CAN YOU HELP?

- Recycle as much of your trash as possible, and put all other litter in garbage cans. Properly dispose of batteries and other household hazardous wastes like paint and solvents, cleaning products, automotive products, and lawn care chemicals.
- Conserve water by placing sprinklers so that the water ONLY goes on the lawn and not the street or sidewalk.
- Water the lawn in the early morning or evening – the coolest parts of the day – to reduce evaporation and increase the amount of water that reaches the plants' roots.
- Use fertilizers and pesticides properly and use organic fertilizers – such as manure, mulch or compost – when you can. Never use fertilizers or pesticides before it's supposed to rain.
- Oil and antifreeze that leaks from our cars will be washed into our water system with the rain. Always check your car for drips and leaks.

## TRIBUTARY LEAGUE MEMBERS AND GUESTS ENJOY INAUGURAL RIVER LEADERS LUNCHEON

The Colorado River Foundation's inaugural River Leaders luncheon, a special speaker series for members and friends of the Tributary League, was not the only event generating a buzz on the morning of September 22. Hurricane Rita was making headlines as she barreled towards the Texas Gulf Coast, threatening to make her way up the mouth of the Colorado River and wreak havoc on numerous coastal counties.

Although Rita understandably detained the guest of honor, Senator Ken Armbrister, in his Victoria, TX home, the hurricane's last minute detour freed LCRA General Manager – and Tributary League member - Joe Beal to fill in for the Senator as the guest speaker. Over lunch at the Four Seasons, Joe delivered a special report to the 75 guests on the following:

- *Senator Armbrister is a friend of the Colorado River:* Through past and present legislative sessions, Senator Armbrister has supported grassroots efforts for water planning and has been integral in elevating awareness on critical issues surrounding our state's water resources.
- *The population of Texas is going to double over the next 35 years:* The State Water Board projects that existing water supply will not be able to meet even half of the anticipated demand caused by population growth.
- *Educating today's youth is crucial:* If we do not teach today's youth about the importance of the Colorado River, we will not have a clean river in the future.
- *Individuals need to take responsibility:* Our state's water

needs are dramatically increasing. Citizens cannot rely on the state alone to take care of the Colorado River or ensure that our area has enough clean water in the future to meet our growing needs.

Joe Beal also expressed his support of the Tributary League and the Colorado River Foundation. The Foundation addresses the growing demand on our water resources

by encouraging education and stewardship of the Colorado River. As a non-profit, CRF depends almost entirely on the Tributary League for crucial operating revenue. Without the Tributary League, the Foundation would be unable to offer our programs and services to the public. For more information about joining the Tributary League, contact Emily George at 512-458-8844 or [egeorge@coloradoriver.org](mailto:egeorge@coloradoriver.org)



**ABOVE:** Tributary League members Peter Pincoffs, Hughes Abell and Pat Oles with guest Chairman Kathleen Hartnett White **BELOW:** Tributary League members Joe Beal and Pete Winstead with guest Curtis Fuelberg

We extend our deepest thanks to the following new and renewing members of the Tributary League as of November 14, 2005:

Betsy & Hughes Abell  
Linda & Don Adams  
Marty & Pam Akins  
Cheryl & David Armbrust  
Allison & Steve Baker  
Raymond & Cory Barker  
Lydia & Tom Barton  
Christine & Bo Baskin  
Nancy & Joseph J. Beal  
Alec & Amanda Beck  
S. Thurman Blackburn, III  
Rick & Melissa Bluntzer  
Donna Brasher

Judy & Terry Bray  
Frank & Janice Brown  
John E. Burke, P.E.  
Mollie & Steve Butler  
Steve & Joan Clark  
Tommy Neal Cowan  
John C. Dickerson, III  
Gary S. Farmer  
Wesley Brockhoeft Ph.D.  
& Renee Favret, Ph.D.  
Karen Friese & Everett Owen  
Mary Nell Frucella  
Connie Granberg & Henry Knox

Jack M. & Judi Johnson  
John & Jill Lay  
Sue & Bob Long  
Mike & Sally Lucksinger  
Mason & Janis Monger  
Woody & Donna McCasland  
Bill & Carlotta McLean  
Janet McQuaid  
Sue & Arthur Milberger  
Steve Mobley  
Peggy & Charles Moser  
George & Patty Murfee  
Lynn & Mary Scott Nabers

Chuck & Elizabeth Nash  
Robert & Melinda Neblett  
Charles Mistretta and Jane Nelson, MD  
Julie & Pat Oles  
Bill & Diana Patterson  
Cheryl & Walt Penn  
Louise & Peter Pincoffs  
Bill & Jane Pollard  
George Prall, P.E.  
Adrian & Debra Pylypec  
Lynda Rife & Wallace Vog  
Carol & Pat Robertson

John & Charlotte Sharp  
Kristin & Matt Sjoberg  
Twila & Milton Tate  
Jim & Earlene Thorne  
Marilyn & Paul D. Thornhill  
Ray & Karen Wilkerson  
Anne & Robert Wilson  
Tomi & Pete Winstead  
A.J. & Deena Zimmerhanzel



### Why Does the Colorado River Need Our Help?

Texas natural resources are facing a great challenge. Texas population is expected to nearly double in the next fifty years, but the Texas Water Board projects that we will not have even HALF of the water needed to meet

the growing municipal demand. We depend on the Colorado River for drinking water, irrigation, industrial production, recreation, wildlife habitat, electrical power, and so much more. And we cannot create more

water if we run short in the next fifty years. It's up to all of us to conserve the resources we have, keep our water clean and healthy, and spread awareness of the issues facing the river. It's our river; it's our future.

## DOES OUTDOOR LEARNING LEAD TO ACADEMIC SUCCESS?

We know from informal surveys that kids enjoy our outdoor learning programs and gain knowledge in the natural sciences, but just how much do field experiences like Kids on the Colorado impact participants after they leave the program? Do field-based experiences help students perform better academically? Can hands-on learning lead to changed attitudes about the environment?

To answer these and other questions, the Foundation has created "River Stewards," a three-year, TEKS-aligned outdoor learning program for middle school students that will supplement lessons learned in the classroom and provide real-world context to science and math concepts.



River Stewards will use water monitoring, bird watching, dissection, dip netting, and other hands-on projects to bring classroom lessons to life. The program will be taught at the new Matagorda Bay Nature Science Center, an LCRA learning facility and nature park opening in the summer of 2006.

CRF will closely evaluate student performance, academic success, and attitudes about the environment over the course of three years

to determine just how beneficial outdoor learning programs are. We look forward to serving the first River Stewards participants – 325 sixth grade students from the Bay City ISD - in the fall of 2006.

Thanks to recent grants from the Braitmayer Foundation of Marion, Massachusetts, the Barnard-Fain Foundation of Aspen, Colorado, and the Rockwell Fund of Houston, we now have over 85% of the required funding for the first year of the program. In addition, we have formed a partnership with Dr. Violetta Lien, a professor in the Department of Curriculum and Instruction at Southwest Texas State University, to act as the primary curriculum writer for the three-year program.

This innovative field-based learning program will go hand-in-hand with statewide TEKS requirements to help Texas youth become better scientists, better students, and better stewards of the state's natural resources.

CRF RECEIVES FUNDING from Three New Foundations for River Stewards. We extend our deepest thanks to the Braitmayer Foundation of Marion, MA, the Barnard-Fain Foundation of Aspen, CO, and the Rockwell Fund of Houston, TX for their recent support of this exciting and innovative project. Their combined gifts total \$40,000 and position the program for its launch in the spring of 2006

## "Junior Anglers on the Colorado" Encourages Outdoor Recreation

Since June of this year, the Colorado River Foundation has been busy with Junior Anglers on the Colorado, a special "Kids on the Colorado" program funded by Texas Parks and Wildlife's Community Outdoor Outreach Program. Junior Anglers on the Colorado takes youth, ages 10-18, on an overnight camping trip to a state park - Colorado Bend State Park, Inks Lake State Park, or Buescher State Park - and introduces them to the lifelong sports of fishing and canoeing, as well as concepts in environmental education and outdoor safety. Programs also include a nature hike and swimming.

The following groups have participated in Junior Anglers on the Colorado since June 2005: Operation Orphans, Neighborhood Longhorns, Big Brothers / Big Sisters, River City Youth Foundation, Austin Sunshine Camps, and Girl Scouts - Lone Star Council. 88% of participants have been minority participants, 87% have been low-income, and 68% have been female. Nearly all (98%) are defined as "at-risk" by their parent organizations and 75% come from inner-cities. The Colorado River Foundation has been successful in targeting minority, at-risk, female and low-income youth through "Junior Anglers on the Colorado" and looks forward to bringing this exciting outdoor experience to more groups in the months to come.



# Calendar of events

## Junior Anglers on the Colorado – Fall 2005 – March 2006

The Colorado River Foundation will wrap up this program series in March 2006. For volunteer opportunities, contact the Foundation at 512-458-8844.

## Kids on the Colorado

Schools and community groups across the state participate in Kids on the Colorado throughout the year. On April 28th, the 5th grade class from the University of Texas Elementary School will come to McKinney Roughs for a day of river rafting and hands-on science learning. For more information, contact the Foundation at 512-458-8844.

## Tributary League reception in Bay City – April 27, 2006

Join us on April 27 for an outdoor cocktail reception at the Matagorda Birding & Nature Center to introduce Matagorda, El Campo, Bay City, Wharton and surrounding cities to the Tributary League and the work of the Colorado River Foundation.

## 5th Annual Kids on the Colorado Awards Dinner & Golf Tournament

What better way to celebrate the 5th anniversary of the Awards Dinner and the 5th anniversary of our signature program, Kids on the Colorado, than a preview party extravaganza at the new Hyatt Lost Pines in Bastrop, the first destination resort in Central Texas opening on June 1. Join us for an exclusive golf tournament on Monday, May 22 and Awards Dinner on Tuesday, May 23rd. Contact Emily George at 512-458-8844 or visit our website for more details.

## River Stewards – Fall 2006

In February of 2006, curriculum writers, Bay City teachers, and program partners will meet in Matagorda to create the first year of the River Stewards outdoor education curriculum. All 325 sixth grade students from the Bay City Independent School District will participate in their first program in the fall of 2006. Stay tuned for details.

## Lake Travis Underwater Cleanup – September 25, 2006

We've set the date for the 12th Annual Lake Travis Underwater Cleanup: Sunday, September 25, 2006. It's never too early to sign up or commit to a sponsorship package! Help us make this year's cleanup the best ever; contact us for more details.

*Keep checking with the Colorado River Foundation for other exciting events and programs in the upcoming year, including a VIP reception at the Hyatt Lost Pines, youth fishing programs at McKinney Roughs Nature Park, and a Tributary League appreciation event at a private ranch in Texas.*

# INVESTING IN THE FUTURE OF THE COLORADO RIVER

As 2005 comes to a close, the Colorado River Foundation would like to extend our deepest thanks to the members of the Tributary League, our corporate and foundation sponsors, and the generous individuals who have supported our work over the past year. Together, we have introduced over 5,000 youth to outdoor recreation and environmental stewardship, removed over 5 tons of trash from the Colorado River system, and spread the message of conservation to thousands of community and business leaders from Central Texas to the Gulf of Mexico. We have brought smiles to the faces of children and adults alike, and taken great steps to protect the Colorado River for future generations. We could not do this without your help; thank you.

We ask you consider the Colorado River Foundation in your year-end giving. Just \$40 will put one child on the Colorado River. Please visit our website at [www.coloradoriver.org](http://www.coloradoriver.org) to make a tax-deductible donation today. With your continued support, we look forward to serving more Texas youth and spreading awareness throughout the entire lower Colorado River basin in the year ahead!



**Colorado River**  
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## STAFF CHANGES AT CRF

Julie Hooper has resigned as Executive Director of the Colorado River Foundation to become the Senior Director of Development and Communications at SafePlace. Julie left an indelible impact on the Colorado River Foundation, and the staff and Board of Directors thank her for her three and a half years of hard work and dedication. We wish her best of luck! Emily George, former Grants and Programs Manager for CRF, has succeeded Julie as Interim Executive Director.