

Texas Stream Team

Houston-Galveston Area Council Chapter

Working to Protect Our Waterways

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Artist Boat Kayak Tours (Photo Courtesy of Artist Boat)

MONITOR SPOTLIGHT: Tim Logan

Tim Logan decided to become an H-GAC Texas Stream Team (TST) volunteer monitor after hearing about the program through Friends of the River "FOR" San Bernard. FOR hosted Texas Stream Team training provided by H-GAC at the FOR Community Center in 2014. Logan wanted to resume analytical testing after retiring professionally from the field. The training session was conveniently nearby, he has a dock on the San Bernard River from which to collect water samples, and he cares about preserving the water quality of the river. "What a great opportunity!" he thought.

Logan has always been drawn to the water, growing up along the Texas and Louisiana Gulf Coast. That connection led to a degree in Marine Sciences from Texas A&M University at Galveston. He said, "Surfing before class generated a relaxed physical fatigue, but an energized mind to focus on marine chemistry, marine geology, and oceanography." After graduating, he worked for an environmental laboratory in Clear Lake learning techniques to perform wet chemistry analysis. That experience was followed by a short migration to Freeport to work in the chemical industry



Tim Logan on the San Bernard River

and be closer to the sea.

His interest and knowledge of analytical techniques grew in that opportunity and led to a professional career as an environmental analytical chemist. His connection to the water also grew with the Brazosport area's bountiful aquatic resources. He now lives on the San Bernard River, blessed with a family who shares time surfing, swimming, skiing, wakeboarding, kayaking, standup paddle boarding, fishing, bird watching, and attempting to be good stewards of the water's gifts.

He monitors from his dock on the San Bernard River, approximately five miles below the FM 2611 bridge and four miles above the Intracoastal Waterway (ICW). The river there is bordered by the Perry Ranch to the north and by the San Bernard Wildlife Refuge to the south. This area is brackish and designated by H-GAC as a tidal site.

Because the site is brackish, he measures salinity with a hydrometer. Salinity is affected by a complex interaction of tides, river flow, rainfall, wind, and the Brazos River flow via the ICW. Because of the effect on salinity, he carefully documents these components when sampling and monitoring. He also finds that water transparency as measured by the SECCHI disk and the water color field observation are affected by these parameters.



Tim Logan monitoring on his dock

As a result of his analytical background and experience, he reminds TST monitors that all recorded parameters are critical to the quality of the measurement. He said, "It is important to be consistent in determining the more subjective field observations, because eventually someone is going to draw trends from the data. It is our challenge to generate accurate and precise, nonbiased results."

Finally, Logan said, "Joining Steam Team as a volunteer is a great way to contribute to the better understanding of our watersheds. Monitoring is particularly rewarding if you have an analytical outlook and enjoy making observations of nature. It is also a great way to meet new friends and fellow stewards of our environment."



Spring Creek

WHAT DOES WATER QUALITY MONITORING MEAN TO YOU?

By Todd Running, H-GAC Water Resources Program Manager

We lead very hectic lives. Information comes at us from all directions, at all times of the day. There is email, voicemail, internet, Twitter, Snapchat, and Facebook, not to mention television and radio. It seems we are tethered to all this technology that can be helpful and make things more efficient.

But, the fact is, we don't get a lot of down time anymore. We are simply always available. As Texas Stream Team volunteers, I hope you take the opportunity during your monthly sampling session to take just a few minutes to sit back and enjoy the reasons you are out there monitoring in the first place.

Take an extra five minutes and just be. Listen to the sounds, enjoy the sights, breathe deeply, and appreciate the natural environment. Most importantly, share that experience with friends and loved ones. Tell them about what you saw, heard, and felt. The more people who have those experiences, the more people who will appreciate and protect our natural areas.

Not everyone will get to experience the scenic vistas of the Grand Canyon or the Rocky Mountains. Many people will never visit a beautiful beach or swim in the ocean. But everyone should be able to spend some time along one of our many bayous, rivers, and streams and enjoy the daily show that nature puts on for us.

[Tell us](#) how monitoring makes you feel in 100 words or less and we'll showcase some of your

SUMMER OF INTERESTING WATER TOURS SCHEDULED

ARTIST BOAT

Artist Boat's Bucket Brigade, in partnership with the Galveston Island Park Board of Trustees, provides free interpretive beach tours to Galveston visitors through the summer. In the spring, tours are offered at 61st Street and Stewart Beach on Saturdays. Starting in June, tours will be offered Wednesday-Sunday at various locations.

Artist Boat also offers guided kayak adventures to several locations of natural significance around Galveston Bay. All adventures include tandem kayak, personal flotation device, paddle, and guided instruction.

For information on times and locations, visit www.artistboat.org or call 409-770-0722.

BUFFALO BAYOU PARTNERSHIP

Buffalo Bayou Partnership offers pedestrian, boating and biking amenities; volunteer activities; permanent and temporary art installations; and wide-ranging tours and events that attract thousands.

Learn more about each of these opportunities to explore the downtown waters of Houston at www.BuffaloBayou.org.

May 6; June 10	Port to Port Boat Tours
May 13	"Looking Back" History Boat Tour
May, 13, 27; June 10, 24; July 8, 22	Waugh Bat Colony Boat Tours
May 18; June 15; July 20	Blanket Bingo at Market Square Park
May 20; June 17; July 15	Volunteer Workdays
May 20; June 17; July 15	Walking Tours
May 20	Second Saturday Boat Rides
June 17; July 15	Twilight Boat Tours

NOW AVAILABLE AS AN APP

The Galveston Bay Foundation (GBF) announces the launch of the Galveston Bay Action Network (GBAN) as a downloadable mobile application for iPhones and Android devices.

This app is free and can be downloaded from the iTunes App Store and Google Play. The GBAN app allows anyone to report land or water pollution within minutes. Reports are automatically sent to the proper authority, resulting in the quickest response to get the pollution cleaned up. Reports can also be filed on a desktop device at www.galvbay.org/GBAN.

Why should you download the Galveston Bay Action Network?

Pollution such as oil and chemical spills, trash, dumping of waste, and illegal discharge of boat sewage have the potential to harm our environment and threaten the health of people, plants, and animals. Waterways that are abnormally colored or have an unusual odor, submerged vessels, and bird or fish kills should also be reported.

We must act now to ensure this resource remains healthy for us and our kids to enjoy. By



Graphic: Courtesy of Galveston Bay Foundation

reporting pollution in the Houston-Galveston region, you can help protect both your loved ones and the Bay.

For questions or more information, contact [Sarah Gossett](#) or 281-332-3381 ext. 217.



Trash Bash 2017: Lake Houston

TRASH BASH RESULTS

Despite overnight rains that dampened attendance, the 2017 River, Lakes, Bays 'N Bayous Trash Bash® was a great success.

3,242 volunteers at 14 locations across the Galveston Bay watershed collected 52 tons of trash, 1.5 tons of recyclable materials, and 574 illegally dumped tires.

More than half the volunteers were under 18, and 843 were involved in scouting. In 24 years, 105,800 Trash Bash volunteers have collected 2,189 tons of trash, 16 tons of recycling, and 10,709 tires.

The next Trash Bash is set for Saturday, March 24, 2018. Save the date to celebrate 25 years of great work! Learn how to volunteer or become a sponsor at www.TrashBash.org.

GET MORE INVOLVED Partner Organizations

[Adopt-a-Beach](#)

[Artist Boat](#)

[Bayou Preservation Association](#)

[Buffalo Bayou Partnership](#)

[Cypress Creek Flood Control Coalition](#)

[Friends of the River San Bernard](#)

[Galveston Bay Estuary Program](#)

[Galveston Bay Foundation](#)

[H-GAC Clean Waters Initiative](#)

[Japhet Creek](#)

[Keep Texas Beautiful](#)

[Take Care of Texas](#)



Galveston Bay Plan Revision Workshop #2

YOUTUBE TEXAS STREAM TEAM TRAINING REVIEW VIDEOS

Don't forget you can always do a quick review of testing procedures with the Texas Stream Team YouTube video series.

Videos include Dissolved Oxygen Fixation, Titrating the Fixed Dissolved Oxygen Sample, Field Observations, Measuring pH, Calibrating Conductivity Meters, and Measuring Conductivity.



Fixing a DO Sample

NEWS FROM SAN MARCOS

ID CARDS

Texas Stream Team identification cards are available for volunteer monitors. If you would like an ID card, please request it via email. Once the request is logged, your monitor ID number will be

checked against the state TST database, address verified, and ID card sent directly through the mail. Contact TxStreamTeam@txstate.edu for more information.

NEWSLETTER

Texas Stream Team has a statewide newsletter - *Headwaters*. Be the first to know about the latest news, services, and volunteer opportunities happening with Texas Stream Team. See past issues and sign up for [email delivery](#).

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

What's Going on in the Galveston Bay Watershed?



Twilight Tour of Buffalo Bayou (Photo courtesy of Buffalo Bayou Partnership)

- May 10** Galveston Bay Foundation's **Water Wise Bay Cities Challenge** will close at 12 p.m. The challenge is a friendly water conservation campaign open to 20 cities in the area and their residents. Bay-area city residents can enter the challenge for a chance to win a prize by "taking the pledge" on behalf of their cities and selecting a pledge level based on the amount of water desired to be conserved each day. Winning cities and residents will be announced at GBF's Bay Day event on May 13 in Kemah. [Learn more and take the pledge online](#).
- May 13** [Bay Day](#) is a one-day celebration presented by the Galveston Bay Foundation and numerous community partners. **Bay Day Festival** highlights include bay-themed arts and crafts, live animal demonstrations and touch tanks, a scavenger hunt, science and marine exhibits, live music, and more. It's open from 11 a.m.-4 p.m. on the Keman boardwalk.
- May 13** Attend a free educational **water conservation seminar**, "Smarter About Water," from 8 a.m.-3 p.m. at The Woodlands Emergency Training Center. [Learn more and register online](#). Local and regional water specialists will share water use data, projections for future growth, ways to save water now, and native plant landscaping options.
- May 13**
May 27 Volunteers are needed two Saturdays from 9 a.m.-noon for a **Wetlands Planting** on the shores of the new lake at ExplorationGreen! Enter the park at the bridge (1800 Reseda, Houston 77062). Wear clothes and shoes that can get wet and muddy. Children over 12 are welcome with their family. Tools are provided. For more information, contact mcedwards@tamu.edu.
- June 8** Artist Boat is hosting the **World Oceans Day Festival** from 4-7 p.m. at Stewart Beach in Galveston. Celebrate the ocean on its doorstep with interactive activities, live music, and marine debris art to help ocean lovers of all ages learn about the marine world and how we connect to it. For more information about the [festival or art contest](#), or contact Kendall Guidroz at kguidroz@artistboat.org.
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Email Becki.Begley@h-gac.com or call 713-993-2410 with questions, comments, calendar items, or suggestions for future H-GAC Texas Stream Team newsletters.

Join the H-GAC Texas Stream Team Newsletter [mailing list](#).

H-GAC is the regional organization through which local governments consider issues and cooperate in solving area wide problems. We invite you to subscribe to the [Community and Environmental Update](#), a monthly e-newsletter to keep you informed about the many community planning, economic development, and environmental planning programs going on at H-GAC.

[Texas Stream Team at The Meadows Center for Water and the Environment](#) at Texas State University is dedicated to understanding and protecting the 191,000 miles of Texas waterways. For more information, contact TxStreamTeam@txstate.edu.

Houston-Galveston Area Council | Stream.Team@h-gac.com | www.H-GAC.com