

# Texas Stream Team

Houston-Galveston Area Chapter

Working to Protect Our Waterways

Volume 2019, Issue 3: August 2019

## Monitor's Corner

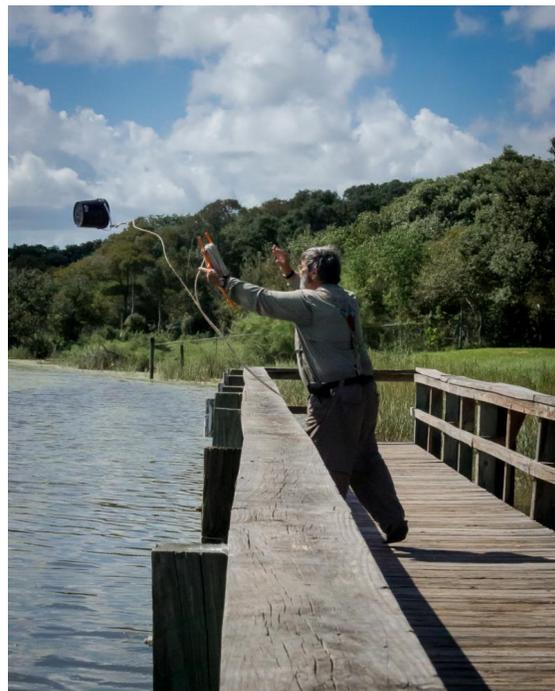
### Skills Check: Bucket Grab

With the lower water levels typical in the summer it is a good time to review the guidelines for Sample Depth. **Typically all water samples should be collected at 0.3m (~1ft) from the surface**, but if a water body is less than 0.46m (1.5ft) samples should be collected **1/3 of the way from the surface** of the water. These guidelines follow professional monitoring standards.

You also want to make sure with shallower streams that you are not disturbing or collecting the substrate in your sample.

[Texas Stream Team Instruction Manual](#), see page 22 to review Sample Collections.

[YouTube Review](#)



### Safety Briefing: Beat the Heat

As we reach August, typically the hottest month of the year in the Houston area, it is important to make sure you are prepared to deal with the heat no matter the time of day you sample. Some tips for beating the heat as you sample:

- Bring and drink plenty of water, not

- just when you feel thirsty
- Wear loose, light-colored clothing, preferably made from light-weight material
- Wear a hat and sunscreen
- Bring a cool-tie or wet bandanna
- Sample with a buddy so someone is there if the heat starts to affect you
- Remember you can "fix" your sample and find somewhere cooler to finish if needed



## Technical Territory: Low DO and Fish Kills

Fish are no different from us when it comes to the necessity of oxygen to their survival. When the dissolved oxygen content of the water drops below a certain level it can result in stress or even death for stream inhabitants.

As temperatures rise and we see a pattern of lower dissolved oxygen at many of our monitoring sites, it is helpful to be able to recognize some of the signs associated with a fish kill due to oxygen depletion.

According to [Meyer and Barclay \(1990\)](#), in the event of a fish kill from oxygen depletion:

- Fish are often seen gasping and swimming at the surface.
- Larger fish will tend to die before smaller fish of the same species, which is opposite what is expected from kills caused by toxic substances.
- Fish deaths often start slowly but increase in rate over 5 to 7 days, rather than occurring as a sudden widespread kill event.



If you ever notice a fish kill event you should contact the [Texas Parks and Wildlife Department's Kills and Spills Team](#) by calling (512) 389-4848 as soon as possible and noting as much relevant detail as possible, including:

- Location, date and time
- Water color, clarity and odor
- Number and size of species affected
- Recent weather
- Condition and behavior of animals

## Monitor Spotlight: Jason Naivar

Jason Naivar is the Education Program Coordinator and Naturalist at Jesse H. Jones Park and Nature Center, and has been monitoring at a site on Cypress Creek near the park since March 2019.

Although new to the Texas Stream Team, Jason has 10 years of water chemistry and monitoring experience and a professional background in several different fields and positions all related to water in some way.

When asked why he decided to join the Texas Stream Team, he said, "I love being



As with many Stream Team monitors, Jason has found a few special challenges

around and in the water so the future of water is always at the front of my mind. Whether it is my family or students in my aquatics programs, I want them to enjoy clean water and activities without the worry of getting sick."

Jason says that, "Whether it was in college or my career, I have always done my best science in the field. Being a Stream Team monitor allows me to do the water science I love and enjoy nature at the same time."

presented by his site. "On my last water testing day the high water conditions caused a thick layer of sediment to be deposited on the steep concrete embankment beneath the bridge...Upon closer examination and experimentation...I determined that wet Cypress Creek mud is about as slippery as axle grease. So I decided to use my backup plan and sample from the 30 ft bridge. I will take fatigued arms over a slip and fall any day!"

## Monitor Resources



### View Your Data On The WRIM

The Water Resources Information Map (WRIM) displays H-GAC's Clean Rivers Program and Texas Stream Team water quality data. An advanced tab allows for improved search functionality by specific site. Texas Stream Team data is updated on the 15th of each month. Please check out your site and email [stream.team@h-gac.com](mailto:stream.team@h-gac.com) if you find any issues.

[Visit the WRIM](#)



### Report Pollution with GBAN

The Galveston Bay Action Network (GBAN) makes it easy to report pollution using a laptop, desktop, or mobile device. Download the mobile app or visit the Galveston Bay Foundation website.

[Visit GBAN online](#)

### TWPD Kills & Spills

Texas Parks and Wildlife Department's Kills and Spill Team (KAST) investigates fish and wildlife kills resulting from pollution and natural events. To report a Kill or Spill call (512) 389-4848.

[Learn More](#)

### Meadows Center Publications

The Meadows Center for Water and the Environment puts out several newsletter publications that might be of interest to Texas Stream Team volunteers.

[Learn More](#)

### State-Wide Texas Stream Team DataMap

The Meadows Center for Water and the Environment is working on a new map to display water quality data collected since the start of the program in 1991.

[View DataMap](#)

### Texas Stream Team Community Forum

The Meadows Center is working to create a new Community Forum for Texas Stream Team monitors. The forum is a source of program news from across the state.

[Visit the Forum](#)

# Upcoming Events



## Texas Stream Team Trainings

- Saturday, September 14 from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. at Brazosport College in Lake Jackson.

[Learn More](#)

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## Clean Waters Initiative (CWI) Field Trip Thursday, August 8, 10 a.m. to noon

The next Clean Waters Initiative will be a field trip where [Save Water Texas Coalition](#) will present their programs. The field trip will be at North Harris County Regional Water Authority, 3648 Cypress Creek Parkway, Houston.

The CWI program offers workshops that help local governments, landowners, and residents develop effective strategies to reduce pollution in local waterways.

[Registration](#) is requested. Contact [Brian Sims](#) at 713-993-2438.

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## Kayak Instructor Development Workshop August 15-18

Artist Boat is hosting an ACA Level 2 Kayak Instructor Development Workshop in Galveston. If you lead groups in protected near shore areas this workshop is for you!

Call (409)770-0722 or [email for information](#)

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## Solid Waste Workshop Series: Food Donation Thursday, August 22, 8:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

H-GAC's [Solid Waste Workshop Series](#) continues with a look at how to begin using food donations in communities to reduce waste and feed people in need.

[RSVP requested.](#) Contact [Erin Livingston](#) at 832-681-2525 for more information.

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## Parks and Natural Areas Roundtable Monday, September 9, 1:30 to 3:30 p.m.

The [Parks and Natural Areas](#) group meets in a roundtable format, does not consist of a formal board, and is open to anyone interested.

[RSVP](#) is requested. Contact [Andrea Tantillo](#) at 832-681-2507.

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## The Art of Saving Sea Turtles

**Sunday, September 29, 6:00 p.m.**

Turtle Island Restoration Network invites you to an evening benefit celebrating local sea turtle conservation and community art at the Bryan Museum in Galveston.

[Purchase tickets and get more information.](#)

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**National Prescription Take Back Day**  
**Saturday, October 26, 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.**

The Drug Enforcement Administration's [National Prescription Take Back Day](#) provides a safe, convenient, and responsible means of disposing of prescription drugs. Law enforcement agencies interested in hosting a collection site should call the area [point of contact](#).

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**Bayou Preservation Association Annual Symposium**  
**Wednesday, October 30, 7:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.**

Save the Date for the Bayou Preservation Association's 16th annual Symposium. This year's topic is "The Dirt on Watersheds: The Quest for Healthy Soils", and will address the impact of healthy soil on the well being of our watersheds.

[More information](#)

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**Float the Boat Annual Fundraiser**  
**Saturday, November 16**

Save the Date and join Artist Boat at the Trolley Station in Galveston to help Save the Wild Places with a gourmet dinner, live music, live and silent auction, and more.

[More Information](#)

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**Rain Barrel Workshops**  
**Various dates and locations**

Galveston Bay Foundation's Rain Barrel Program works to conserve water and reduce storm water runoff, pollution, and bacteria entering Galveston Bay. Workshops are interactive, provide information about rain barrel use and maintenance, and include a rain barrel kit. Workshops are held at various times and locations throughout the year.

[Find workshops and get more information.](#)

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**Volunteer at the Coastal Heritage Preserve**  
**Various dates**

Artist Boat holds Open Work Days at the Coastal Heritage Preserve on the 1st and 3rd Thursdays of the month. RSVP to Greg Hall at [habitat@artistboat.org](mailto:habitat@artistboat.org).

[More Information](#)

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**Get More Involved With Partners**

[Adopt-a-Beach](#)

[Artist Boat](#)  
[Bayou Land Conservancy](#)  
[Bayou Preservation Association](#)  
[Buffalo Bayou Partnership](#)  
[Cypress Creek Flood Control Coalition](#)  
[Exploration Green Conservancy](#)  
[Friends of the River San Bernard](#)  
[Galveston Bay Estuary Program](#)  
[Galveston Bay Foundation](#)  
[H-GAC Clean Waters Initiative](#)  
[Keep American Beautiful](#)  
[Keep Texas Beautiful](#)  
[Take Care of Texas](#)  
[Turtle Island Restoration Network](#)



## News From The Region

### Clean Rivers Program

#### ***2019 Basin Highlights Report Now Available***

Each year the Clean Rivers Program produces a report outlining the state of water quality in the region that is submitted to the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality. The [Basin Highlights Reports](#) include the status and trends of water quality, as well as a brief overview of the previous year's activities. The [2019 Basin Highlights Report is available in an interactive online format](#) and as a [plain-text PDF](#).



Contact Todd Running at 713-993-4549 for more information about the [Clean Rivers Program](#).

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### Coastal Communities Outreach

The next Coastal Communities Work Group Meeting will be held in combination with the Clean Waters Initiative Field Trip on Thursday, August 8, from 10 a.m. to noon at the North Harris County Regional Water Authority, 3648 Cypress Creek Parkway, Houston, TX 77068.

Join H-GAC and the [Save Water Texas Coalition](#) for a Field Trip to learn more about the coalition's programs and tour its brand new Water Quality Mobile Teaching Lab. [Registration](#) is requested.

For more information, contact [Becki Begley](#) at 713-993-2410 or visit the [Coastal Communities website](#).



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### On-Site Sewage System Projects and Funding

H-GAC's [Wastewater Assistance Program](#) offers funding for the repair or replacement of

conventional septic or aerobic wastewater systems in the 13-county H-GAC planning region. Homeowners who meet certain income restrictions are eligible.

For more information and qualifications, contact [Brian Sims](#) at 713-993-2438 or [learn more about maintaining these systems online](#).

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## Total Maximum Daily Load Projects

Save the Date for the Fall meeting for the [Bacteria Implementation Group \(BIG\)](#) on Tuesday, October 29th at H-GAC.

Contact [Steven Johnston](#) at 832-681-2579 for information about [TMDL projects](#).

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## Watershed Protection Plans

### **Cypress Creek**

The [Cypress Creek Watershed Protection Plan](#) process is underway, with the first public meetings held July 23 in Cypress and Spring. The project will focus on voluntary ways to improve water quality in the Cypress Creek watershed with a focus on reducing bacteria levels, improving dissolved oxygen, and addressing other stakeholder concerns.

Cypress Creek is a primary tributary of Lake Houston, which serves as a popular recreation destination and drinking water source for many communities in Houston.

Contact [Justin Bower](#) at 713-499-6653 for more information about [watershed protection plans](#).

## Partner News

### **Texas Environmental Excellence Award Winner for 2019**

[The Meadows Center for Water and the Environment](#) at Texas State University, the state-wide coordinator for the Texas Stream Team, was chosen as a winner in the [Civic/Community category of the TEEA awards](#).

[Watch the Meadow Center's 2019 TEEA video](#).

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### **Sugarland Call for Volunteer Water Quality Monitors**

H-GAC is partnering with the City of Sugar Land to expand the regional network of Texas Stream Team Volunteer Water Quality Monitors.

Are you interested in helping the environment, spending time outdoors, and giving back to the community? If so, the City of Sugar Land and Keep Sugar Land Beautiful (KSLB) are seeking volunteers to join their [local Texas Stream Team program](#). Volunteers work to gather water



**Texas StreamTeam**  
*Caring for Our Waters*

quality information for local creeks and streams in the Sugar Land area. Volunteer training and monitoring supplies are provided at no cost.

For more information contact [KSLB Executive Director Vicki Gist](#) or the [City of Sugar Land Stormwater Division](#).

**VOLUNTEERS NEEDED**  
for **TEXAS STREAM TEAM**  
in **SUGAR LAND**



Trained volunteers working to gather information about the natural resources of Texas.

**HOW** Free training provided

**GOALS** Monitor local creeks and streams

**CONTACT** e-mail: [vickigist@kslb.org](mailto:vickigist@kslb.org)  
<https://kslb.org/events/sltx-streamteam-keep-sugar-land-beautiful/>

## Save the Date: Trash Bash 2020

Join us for the 27th annual River, Lakes, Bays 'N Bayous Trash Bash on Saturday, **March 28, 2020!** The theme for this year is "**Bring 20 Friends, Fill 20 Bags**", so get your groups together and help us clean our area waterways during the largest single-day waterway cleanup in Texas.

[More Information](#)



## About the Newsletter

Email [stream.team@h-gac.com](mailto:stream.team@h-gac.com) or call 713-993-2469 with questions, comments, calendar items, or suggestions for future H-GAC Texas Stream Team newsletters.

[Join the H-GAC Texas Stream Team 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 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](mailto:TxStreamTeam@txstate.edu).

Houston-Galveston Area Council

[Stream.Team@h-gac.com](mailto:Stream.Team@h-gac.com)

[www.H-GAC.com](http://www.H-GAC.com)