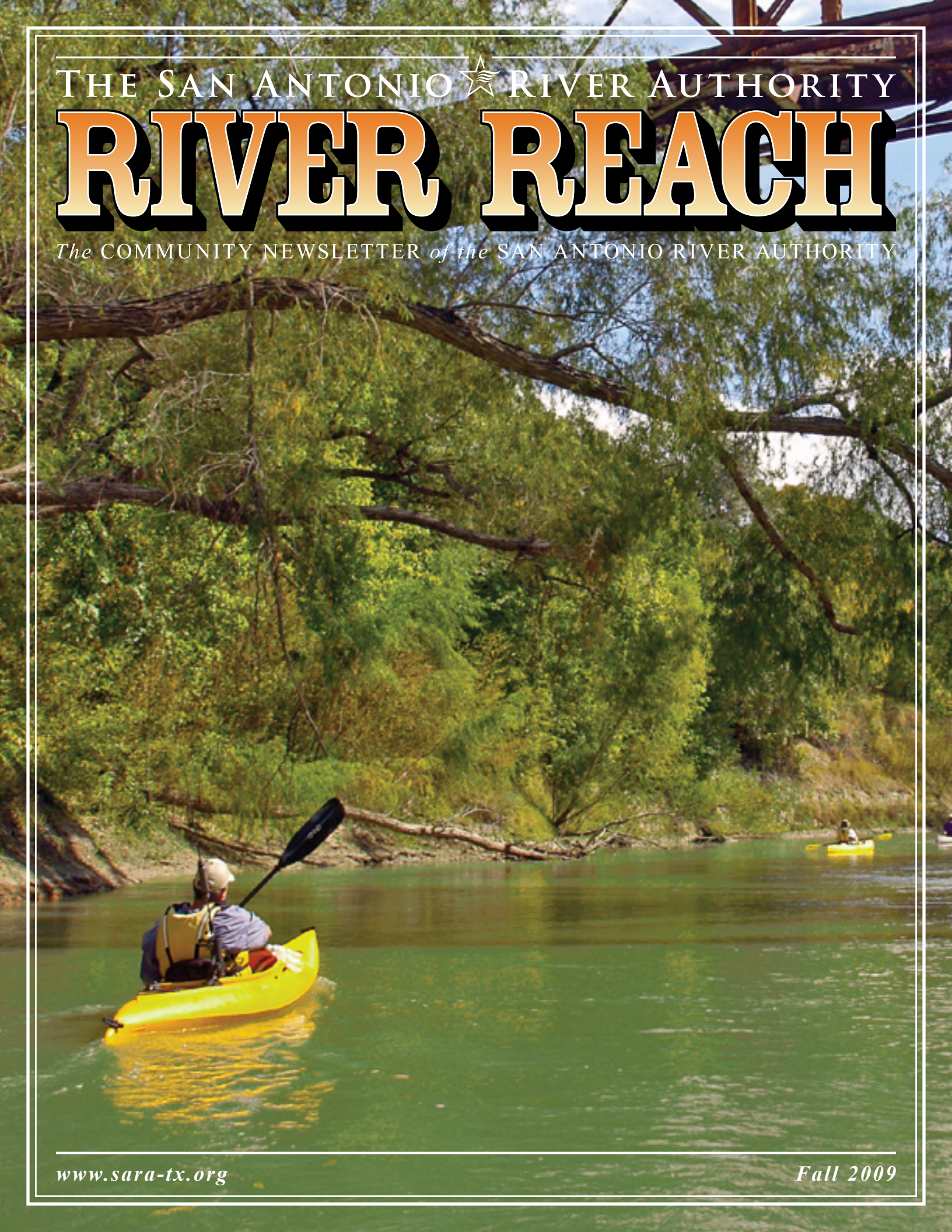


THE SAN ANTONIO  RIVER AUTHORITY

# RIVER REACH

*The* COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER *of the* SAN ANTONIO RIVER AUTHORITY



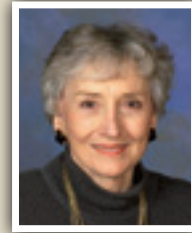


## READER PHOTO

Your photo could be featured on the cover or in this section of SARA's *River Reach* newsletter. For more information about submitting photos, please visit [www.sara-tx.org/photos](http://www.sara-tx.org/photos).

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*Steven Schauer, Manager of External Communications*

*Gloria Rodriguez  
Editor-In-Chief*

*Luke Habenicht  
Assistant Editor*

*Clint Marzec  
Graphic Designer*

San Antonio River Authority  
Phone: (210) 227-1373  
Toll Free: (866) 345-7272  
Fax: (210) 302-3281  
Email: [sara@sara-tx.org](mailto:sara@sara-tx.org)  
[www.sara-tx.org](http://www.sara-tx.org)

## SARA'S GOALS

**1**  
Exemplify Environmental Leadership,  
Stewardship & Expertise

**2**  
Enhance Community Appreciation for the  
Environmental Resources of the San Antonio River  
and its Tributaries

**3**  
Deliver Valued Public Service

**4**  
Advance a Sustainable Environment

**5**  
Develop Successful Employees



# SARA'S GOALS - MEASURING UP

**By Karen Bishop**

How does an agency know if it is doing a good job for the citizens in its jurisdiction? How do agencies know their strengths and weaknesses as service providers, or how to do a great job, not just a good one, for their citizens?

San Antonio River Authority (SARA) management recently asked these and other tough questions, and the answers led to the creation of five agency-wide goals which are printed on the inside cover of the *River Reach*. Each department then developed department-specific performance measures related to these goals.

At first glance, this process seems standard enough. But look again at the goals. Three relate to the environment, one focuses on public service and one measures employee development. Each department within the agency is focused and accountable to the same goals.

As a result, the Finance Department—a numbers department—has charged itself with utilizing its functions to support the agency goal of exemplifying environmental leadership, stewardship and expertise while ensuring that SARA is a fiscally responsible steward.

SARA's Real Estate staff, who work with appraisals, plats and land-use contracts, have challenged themselves to apply their knowledge and expertise toward the enhancement of community appreciation for the basin's environmental resources.

SARA's IT department measures its success providing valued public service; Utilities staff ensure they advance a sustainable environment while performing their water and wastewater services; and Intergovernmental and Community Relations staff measure their progress linking SARA's outreach initiatives to the development of successful SARA employees.

In the year since the goals were created, SARA has learned that, regardless of its diverse departmental functions, the five agency goals keep everyone on mission.

So, what is SARA's mission? To protect and preserve our shared water resources and, together with our partners, pursue innovative solutions that will serve generations to come.

Future *River Reach* issues will continue coverage of SARA's goals and how the agency is measuring up. ★

# EMPLOYEE HIGHLIGHT

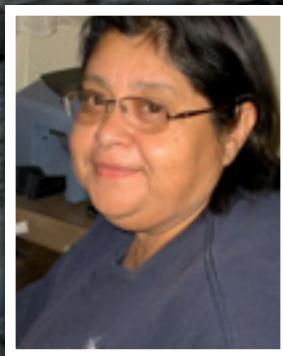
**By Kim Garcia**

It is with great pleasure that we introduce Glenda Gaona, Visitor Service Supervisor with the San Antonio River Authority (SARA) Parks Department at Braunig Lake outdoor recreational area.

Glenda has been in SARA's Parks Department for 8 years. She began as a part-time cashier while maintaining a full-time position at another company, where she worked for 25 years. She quickly decided to become a full-time SARA employee after only one month.

"I knew that this was a good fit for me; I love the outdoors and interacting with people," Glenda said. Glenda describes herself as "shy" but she is quick to say that her job really lets her come out of her shell. Glenda's supervisor, Gary Heimer, is quick to agree. When asked how he would describe Glenda, he said, "She is very customer-oriented. She loves to interact with our park visitors and make sure they

are enjoying themselves, and she has trained her staff to be that way as well."



Glenda has been in her current position for 5 years. Her duties at park headquarters include ordering and tracking store merchandise inventory, overseeing sales, scheduling park employees and making sure visitors enjoy the park. Glenda is always willing to volunteer to represent her department and serves as the United Way representative and Rewards & Recognition Program representative for the Parks Department.

Glenda has lived in the Braunig/Calaveras area all of her life. She grew up in Elmendorf, Texas and graduated from East Central High School. She has a daughter in college who is interested in politics and a grandson with whom she spends her free time. When she isn't playing outside with her grandson, she enjoys reading, crocheting and making jewelry.

Thank you Glenda for all you do for SARA! ★

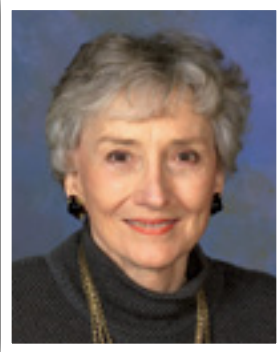


# PADDLING THE SAN ANTONIO RIVER

**By Adair Sutherland**  
**SARA Board Member, Goliad County**

Saturday, November 7th will mark the 7th Annual Fall River Flotilla on the San Antonio River in Goliad, Texas. It's come one, come all! We hope to have around 150 participants. Aided by great local volunteers, we'll start putting in at 9:00 a.m. under the Highway 59 bridge and go for 6.6 miles, taking out at the Goliad State Park, where paddlers will be helped out and welcomed to a picnic lunch courtesy of the San Antonio River Authority (SARA). For more event information see the advertisement on page 5.

SARA has been a key sponsor and partner of Canoe Trail Goliad and is now hosting the two annual flotillas. We helped in the early organization, bringing together outside advisors including The National Park Service, Texas Department of Transportation, Texas Parks and Wildlife and others. Karen Bishop, an assistant to SARA's general manager, sits on the Canoe Trail Goliad Board as SARA's representative. The Annual Fall River Flotilla is a good example of how SARA reaches



... out into the counties it serves to bring new recreational opportunities.  
... What makes this flotilla so special are the volunteers (including SARA staff) and the diversity of the folks who come from all over the state. This year we have a dividend: Market Days on the downtown Square with over 200 vendors. No one should go home empty-handed!  
... Past participants have been intrigued by the Goliad flotilla because it is so different from others; the river flows deep below its banks so you are surrounded by quietness and solitude and truly captured by the beauty of undisturbed nature. Paddlers are delighted by the wildlife they have seen, from colorful kingfishers to wild hogs to even the occasional alligator.  
... For those who prefer their sight-seeing from shore, the Mission Espiritu Santo and the Presidio La Bahia are "musts," in addition to Goliad's historic square with its 1892 restored courthouse. So, please come and join us for the 7th Annual Fall River Flotilla; there is something for the entire family, paddlers and non-paddlers alike. ★

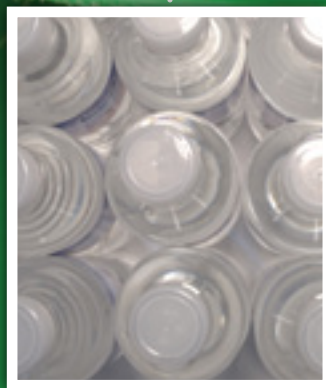
## GREEN LIVING - RECYCLING 101

*What do those numbers mean again?*

**By Katherine Peché**

These days, many different materials can be recycled, including paper, plastic, glass, aluminum and other metals. More and more cities and communities are developing recycling facilities and programs for their residents as we continue to learn about the harmful effects of our fast paced, throw-away lifestyles.

So how exactly is this tied to our rivers and creeks? When we visit our creeks and other waterways, we often see recyclable materials floating at the surface, scattered along the banks or accumulating at various points, causing obstructions in the creek and increasing the risk of flooding. Not only does this debris look unsightly, it can negatively affect the habitat the creek provides for native wildlife. Ensuring that these items are recycled keeps them out of our waterways and out of landfills, and also helps reduce the amount of raw materials used to create new products.



... On recyclable plastic materials, there is typically a number printed or embossed inside a recycling symbol. These numbers represent the types of resin that are used to make the plastic. Each resin is different, and will determine how and where these plastics can be recycled.  
... Earth911 has created a great website where you can learn more about the different types of plastics and where you can take these and other types of recyclable materials.  
... [www.earth911.com/plastic/plastic-101](http://www.earth911.com/plastic/plastic-101)  
... You can also contact your local government to find out about recycling programs in your area.  
... By taking steps to include recycling in your daily routine, you can help reduce the amount of waste materials going into landfills, keep our creeks clean, conserve our natural resources and, ultimately, make a difference. ★



You're invited to join  
**CANOE TRAIL GOLIAD**

at the

**7TH ANNUAL  
FALL RIVER FLOTILLA**

~ on the ~

**GOLIAD PADDLING TRAIL**

Saturday, November 7, 2009

HOSTED BY THE SAN ANTONIO RIVER AUTHORITY



SAN ANTONIO  
RIVER AUTHORITY

Water Brings Us Together

[www.riverrec.org](http://www.riverrec.org)

- Put-in from 9AM – 11AM at HWY 59 bridge, west of downtown Goliad
- Free parking provided at Goliad State Park and shuttle service back to the put-in
- Free lunch for all registered paddlers at Goliad State Park through 2:30 PM
- Paddlers must supply their own craft and safety equipment
- Registration is required by noon on Wednesday, November 4th:
  - [kccanoe@aol.com](mailto:kccanoe@aol.com)
  - (830) 780-3249
- Please visit [www.canoetrailgoliad.com](http://www.canoetrailgoliad.com) or call Wilfred Korth at (361) 575-6366 for more information
- The flotilla is subject to weather-related cancellation through 8AM on event day  
Call the Goliad State Park at (361) 645-3405



# THE STREAM TEAM GEARS UP

## Multidisciplinary Group Focuses on Concepts for Stream Restoration

**By Jim Boenig**

The San Antonio River Authority (SARA) Stream Restoration Program is a new initiative intended to protect and restore impacted streams and riparian areas using a balanced design approach.

Traditional stream design focuses on flood loss reduction in localized areas with little regard for impacts to the riparian ecosystem. Traditional designs often produce a network of unstable streams lacking adequate flood storage, important riparian habitats and adequate filtering of storm water runoff.

The balanced design approach, on the other hand, includes considerations for erosion control, sediment balance, water quality, aquatic and riparian habitat, floodwater storage, flood protection and recreation.

This philosophy requires a multidisciplinary approach to stream restoration.

The SARA Stream Team is made of twelve members from six SARA departments including Engineering, Watershed Operations, Watershed Management, Environmental Sciences, Intergovernmental and Community Relations and Water Resources and Community Development.

SARA has selected two consultants with premier national credentials in this field to serve as program advisors and pilot project designers. Michael Baker, Jr., Inc. will serve as our lead consultant with Stantec Engineering, Inc. available for support.

The consultants were selected for their technical expertise and their experience in training others and providing program development support.

: The application of natural channel design techniques is a relatively new science initiated approximately 10 years ago in the mid-Atlantic, southeast and northwest regions of the United States. There are now hundreds of successful applications in these regions, but this methodology has not yet been applied in Texas.



The goal of these methods is to produce streams that are in balance with their impacted watersheds, thereby reducing long-term maintenance requirements while producing many watershed benefits such as improved overall water quality and reduced downstream flooding.

Although there are risks associated with an evolving science, SARA desires to be a regional leader in advancing this program for two primary reasons:

(1) to create designs that “re-balance” impacted streams for long-term sustainability and

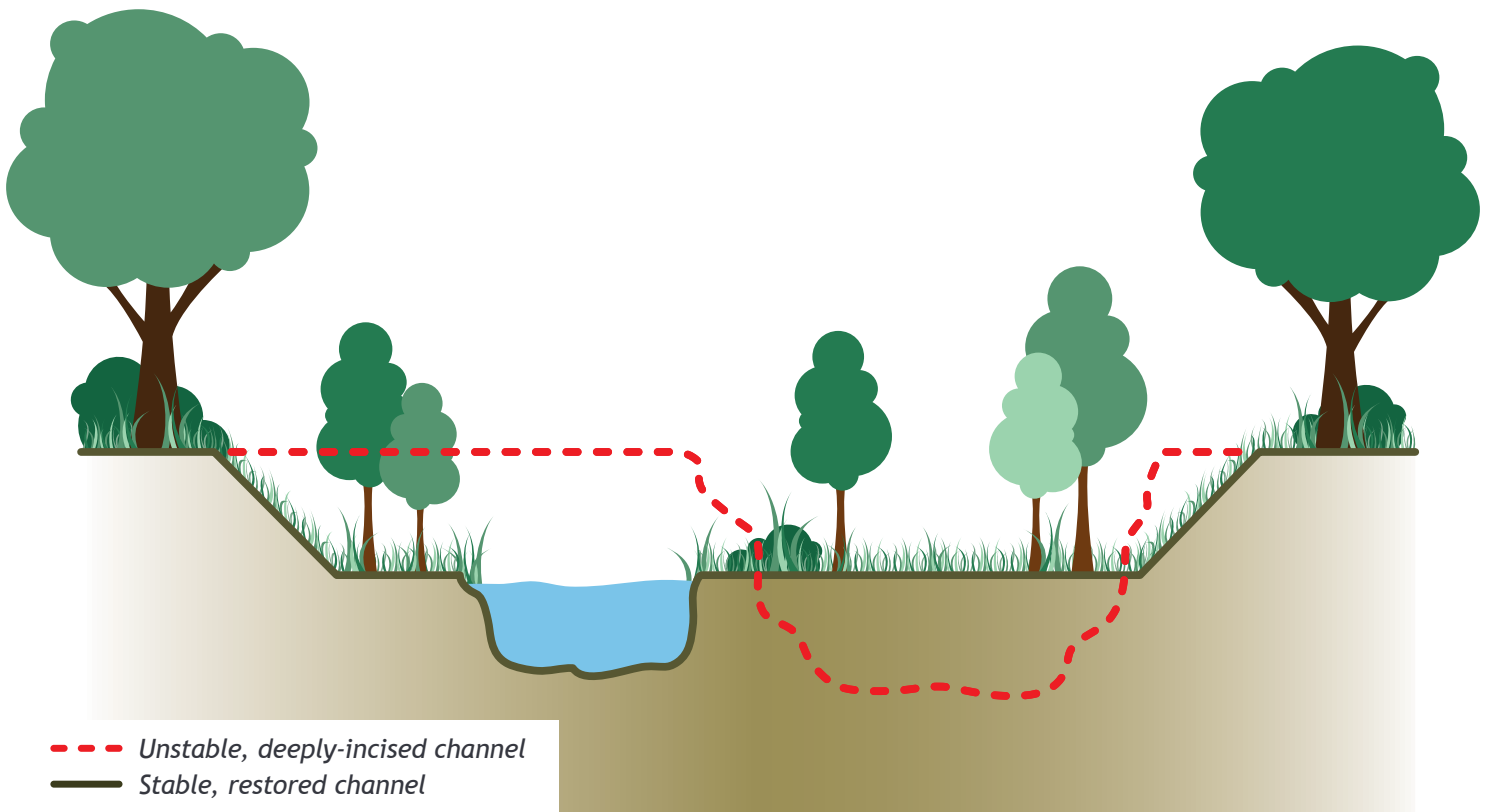
(2) to provide data that substantiates the value of protecting native riparian areas.

Certain challenges we anticipate for this program will be adapting methods applied successfully in other regions to our specific climate, rainfall intensities, vegetation and soil types and determining the technical limitations and relative cost of this approach.

SARA staff will train to become experts for our region. In-house expertise is needed in all phases, including construction, since there is currently no demand or expertise locally for this type of work.

# DYNAMIC EQUILIBRIUM

## *A complex stream system that remains balanced over time.*



*This diagram details the steps involved in one method of stream restoration.*

- 1) *An unstable, deeply-incised channel is partially filled in with excavated material to create a widened floodplain.*
- 2) *A new stream channel is created based on the profile and dimensions of a reference reach of the stream.*

Successful natural channel design must include all aspects of **dynamic equilibrium**, including creating aquatic habitat, prescribing a re-vegetation plan and constructing an appropriate floodplain. The final restoration design should mimic a stream in dynamic equilibrium with its watershed and provide a diverse channel capable of conveying flows, transporting sediment and integrating habitat features necessary for native fish recovery.

This program differs from “bioengineering” or “bank stabilization” programs by reducing dependence on manufactured products and adapting the design to a river’s natural evolution, instead of armoring the bank to fit a predetermined shape. Of course, highly impacted areas with constrained rights-of-way will probably require more structural elements to reliably withstand potential erosive forces.

The two primary goals of program implementation are to (1) better quantify and identify the stream restoration needs in SARA’s district and (2) construct a demonstration project. Since the focus of this program will be on smaller streams, many potential sites are not readily known to SARA staff. We welcome site

: information from other agencies and individuals so we  
 : can perform an initial site assessment to determine  
 : whether a site fits our design criteria.

: We are in the process of securing a site for our initial  
 : pilot project to demonstrate the benefits of natural  
 : stream design. We have selected a potential site that  
 : is unstable, ecologically impaired, easily accessible to  
 : the public and has significant education and outreach  
 : potential for the community.

: The program is initially being financed through SARA’s  
 : general fund. Potential additional funding sources will be  
 : researched for both agricultural and urban projects and  
 : for both restoration and conservation protection. The  
 : growth of the program is dependent upon finding outside  
 : sources of funding to meet the regional needs  
 : of the community.

: Citizens that would like to have a site evaluated by  
 : this program should contact Jim Boenig at [jboenig@sara-tx.org](mailto:jboenig@sara-tx.org)  
 : to be identified as a potential site for a  
 : preliminary assessment. A program web site is currently  
 : in development to provide the public more general  
 : information, as well as detailed technical information,  
 : about the program. ★



# LOCAL WORK GARNERING INTERNATIONAL ATTENTION

**By Brian Mast**

The San Antonio River Authority (SARA) has a growing reputation with water agencies and governments from nations around the world. In the past year, SARA has welcomed distinguished visitors from Nanjing, China; Seoul, South Korea; Ulsan Munhwa Broadcasting Corporation (MBC) of South Korea; The University of Kiel in Germany; Tamil Nadu, India and the World Bank. SARA has also recently been asked to plan for another visit from the Tamil Nadu, India delegation as well as the Department of Irrigation and Drainage of the Malaysian Government. SARA is honored our hard work here at home is receiving international attention and more and more organizations are seeking information on how we work here at home to serve the San Antonio River Basin.

Why is SARA garnering all of this international attention? Certainly the worldwide growth of internet capability is a driving force, as many of our international guests have contacted SARA through our website. Also, SARA has recently opened a Facebook profile that is attracting visitors and fans from around the world. No matter the avenue used to contact us, be it the internet or airmail, the recognition from abroad has been tremendously rewarding for SARA.

SARA's interaction with the international community has been extremely humbling for departments and staff members as we have developed new professional relationships and, perhaps more importantly, been able to see our work through a new perspective.

With each of the visits, whether they are relatively short as with the Nanjing, China delegation or longer as with the Tamil Nadu, India delegation, SARA staff learns something new about ourselves and the broader world of water resource management while also educating our guests on the needs of our constituents.



For instance, the Nanjing, China delegation wants to create a river walk experience with a Confucian Temple as the major point of interest. The World Bank and Tamil Nadu, India delegation is interested in modeling the formation and responsibilities of the Chennai River Authority (CORA) after SARA, so we provided their team

guidance on how SARA was formed and the scope of each of our departments' duties. We look forward to growing this relationship with CORA by perhaps entering into a 'sister river authority' relationship with them.

Several of our other international guests have specific technical interests which SARA has addressed. For instance, a group of students and their professor from the University of Kiel in Germany sought flood modeling and flood risk assessment expertise from Nefti Garza and the Watershed Management team. The university students visited SARA in mid-August and SARA's Watershed Management team demonstrated their flood models of the San Antonio River Basin and explained the technology behind their creation. Coming up in October, a delegation from Malaysia will be visiting SARA to learn more about our water quality and our parks and recreation programs. The Malaysian Department of Irrigation and Drainage is interested in potentially adopting similar programs in their capital city of Kuala Lumpur. ★



*Each of these cross cultural exchanges have been firmly grounded in water resources management and addressing the needs of our distinct constituencies. SARA is honored and humbled to have had these opportunities to share our successes and to learn from other successes around the world.*



# A HEALTHY ENVIRONMENT BEGINS IN OUR BACKYARDS

**By Hector Morales,  
SARA Board Member, Bexar County**

Is there a Chinaberry tree growing in your yard? When was the last time you saw a crawfish in your local creek? A few years ago, these questions would not have carried the significance they carry today. However, the more we learn about the native ecology of South Texas, the more we discover the negative effects caused by the presence of non-native plants and animals in our environment.

Each issue of the newly redesigned *River Reach* newsletter will feature a South Texas Natives section which will help you identify native plants and animals, as well as the benefits that each species provides in our unique ecosystem.

You might be asking yourself, “Why are native plants and animals so important?” While non-native plants might look great in your garden or attract your favorite

species of bird or butterfly, it’s good to remember that each non-native plant in our environment means one less native South Texas plant. And while that suckermouth catfish may serve an important purpose in your home aquarium, it can be a destructive force in our rivers and ponds, taking food and habitat away from our diverse population of native fish.



Native plants and animals, on the other hand, serve important functions within their ecosystems. When native species are replaced by non-native or invasive species, the established ecosystem breaks down, leading to less biodiversity within the ecosystem and proliferation of more non-native invasive species.

If each citizen living in the San Antonio River Basin does his or her part to learn about native South Texas plants and animals, we can work to ensure that our rich and diverse environment continues to thrive, enriching and improving our lives in the process. ★

## SOUTH TEXAS NATIVES

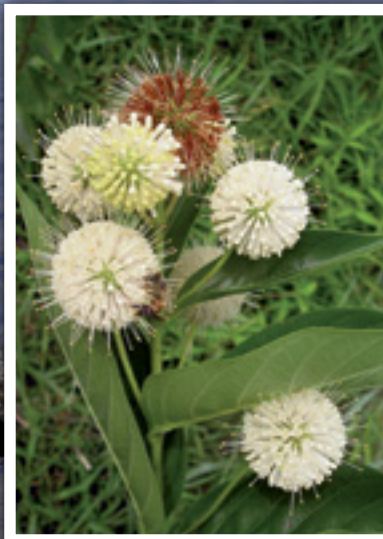
### Buttonbush • *Cephalanthus occidentalis*

**By Lee Marlowe**

Buttonbush is a native shrub that grows near the edges of streams and other constant water sources within the San Antonio River Basin.

Its flower clusters are impressive, long-lasting spheres of white to pale pink blossoms, occurring from June through September. The fruits of the buttonbush, clusters of cone shaped nutlets that change colors from green to red to black, retain the unusual spherical shape of the flowers. The fruit is produced between September and October. This attractive plant is an important source of food for wildlife.

Buttonbush is an ornamental native plant that is often used for bank stabilization near a water source such as a stream, but can also be used in an appropriately moist landscape setting. Ideal growing conditions



are in soil that is constantly moist to wet, and in full to partial shade, but it can also do well in full sun. It can grow in limestone, sand, loam and clay soils.

Buttonbush typically grows multiple stems that reach a height of six to twelve feet—sometimes taller—and often has an irregular crown.

When the plant is flowering, numerous insect pollinators visit the blooms for nectar, including bees and butterflies. The seed produced by this plant is a food source for a variety of birds, including waterfowl and shore birds. While this plant is an excellent source of food for wildlife, its leaves are poisonous and unpalatable to cattle and other livestock.

Check each issue of the new *River Reach* for more information about native species found in the San Antonio River Basin. ★



# BASIN HIGHLIGHT REPORT

**By Ryan Hull**

The San Antonio River Authority's (SARA) Environmental Sciences Department (ESD) has published the 2009 Basin Highlight Report (BHR). The BHR is an annual report that reviews ESD's water quality monitoring activities and findings as it works to further its goal of protecting and preserving the water resources of the San Antonio River Basin. SARA makes the BHR available to the public and other concerned agencies within the basin.

Water quality monitoring is a priority in the State of Texas. Collecting water quality data requires the operation of highly technical equipment, trained field staff and laboratories for analysis. Many agencies throughout the state participate in these activities; without cooperation and sharing of information, this process can be redundant and expensive. To alleviate this problem, the Texas Legislature passed the Texas Clean Rivers Act in 1991. The Act was intended to move Texas towards comprehensive water resources planning and management to ensure the integrity of the state's water supply over the long term. This act established the Clean Rivers Program (CRP), in which SARA actively participates. The CRP serves as a mechanism to increase cooperation amongst 15 partner agencies concerned with preserving the water quality of the entire state. SARA submits the BHR annually to the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) under the CRP. Because the partner agencies share information, redundancy is

reduced and resources are maximized, allowing a more complete picture of water quality throughout the state and accomplishing the goal

of protecting the quality of healthy bodies of water and improving the quality of impaired bodies of water.

SARA participates in the CRP coordination monitoring meetings where all involved agencies in the basin discuss their monitoring needs and goals. This meeting reduces duplicate monitoring efforts by hosting a discussion about where each agency will sample, what will be sampled and how often. This saves resources that can then be re-directed to additional monitoring.



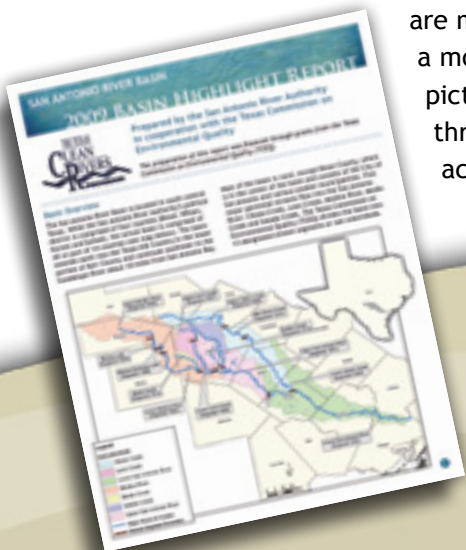
The BHR contains a wealth of information on water quality in the San Antonio River Basin. Included in the report are basin water quality monitoring activities; a review of water quality data; a discussion of activities and findings for special

studies; maps showing the location of sampling sites; a discussion of other organizations' participation in the basin monitoring program; and public outreach activities. The BHR provides a single source that is easily available and readily understandable.

In addition to its contribution to the CRP, SARA has also developed and funds a companion monitoring program, SARA Stream Monitoring, to address the need for additional monitoring in the basin. SARA Stream Monitoring has 16 routine monitoring sites: four sites that support the River Recreation website ([www.riverrec.org](http://www.riverrec.org)); three sites that support a watershed protection plan developed for the upper eight miles of the San Antonio River; and nine sites that are in support of a nutrient study.

SARA invites anyone that is interested in ESD's efforts to improve water quality in our river basin to view the 2009 Basin Highlight Report on our website, [www.sara-tx.org](http://www.sara-tx.org). You can find more information about the TCEQ and CRP at [www.tceq.state.tx.us/compliance/monitoring/crp](http://www.tceq.state.tx.us/compliance/monitoring/crp). ★

10



*"It is important to let the public know that multiple agencies are out monitoring water quality and aquatic health throughout the basin," Rebecca Reeves, ESD Superintendent, says. "The agencies are working together to prevent duplication of effort, and sharing data so that monitoring dollars go farther."*



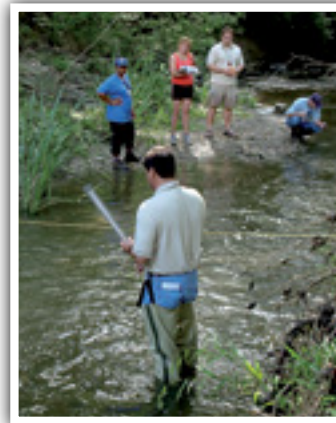
## COMMUNITY EVENTS THROUGHOUT OUR BASIN

- **Leon Springs Family Greenfest**  
*Promotes healthier lifestyles-both for people and the planet.*  
Saturday, October 10, 2009 • 9 a.m. - 4 p.m.  
Leon Springs Baptist Church  
24133 Boerne Stage Rd., San Antonio, TX 78255
- **Medina River Natural Area 5th Annual Fall Fest**  
*Fall harvest of demonstrations featuring animals, safety, insects and more!*  
Saturday, October 10, 2009 • 9 a.m. - 12 p.m.  
4.5 miles south of 410 on State Highway 16
- **LiveGreenFest**  
*Learn to take care of Mother Earth.*  
Saturday, October 10, 2009 • 10 a.m. - 4 p.m.  
Olmos Basin Park • 651 Devin Rd., San Antonio, TX 78212
- **18th Annual Tour de Goliad**  
*Ride the South Texas countryside through the 10, 30, 50, or 85 mile tours.*  
Saturday, October 17, 2009 • 8 a.m.  
Ride Headquarters • 450 S. Market St., Goliad, TX 77963
- **EARLY VOTING** begins October 19, 2009 and ends October 30, 2009. **ELECTION DAY** is November 3, 2009. *Check your local newspaper for polling stations.*
- **5th Annual Mitchell Lake Audubon Center Wildlife Festival & Plant Sale**  
*Explore a place where nature is continually renewing itself.*  
Saturday, October 24, 2009 • 9 a.m. - 4 p.m.  
Mitchell Lake Audubon Center  
10750 Pleasanton Rd., San Antonio, TX 78221
- **San Antonio Founder's Day**  
*Celebrates SA's growth and community development from the 1700's through the present.*  
Saturday, October 24, 2009 • 10 a.m. - 4 p.m.  
Alamo Plaza • San Antonio, TX 78205
- **Westside Creeks Public Workshop #2**  
*Envision the future of the Alazán, Apache, Martínez and San Pedro Creeks.*  
Saturday, October 24, 2009 • 9 a.m. - 2 p.m.  
El Progreso Community Center  
1306 Guadalupe, San Antonio, TX 78207
- **7th Annual Fall River Flotilla**  
*See our ad on page 5 for more information.*  
Saturday, November 7, 2009 • 9 a.m.  
Hwy 59 bridge, west of downtown Goliad
- **Texas Recycles Day**  
Saturday, November 14, 2009 • 9 a.m. - 1 p.m.  
Woodlawn Lake
- **San Antonio River Oversight Committee Meeting**  
*General meetings that are held every other month.*  
Monday, November 16, 2009 • 5 p.m.  
San Antonio River Authority Office  
100 East Guenther St., San Antonio, TX 78204
- **SARA Regular Board Meetings**  
Typically every 3rd Wednesday, monthly • 2 p.m. - 5 p.m.  
San Antonio River Authority Office  
100 East Guenther St., San Antonio, TX 78204  
Please check [www.sara-tx.org](http://www.sara-tx.org) for more information.

## 6TH ANNUAL WATER: A LIVING LESSON CONFERENCE

By Gloria Rodriguez

This year's 6th Annual Water: A Living Lesson (W:ALL) conference, held July 7 through July 10, proved to be the best conference yet! Sponsored by the Edwards Aquifer Authority, Our Lady of the Lake University, San Antonio River Authority and San Antonio Water



System, this conference continued the tradition of providing educators diverse opportunities to learn innovative, interactive and tested methods of teaching water awareness. The conference's target audience included both formal and non-formal educators in settings serving Kindergarten through 12th grade.

Educators serving residents of Atascosa, Bexar, Caldwell, Comal, Goliad, Guadalupe, Hays, Karnes, Kenedy, Medina, Refugio, Uvalde and Wilson counties received free admission to the conference.

Participants selected from over forty interactive sessions which explored practical, up-to-date examples of successful educational programs and materials. Workshops and field trips provided educators with physical resources and strategies for developing comprehensive water lessons to take back to the classroom. Attendees were encouraged to come and interact, and in turn they:

- Expanded their collection of field, lab and classroom activity options
- Learned creative ways to teach water concepts
- Broadened their water expertise
- Shared individual experiences at the Share Fair
- Learned about products, services, programs and more at the Exhibit Fair
- Took field trips
- Earned SBEC and GT credits and more!

The goal of W:ALL is to help teachers meet others who have similar objectives and challenges and who are also concerned about the water issues facing our region. For more information about the 2009 conference and plans for 2010 log on to [www.waterlivinglesson.org](http://www.waterlivinglesson.org). ★



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RIVER AUTHORITY

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# EXPANDING OUR REACH

By *Suzanne Scott, General Manager*

As you have noticed, the look and content of the *River Reach* has changed with this issue. Since we launched the newsletter in 2003, we have received feedback from readers; through this new format we strive to provide more of the information that readers want to see while also allowing expanded coverage of SARA's projects and programs.

The new format continues several of the features you have grown accustomed to reading such as articles highlighting projects, the Board of Directors editorial, the General Manager's comment and the Employee Highlight. We have also added new articles addressing practical green-living tips, highlights of native species, a basin-wide calendar full of wonderful family events and a section where we will focus on a program which advances one of our agency goals. The newsletter now includes two Board of Directors editorials as we strive to address topics of interest throughout the San Antonio River Basin.



One new feature of the newsletter that we are particularly excited about is a photo spotlight where we will include photos of the San Antonio River and its many creeks and tributaries taken by citizens. These photos will provide a unique look at the natural beauty of our basin. If you have photos that you have taken of a special spot along a river or creek in the basin, send it to us and let us know when and where it was taken. The rivers and creeks of our area have been and continue to be a vital part of our culture, history and environment; by documenting the unique characteristics of our waterways, our collective appreciation for these resources can only be enhanced. Look for details on how to submit your photos on Page 2.

We believe you will find the expanded *River Reach* more informational and educational than ever before. I hope you enjoy it. Please feel free to share your comments with us. ★