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## WATER ENVIRONMENT FEDERATION

### GEORGE W. BURKE, JR. AWARD

**...recognizing municipal and industrial wastewater facilities or individuals for active and effective safety programs.**

#### **Upper Trinity Regional Water District Northeast Water Reclamation System**

The Northeast Water Reclamation System consists of two water reclamation plants: Riverbend in Aubrey, Texas and Doe Branch in Little Elm, Texas. Both plants use a conventional style activated sludge process with enhanced biological phosphorus removal, fine screens, grit basins, aeration basins, secondary clarifiers, filters, and UV disinfection.

The Riverbend facility came on-line in 2004 as a 1.5 mgd sequencing batch reactor (SBR) plant and was later upgraded to 2.0 mgd. This plant has recently undergone an upgrade and expansion that converted it from the SBR configuration into a 4.0 mgd average daily flow conventional plant. During the upgrade and expansion, a state-of-the-art magnetite feed and recovery system, or BioMag<sup>®</sup> system, was implemented to enhance the settling characteristics through ballasting of the mixed liquor floc.

The Doe Branch facility came on-line in November of 2016 as a conventional activated sludge plant and has a capacity of 2 mgd average daily flow. Doe Branch uses compartmentalization to minimize back-mixing as well as a very long basin (L:W@20:1) to control dissolved oxygen (DO) in the initial zones. This practice assures a high to low F:M gradient throughout the series of compartments in the reactor.

Upper Trinity Regional Water District provides a safe place for our employees who are working hard each day to provide a clean environment in the receiving streams and Lake Lewisville in the northern parts of the Dallas/Fort Worth area. The

heart of UTRWD's safety plan is communication. Communication is managed through monthly meetings and a constant open-door policy for safety concerns.

Monthly meetings are held to discuss safety issues. Each meeting starts with a deep dive into a safety issue which provides general knowledge for all employees to use both on the job and at home. The meeting also allows each employee to discuss any safety concerns. Possible solutions are then discussed and recorded for later planning and execution. Progress on previously identified safety issues are also discussed. Meeting minutes are kept, and all levels of the organization can view the discussions and concerns of operations.

The operations management team at UTRWD has an open-door policy when it comes to safety concerns. Employees are encouraged to bring up any safety concerns or ideas for increasing safety at the plant in which they work. This open-door policy has proven to be the best approach to ensure continual improvement.

The first step in a safety program is identifying concerns and the next step is actually providing resources and support for addressing the problem. UTRWD management has provided support to solve issues identified during monthly meetings and has provided open-door communication in several ways. They have provided training where needs have been identified, including CPR certification training, and rescue training in partnership with the Little Elm and Aubrey Fire Departments. In some cases, issues identified

*(Continued)*

through safety meetings and other forms of operator input have led to capital improvement projects. This includes a new security gate at the Riverbend Plant. The gate was designed in coordination with the City of Little Elm Fire Department to provide easier access for the fire department in case of emergency. Another capital project which came directly from operator input, was the secondary clarifier automatic brush system.

This project eliminated a procedure for cleaning the secondary clarifier weirs, which was identified as a safety concern and safety burden.

This cycle of identifying concerns, planning solutions, and executing projects & operational changes is a continuous process that has led to the UTRWD Northeast Water Reclamation System's success in creating a safe place to work.

## WATER ENVIRONMENT FEDERATION

### LABORATORY ANALYST EXCELLENCE AWARD

**...recognizing an individual for outstanding performance, professionalism and contributions to the water quality analysis profession.**

#### Hunter Adams

Hunter Adams is the Laboratory Supervisor and NELAP Technical Manager of Microbiology and Inorganic Chemistry for the Cypress Water Purification Laboratory in the City of Wichita Falls, Texas. He holds a BS in Biology, and an MS in Biology from Midwestern State University. He is a licensed Class A Water Operator and Class C Wastewater Treatment Operator in Texas. In the laboratory Hunter has extensive experience with TOC, IC, ICP-MS, GC-MS/ECD, FTIR, qPCR, flow cytometry, and taxonomy.

Hunter is a member of the Water Environment Association of Texas (WEAT) Laboratory Committee, Water Environment Federation (WEF) Laboratory Committee, American Water Works Association (AWWA) Water Quality

Laboratory Committee, TNI Microbiology Expert Committee and APHL Environmental Laboratory Sciences Committee. He readily volunteers for various committee activities.

Hunter is a firm believer in the cycle of continuous improvement. He is constantly looking for new opportunities to support treatment operations. He recently began looking at UV testing technology to provide quick analytical responses to aid operational decisions. Hunter has also contributed to several AWWA publications, including a filtration manual, Opflow, and Texas H2O. Hunter is very dedicated to the water and wastewater community with his many committee commitments and his impressive enthusiasm for the water industry.

**Use #txwater20  
when posting about the  
conference on social media.**

## WATER ENVIRONMENT ASSOCIATION OF TEXAS

### OUTSTANDING OPERATOR OF THE YEAR

**...recognizing an operator and member of WEAT who has provided dedication, years of faithful service, and professionalism at their facility.**

#### Jose Moreno

Jose Moreno has worked for McAllen Public Utility for the past 32 years. He began his career in 1987 as an operator, and in 2004 achieved his Texas Commission on Environmental Quality Wastewater "A" license. In 2007, he was promoted to manager of the MPU North Wastewater Treatment Plant, an extended aeration WWTP that is capable of treating 15 million gallons a day.

Every day there are daily tasks that need to be handled properly and safely and Jose has no problem getting his hands dirty, all while educating other operators as he performs his work. He reviews lab results every morning to ensure the plant is meeting all permit parameters. This also allows him to make any necessary adjustments to the process in order to produce better plant effluent. In addition, every morning he holds a meeting with his operators to ensure they know why the adjustments benefit the plant during operations.

At the annual MPU Night Out, Jose and other co-workers built a 3D wastewater treatment plant model to educate the public on how wastewater treatment works. Jose has the ability and passion to communicate to the public and teach both children and adults about wastewater treatment. He performs tours of the plant to students from

the elementary to graduate level. He continues to strive and gain knowledge in wastewater treatment by attending seminars, conferences and webinars on the latest technological advancements and new equipment. With his many years of experience and dedication, Jose continues to share his knowledge with his operators and with the residents of McAllen. He takes great pride in his plant and it clearly shows.

One of the biggest accolades NWWTP holds is being the first wastewater treatment plant in the Rio Grande Valley to produce Type I reclaimed water for residential irrigation. Mr. Moreno is key to the city being able to provide reclaimed water, as a leader in the industry who understands all the modifications needed in order to ensure the reclaimed water is 100 percent safe for irrigation purposes. MPU takes on a huge responsibility of distributing Type I reclaimed water for residential irrigation, and city staff can rest easy knowing it has someone like Jose leading the treatment effort.

Jose is a hardworking, dedicated individual with a strong work ethic. Besides being a highly motivated and skilled wastewater plant operator, he is the kind of person that you can depend on to get the job done right.

*Check out the virtual  
Women in Water event*

# WATER ENVIRONMENT FEDERATION

## OUTSTANDING SERVICE AWARD

**...recognizing an individual who has made outstanding contributions to the water environment profession, to the Federation and its Member Associations.**

### Heather Cooke

Heather Cooke has demonstrated more than 10 years of commitment, dedication and outstanding service to the Water Environment Association of Texas and the Water Environment Federation. Through Raj Bhattarai's guidance and mentorship, Heather became an active member of WEAT and WEF soon after joining Austin Water in 2009. Her role as legislative coordinator for Austin Water made her a natural fit as WEAT's Government Affairs Committee chair, a role she has held since 2012. In her current position as Government Relations Manager with Austin Water, Heather continues to serve as WEAT's Government Affairs Committee Co-Chair, with support from Co-Chair Nathan Vassar.

Since 2009, Heather has worked closely with Raj Bhattarai, Julie Nahrgang and WEAT staff in organizing WEAT's annual Capacity Management Operations and Maintenance "CMOM" workshop. CMOM is a joint effort between WEAT, Austin Water, TCEQ and EPA. It attracts more than 400 participants.

Along with WEAT's prior Executive Director Carol Batterton and Julie Nahrgang, Heather initiated the Horizon Legislative and Regulatory Conference in 2010. WEAT and TACWA continue to host this highly regarded bi-yearly specialty conference, in advance of Texas legislative sessions, with presentations from state legislators, TCEQ leadership, and federal and industry experts.

Heather has been integral to tracking state legislation of interest to WEAT members. She joins

the WEAT delegation on visits to Washington D.C., to communicate Texas perspectives on water quality issues to members of Congress, and participates in the WEF/NACWA National Water Policy Forums. She also serves on the Member Association Subcommittee of WEF's Government Affairs Committee.

During Heather's term as WEAT President, WEAT team members expanded advanced operator training course offerings and initiated a new apprenticeship program for water and wastewater operators.

In her prior roles as WEAT's President-Elect and Vice President she organized leadership summits, and was actively involved in the 2018 update to WEAT's Strategic Plan. Heather especially appreciates the mentorship and guidance from her presidential predecessor, Leigh Cerda, as well as, the great support from her presidential successor, Rick Hidalgo.

Serving WEAT and WEF has enhanced her professional development, while deepening her understanding, appreciation and passion for the wastewater industry. She is grateful for the leadership opportunities WEAT has given her and the chances to give back to an organization that has given her so much.

Heather holds a master's degree in public affairs from the LBJ School of Public Affairs at the University of Texas at Austin.

## WATER ENVIRONMENT ASSOCIATION OF TEXAS

### MEDAL OF HONOR FOR HEROISM AWARD

**... recognizing an individual (or group of individuals) from the State of Texas who has demonstrated exceptional courage and bravery in the performance of a single act of heroic behavior involving the water environment industry.**

#### **Ralph Hect & Cullen Team Houston Water**

Hurricane Harvey and its unprecedented rainfall put heavy demands on the City of Houston. It was an extraordinary event that required an exceptional effort on all of the city's first responders. Although rarely recognized as such, Houston Water employees are designated first responders who traditionally serve in support roles to police, fire and EMS.

On the evening of August 25, 2017, the streets adjacent to Houston Water's Cullen Maintenance Facility were covered in water that was continuously rising. Ralph Hect, a maintenance supervisor, and his heavy-duty pickup truck managed to make it to the facility.

When Ralph and team members from the Cullen facility approached the flood waters, Ralph thought he saw a reflection and thought it may have been a person. The rain was still torrential, and visibility was low. Ralph and his colleagues began to call out, and soon heard a voice calling for help, but still could not see anyone.

Following the sound of a man's voice, they were able to locate a disabled citizen whose electric wheelchair had become incapacitated in the flood waters.

Ralph's colleagues immediately called 911 and began to retrieve gear to enter the water while

Ralph watched over the citizen. Believing that the Houston Fire Department would not be able to arrive in time, Ralph made a quick decision to wade into the water.

Ralph used landmarks to slowly make it to the gentleman he came to know as Marvin. Not only was Marvin's chair incapacitated electronically, the chair would not go into a manual mode, which would have allowed the employees to push the wheelchair freely. The water was still rising and there was no guarantee the chair could be safely pushed through without the water level overcoming Marvin, as the water was already at his chest.

As the tension of the situation began to increase, the team acted quickly. They pulled a low-boy trailer out into the water using a semi-truck and then lowered the trailer as far as it would go. With determination, the team lifted Marvin in the wheelchair onto the trailer and transported him safely to the facility. Ralph and his colleagues cared for Marvin through the night, and helped him connect with his family.

In the face of adversity, Ralph and his colleagues demonstrated that Houston Water's employees are not just resource responders, they are rescue responders as well. Their heroic efforts saved a life.

## WATER ENVIRONMENT ASSOCIATION OF TEXAS

### ALAN H. PLUMMER AWARD FOR INNOVATION & EXCELLENCE IN WATER REUSE

...recognizing an individual who has made outstanding contributions in the field of environmental sustainability practices within the state of Texas.

#### David Sloan, P.E., BCEE

David Sloan is an associate and senior treatment process engineer at Freese and Nichols. He received his bachelor's degree in civil engineering (1982) and master's in environmental health engineering (1988) from the University of Texas at Austin. Mr. Sloan has been a frequent speaker and strong advocate on behalf of water reuse. He has presented on multiple occasions at WEFTEC, WaterReuse Symposium and the Water Reuse Texas Conference. His articles advocating for sound science and the safety of potable reuse have appeared in Texas WET, the Water Environment Association of Texas's magazine, and numerous other technical publications.

Mr. Sloan led the reuse studies and permitting and design for the first and largest direct potable reuse project in North America, the Colorado River Municipal Water District's Raw Water Production Facility. It was the first facility in North America to blend reclaimed water directly in a raw water transmission pipeline and was featured in a 2012 WaterReuse Association webcast, "The Future of Potable Reuse."

Later, when the City of Wichita Falls needed protective barriers for their direct potable reuse plant, Mr. Sloan provided the design of ultra-violet disinfection, and then provided evaluation of desalinating Lake Kemp water and plant influent

together. He has led and consulted on reuse studies and projects across Texas. He has pioneered work in potable reuse and provided a body of articles, presentations and feasibility studies that today enable other professionals to apply the principles of water reuse.

Mr. Sloan is an active member of the Water Environment Association of Texas, American Academy of Environmental Engineers, American Water Works Association, WaterReuse Association, Water Environment Federation and the American Membrane Technology Association.

He is a longtime supporter of the reuse efforts for both WEAT and WEF and has been a long standing member of WEAT's Water Reuse committee serving in that role for many years, including conducting multiple Texas Water presentations and panel discussions in support of our Reuse Committee.

He is a current member of both the WEF and AWWA National Reuse Committees. He recently completed a three year term as trustee for Water Reuse Texas in 2019. He is also a current member of the Oklahoma Department of Environmental Quality DPR Workgroup.

**Water for People Silent Auction**  
*Use the app to bid.*



## WATER ENVIRONMENT ASSOCIATION OF TEXAS

### WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT AWARD

**...recognizing a utility, agency, company or individual for an innovative and successful program designed to promote workforce development for the utility, agency or company or the water industry in general. Another purpose of the award is to bring workforce development programs forward for others to use or adapt or be inspired.**

#### **Katie Zheng, P.E. & Dylan Christenson, PhD.**

Katie Zheng is the Planning Manager at Southwest Water Company and the co-chair of Water Environment Association of Texas Workforce Development Committee. She received her master's degree in environmental engineering from the University of Pittsburgh in 2013, and bachelor's degree in environmental science and engineering from Hebei University in 2011.

She proposed the Operator Springboard Program to WEF, and initiated a task group in early 2018 to encourage collaboration on operator workforce development in the Greater Houston area, with representatives from the City of Houston, Inframark, Workforce Solutions, the U.S. Department of Labor, Houston ISD and Houston Community College. She also facilitated Houston Community College's initiative to draft and submit Class D Water and Wastewater training contents to TCEQ, in order to increase operator training resources for the region.

Dylan Christenson is a wastewater process specialist for Black & Veatch, based in their Houston office. He has a bachelor's degree in liberal studies from Vanguard University, and a master's and doctorate in civil engineering from Texas Tech University. He is passionate about sustainability and innovation in regards to nutrient, energy, and water recovery from water resource recovery facilities. Dylan is also passionate

about building the workforce of the future through outreach and education initiatives within Texas and at the national level.

Dylan is actively involved in leadership roles within the Municipal Resource Recovery Design Committee for the Water Environment Federation and WEAT, as well as, the vice-chair of the WEAT Workforce Development Committee.

Dylan and Katie lead the Operator Workforce Task Group they started in 2018, working to bring together operators, utilities, educational agencies and other members of the water community, to help promote the excellent careers available as water and wastewater operators. They worked closely with the WEAT executive board on negotiating and finalizing the details of the WEAT Registered Apprenticeship Program for Class C and D Water and Wastewater Operator licenses. The program was officially approved by USDOL in early 2019. Additional workforce development programs underway include a high school pre-apprenticeship program, outreach efforts specifically geared toward veterans, and partnerships with local community colleges.

For their exemplary efforts on behalf of WEAT's Operator Workforce Task Group, Dylan & Katie are the recipients of WEAT's 2020 Workforce Development Award.

## WATER ENVIRONMENT ASSOCIATION OF TEXAS

### OUTSTANDING PUBLIC OFFICIAL AWARD

**...recognizing an elected official or regulator who actively promotes sound science in policy and regulations affecting water environment issues within the state of Texas through documented, significant contributions in the areas of legislation, public policy, government service, and/or other area of public prominence.**

#### **Dade Phelan Texas State Representative**

Chairman Dade Phelan's sponsorship of HJR 4 and SB 7 led to the passage of State Proposition 8 in November 2019, authorizing and funding the Texas State Flood Plan and the Texas Infrastructure Resiliency Fund. For his efforts to ensure Texas's long-term water security, he is the recipient of WEAT's 2020 Outstanding Public Official Award.

Chairman Phelan was born and raised in Southeast Texas. His fourth generation commercial real estate development firm owns and manages retail, industrial and office property in Texas and Arkansas. He received his bachelor's degree in government and business from The University of Texas at Austin.

Phelan currently serves as Chair of the House Committee on State Affairs. He has previously served on the Natural Resources Committee as vice-chair, Calendars Committee, Appropriations Committee, Elections Committee and on the Select Committee on Ports, Innovation and Infrastructure.

Chairman Phelan is one of three House members appointed to the State Water Infrastructure Fund for Texas Advisory Committee. The panel oversees the operation, function and structure of the state water fund and assists the Texas Water Development Board in achieving its goal of providing \$27 billion in state water plan projects over the next 50 years.

Capitol Inside Magazine named Phelan one of the most outstanding freshmen in 2015 and in 2017 honored him again as the Most Valuable Sophomore member of the Texas Legislature. Phelan has been named Legislative Champion by the Boys and Girls Club of Texas, Legislator of the Year by the Texas Apartment Association, Guardian of Small Business by the National Federation of Independent Business, Most Valuable Legislator by the Texas Association of Community Schools and a Fighter for Free Enterprise by the Texas Association of Business.

The American Council of Young Political Leaders selected Chairman Phelan as one of seven United States foreign delegates to China and Taiwan. He traveled to Asia for diplomatic exchanges with China and Taiwan's next generation of political leaders.

Phelan is two time Governor appointee to and former president of the Lower Neches Valley Authority. His board of director service includes the Texas Lyceum, Southeast Texas CASA, Golden Triangle Coastal Conservation Association, The Jefferson Theater, St. Anne Catholic Church and secretary of Catholic Charities of Southeast Texas.

His wife, Kim, is a solo practitioner attorney and together they have four sons: Ford, Mack, Hank and Luke.

## WATER ENVIRONMENT FEDERATION WINFIELD S. MAHLIE AWARD

**...recognizing a member of WEAT who has made significant contributions to the art and science of wastewater treatment and water pollution control.**

### **Darrell Poore**

Darrell Poore is a maintenance supervisor at the Dallas Water Utilities' Central Wastewater Treatment Plant. Darrell started as an apprentice mechanic more than 20 years ago, and has worked as a section supervisor for almost four years. In his position, Darrell plans, schedules and supervises the work of lead, skilled trades, and semi-skilled staff assigned to the Central Wastewater Treatment Plant team.

He develops short and long-term work plans, and coordinates maintenance activities related to grounds and structures, such as water/wastewater systems, HVAC systems, piping systems, underground utilities, coatings, geotechnical and landscaping. He also establishes and implements building cleaning standards.

Darrell continuously demonstrates the value of his experience in, and knowledge of, the methods and techniques used in wastewater treatment and wastewater collection systems.

He has experience in the application of supervisory techniques and principles, project management and work planning techniques and principles, and knowledge of state and federal laws and regulations pertaining to wastewater treatment, as well as, occupational hazards, safety procedures and protocols.

Darrell is an active committee co-chair for Water Environment Association of Texas Operations and Maintenance Committee, whose purpose is to enhance the ability of water environment professionals to operate and maintain wastewater facilities efficiently through education, innovation and best practices.

He was the recipient of the WEAT Medal of Honor for Heroism and the City of Dallas Award for Valor in 2001. He has also co-authored "Improving Maintenance in Wastewater Treatment Plant Using Condition-Based Maintenance" for Texas WET magazine, Issue 4, 2019.

## **C.E. HOURS**

**TCEQ Operator Training Certification Hours are available  
for attending technical sessions.**

**Engineers may also receive self-reporting  
CE hours for attending.**

## WATER ENVIRONMENT ASSOCIATION OF TEXAS

### RONALD B. SIEGER BIOSOLIDS MANAGEMENT AWARD

**...recognizing a WEAT member(s), an engineering firm, a specific project, a municipality, or a specific municipal or industrial facility that has made significant accomplishments in the field of biosolids technology and management practices within the boundaries of the State of Texas.**

#### **Sherri van der Wege, P.E.**

Ms. van der Wege holds a bachelors in civil engineering from the University of Texas at Arlington, plus masters degrees from both the University of Texas at Dallas and the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign.

She has held multiple leadership positions within the water industry throughout her career and currently serves as the North Texas Regional Manager for Tetra Tech. Prior to this, she led the treatment plant capital projects group for the Trinity River Authority for more than five years, addressing the capital project needs of five wastewater treatment plants and one drinking water treatment plant.

In this role, she was a leader in the development and implementation of TRA's ongoing project to improve its anaerobic digestion systems through conversion of the CRWS plant to a thermal hydrolysis process. This thermal hydrolysis facility will be the first in Texas and the second in the United States, and it will greatly enhance beneficial reuse of TRA's wastewater treatment plant residuals.

In her almost 20 years of engineering experience, she has focused on water and wastewater treatment and management, working in the United States, Canada, South Africa and Libya. She is past chair of the WEAT Biosolids Committee, and serves on

the Water Environment Federation's Residuals and Biosolids Committee and the National Biosolids Partnership Advisory Committee.

As a member of the WEF Residuals and Biosolids committee, she has presented the results of the committee's work (the WEF Public Acceptance Toolkit), and the latest research to communicate the high value that biosolids reuse brings and the relatively low risk associated with the material.

She has promoted biosolids reuse through collaborations and presentations with the engineering community, utilities, and the agricultural community, recognizing the important role that all of these stakeholders play. She has also presented the latest research on emerging contaminants such as PFAS to the Texas water community.

She has provided specific recommendations on multiple WEAT and WEF position papers regarding upcoming Texas rule changes, national biosolids policy related to PFAS, and the safe management of biosolids and domestic septage. Her efforts have provided utilities throughout Texas with the tools necessary to increase public acceptance of biosolids, and implement safe biosolids management programs.

## WATER ENVIRONMENT ASSOCIATION OF TEXAS

### SIDNEY L. ALLISON AWARD

**...recognizing a person or organization that has made significant contributions to the engineering, science, and/or operation and maintenance of wastewater collection and pumping stations with the mission to transport wastewater to a treatment plant.**

#### **Ron Patel, P.E.**

Ron Patel earned a bachelor of science in Civil Engineering from the New Jersey Institute of Technology in 1992, and a master of business administration from the University of Dallas in 2000. He is a registered professional engineer in the State of Texas, a certified Envision Sustainability Professional, and has Lean Six Sigma – Green Belt certification. Ron has been employed by the City of Dallas for the last 22 years and is a senior engineer at Central Wastewater Treatment Plant, Dallas Water Utilities.

Prior to the City of Dallas, Ron worked for the City of New York. His more than 25 years of experience in the field of civil engineering include a background in construction management, design, transportation, delegating tasks with state and federal regulatory agencies, contracts and procurement, wastewater collection and wastewater treatment.

He is a member of American Water Works Association, the Water Environment Association of Texas and the Water Environment Federation – LIFT Working Group. He currently serves as the Texas Association of Clean Water Agencies president, value ambassador at the City of Dallas, and vice president of Dallas Water Utilities, Employee Advisory Council.

Ron has spearheaded and developed Dallas Water Utilities' Capacity, Management, Operation, and Maintenance program, which is designed to help optimize the performance of the wastewater system. Ron has also conducted various research projects in the Dallas collection system for sulfide control, and assisted in development of guidelines for the purchase, delivery and application of ferrous/ferric salts at various locations in the collection system throughout the City of Dallas.

Ron has delivered numerous keynotes and shared his skills on engineering subject matter and educational sessions at town hall budget meetings, school career fairs, and safety forums. He has authored and published technical white papers on asset management using drones, DWU's CMOM program, and improving maintenance in wastewater treatment plants using condition-based maintenance in the Texas WET magazine.

Ron has presented at numerous conferences including Texas Water, the Water Efficiency Network of North Texas, Texas Water Conservation Association symposia conference, and the U.S. Water Treatment Conference.

Ron is a previous recipient of the WEAT Alan H. Plummer Environmental Sustainability Award.

## WATER ENVIRONMENT ASSOCIATION OF TEXAS

### EMERGING LEADER AWARD

**...recognizing a young member of WEAT who has provided outstanding service in support of the Association in the form of committee involvement, recruiting, volunteer time, event participation, or other contributions.**

#### **Allison Blake Hage, P.E.**

Allison is a 2013 graduate of Southern Methodist University, receiving her master's degree in civil engineering, specializing in environmental engineering. Since her graduation, Allison has worked as an engineer and project manager in Freese and Nichols' Water/Wastewater Treatment and Reuse Group in Dallas.

Allison has been a dedicated volunteer, leader and champion for the Water Environment Association of Texas. Since her personal involvement on the state champion WEAT Student Design Team and National Runner-Up as an SMU student in 2013, Allison has been dedicated to improving and enhancing WEAT's Student Design Competition and our Student Chapter Programs.

She served as Student Design Co-Chair and Chair from 2014-2018, helping not only guide the rapid growth of the program but also to mentor the repeat-champion SMU team. Under her leadership, the student design competition grew from three participating teams to 10 participating teams!

She became chair of the Student Chapter Committee in 2018, which was elevated to

WEAT full committee status under Allison's guidance. Since that time, Allison has continued to champion the growth of the design competition, and the development of three new student chapters for WEAT.

Allison was a key contributor to the execution of the WEAT Strategic Plan, where her specific focus was how WEAT can help grow and strengthen relationships with students and young professionals. In 2018, she also supported the efforts of WEAT's WEF Delegates in their work on the Student and Young Professional Outreach Work Group, helping develop a database of university contacts and inform WEF's outreach programs.

She currently serves as the member-at-large on the WEAT Executive Board and MRC, and has helped lead improvements to the WEAT awards committee processes.

She is a member of the Select Society of Sanitary Sludge Shovelers for WEAT and is a diligent advocate and effective recruiter, especially with WEAT Student Chapters and Young Professionals.

*Listen to the virtual Opening Session.*

## WATER ENVIRONMENT FEDERATION

### LIFE MEMBERSHIP AWARDS

**...recognizing individuals who have been a member of WEF for 35 or more consecutive years, and are of the age 65 or older.**

Patricia Cleveland  
William B. Cyrus  
John D'Antoni  
James Forbes  
Stephen M. Jenkins

Robert Lee Jones  
Amhed Kadry  
Larry N. Patterson  
Subra Srinanthakumar

## WATER ENVIRONMENT FEDERATION

### WILLIAM D. HATFIELD AWARD

**...recognizing an operator of wastewater treatment plants for outstanding performance and professionalism.**

#### Rey Davila

Rey Davila has more than 30 years of experience in the wastewater industry. He started his career as an operator at Dallas Water Utilities until his retirement in 2015. During his time with Dallas Water Utilities, Rey aided in the development and process control of side stream treatment of anaerobically digested sludge. He also participated on the City of Dallas' AquaTechs Operations Challenge team as a competitor and coach, winning multiple first place awards.

Although Rey retired from Dallas Water Utilities, he wasn't ready to end his career in water. In 2015, Rey was hired as a chief operator with North Texas Municipal Water District. He currently serves as the chief operator of the solids operation at South Mesquite Creek Regional Wastewater Treatment Plant. Rey supervises a crew of solids operators and drivers and ensures there are no upsets in the plant that would cause a permit violation. In addition to the day-to-day, Rey also assists the engineering department in providing valuable input for capital

project design and works to modify processes to accommodate construction activities.

Rey was instrumental in pushing for and leading an investigation of polymer shipment quality. He performed quality control checks, equipment optimization and searches for new polymer sources, ultimately saving more than \$500,000 per year in polymer costs. His work has laid the groundwork for product quality control checks of vendors and optimization techniques that continues to be used for other products and further savings for the company.

Rey is a member of the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality's Utility Operator Advisory Committee representing NTMWD. This member elected position has benefited operators across Texas. Rey has assisted in writing licensing exams, translated exams and manuals into Spanish and pushed for policies that allow for easier access of English as a Second Language (ESL) people to obtain a license.

*(Continued)*

As a TCEQ certified instructor, Rey teaches classes with a mindset of continuous improvement and sensitivity to the needs of his students. He is certified to teach Basic Wastewater, Wastewater Treatment, Activated Sludge and Collections. He has created multiple classes for training in Biological Nutrient Removal, mathematics, license/career advancement and plant process control. These classes are taught at NTWMD, but open to any utility to attend.

Always looking to improve himself and to help others, Rey went back to college to obtain a degree in environmental science. He currently juggles his school work with his work responsibilities and has been a WEAT scholarship recipient for this endeavor. Rey will graduate in 2020.

Rey is an active WEAT member, mainly through Operations Challenge. For the 2019 Operations Challenge Competition at Texas Water, Rey and his team coordinated bringing the equipment for the maintenance event for all competitors to use. Rey and his team participate at the Annual North Texas October fundraising event in the BBQ cook-off. This event raises money for WEAT North Texas Section to pay for travel expenses for teams to compete. Other accomplishments through WEAT include: participating in the development

of the current WEAT Strategic Plan and recipient of past WEAT awards including Wastewater Operator of the Year and the David Barber Competitive Spirit award, as voted by operations challenge competitors, to recognize a participant's spirit and drive.

Rey joined WEF in 2004 so he would be eligible to participate in Operations Challenge. In 2005, Rey joined the Aqua Techs at Dallas Water Utilities as team captain. He led that team to nine national competitions. Rey served as team captain of the NTMWD North Texas Rangers where in 2019, the team won overall in Division II.

In 2012, the Water Environment Federation selected Rey to join the U.S. Operations Challenge team at the Olimpiadas Sanitarias in Buenos Aires, Argentina. In 2019, WEF asked Rey to select one member of the North Mesquite Rangers to participate on the U.S. Operations Challenge team to compete in Germany in 2020.

Rey Davila is a legend in our industry. He has done much to develop and contribute to the next generation of water professionals. For Rey, it's never about what he can do for himself; he continually helps others.

## **Texas Water™ Code of Conduct**

The Water Environment Association of Texas and Texas Section of American Water Works Association are dedicated to providing a safe, harassment-free experience for everyone during Texas Water™ and official Texas Water™ conference events.

WEAT and TAWWA will not tolerate harassment of conference attendees, exhibitors, speakers, volunteers, or staff. WEAT and TAWWA prohibit Texas Water™ participants from intimidating,

harassing, unwelcome, abusive, disruptive, violent or offensive conduct. Texas Water™ participants asked to stop any such behavior must comply immediately. Violators may be subject to expulsion without refund. Harassment should be reported to conference staff immediately.

Please refer to our full Code of Conduct found at [www.txwater.org/codeofconduct](http://www.txwater.org/codeofconduct). cfm for more information including contact information for reporting actions contrary to the Texas Water™ code of conduct.



# WATER ENVIRONMENT ASSOCIATION OF TEXAS

## EXEMPLARY EMPLOYER AWARD

**...recognizing a Texas employer that supports and facilitates employee involvement and activities within the Water Environment Association of Texas and the Water Environment Federation.**

### City of Houston

Houston Water is part of the City of Houston Public Works Department. It is responsible for the production and distribution of more than 146 billion gallons of drinking water per year and the treatment of more than 90 billion gallons per year of wastewater. Houston Water serves approximately 2.2 million customers daily. Pipelines and physical facilities are geographically located throughout a four county service area, in excess of 600 square miles.

Houston Water is staffed with a trained work force of approximately 1,500 employees. Their wastewater system has consistently been awarded Gold and Silver awards from the National Association of Clean Water Agencies, in recognition of their ability to produce wastewater discharges in compliance with federal regulations that protect the public and the aquatic environment.

Houston Water has fostered an environment that inspires involvement in Water Environment Association of Texas and Water Environment Federation activities, as well as, those in international arenas. Within the past few years, Houston Water has amplified efforts for participation in industry memberships, presentations, awards, competitions and volunteer efforts. This successful push has not only benefited the industry but has increased staff morale and created an atmosphere that promotes involvement and advancement.

Some examples of their involvement in recent years includes:

- In 2019, Mr. Shannon Dunne, senior assistant director for Houston Water won the 2019 WEAT Recruitment Award along with the former president of WEAT's Southeast Section, Kristin O'Neill. Mr. Dunne and his team's efforts to spread the word on the benefits of WEAT, increased membership by 20 percent for that year.
- Houston Water sponsored a team for Operations Challenge the last two years, and sponsored an all-female Operations Challenge team in 2019, a first for Texas Water.
- Houston Water has also partnered with WEAT to offer their staff advanced operator trainings and promote career advancement for their operations staff. The Houston Water team is also a key partner in WEAT's Workforce Development Springboard and Apprenticeship programs. They are working closely with WEAT on many fronts to promote water careers for all their current and future employees.
- Houston Water staff served as co-chairs of Texas Water in 2019, and multiple staff at all levels participated and volunteered for Texas Water in Houston.

## WATER ENVIRONMENT ASSOCIATION OF TEXAS

### EARNEST F. GLOYNA PILLARS OF THE PROFESSION AWARD

**...recognizing a longtime member of WEAT or WEF who has demonstrated meaningful and substantial contributions toward the improvement of the water environment via a distinguished career in the wastewater treatment or water quality industry.**

#### Larry Patterson, P.E.

Larry N. Patterson is a licensed professional civil engineer in the state of Texas with more than 40 years of experience in the water and wastewater utility industry. He earned his bachelor of science degree in civil engineering from Texas A&M University and a master of science in environmental sciences from the University of Texas at Dallas. He also is a graduate of the Command and General Staff College and the United States Army War College.

Mr. Patterson was employed by Dallas Water Utilities for 30 years until his retirement in July 2002 as the assistant director of wastewater operations where he had instrumental roles in water rate cases, design of the wastewater plants and operation of the water and wastewater plants.

He is currently the executive director of the Upper Trinity Regional Water District, where he is responsible for all the day-to-day operations and planning for the district's water reclamation and water treatment facilities, along with the long-term vision and planning for future raw water supplies. A lasting legacy of his career will have been his planning and development of the future Lake Ralph Hall.

In addition to his service to the water utility industry, Mr. Patterson served for 30 years in the Texas Army National Guard receiving numerous federal and state awards and decorations

including the Legion of Merit and the Lone Star Distinguished Service Medal. Mr. Patterson concluded his military career achieving the rank of brigadier general (Brevet). In 2010, in recognition of his military service and support of military veterans, BG Patterson was presented the Congressional Veteran Commendation for Texas 26th Congressional District by Congressman Michael C. Burgess, M.D.

Mr. Patterson is an active member and has held various leadership positions in the American Water Works Association, the Water Environment Federation, the Water Environment Association of Texas, the American Society of Civil Engineers, the Texas Association of Clean Water Agencies and the National Association of Clean Water Agencies.

Beginning in 2001, Mr. Patterson served many years on the NACWA Board of Directors representing EPA Region 6. In 2004, Mr. Patterson was presented the NACWA President's Award for his longtime service to the association. Mr. Patterson was also the recipient of the WEAT Lifetime Achievement Award in 2014.

He has presented papers and attended conferences and seminars at the local, state and national level throughout his career. Additionally, he has supported his colleagues and employees' involvement; encouraging many to achieve high levels of leadership within WEF and WEAT.

## WATER ENVIRONMENT ASSOCIATION OF TEXAS

### LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT AWARD

**...recognizing a current or past WEAT member who has demonstrated continual and tireless contributions toward the improvement of the water environment throughout a long, distinguished career in the wastewater treatment industry and in WEAT/WEF.**

#### VK Gupta, P.E.

VK Gupta received his bachelor of science in electrical engineering from the Delhi College of Engineering in 1974 and his master of science in electrical engineering from SMU in Dallas in 1977. He started his engineering career in 1978, working for Forrest & Cotton Consulting Engineers in Dallas.

After URS acquired Forrest & Cotton he continued with URS. Later he moved to CDMSmith and worked there until 1999. His work was focused on both the electrical distribution and controls, as well as, the instrumentation and controls design for municipal water and wastewater projects.

He started his engineering design firm, Gupta and Associates Inc. in 2000. From the beginning his business model was to provide consulting engineering design services to the water and wastewater market. Since then he has grown his firm to 45 employees and three offices. The success of the company he has built is largely due to the quality of work he produces.

Mr. Gupta has more than 40 years of planning, design and construction management experience, virtually all of it in his chosen market of water and wastewater. His experience includes electrical, instrumentation/controls, SCADA system design for water and wastewater treatment plants, lift stations, and pump stations. He has worked as a consulting engineer in the municipal water and wastewater market for his entire career.

VK has been instrumental in encouraging the development of the electrical and instrumentation disciplines for the water and wastewater market. One way he has done this is by his individual effort to organize and promote the Water Environment Association of Texas Electrical Instrumentation & Controls Knowledge Committee. He served as chairman of this committee for many years from its inception in 2008 until 2018. The committee has been one of the most active and successful knowledge committees in WEAT.

Under VK's direction, GAI developed and sponsored a first-of-its-kind electrical demonstration event under the Operations Challenge at the Texas Water Conference. This gives the competitors a chance to demonstrate the electrical safety and troubleshooting skills as well as learn through the process.

He has authored or co-authored several papers presented at Texas Water. He also served on a panel discussion under the diversity/workforce tract.

VK's giving spirit and dedication to our field is legendary, and he has worked tirelessly to deliver projects and educate operations professionals. VK is a tireless advocate and sponsor of WEAT. He is an outstanding ambassador and leader for our industry, and one of the most renowned experts in the country in treatment plant controls, instrumentation, SCADA and electrical systems.

## WATER ENVIRONMENT FEDERATION

### ARTHUR SIDNEY BEDELL AWARD

**...to acknowledge extraordinary personal service to the Water Environment Association of Texas. The honoree must be a member of WEAT and should exemplify organizational leadership, administrative service, membership activity, stimulation of technical functions, or similar contributions to WEAT.**

#### David Jackson, P.E., BCEE

David Jackson is a principal and vice president of Freese and Nichols, and as the firm's treatment practice leader has been involved in project management and design of hundreds of treatment plant projects in his career. He is a Board Certified Environmental Engineer, specializing in water and wastewater treatment, and has a comprehensive background in wastewater treatment, water treatment, and reuse facility planning, design, and construction management.

His expertise includes the planning, design, construction and startup of water treatment and wastewater treatment, water purification, and resource recovery facilities throughout Texas and the Southeastern United States.

Mr. Jackson is an active member of both the Water Environment Federation and the American Water Works Association. He began his service to the Water Environment Association of Texas in 1999, when encouraged by WEAT Past-President Ray Longoria to sign up as the North Texas Section secretary. As David says – "It was one of the best decisions Ray ever made for me!"

As an officer in the North Texas Section, David served as secretary, vice president, president-elect, president, and past president from 1999-2005. He also served as chair of the North Texas Section Executive Committee, Bylaws Committee, Program Committee, and Scholarship Committee at various periods during this time.

During his time as NTS Scholarship Committee Chair, he helped grow the scholarship from

a \$20,000 fund to more than \$200,000 and coordinated the award of dozens of scholarships to deserving students and WEAT members.

Mr. Jackson has been a member of the WEAT Executive Board since 2004, first serving as Chair of the WEAT Constitution and Bylaws Committee, and as WEAT parliamentarian from 2004-2011, and from 2016-present. He has since served as WEAT treasurer, vice president, president elect, president and past-president from 2012-18. He is currently serving as Texas's senior delegate to the WEF House of Delegates (2018-present) and as WEAT's parliamentarian.

Mr. Jackson has served WEAT as a member of a variety of committees including the Municipal Resource Recovery Design Committee, Texas Water Program Committee, Texas Water Planning Committee, Committee Leadership Council, Management Review Committee, Nominating Committee, and Strategic Planning Committee.

He has chaired the WEAT CLC, WEAT MRC, Constitution and Bylaws Committee, and Audit and Budget Committees at various times throughout his WEAT tenure. At the national level he has served WEF as a delegate, member of the WEFTEC Advisory Committee, WEF HOD Student Chapter Workgroup Committee, WEF HOD Diversity and Inclusion Workgroup Committee, and as chair of the Diversity and Inclusion Sub-Group Committee.

He is currently serving as a member of the WEF HOD Public Education Workgroup. He is

*(Continued)*

a staunch supporter of the Operations Challenge Program, serving in a variety of support roles and helping promote the outstanding men and women who serve our utilities in operations, maintenance, and laboratory services. Through the last 18 years,

he has dedicated thousands of hours of his own personal time to help achieve the mission and vision of the Water Environment Association of Texas and Water Environment Federation.

**WATER ENVIRONMENT ASSOCIATION OF TEXAS  
ARTHUR SIDNEY BEDELL AWARD WINNERS**

1949	Victor Marcus Ehlers	1979	W.S. Sam Hutton	2000	Ron Sieger
1952	Winfield S. Mahlie	1980	S.A. Garza	2001	Betty Jordon
1955	J.H. Sorrels	1981	Robert L. Nichols	2002	Betty Carol Mayo
1958	Roger Moehlman	1982	P.D. Parks	2003	Mary Evans
1959	C.H. Connell	1983	Dick Whittington	2004	Cathy Henderson
1961	A.C. Bryan	1984	Joseph F. Malins, Jr.	2005	Raymond R. Longoria
1963	David F. Smallhorst	1985	Marshall L. Haney	2006	Jim Taafe
1964	David G. Chase	1986	Sharon D’Orsie	2007	Carolyn Ahrens Wieland
1965	John P. Wold	1987	Bert H. Bates, Jr.	2008	Richard Eason
1967	Albert H. Ullrich	1988	William Goloby	2009	Carol Batterton
1968	G. R. Herzik, Jr.	1989	Rhonda Harris	2010	Brad Castleberry
1969	Pearl Goodwin	1990	Earnest F. Gloyna	2011	John Bennett
1970	Jack E. Huppert	1991	Stephen M. Jenkins	2012	Ronald Dale Carlson
1971	Sam L. Warrington	1992	Robert T. McMillon	2013	Jody Zabolio
1972	Clayton H. Billings	1993	Ron L. Mayo	2014	Dawn Anderson
1973	Joe Driskell	1994	Paul Roach	2015	David Briggs
1974	Joe P. Teller	1995	Joe King II	2016	Julie Nahrgang
1975	J.L. Robinson	1996	Patricia M. Cleveland	2017	Jenna Covington
1976	John B. Scott	1997	Foster Crowell	2018	Jeffrey L. Sober
1977	A.E. Holcomb	1998	Raj Bhattarai	2019	Steve Coonan
1978	Ernest F. Cross	1999	Alan Plummer	2020	David Jackson

**WATER ENVIRONMENT ASSOCIATION OF TEXAS**  
**SUSAN B. HIER AWARD FOR EXCELLENCE**  
**IN EDUCATION & LICENSING**

**...recognizing a WEAT member that has participated in the advancement of the wastewater or water profession through mentoring professional operators, assisted wastewater professionals in the advancement of their license, trained operators in the art and science of water or wastewater treatment, served the TCEQ as a subject matter expert, and provided a service or assistance to the Operations Challenge Program.**

**Linda Saladino**

Linda Saladino is recently retired from the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality where she served as the manager of the Occupational Licensing Section within the Permitting & Registration Support Division of the TCEQ in Austin, Texas.

Linda graduated from Iowa State University with a Bachelor of Science Degree in Chemical Engineering. In 2004, she joined TCEQ (then TNRCC) as a training specialist in the Occupational Licensing Section. Her responsibilities evolved over the years as she recognized that training rules and guidance needed revision to be more specific to promote higher standards for operator training.

Quantifying her level of positive impact on educational attainment of operators is difficult. However, she assisted more than 350 active trainers throughout the years through providing feedback on audits, training development, application reviews, instructor qualifications and providing an “ear” to hear industry issues.

One of Linda’s most impactful operator educational activities for rural operators at small

systems occurred in 2005-2006. She participated with advisory groups of small water system operators to identify training needs, review the developed materials, and implement one to four hour training modules called Cluster Training as part of the EPA Expense Reimbursement Grant. This training was badly needed and was one of the first of many steps taken to address rural operator training needs at small systems.

Beginning in 2005, Linda assisted Susan Hier in creating the comprehensive exam to be used in the Process Control portion of Operations Challenge. In 2008, she became part of the event coordination team and subsequently served as the coordinator multiple years up to and including 2018. She served as a WEF coordinator and spearheaded the inclusion of computer simulation within the Process Control Event.

Linda has also served as an Operations Challenge judge, Advanced Operator Training Committee member and Process Control Subcommittee co-chair, Workforce Development Committee member and Apprenticeship Program Instruction Subcommittee co-chair and WEF Ops Challenge event coordinator.

**WATER ENVIRONMENT ASSOCIATION OF TEXAS**

**DENNIS R. LASKOWSKI RECRUITMENT AWARD**

**...recognizing a member of WEAT for their outstanding recruitment effort.**

**Clarence Wittwer  
on behalf of City of Pearland**

In February of 2020, the City of Pearland became the newest member of the WEAT Utility Membership Program. This initiative was championed by Clarence Wittwer, City of Pearland director of public works. Clarence saw the value in providing his employees with access to educational and networking opportunities they would gain as benefits of their professional association membership. Fifty-one members from the utility joined WEAT through the Utility Membership Program.

Mr. Wittwer assumed his current role with the City of Pearland in October of 2018. He has 29 years of experience in the public sector, serving as both utilities and public works director for

several municipalities. He holds degrees in both environmental science and music and is also a member of the Double A Club. Mr. Wittwer also holds the Certified Water Professional Credential from Texas A&M University.

Prior to his current role, Mr. Wittwer served the City of Houston Wastewater Operations Section for nearly nine years in various roles including assistant director.

He also serves on the Board of Directors for the Gulf Coast Water Authority, is a Past President of TWUA Gulf Area District and is an Enviro Mentor for the TCEQ.



**YOU NEED WATER. WATER NEEDS YOU.**

**YOUR EFFORT**

You consume water and create waste every day. Making smart choices helps us sustainably reuse water and manage waste to protect the environment and the systems that keep it flowing.

A LITTLE EFFORT GOES A LONG WAY.

**WATER'S WORTH IT.**  
To learn more, visit [www.WatersWorthit.org](http://www.WatersWorthit.org)

**Water Environment Federation**  
the water quality people

## WATER ENVIRONMENT ASSOCIATION OF TEXAS

### MUNICIPAL WASTEWATER TREATMENT PLANT OF THE YEAR Category 1 ( less than 1 MGD)

**...recognizing a municipal wastewater treatment plant in Texas that has consistently exhibited outstanding performance of daily activities beyond the normal call of duty.**

#### WWTP No. 3 San Jacinto River Authority

The San Jacinto River Authority owns and operates Wastewater Treatment Plant No. 3 located in MUD 39 of Montgomery County. WWTP No. 3 is a single stage nitrification facility, operated in a complete mix mode, that has a permitted flow of 0.9 million gallons per day. WWTP No. 3 is one of three regional wastewater treatment plants that SJRA owns and operates, receiving influent primarily from residential dwellings and a few commercial businesses, with one industrial user.

The average daily flow is 0.530 MGD. Plant influent flows to the headworks, which has an automatic mechanical fine screen and aeration flow splitter. From the headworks, wastewater flows to one of the two aeration basins, then to the two secondary clarifiers. Clarifier effluent flows into the chlorine contact basins, and thence to the outfall, which discharges to an unnamed tributary of the West Fork San Jacinto River in Segment No. 1004 of the San Jacinto River Basin. Solids from the secondary clarifiers are either routed back to the aeration basins, or pumped into two aerobic digesters. Liquid sludge is disposed of via off-site disposal for further processing.

In the past 12 years, WWTP No. 3 has had no compliance violations on monthly reporting. The plant regularly produces effluent CBOD, TSS and NH<sub>3</sub>-n results that are well below permitted levels. In addition, the facility is a Platinum 12 award recipient from NACWA.

SJRA has kept a series of process reports, DMR's, maps, lab analysis, and annual reports in paper and electronic form for many years. The SJRA follows the TPDES recordkeeping requirements for all paper and electronic information.

Additionally, the SJRA has developed and implemented a Manual of Practice that follows the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality's process control recommendations for activated sludge. Most of the reports from 2000 to current are available in electronic format for ease of use. In 2010, a centralized database was implemented to house the operational data in order to have a more efficient approach to data storage and retrieval.

Reports were reconstructed in this database in order to simplify the implementation and allow the operations staff to work with spreadsheets they were used to seeing. This database is available to all Woodlands Division staff and has assisted in refining data collection in the division. In addition to the optimized reporting system, a daily operations meeting is held with all operators to discuss process control, policy and procedures, and conduct refresher training on process, safety or other items of concern. All operators are encouraged to be vocal and to provide input to increase the overall knowledge of the staff.

In 2011 the division began developing an asset management plan that would cover the entire

*(Continued)*



wastewater system. Throughout the process of developing the plan, collection system monitoring data was reviewed, all facilities were toured and assets were logged and reviewed, and multiple workshops were held to define rankings, such as likelihood or consequence of failure. The result of two years of research and data collection is an asset management plan that produced recommendations to improve and rehabilitate assets going forward. Additionally, in April 2015, SJRA began using an EAM CMMS system to more efficiently capture the maintenance data of the system for ease of reviewing asset data when developing budgets and capital improvement plans.

Knowing that a wastewater facility requires ongoing planning due to growth in the service area and water quality changes, including regulatory changes, the SJRA contracted a firm to perform an evaluation study in 2016 to look at the available and required capacity and condition of WWTP No. 3. The results of this planning criteria study showed that the facilities currently have the available capacity to maintain the known growth

of the service areas until 2027, at which time the service area and facility will be re-evaluated.

The division has a combined total of 28 licensed wastewater operators. Of those 28 operators, six have direct responsibilities at WWTP No. 3, eight are maintenance personnel who have Class D wastewater licenses, and five are in supervisory / management positions. The maintenance staff does not operate any of SJRA's treatment plants. They maintain their licenses to allow them a better understanding of the process in relation, and how their duties may impact the system. Additional personnel at other facilities are cross-trained in water and wastewater plant operations to allow for continuous operation if an operator or shift needs assistance.

WWTP No. 3 is a well maintained, properly operated, clean facility that consistently produces high quality effluent. The outstanding performance of this facility is greatly attributable to the licensed operators who strive for excellence in all areas of responsibility.

## WATER ENVIRONMENT ASSOCIATION OF TEXAS

### MUNICIPAL WASTEWATER TREATMENT PLANT OF THE YEAR Category 2 (1 MGD to <15 MGD)

**...recognizing a municipal wastewater treatment plant in Texas that has consistently exhibited outstanding performance of daily activities beyond the normal call of duty.**

#### **WWTP No. 2 San Jacinto River Authority**

The San Jacinto River Authority owns and operates Wastewater Treatment Plant No. 2 located at 5402 Research Forest Drive, The Woodlands, in Montgomery County, Texas 77381. WWTP No. 2 has a design capacity of 6.0 million gallons per day with a permitted two-hour peak flow of 15.6 MGD. WWTP No. 2 receives influent from

primarily residential dwellings and commercial businesses. The average daily flow is approximately 3.7 million gallons per day.

Wastewater treatment at the facility consists of mechanical and manual bar screens, a grit removal unit, eight aeration basins, three secondary

*(Continued)*

clarifiers, two low-head sand filters, one cloth media filter and chlorine contact basins. Sludge handling units include aerobic digesters, a gravity thickener and two belt filter presses.

Influent is treated through mechanical and manual bar screens, and an aerated grit settling chamber type degritter unit. Treated water is then gravity fed into aeration basin splitter boxes where the influent/raw is mixed with the RAS. All aeration basins use fine bubble diffused aeration systems, with the air provided by a bank of six multi-staged centrifugal blowers. The mixed liquor from the aeration basins is routed to a splitter box before being gravity fed into three secondary clarifiers.

The clarified effluent is then gravity fed to two low-head sand filters, and one cloth media filter. Filtered effluent is further treated using chlorine disinfection. Treated and disinfected effluent is then de-chlorinated with sulfur dioxide. The treated effluent is discharged to Panther Branch; thence to Lake Woodlands; thence to Spring Creek in Segment No. 1008 of the San Jacinto River Basin.

WWTP No. 2 has not incurred a violation since exceeding the daily grab for e-coli in October 2017. The preceding days of the violation rendered average e-coli results. A reason for the high number wasn't definitively determined.

SJRA has kept a series of process reports, DMR's, maps, lab analysis and annual reports in paper and electronic form for many years. The SJRA follows the TPDES recordkeeping requirements for all paper and electronic information. Additionally, SJRA has developed and implemented a Manual of Practice that follows the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality's process control recommendations for activated sludge.

Most of the reports from 2000 to current are available in electronic format for ease of use. In 2010, a centralized database was implemented to house the operational data in order to have a more efficient approach to data storage and retrieval.

Reports were reconstructed in this database in order to simplify the implementation and allow the operations staff to work with spreadsheets they were used to seeing. This database is available to all Woodlands Division staff and has assisted in refining data collection in the division.

In addition to the optimized reporting system, a daily operations meeting is held with all operators to discuss process control, policy and procedures, and conduct refresher training on process, safety or other items of concern. All operators are encouraged to be vocal and to provide input to increase the overall knowledge of the staff.

In 2011, the division began developing an asset management plan that would cover the entire wastewater system. Throughout the process of developing the asset management plan, collection system monitoring data was reviewed, all facilities were toured and assets were logged and reviewed, and multiple workshops were held to define rankings, such as likelihood or consequence of failure.

The result of two years of research and data collection is an asset management plan that produced recommendations to improve and rehabilitate our assets going forward. Additionally, in April 2015, SJRA began using an EAM CMMS system to more efficiently capture the maintenance data of the system for ease of reviewing asset data when developing budgets and capital improvement plans.

Knowing that a wastewater facility requires ongoing planning due to growth in the service area and water quality changes, including regulatory changes, the SJRA contracted a firm to perform an evaluation study in 2016 to look at the available and required capacity and condition of WWTP No. 2. The study showed that the facility currently has the available capacity to maintain the known growth of the service area for the foreseeable future. From the evaluation report we were able to better plan and prepare for future facility upgrades and or maintenance projects.

*(Continued)*

SJRA has made several improvements to the facility, all geared toward delivering the absolute best product to our customers.

A rehabilitation project for one of the low head sand filters had it converted to a cloth media high yield filter. SJRA plans to convert a second filter soon. The largest improvement to the facility is the construction and commissioning of a new chlorine contact disinfection system. Since the commissioning, we have had no e-coli violations, and this allows SJRA to achieve its customers' expectations by producing the absolute best effluent discharge in an efficient and reliable manner.

In being stewards of the environment, SJRA is actively applying for reuse water permits, and looking for community partnerships in developing a water reuse program for this facility. Doing so would reduce water demand, while supporting the needs of the customers.

The division has a combined total of 28 licensed wastewater operators. Of those 28 operators, six have direct responsibilities at WWTP No. 2, eight are maintenance personnel who have Class D wastewater licenses, and five are in supervisory/management positions.

The maintenance staff does not operate any of SJRA's treatment plants. They maintain their licenses to allow them a better understanding of the process in relation, and how their duties may impact the system. Additional personnel at other facilities are cross-trained in water and wastewater plant operations to allow for continuous operation if an operator or shift needs assistance.

WWTP No. 2 is a well maintained, properly operated, clean facility that consistently produces high quality effluent. The outstanding performance of this facility is greatly attributable to the licensed operators who strive for excellence in all areas of responsibility.

## **WATER ENVIRONMENT ASSOCIATION OF TEXAS**

### **MUNICIPAL WASTEWATER TREATMENT PLANT OF THE YEAR Category 3 (>15 MGD)**

**...recognizing a municipal wastewater treatment plant in Texas that has consistently exhibited outstanding performance of daily activities beyond the normal call of duty.**

#### **Duck Creek Wastewater Treatment Plant City of Garland**

The City of Garland Duck Creek Wastewater Treatment Plant is situated near the Dallas/Kaufman county line, south of Lake Ray Hubbard and approximately one mile north of U.S. Highway 80. The DCWWTP serves south and west Garland, and portions of Richardson, Dallas, and Sunnyvale. Located in unincorporated Kaufman County, DCWWTP was originally built in 1962 with a capacity to treat 10 million gallons per day. As the population and organic loading

in the DCWWTP service area grew over time, the plant was significantly upgraded in 1975, in 1986, and again in 2006. The plant is currently permitted for an annual average flow rate of 40 MGD with a peak two-hour flow of 72 MGD.

The treatment train at DCWWTP begins with preliminary treatment in a series of fine screens and vortex grit removal units, followed by primary clarification. After primary clarification, the

*(Continued)*

treatment process splits into two parallel treatment trains. The older (west) treatment train includes a trickling filter/solid contact basin (TF/SC) system and final clarifiers. The newer (east) treatment train consists of aeration basins and final clarifiers.

The secondary effluent is combined for effluent filtration and chlorination/dechlorination. By design, approximately 50 percent of plant flow is treated in the TF/SC system and the remaining 50 percent is treated in the east activated sludge system. In practice, however, approximately 67 percent is treated in the east activated sludge system. Primary sludge, trickling filter sludge, and biological sludge are stored in two sludge holding tanks before being pumped through one of two parallel 11-mile force mains to the RCWWTP for stabilization and dewatering.

DCWWTP is a 24/7, 365 days a year operation, which over the past two years has been involved in multiple plant projects. During this time plant staff maintained a near perfect safety record (one lost time incident in 2019). In 2014, 2015, 2016, 2017, 2018, and 2019 the DCWWTP won the Platinum 5 Award from the National Association of Clean Water Agencies, with 100 percent compliance in all parameters. For 2020 they anticipate winning the Platinum 6 Award from NACWA for six years of 100 percent compliance of all parameters. There were zero compliance violations in 2019.

DCWWTP plant staff is dedicated to increasing their knowledge, not only in the field of wastewater treatment, but also in safety best practices. Plant staff members have logged thousands of hours of classroom and hands-on training. With their input, and under the direction of the safety coordinator and plant management, new safety policies and procedures have been put in place.

DCWWTP staff are committed to educating the public on the importance of wastewater treatment and protecting the environment. Plant staff offer

regular tours for the citizens of Garland and other surrounding cities. Tours are conducted annually for local schools and colleges, with attendees ranging from 6 to 40 years of age. Each year Eastfield College tours the plant for one of their environmental classes.

The plant staff continues to look at ways to operate more efficiently. In 2018 and 2019, the staff worked to reduce the number of blowers needed to be in operation at the activated sludge aeration basin. In changing the ways the blowers were used, the staff reduced energy consumption in terms of kilowatt hours used per million gallons per day of water treated and kWh per pound of biological oxygen demand removed.

The DCWWTP made great strides in odor reduction and mitigation. The plant has been approved to purchase a live odor modeling system, which helps predict odors up to three days in advance. The plant is also in the process of a major construction project to help reduce offsite odors.

One major factor in maintaining an excellent safety record is safety training. The DCWWTP safety program includes the following training: lockout /tagout, confined space entry, hazard communication program, chlorine safety and repair kit b, trenching, vehicle safety and use of procedures and the department's safety manual, risk management program, and emergency action plan review. All safety training is conducted annually. The result was no lost time incidents for the 2014, 2015, 2016, 2017 and 2018 calendar years. In 2019 there was one (1) lost time incident. As of August 13, 2019, the staff of 20 had gone 1,755 days since the last lost time incident.

DCWWTP staff are dedicated to protecting the waters of the state by producing high quality water that is safe for both discharge and reuse. Their work to ensure a safe and productive work environment means Duck Creek is WEAT's 2020 Category 3 Municipal Wastewater Treatment Plant of the Year.

## WATER ENVIRONMENT ASSOCIATION OF TEXAS

### INNOVATION AWARD

**...recognizing a firm or individual for outstanding innovation in the field of water supply, sampling, monitoring, or treatment plant operations.**

#### 120Water

120Water's innovative solution makes drinking water programs clear and simple.

As the fastest growing digital water company in the country, 120Water's mission is to transform how organizations manage safe drinking water programs in order to reduce risk and protect public health now and in the future.

Water professionals across the country rely on 120Water to streamline and modernize their most complex drinking water programs -- including Lead and Copper Rule compliance, lead service line replacement, and sampling in schools — using a turnkey solution comprised of sample and filter kits, cloud-based software, and services.

120Water is in use at 170,000 locations across the United States, with clients such as Newark, Pittsburgh Water and Sewer Authority, Chicago Public Schools, Indiana Finance Authority, Lewisville, Texas, and Mott McDonald.

Purpose-built for water systems, the company is at the forefront of changing regulations and

emerging risks. For example, impending LCR revisions and the proposed regulation of PFAS mean that big changes are on the horizon for how water systems handle drinking water testing.

120Water's solution equips water utilities with an innovative platform that meets current and future regulatory demands, including automated communications, real-time reporting and data integrations. In addition to streamlining lead testing, the solution can be customized to support any contaminant, including lead, copper, arsenic, PFAS and Legionella.

120Water's team is comprised of water and software veterans with a proven track record of experience at world class technology companies such as ExactTarget, Salesforce and Oracle.

For their work equipping our industry with 21st century tools, 120Water is the recipient of WEAT's 2020 Innovation Award.

## WATER ENVIRONMENT ASSOCIATION OF TEXAS

### CLEAN SHORES CHALLENGE AWARDS

The Clean Shores Challenge, formerly the Texas River Cleanup Challenge, is in its 5th year, and beach cleanups and river cleanups are a key part of how we achieve our goal.

CSC is a friendly competition between Water Environment Association of Texas sections (joint sections and student chapters included), and it is part of a Texas-wide effort to keep Texas rivers, lakes, streams, and oceans clean while promoting environmental awareness and stewardship. The competition's primary goal is to facilitate involvement and connection between WEAT sections and their community, as well as, encourage communication and collaboration among sections.

CSC events are a wonderful way to promote local environmental awareness, jump-start activities in local WEAT sections, and have fun while enhancing the local community.

Four sections participated in this year's challenge — Central Texas, Coastal Bend, North Texas and San Antonio.

The Central Texas Section partnered with Keep Austin Beautiful for their fourth annual Ladybird Lake Kayak Cleanup. The theme for this year's kayak cleanup was 'Keep Austin Clean', a play on the famous slogan, 'Keep Austin Weird.' The section also encouraged their volunteers to wear any kind of weird t-shirts, goofy hats, or other items of clothing that could stand out. They had volunteers in Star Trek t-shirts. All we can say is, "Live Long and Prosper!" Special thanks to Keep Austin Beautiful for providing the supplies needed for the kayak cleanup.

The Coastal Bend Section organized their first ever Halloween-themed 'Monster Mash for Trash' cleanup event in a popular tourist and boating area

to beautify the community. Cleanup efforts were focused under the JFK causeway - an area mostly surrounded by water and located in the Laguna Madre, Gulf of Mexico.

An increase in volunteer participation and fun activities made this year's cleanup a huge success. Using social media, chapter newsletters and local school connections, a group of 119 volunteers was formed from Coastal Bend WEAT members, City of Corpus Christi staff and local schools and organizations.

The event was also supported by the City of Corpus Christi Solid Waste Community. With these joined forces, volunteers removed a whopping 1.05 tons of trash! To make the event more interesting, volunteers were encouraged to dress up in their favorite Halloween costume to compete in a costume contest where prizes were awarded for best costume.

The North Texas Section organized two cleanup events. First in Fort Worth where they partnered with Tarrant Regional Water District to cleanup Cobb Park. At first glance the site looked very clean since it was a public park that was taken care of by the city, but once the volunteers did a full sweep, they found a lot of trash hiding out in the water way. They found an array of items, such as roof shingles, tires and even an old punch top Budweiser that dates to the 70's.

For their second event in Dallas, they partnered with Groundworks Dallas to cleanup Frasier Dam recreation area of the Bachman Branch. Volunteers showed up despite heavy rain in the days leading up to the event and collected two trailers full of trash, which was approximately 690 lbs. The rain surely couldn't dampen North Texas volunteers' spirits!

*(Continued)*

The San Antonio Section collaborated with the local TAWWA South Texas chapter to organize their annual ‘Basura Bash’ which aims to beautify the San Antonio River. Twenty-nine enthusiastic volunteers collected a mound of 50 bags of trash! To be more effective, volunteers picked up trash at a variety of different spots along the riverbank so that they didn’t miss anything. Volunteers even climbed over large fallen branches and debris to reach hidden areas of the river in need of cleanup. We’re proud of their indomitable spirit and teamwork in making this event a huge success!

The **Trashiest Section Award** goes to the **Coastal Bend Section** that collected about 1.05 tons of trash.

The **Most Spirited Section Award** goes to **San Antonio Section** for the best smiles in their group photo after a lot of hard work in removing trash!

The **Most Interesting Trash Award** goes to the **North Texas Section** for finding an old punch top Budweiser that dates to the 70’s and a whole front door of a home with windowpanes still intact.

The **Most Creative Section Award** also goes to the **Coastal Bend Section** for their Halloween-themed ‘Monster Mash for Trash’ event.

**Honorable Mention for the Most Creative Section** goes to the **Central Texas Section** for their ‘Keep Austin Weird’ t-shirts, goofy hats and other items of clothing at their event.

## WATER ENVIRONMENT ASSOCIATION OF TEXAS

### SELECT SOCIETY OF SANITARY SLUDGE SHOVELERS

The Select Society of Sanitary Sludge Shovelers was founded by the Arizona Member Association in 1940. It originated to encourage members to get involved. You cannot join the society – you must be “selected” on the basis of merit. Within WEAT, induction into the prestigious society is based on “outstanding, meritorious service above and beyond the call of duty by recruiting at least five new members.” Shovels may also be awarded for exceptional service as established by the WEAT Board.

- **Matt Berg**
- **Jeff Caffey**
- **Dylan Christenson**
- **Kyle Kubista**
- **Doug Sherman**
- **Michael Watts**
- **Clarence Wittwer**
- **Katie Zheng**

**WATER ENVIRONMENT ASSOCIATION OF TEXAS  
&  
TEXAS SECTION - AMERICAN WATER WORKS ASSOCIATION**

**KEN MILLER WATER FOR PEOPLE FOUNDER'S AWARD**

The Kenneth J. Miller Founder's Award was established in 2001 by the board of directors of Water For People to honor outstanding volunteer service to this international humanitarian effort. Water For People was conceived as a North American response to the water, sanitation and health needs of millions living in the developing world.

From its beginnings, Water For People was envisioned to be a volunteer effort of the North American water community. The American Water Works Association leaders who organized Water For People believed that water professionals would recognize the urgent necessity to support such a

cause by contributing their financial assistance, organizational skills and professional expertise. As the organization grew and began accomplishing its vision, it became evident that extraordinary volunteer efforts were being made at the local level that should be publicly acknowledged and honored. The Ken Miller Water for People Founder's Award was established to do this.

This award is given jointly by the Texas Section AWWA and WEAT. Normally, the winner is kept secret until announced. Also, the recipient is recognized by Water for People at the AWWA Annual Conference and Exposition.

**Lissa Gregg, P.E.**

Since volunteering to assist in the Texas Water™ 2016 silent auction, Lissa Gregg has taken on increasingly more important leadership roles within the Water for People Texas community.

She has become a critical asset to the North Texas TAWWA chapter's Casino Night benefitting Water for People, and she co-chaired the Water for People silent auction here at Texas Water 2020.

Lissa uses both her personal and professional network to grow support and awareness within Texas, in the form of auction item donations, sponsorship approvals, in-kind contributions, and event venue connections. Lissa understands the importance of volunteerism, and also helps out and attends several other Water For People events.

Lissa brings a unique perspective to her leadership roles, as she volunteered with an international nonprofit to live within a community in Uganda to design culturally-appropriate facilities that are sustainable, affordable and transformational.

Lissa applies those lessons of empathy and pragmatism to her fundraising and awareness responsibilities within the Water for People Texas community.

"I have worked with Lissa for several years on Water for People fundraisers. Adequate and safe water supply is something that Lissa takes very seriously. Lissa certainly embraces Water For People's mission of *Everyone Forever*, said John Logan, chair of TAWWA Mentoring Committee.



TEXAS SECTION - AMERICAN WATER WORKS ASSOCIATION  
&  
WATER ENVIRONMENT ASSOCIATION OF TEXAS

WATERMARK AWARDS  
FOR COMMUNICATION EXCELLENCE

MEDIA AWARDS

**The Watermark Award for Media Excellence recognizes Texas media who have raised the public's level of understanding of water issues in Texas. TAWWA and WEAT understand the important role Texas media have in advancing community understanding and support for water resources by interpreting issues affecting water in our state.**

**Daniel Houston**  
**Editor**  
**Community Impact Newspaper**  
**Plano Edition**

The City of Plano is part of the North Texas Municipal Water District, along with 12 other cities nearby. City officials are working to amend a contract that requires Plano residents to pay tens of millions of dollars for water they do not use.

Water and wastewater expenditures have risen by 27 percent in the last five years, outpacing growth in public safety spending by \$5.5 million.

Daniel's article outlines for the reader the complicated contract with NTMWD involving 12 member cities, and how city officials are working towards a resolution to keep costs from growing as usage declines.

The accompanying infographic (as seen in the online PDF, beginning on the cover and continuing with a jump to page 39) shows the historical usage from the time the rate was set by contract in 2001 to current day use.

Daniel has been writing on this topic for several years as the city and NTMWD continue discussions with the other 12 member cities in the region. It's a complicated topic that readers remain concerned about, and look to Community Impact for updated information as the conversations continue.

Link to article:

<https://communityimpact.com/dallas-fort-worth/news/2019/09/20/plano-seeks-new-water-deal-as-costs-surpass-public-safety/>

**WATER ENVIRONMENT ASSOCIATION OF TEXAS  
&  
TEXAS SECTION - AMERICAN WATER WORKS ASSOCIATION**

**WATERMARK AWARDS  
FOR COMMUNICATION EXCELLENCE**

**MEMBER AWARDS**

The Watermark Award for communications excellence recognizes Texas Section AWWA and WEAT members who have produced top quality communications. Effective internal and external communication is essential to a member's ability to provide excellent service. Today's water resource professionals must communicate with a variety of audiences to achieve success. Through these awards, Texas Section AWWA and WEAT hope to heighten awareness among all water resource professionals about the importance of effective communication.

**Category I:**

**Communications programs: internal campaigns,  
external campaigns, crisis communications**

*Small Utility*

**SouthWest Water Company**

***Your Water's Journey***

SouthWest Water Company felt a piece was missing to aid in its storytelling. Customers receive notices and hear news about water from many different sources. SouthWest Water wanted to provide a resource to simplify water to its customers, by creating "Your Water's Journey."

It highlighted the journey of water from source to tap, from how certain water types are treated to how the water gets to the home. SouthWest Water feels the campaign has set the tone for customers to start the thought process and even spark conversations with their families about their water.

*Large Utility*

**El Paso Water**

***Know Your H2O Website Campaign***

When El Paso Water received a surge of customer concerns about water quality due to home water filtration companies planting seeds of doubt, the utility communications team sprang

into action.

The "Trust Your Tap" campaign included social media posts of employees drinking tap water. It included bilingual video and radio PSAs, a news story on EPWater's website, pitches to local media warning consumers about these home filtration companies, an editorial in the *El Paso Times* by a University of Texas - El Paso professor and a radio segment and column about water quality by President & CEO John Balliew. The campaign reached 460,000 people.

*River Authorities or Districts:*

**San Antonio River Authority**

***Be River Proud Campaign***

Today, the San Antonio River basin is a thriving ecosystem, but that hasn't always been true. In fact, not long ago, it was viewed by residents of South Texas more as a drainage ditch than a river.

But the San Antonio River Authority has worked tirelessly for decades to return the river basin to its natural state and create a myriad of recreational and cultural opportunities. "Be River Proud"

*(Continued)*

is a campaign, launched in 2019, designed to call attention to those accomplishments, change existing perceptions, and instill a sense of pride and ownership resulting in an increased desire to value, protect and preserve this natural treasure.

Non-utility:

**Texas A&M AgriLife Water University  
UPlantIT Advertising Campaign**

The effort to market the UPlantIt Pollinator Pack was a multipronged approach involving heavy production of multimedia content: photos, video, custom brand graphics and accompanying narratives, as well as large physical displays.

The team made heavy use of social media, website advertising and strategic public appearances for promotion. Five hundred kits of 32 Texas Native Plants were sold in 2019 covering a total of 62,500 square feet and will help save an estimated 2.8 million gallons of water per year.

This plant-it-yourself garden kit saves water by being a more aesthetically pleasing higher water use turfgrass alternative.

Honorable Mention:

**Houston Public Works  
Imagine a Day Without Water**

Houston Public Works participated in the Value of Water's Imagine a Day Without Water campaign, attracting the community's interest on water use and conservation, fostering dialogue, primarily in students and businesses, about the daily significance of water in their lives.

The campaign was a new initiative for our region consisting of a multifaceted approach including press releases, city proclamation, student essay contest, educational video, in person and online pledge, engagement of organizations, events and informational poster boards.

**Category II:**

**Publications: annual reports, water quality reports, brochures, postcards, etc.**

Small Utility

**SouthWest Water Company  
Water Quality Report Redesign**

SouthWest Water Company wanted to find a way to make its water quality report easy-to-understand in a visually-appealing format.

With 137 systems, the template had to be adaptable for different types of water sources such as surface, ground and mix. Some added features include identifying the customers' water source, showing where it is on the map, and detailing the treatment process.

A video featuring the environmental, health and safety manager accompanies the report for a step-by-step explanation. With essential documents like water quality reports, SouthWest Water feels the new approach and transparency puts customers at

ease.

Large Utility

**San Antonio Water System  
A Journey from Rain to Drain**

A Journey From Rain To Drain was developed by the San Antonio Water System's education team as a companion publication to the incredibly popular Rain to Drain Experience field trip program.

The book allows tour participants to take something home to not only remember their day but most importantly, to share with others. The education team at SAWS recognizes that the greatest ambassadors are engaged customers. This publication is instrumental in recruiting new customers to join a Rain to Drain tour.

*(Continued)*

River Authorities or Districts:

**San Antonio River Authority  
River Reach**

The River Reach was established by the San Antonio River Authority in 2006 to provide a quarterly communication update to a four county jurisdiction of constituents in an entertaining and educational newsletter format.

Each River Reach edition is 12 pages of articles designed to inform the community about the agency's ongoing activities, projects, and events that strive to fulfill SARA's mission and vision.

The means of distribution for the River Reach includes the uses of the following methods: mailed directly to over 8,000 households and emailed to more than 4,000 recipients, as well as shared to over 20,000 followers on SARA social media channels via Twitter, Facebook and Instagram. The River Reach is used as a platform to inform constituents about SARA's community projects, how SARA employees are upholding the agency's mission and allows the SARA Board of Directors to communicate with the citizens they serve.

With the development of the River Reach, the San Antonio River Authority has been able to inspire actions for healthy creeks and rivers for a constituent base that encompasses four counties and over 3,600 square miles of territory.

Interested in receiving the River Reach by mail or email? Visit [www.sara-tx.org](http://www.sara-tx.org) to sign up today!

Non-utility:

**Texas A&M AgriLife Water University  
Deck of Plant Cards**

The "Top 100 Plants for North Texas" is a playing card-style deck of cards that provide the characteristics and care information for 100 native or adapted plants. Each card includes the plant's photo, water and light requirements, blooming season, size and growth rate. The deck is intended primarily as a tool for far reaching water conservation.

The goal is to provide homeowners and landscapers an opportunity to select plants based purely on aesthetics, with the reassurance that their selections will be environmentally friendly and low water use. To date, 30,000 decks have been printed and distributed to public partner organizations and homeowners.

Honorable Mention:

**City of Lubbock Water Utilities  
Water Quality Report**

With distribution beginning in July of 2019, Lubbock saw this report as an opportunity to expand its community engagement. Through a multi-platform approach, utility staff were able to reach almost 700,000 engagements with the citizens of Lubbock. There was also an increase in social media viewership as well as participation in community events due to the engagement efforts.

**Category III:**

**Digital Content: websites, social media, infographics, logos, etc.**

Large Utility

**San Antonio Water System  
SAWS Summer Logo**

#SAWSsummer was developed to provide positive engagements with SAWS in the community during the summer season. Staff

recognized the initiatives potential and decided branded effort was needed to generate a stronger following. All promo items were appropriately branded to ensure visibility across social media channels, in order to drive our audience to the events while growing our social media following. We found success creating a logo to help drive and

*(Continued)*

sustain throughout the months, nearly tripling our face-to-face engagement and raising our social media reach/impressions by 94 percent.

River Authorities or Districts:

**Tarrant Regional Water District**  
***TRWD.com Redesign***

The TRWD.com website redesign project offers a look into how Tarrant Regional Water District focused their new website on the public's needs and streamlined digital content to enhance user experience and navigation.

Non-Utility:

**Texas A&M AgriLife Water University**  
***Water University Website***

The website at <https://WaterUniversity.tamu.edu> is North Texas' one-stop shop for all things related to conservation and quality protection of water resources. The site welcomes 9,000 unique visitors monthly and serves as the online headquarters for Water University, the Dallas-based public outreach program on water resources from Texas A&M AgriLife Research.

Holistically, the Water University website exists as a single tool in the program's overarching mission: changing behaviors toward practices that benefit water and promote sustainable urban and sub-urban living. Teachings from each section can be used individually or in tandem to make use of any number of water-saving practices around the home.

Honorable Mentions:

**City of Sugar Land**  
***Stay Hydrated My Friends, The City of Sugar Land's Best Tasting Water Campaign***

In 2019, the Texas - American Water Works Association presented the City of Sugar Land with the 2019 Best Tasting Drinking Water in Texas award. Winning this award qualified Sugar Land to represent the state in the American Water Works Association's Best Tasting Water Contest. In June, AWWA selected Sugar Land water as the second best tasting water in North America. The winner was a Canadian utility, making Sugar Land's water the best in the U.S. To share the good news, staff produced a celebration video highlighting the hard work of all the water professionals throughout our organization.

**San Antonio River Authority**  
***Updated River Authority Website***

The San Antonio River Authority launched a new website in September 2019 with a renewed concentration on education through learning modules in an all-new Be River Proud portion of the site. Written and designed to be consumed as storybooks, the Be River Proud portion of the site includes information about how the river authority is reducing flood risk, is improving river health, is maintaining public parks and trails, is monitoring ecosystems, how bays and estuaries play a role in the natural world, and how to become a volunteer.

**Category IV:**

**Community Outreach & Education Programs: events, curriculums, programs**

Small Utility:

**McAllen Public Utility**  
***Water Education Camps***

McAllen Public Utility (MPU) works hard to educate the public, especially younger generations, on the issues surrounding water use and conservation. In 2019, MPU hosted six water and

STEAM related camps at our Water Treatment Plants and local areas for over one hundred 3rd to 12th grade students from McAllen and surrounding cities. From fun and games to hands on learning, campers were engaged and entertained and were eager to find out what they could learn from MPU.

*(Continued)*

Large Utility:

**Houston Public Works**

***Houston Public Works Water Works Festival***

On Friday, May 3rd, 2019, Houston Public Works hosted the 26th annual Water Works Festival at Levy Park. The Water Works Festival is an important and unique way to educate our future generation about the value of this natural resource. The Water Works Festival has been designed to provide educational, fun, hands-on activities in an atmosphere that includes core topics like science, technology, reading, engineering, art, and math. The theme for 2019 was focused on careers to garner interest in public and private sector jobs surrounding water and wastewater.

River Authorities or Districts:

**San Jacinto River Authority**

***What in the world is a water...shed?  
Communicating location and flow to the public.***

During Hurricane Harvey, SJRA realized the need for an effective way to communicate water flow and watershed locations. The Know Your Watershed campaign is designed to help identify a watershed, recognize flow patterns, and provide important water-related facts in a creative way. The campaign provides two ways to search: the user can click on the “Address Viewer” and search for a specific address location, or take a virtual tour with SJ Watershed down the West Fork of the San Jacinto River by clicking on the “Story Map”. With the unpredictability of Texas weather, it is essential to Know Your Watershed.

Non-Utility:

**AECOM**

***Young Professionals Tour Walnut Creek Wastewater Treatment Plant***

The joint Young Professional (YP) committee of TAWWA’s Capital Area Chapter and WEAT’s

Central Section delivered the annual treatment plant tour in March 2019 at the Walnut Creek Wastewater Treatment Plant. Less than 24 hours after the tour was announced, all 25 spots were booked, and a waiting list proved the event’s popularity. Attendees represented two government entities, 10 engineering consultants, one equipment manufacturer and graduate-level university students. Clear, concise and attractive communications ensured that this was an event YPs desired to, committed to and actually attended, furthering the organizations’ goal of active participation.

Honorable Mentions:

**City of Lubbock**

***2018 Water Quality Report***

With distribution beginning in July of 2019, we saw this report as an opportunity to expand our community engagement. In this two page summary, you will find that through a multi-platform approach, we were able to reach almost 700,000 engagements with the citizens of Lubbock, and saw an increase in social media viewership as well as participation in community events due to our engagement efforts.

**City of Plano**

***Waterwise Landscape Tour***

The City of Plano’s Sustainability and Environmental Education Division makes sustainable behaviors achievable through education and outreach. Its annual WaterWise Landscape Tour immerses attendees in beautiful, maintainable, sustainable spaces that exemplify SEED’s calls to action. The day-long, self-guided WWLT provides free access to model landscapes in the community that maintain attractive, thriving plant material with below-average water use. The WWLT offers attendees the opportunity to have meaningful conversations and to see region-appropriate plants in “action.” Data suggests that attendees learn best practices that empower them to transform their yards and reduce their outdoor water use.

*(Continued)*

**Tarrant Regional Water District**  
***Learn and Grow Program***

The Learn and Grow Program is a water conservation education and outreach program initiated by Tarrant Regional Water District in 2016 to serve communities within Tarrant County.

The program is an agreement between TRWD and a non-profit organization to administer

presentations, workshops and attend events on behalf of TRWD to expand TRWD's capacity to educate the public on the importance of water conservation. After three years of operation, the Learn and Grow Program has supported over 350 community events and activities, reaching nearly 15,000 people in Tarrant County.

**Category V:**  
**OpEds and Features: guest editorials or columns,  
feature stories or series**

Non-Utility:

**Texas A&M AgriLife Water University**  
***Edible Dallas and Fort Worth: The Resilient Garden(er)***

Water University built a non-traditional partnership with “edible Dallas and Fort Worth Magazine” to build on pre-existing communication networks.

Their guest column titled “The Resilient Garden(er)” digs into practical ways to adopt

water efficient practices, using a holistic approach to manage & protect water-- one vegetable garden at a time. Working with the magazine's staff to create a piece that apPEELED to a broader audience, the 10-year anniversary addition received over 100,000 views in print & digital copy, offered for free at all North Texas Central Market and Whole Foods locations, dozens of local nurseries, restaurants, farms, & wineries.

**Category VI:**  
**Multimedia: video and photography**

Small Utility:

**City of Allen**  
***Sustainable Landscape Series***

Because the City of Allen is comprised of newer homes with sprinkler systems, the water conservation division created the Sustainable Landscape Series. This series targets the large residential population to help with understanding of conservation through landscape and sprinkler efficiency.

Each year, since 2008, the water conservation

division has offered the Sustainable Landscape Series. The series is normally held in the spring and topics vary each year. All topics are presented by professional and experienced speakers from the horticulture, landscape and irrigation industries.

Large Utility:

**El Paso Water**  
***The Next Step in Water Reuse: Purified Water for El Paso***

El Paso's population is growing and river drought cycles are expected to continue. The Advanced

*(Continued)*

Water Purification Facility will provide a safe, reliable and drought-proof water source for the community.

EPWater produced a video to continue to build public acceptance for the project. Key objectives were to inform viewers: 1) EPWater has been practicing water reuse successfully for decades; 2) there is a need for drought-proof, reliable sources of water; and 3) and that technology makes purified water safe to drink. EPWater interviewed issue experts to feature in the video, which reached 16,476 people on social media.

River Authorities or Districts:

**Tarrant Regional Water District**  
***Managing Rural Land to Improve Water Quality***

The video, “Rural Land Management to Improve Water Quality,” captures the essence of TRWD’s rural land management program. It shows how the water district is working closely with conservation agencies, ranchers, and agricultural producers to promote good land stewardship and create healthier watersheds. The video does a nice job highlighting how rural landowners are adopting new practices to decrease erosion and reduce the amount of work and chemicals needed to make the land productive. The video was also featured last year in a Texas AWWA webcast on source water protection.

Honorable Mentions:

**City of Sugar Land**  
***Stay Hydrated My Friends, The City of Sugar Land’s Best Tasting Water Campaign***

In 2019, the Texas - American Water Works Association presented the City of Sugar Land with the 2019 Best Tasting Drinking Water in

Texas award. Winning this award qualified Sugar Land to represent the state in the American Water Works Association’s Best Tasting Water Contest. In June, AWWA selected Sugar Land water as the second best tasting water in North America. The winner was a Canadian utility, making Sugar Land’s water the best in the U.S. To share the good news, staff produced a celebration video highlighting the hard work of all the water professionals throughout our organization.

**Brazos River Authority**  
***Operation of BRA Dam Structures***

Twenty years ago, the Brazos River Authority made it their goal to educate the public about the importance of water in our daily lives. Through the organizations’ website, blog, newsletter and social media, the BRA has proactively provided educational information to the public regarding everything from water supply to the ongoing need for conservation. Throughout these efforts, one of the least understood and most urgent areas requiring public understanding is the function of reservoir dams. In 2019, the BRA produced a series of videos explaining how the dams operate. The response from the public has been extremely positive.



## AMERICAN WATER WORKS ASSOCIATION

### OUTSTANDING SERVICE TO AWWA AWARD

**...recognizing and honoring a member of the American Water Works Association who has rendered outstanding service to the Association.**

#### MIKE HOWE

Mike Howe is a strong staff and volunteer advocate and contributor for the Texas Section and the American Water Works Association. He has added tremendous value for AWWA's members and the public that AWWA strives to protect through its many programs and services. Mike is a true servant leader that makes a positive difference.

Mike is serving in his 23rd year as the executive director of the 4,200 member Texas Section AWWA. He is completing seven years of service as co-chair of the AWWA2020: One AWWA Project.

In 2005, after Hurricanes Katrina and Rita, Mr. Howe developed the TXWARN utility to utility

mutual aid program in conjunction with other water and wastewater associations in Texas and secured a funding contract with TCEQ.

In 2015, he was appointed to the Governor's Private Sector Advisory Council representing the water sector to advise the Governor on homeland security issues including utility resiliency and cyber security.

Prior to his work with Texas AWWA, his career highlights include 10 years with Austin Water and the Austin city manager's office. He is a nationally recognized expert and instructor in risk communication.

## AMERICAN WATER WORKS ASSOCIATION

### HONORARY MEMBER AWARD

**...recognizing an individual whose knowledge and accomplishments in the field of water supply entitle them to special recognition.**

#### Fiona M. Allen

Fiona Allen has been a strong water sector career professional, technical contributor, organizational leader, and association and section volunteer. Through her professional engineering licensure and skills, unique ability to lead tactically and strategically, volunteer activity she has added value to the association, section, and the public she serves.

Fiona's distinguished career includes a long history of active engagement with state and federal regulators and elected officials advocating for the use of sound science and engineering principles to formulate public policy and regulations that serve

the best interest of the served public, environment, and sustainability of infrastructure in the water sector. Fiona has also played a key volunteer role in Section leadership and has actively engaged in AWWA's Fly-in as part of the Texas contingent in support of AWWA's legislative and regulatory initiatives.

Her career highlight include serving as regional manager for the northern region of Trinity River Authority of Texas, deputy city manager for City of Arlington, Texas and director of utilities, City of Arlington, Texas.

# AMERICAN WATER WORKS ASSOCIATION

## DIVERSITY AWARD

**...recognizing an individual, group, or organization that has created, promoted, and maintained diversity by establishing an environment that recognizes, encourages, and effectively utilizes each individual's talents.**

### L'Oreal Stepney

L'Oreal Stepney is the deputy director for the Office of Water in the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality. She has been impactful in supporting diversity and inclusion in the water industry for many years including serving on the Governor's Commission for Women.

She has served as the agency representative for the Mickey Leland Environmental Internship Program since 2001. For over twenty-five years, this program, named after former U.S. Congressman George Thomas "Mickey" Leland, exposes college students to environmental jobs including water related positions.

The program's mission is:

- To heighten the awareness and encourage the participation of minorities, women,

and economically disadvantaged college/university students regarding environmental-related issues and policies.

- To develop a diversified work force within Texas' environmental agencies and private corporations by promoting employment opportunities for students exploring future professional opportunities in the environmental fields; and
- To train and equip students for future careers as environmental professionals.

She is recognized for her nearly twenty-years of commitment and dedication to create an environment that recognizes, encourages, and tangibly promotes and supports diversity in the Texas Section AWWA.

**I'm not so easily replaced.**

If only our water infrastructure could talk to us. The pipes beneath our streets might remind us that they need constant attention to remain steadfast and efficient. They might also remind us that only tap water keeps us healthy, protects us from fire, supports our economy and provides the high quality of life we enjoy.

We are all stewards of the water infrastructure that previous generations handed down to us, and our water bills pay to keep those pipes strong and reliable.

**Only Tap Water Delivers**

Presented in cooperation with American Water Works Association

## AMERICAN WATER WORKS ASSOCIATION

### DR. JOHN L. LEAL AWARD

**...recognizing distinguished service to the water profession in commemoration of the sound medical/public health expertise and the courageous leadership advancing public health that characterized the life of Dr. John L. Leal.**

#### **Yvonne Forrest**

Yvonne Forrest is being recognized for her commendable leadership efforts during Hurricane Harvey, her vision towards the future by leading the nation's first technology hub for municipal water innovation and emergency response and for managing one of the world's largest water projects – the Northeast Water Plant.

Yvonne rose to the challenge through her leadership during Hurricane Harvey, which tested every official at every level of government. Harvey caused one of the worst floods in U.S. history, leaving behind trillions of gallons of water and billions of dollars in damages. Sadly, Harvey also took the lives of more than 30 people.

Yvonne led a team who worked around the clock conducting over 1,000 high-water rescues, transported sandbags, pumps and food to employees inside water treatment plants and prevented the Northeast Water Purification Plant

from shutting down despite being submerged under water. Remarkably, the NEWPP, along with the City of Houston's two other water purification plants remained operational during Harvey, which protected public health during the worst of circumstances.

Throughout the aftermath of Harvey, Ms. Forrest was determined to rebuild infrastructure damaged by the hurricane. Now, Houston Water is more resilient and more proactive.

In the aftermath of Harvey, Yvonne believed the event opened opportunities to learn more about innovative ways to prepare for such natural disasters, but more importantly how to respond to these emergencies to ensure public health and safety is not compromised. To that end, she now leads and guides the Houston Water Technology Hub.

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## AMERICAN WATER WORKS ASSOCIATION

### DISTINGUISHED PUBLIC SERVICE AWARD

**...recognizing distinguished public service outside the line of duty by an AWWA member.**

#### **Kathleen Jackson**

Kathleen Jackson has been described as having a passion for water during her 37-year background in engineering and communications. She has been a devoted community leader for her entire professional career and a champion for agriculture, rural and small communities.

She has done extensive statewide outreach targeting community leadership to proactively address water infrastructure challenges. Also, Jackson is leading the Texas Water Development Board's initiative to establish an inaugural Asset Management Program for Small Systems.

First appointed to the Texas Water Development Board in March 2014, Kathleen was reappointed to TWDB by Governor Greg Abbott in March 2017.

Jackson has a diverse background representing agricultural, environmental, industrial, and wholesale-supply interests, which includes developing and implementing water management

strategies for Southeast Texas. As a registered professional engineer, Jackson served as public affairs manager for one of the world's largest petroleum and petrochemical producers.

Additionally, she was involved in production agriculture with her late husband, who ran a cattle operation and farmed rice. She served as a past member of the Lower Neches Valley Authority Board of Directors, the Texas Water Conservation Association, and participated on the Sabine and Neches Rivers Bay and Estuary Environmental Flows Assessment Program Stakeholders Committee.

She is also a board member and past president of the Lamar Institute of Technology Foundation, a sustaining member of the Junior League of Beaumont, a member of the Texas Farm Bureau, past president of the American Cancer Society of North Jefferson County, and a past board member of Junior Achievement of the Golden Triangle.

## TEXAS SECTION – AMERICAN WATER WORKS ASSOCIATION

### JOHN LECHNER AWARD OF EXCELLENCE

**...to recognize a service provider member of the Texas Section of AWWA.**

#### **Don Lange**

Don Lange is a senior product manager with BGE in Fort Worth.

Don has served as the chair of the Texas Water Conference Exhibits Committee since 2011, and in that role, he is the manager of the entire exhibit hall during the conference.

As a fellow exhibitor himself, Don brings careful oversight and a calm demeanor to make even organized chaos manageable. Don is the one who keeps oiling the machine, so nothing breaks.

## AMERICAN WATER WORKS ASSOCIATION

### SILVER WATER DROP AWARDS

The AWWA Life Membership Awards are given to those members who have achieved 30 years of service to the water community and AWWA.

John W. Birkhoff	Robert M. Johnson	Paul R. Rivas
Hal J. Boyd	Thomas G. Kerr	David Brain Rowe
C. Fain Butler	Joseph J. Kotrla	Edmund Ruiz
Christianne M. Castleberry	Rob MacLean	Charles M. Shumate
Diane K. Flynn	Ferdous Mahmood	Cathy Sieger
Chitra Foster	Randy Lee Markham	David W. Sloan
Phillip G. Givens	Hani E. Michel	Keith L. Tilley
Randy M. Greene	M. Lyle Milstead	Simon Y. Tung
Sig A. Hausegger	Mehrdad Morabbi	Howard S. Wilhite
Mary Houston	Anai Padilla	
Stephen Eugene Jefferson	Robert T. Riley	

### LIFE MEMBERSHIP AWARDS

The AWWA Life Membership Awards are given to those members who previously achieved Silver Water Drop Award status and are now at least 65 years old.

Hector L. Acevedo	Brad Greer	James M. Oliver
Scott B. Ahlstrom	H.W. Bill Hoffman	Gordon W. Pederson Jr.
Charles F. Anderson	Ronny Hyde	Syed R. Qasim
John Bolender	Bruce Kromer	Jack Schulze
David L. Bowman	Ivan Langford III	Gordon E. Scruggs
John E. Burke	Desmond F. Lawler	Clifford L. Sheffy
Walter W. Chiang	William R. Lewis	Gerald E. Speitel Jr.
Dennis A. Clifford	Donna R. Loiselle	Wiley Stem III
David A. Corbin	Frank C. Mbachu	David R. Townsend
Kirit C. Daftary	Sid McCain	David A. Vogt
Randall R. Davis	Robert A. McCormic	Larry W. Webb
Michael R. Farrell	Michael D. Meadows	Bradley H. Winkler
Francisco R. Flores	Edward M. Motley	H. Daniel Wright
Edwin R. Ford	Allen Mullins	Matthew J. Young
Don R. Frazor	Glenn D. Nitsch	

# GOLD WATER DROP AWARDS

The AWWA Gold Water Drop Awards are given to those members who have achieved 50 years of service to the water community and AWWA.

Ronald R. Collins

Dennis R. Johnson

## TEXAS SECTION – AMERICAN WATER WORKS ASSOCIATION

### WILLIAM T. “DOC” BALLARD AWARD

William T. “Doc” Ballard was one of those people who not only was the consummate professional in his work, but also a mentor to many, and a friend to all. As a graduate of the University of Texas at Austin in 1946, and later with a Masters in Engineering from Georgia Tech, “Doc” began his career as a professional engineer with the State Public Health Department. He was assigned to the Tyler District Office and remained in Tyler working for the Department of Health, and later with LaGlonia Oil and Gas. He returned to the Department of Health as regional engineer of the Tyler office until his retirement in 1987. “Doc” was a consultant in water and wastewater treatment until his death in November 1999.

Many knew “Doc” from his work with utilities, his many scholarly and practical writings published in a variety of professional publications and his active role with organizations such as AWWA, WEF, WEAT and TWUA. And, he was a Texas Section AWWA Fuller Award Winner in 1991. For all that “Doc” did, those who knew him best remember him for what he did for others. As a public health

professional, he remained committed throughout his long and productive career to helping us in the water profession do our jobs better and more effectively. And, “Doc” did it with a personal touch that made him a great mentor, teacher and welcome friend.

In 1999, the Texas Section AWWA created the W. T. “Doc” Ballard Award recognizing those Texas Section members who have distinguished themselves in our profession by using their personal influence to shape the course of change in our profession by helping utilities and individuals serve the profession better.

This award is not presented every year and only to those whose selfless contributions to the industry, beyond all others, deserves recognition.

The recipient of this award is kept secret until announced publicly at the conference awards luncheon. This year we are able to reveal the winner in this program.

#### TEXAS SECTION – AWWA WILLIAM T. “DOC” BALLARD AWARD WINNERS

2000	Glen Doty*	2009	Kay Kutchins*	2017	Jack Schultze
2001	C.K. Foster*	2012	Ronny Hyde	2018	Steve Walden
2002	Charlotte Voelker	2014	Thomas Taylor	2019	Katie McCain
2003	Henry Graeser*	2015	Charlie Maddox	2020	Glenda Dunn
2004	John Kubala*	2016	Charlie Anderson		

\* Deceased

(Continued)

## TEXAS SECTION – AMERICAN WATER WORKS ASSOCIATION

### WILLIAM T. “DOC” BALLARD AWARD

#### Glenda Dunn

Glenda Dunn has been an active member of the water community for many years, working first for the City of Robinson and then the City of Waco.

She was a leader in the customer service area, recognizing early on that the voice on the phone WAS the water utility to most customers. She led the way for training about proper and caring customer service at her utility, in Texas and in AWWA.

An AWWA member since 1994, she served in many capacities in the Texas Section including as chair. She contributed to the success of the Texas Section of AWWA by helping form the first TAWWA Chapter.

At the Association level, she served as a director of AWWA representing the Texas Section from 2005 thru 2008. During that term, she served as an AWWA vice-president from 2006-2008. She received the Fuller Award in 2006 and became an Honorary Member of AWWA in 2013.

Glenda continued her leadership in the water sector after retiring from Waco. She designed, developed, and delivered “Leadership Training Curricula” for Waco Water Utility employees. It was structured like a leadership academy. Those attending had to learn how to work together in teams as they explored every area of utility operations and administration.

The course included field trips to every functional area of the utility, and guest lecturers. Each participant also had assignments that included making presentations and writing papers about various areas of utility operations that utility leaders may encounter.

In retirement, she has also been active in building homes for disabled veterans as well as in other outreach programs with her church and community.

Congratulations Glenda on this well-deserved award. Doc Ballard would be proud of you and your strong and accomplished leadership.

## AMERICAN WATER WORKS ASSOCIATION

### GEORGE WARREN FULLER AWARD

One of the most prestigious awards in the water profession is the George Warren Fuller Award for distinguished service to the water supply field in “commemoration of the sound engineering skill, the brilliant diplomatic talent and the constructive leadership, which characterized the life of George Warren Fuller.”

Because of the Texas Section’s growth, AWWA granted it an additional director to represent the section on the AWWA board. This means the section is able to award two Fuller Awards each year, should more than one suitable candidate meet the high standards of the award.

This year’s award recipient (s) is selected by previous Fuller Award winners, and kept a tightly guarded secret until the Texas Water Luncheon.

In a unique ceremonial process, all Fuller Award Winners in attendance are called to assemble in the front of the room. The group then begins searching the room for the person known only to the committee members as this year’s Fuller Awardee.

Slowly, as a brief highlight of this year’s awardee is read, the group converges on this year’s winner’s location in the room. As the group converges, the detail in the awardee’s career highlights will become more and more specific.

Because of the conference being virtual and the awards ceremony filmed in advance, we are able to list the awardees in the program.

#### TEXAS SECTION – AWWA GEORGE WARREN FULLER AWARD WINNERS

1972	Robert P. Van Dyke	1991	W. T. “Doc” Ballard*	2011	Mary L. Gugliuzza
1973	Haskell R. Street*	1992	Lee. C. Bradley, Jr.	2012	Richard Talley
1974	Richard G. Toler*	1994	F. Warren Norris	2013	Daniel Nix
1975	David R. Smallhorst*	1995	Katie McCain	2014	Donna Howe
1976	John H. Stacha*	1996	Jack A. Renfro	2015	Ron Tamada
1977	J.L. Robinson*	1997	Randy J. Goss	2016	Dave Scholler
1978	John T. Hickerson	1998	Ronny Hyde	2017	Christianne Castleberry
1979	Otis Goldman*	1999	Steve Walden	2018	Jennifer Elms
1980	George O. Muller	2000	Carole Baker	2019	Shay Roalston
1981	Charles K. Foster*	2001	Mark Lowry	2020	Brent Locke
1982	Glen Doty*	2002	Bill Riley	2020	Wayne Owen
1983	John Kubala*	2003	Gary Smith		
1984	Phil Kosub*	2004	Jeannie Wiginton		
1985	James H. Bailey*	2005	Charles Anderson		
1986	Thomas D. Tiner	2006	Glenda Dunn		
1987	Michael K. Tubbs	2007	Bill Smith		
1988	Michael Meadows	2008	Dean Sharp		
1989	Kay Kutchins*	2009	Mike Howe		
1990	Dennis L. Allen	2010	Charles Maddox		

*\* Deceased*

For a complete description on the career of George Warren Fuller, read the following pages.



## AMERICAN WATER WORKS ASSOCIATION

### GEORGE WARREN FULLER AWARD

*“Little can be said about George Warren Fuller without recalling a thousand and one connections which he has had with sanitary engineering practice in this country and abroad. Amazingly active mentally, he always catalyzed those individuals who were fortunate enough to work with him. An enthusiasm tempered by seasoned judgment and reinforced by a remarkable technical knowledge, accounting for the fact that his name is identified with almost every important sanitary advance in this country in the last four decades. Many, however, are born at the right time who are either ill equipped or are lacking in sufficient vision to make the most of that good fortune. In Mr. Fuller’s case, heredity and environmental influence, coupled with remarkable energy, all contributed to the development of a practitioner of outstanding stature. He will be remembered long in the future, as much for his distinctive personal characteristics as for his long list of contributions to sanitary science and practice.”* So wrote Abel Wolman editorially in Municipal Sanitation after Fuller’s death on June 15, 1934.

George Warren Fuller was born in Franklin, Massachusetts, December 21, 1868, on the farm which was part of the land acquired by the family during the Revolutionary period. Three or four Fullers came to Massachusetts from England before the middle of the Seventeenth Century. The one with whom we are concerned was Ensign Thomas Fuller, who, in 1642, by vote of the people of Dedham, was “admitted” - a prerequisite to citizenship at that time - to the purchase of Martin Phillips’ lot. He seems to have been a capable and versatile man. He was a surveyor for several years after 1660 and selectman for fourteen years; he repeatedly represented the community at the general court, was co-trustee of money bequeathed for the establishment of a Latin school and laid out the road to Cambridge as well as many minor ones. He kept the town’s ammunition, for which he was paid ten shillings a year, but had considerable trouble in collecting the fee, and at one time remitted part of it in order to obtain settlement. In the succeeding line, down through Grandfather Asa Fuller, who was a Minute Man, there continues to be activity of a civic nature—service as selectmen, court representatives, and the like.

George Warren Fuller was at the head of his class when he attended the Dedham schools. His scholarship was,

of course, a source of great satisfaction to his mother. At sixteen he passed the examination for entrance at MIT but, his father having died a few weeks before, it was thought best for him to have a fourth year in high school, after which he was graduated at the head of his class and with the highest marks given up to that time. At MIT he met and came under the influence of such people as William T. Sedgwick, Ellen H. Richards, and Hiram F. Mills, all enthusiastically interested in the new science of public health.

Their influence was felt throughout his life. Following his graduation, he spent a year at the University of Berlin and in the office of Piefke, engineer of the Berlin water works. On his return to Massachusetts, the state board of health employed him for some five years, during the latter part of the period being in charge of the Lawrence Experiment Station where he extended the experimental work and studies started by another famous chemist and engineer, Allen Hazen. The Lawrence Experiment Station was then recognized as leading in research on the purification of water supplies and treatment of sewage in this country. Fuller’s brilliant achievements in this field attracted such attention to his ability that he was selected in 1895 to take charge of the experiments at Louisville, Kentucky, in the use of rapid filtration. Immediately after he had accomplished this work, he was offered a similar engagement in Cincinnati, Ohio. These experiments served to remove the questions, which had been raised about the adequacy of rapid filtration compared with slow sand filtration for these municipalities, and, at the same time, established the value of mechanical filtration where conditions were such as to warrant its use.

During his 34 years of practice as a consulting engineer, following the opening of his New York office and, later, the opening of branch offices in Kansas City, Missouri; Toledo, Ohio; and Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, Fuller advised more than 150 cities, commissions, and corporations on their water supply and sewerage problems. The outstanding engagements, including among others: Washington, D.C.; New Orleans, Louisiana; St. Louis, Missouri; Indianapolis, Indiana; Kansas City, Missouri; Memphis, Tennessee; Wilmington, Delaware; New Haven, Connecticut; Lexington, Kentucky; Minneapolis and St. Paul,

*(Continued)*

Minnesota; Montreal, Quebec; the Shanghai, China, Water Company; the International Joint Commission (Canada and United States boundary waters); the New Jersey Water Policy Commission; the North Jersey District Water Supply Commission; the Hackensack Valley Sewerage Commission; and the Metropolitan Sewerage Commission of Rhode Island. For many of these engagements, his service included full control over all engineering work involved in the preparation of plans and contracts, as well as the actual construction.

Notwithstanding a busy life in active practice, Fuller gave freely of his time and energy to the advancement of his chosen profession through participation in the activities of technical societies, through contributions to the engineering press, and through educational activities. His record in this respect is outstanding. He was a member of the American Water Works Association (President); the American Public Health Association (President); the Engineering Foundation (Chair); the American Society of Civil Engineers (Vice-President); the American Institute of Consulting Engineers; the American Society of Mechanical Engineers; the Institution of Civil Engineers of Great Britain; the American Chemical Society; the American Society of Bacteriologists; the Engineering Institute of Canada; the Vereines Duetscher Ingenieure; the Association Generale des Hygienistes et Techniciens Municipaux of France; and the Franklin Institute.

Perhaps the most significant of Fuller's characteristics was his belief in organization and his devotion to standardization.

In 1920, at the Montreal Convention of the AWWA, Fuller negotiated the organization of a committee to codify and standardize water works practice. The Association before that time had developed a few specification Documents, but its relation to the preparation of those Documents was that of cooperative participation rather than leadership. The group under his leadership and chairmanship was first called the Standardization Council, later the Committee on Water Works Practice. He continued to be a dominant influence in the AWWA during the time its constitution and bylaws were being substantially revised.

At the New York Convention of the AWWA early in June 1934 (only a week before his death), Fuller was in constant attendance, participating in the sessions and continuing even then his stimulation of the activities of the Association and its elected leaders.

With the AWWA, APHA, ASCE and FSWA alone, more

than 45,000 professional and technical men in North America are indebted to Fuller for the guidance of their organizational readjustments in the 1920-30 period, which made possible the standing that these associations have today.

George Warren Fuller was first of all a capable engineer, equipped with a mind that never closed a channel to new ideas. He was an inventive technician—first in the laboratory field, later in engineering and design. He was a skilled negotiator; a public relations counsel who never called himself one, but who by such skill persuaded reluctant city officials that they were very wise and right to authorize sanitary improvements. He was a loyal citizen who found himself able and willing to render service to his country during World War I. He was uncannily able to give ear to the ideas and aspirations of younger men in the field and to inspire in them some measure of the spirit of leadership that he possessed. He believed in the organization and assembly of technical and professional men and devoted himself fully to the advancement of their associations and societies to the end that they serve better through planned action and cooperation.

Fitting indeed were the words of M. N. Baker, in his editorial tribute in the Engineering News Record:

*History will be better able than we are to appraise the contributions of George W. Fuller to the art of water purification, but history will not be so well able to appraise Mr. Fuller's personal qualities of understanding, kindness, sound judgment and tact as are we who have been fortunate enough to have frequent contact with him in our daily work. Here also should be recorded an acknowledgment of the debt the profession owes to Mr. Fuller, especially his chosen branch of the profession, for his liberal contributions of time and energy to its professional societies. It can be said without fear of contradiction that it was chiefly through his efforts that the American Water Works Association has been raised from the level of a social group to its present high standing as a technical organization. Mr. Fuller's passing also serves to re-emphasize the youthfulness of sanitary engineering and the fundamental nature of the contributions made by a generation of notable men, now largely departed—work that centered around the Lawrence experiments and laid the foundation for present design methods and practices of water filtration. Fuller's achievements and those of others of his generation are a legacy to be used by the present generation to carry the art forward to greater perfection.*

## TEXAS SECTION - AMERICAN WATER WORKS ASSOCIATION

### YOUNG PROFESSIONALS MAVERICK AWARD

...recognizing an individual member age 35 or younger who exemplifies exceptional qualities in the areas of volunteerism, community involvement, leadership, and outstanding service in the science of water supply, treatment, operations, and quality.

#### Katie Stowers

Katie Stowers is awarded the Young Professionals Maverick Award in 2020 because of her contributions to TAWWA as the YP chair and communications committee member at the North Central Texas Chapter representing the Dallas/Fort Worth area.

Katie is a water/wastewater engineer-in-training at CP&Y, Dallas, Texas. She is involved with the North Central Texas Chapter of TAWWA in various roles. She has served as the communication

committee social media chair and editor-in-chief since 2017, and as the chapter young professionals chair since 2019.

She also served on the AWWA/WEF 2019 YP Summit programming committee, contributed as a reviewer for the Texas Water 2020 YP session, and volunteered during the Water Quality Technology Conference 2019 YP networking event while serving as part of the young professionals committee.

## TEXAS SECTION - AMERICAN WATER WORKS ASSOCIATION

### WATER CONSERVATION AND REUSE AWARDS

Each year, the Texas Section AWWA Conservation and Reuse Division recognizes those who have demonstrated excellence in Water Conservation and Reuse Practices.

#### *Large Utility Direct*

##### **City of Corpus Christi**

##### ***Dead-End Main Yard Watering Program***

The City of Corpus Christi strives to balance water conservation and superior drinking water quality by reducing the volume of water wasted during monthly Texas Commission on Environmental Quality required dead-end main flushing.

The Dead-End Main Yard Watering Program allows residents to take advantage of dead-end main flushing by using this water to maintain

lawns and greenery. Water quality field technicians use hoses and diffusers to direct flushed water onto nearby yards rather than allowing flushed water to run directly into curbs and gutters.

The 354 residents who currently take advantage of the yard watering program reduce the volume of additional water needed to maintain a healthy lawn. The Dead-End Main Yard Watering program now uses an average of 301,660 gallons of water per month that would have previously been flushed into the stormwater system.

The City of Corpus Christi also developed a Dead-End Main Mitigation Program to reduce the number of dead-end mains that are required to

*(Continued)*

be flushed with a goal of eliminating 30-dead end mains each year. Since 2017, 157 dead-end mains have been eliminated ultimately conserving more water each year.

*Small Utility Direct & Bob Derrington Reuse Award*

**City of Round Rock**  
***If You Fail to Plan, Then Plan to Fail***

Round Rock is a growing central Texas city north of Austin with a current population of 115,000. By 2050, population is expected to grow to over 250,000. Their 1997 Water Master Plan included a reuse program to meet the needs of the growing community and projected daily water demand.

With assistance of partial federal funding, the 3-million gallons-per-day reuse facility located near the Dell Diamond baseball park was opened in December 2012. Through a series of phased projects, the system has grown to include expansion of the reuse distribution system to over 13 miles of pipelines, ranging from 8-inch to 24-inch lines, to distribute the reuse water. A new 1.25 MGD elevated tank marked the completion of phase 4 of the project. Plus, free to the public reuse refill stations were added to encourage use and spread the awareness of reuse water.

The treatment facility will expand to 12 MGD with a coming project starting in 2020 and the new 970 Kalihari Resorts hotel and convention center with an indoor/outdoor water park opening scheduled to open this year will be added as a new customer.

In addition to being awarded the Small Utility Direct reuse award, Round Rock is awarded the Bob Derrington Reuse Award, named in honor Bob Derrington, who as the City of Odessa's director of utilities initiated the oldest and continuously operating reuse program in 1949.

*Small Utility Indirect*

**City of Allen**  
***Water Conservation Block Leader Program***

The City of Allen Water Conservation Block Leader is a volunteer program for residents to educate their neighborhood street, community, or entire HOA development with a focus on indoor and outdoor conservation. The program started in 2011, and the success of this program helped lure the cities of Frisco and Plano to create similar programs.

Residents who volunteer with Allen's program must pass a criminal background check, attend training from conservation staff and record and submit volunteer hours annually. Water conservation staff provides education, leader supplies, giveaways, and promotional items for the leaders to give to neighborhoods. The block leaders serve as a first contact in their neighborhood for information on water supply, water restrictions, conservation measures, and a source to connect with the city when necessary.

During the height of the drought in the years 2012-14, these volunteers were instrumental in delivering information to their neighborhood on the ever- changing water restrictions. They also helped to dispel myths and rumors of the water shortages.

Water conservation block leaders are an extension education specialist in water conservation, much like master gardeners are to Texas A&M AgriLife. With the block leaders help during the drought, the city water conservation staff had extra hands, which lead to being able to meet the reduction demands set forth by North Texas Municipal Water District. The program is still active with continuous annual training of these leaders.

TEXAS SECTION - AMERICAN WATER WORKS ASSOCIATION

MEMBERSHIP AWARDS

The Texas Section AWWA recognizes five members for their outstanding recruitment efforts that help maintain the Texas Section's leadership as the largest single state Section of AWWA's forty-three sections. The section's continued growth is a testimony to meeting the needs of water professionals statewide.

**Jose Garcia**

City of Fort Worth

2 new operator members

**Steve Walden**

Small Utility Member

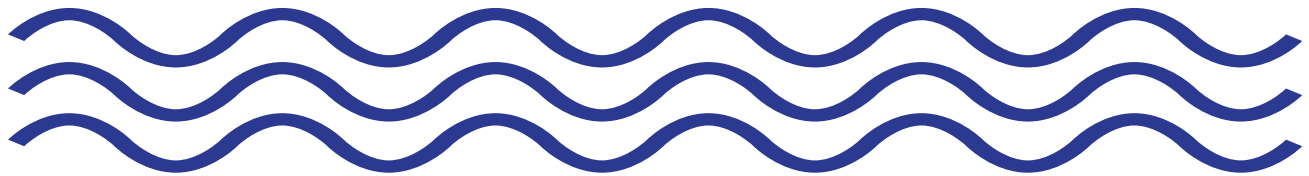
**Texas A&M Water Network Student Chapter**

18 new student members

**Mary Gugliuzza**

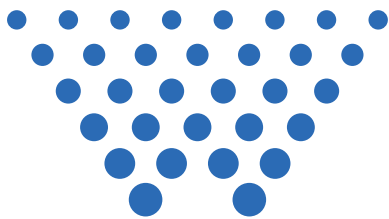
City of Fort Worth

10 individual members



Hope to see everyone in  
Austin next year!

**Texas Water™ 2021**  
**March 29 to April 1**



Water Environment  
Association of Texas

