



San Antonio Bay Partnership's 10th Anniversary Conference

When: January 22 & 23, 2020

Where: The University of Houston Victoria, University North Building, Multipurpose Room

Wednesday Morning

8:15 - 8:45^{am} Doors Open: Sign in and greet, coffee

8:45 - 9:00^{am} **Welcome and Opening Remarks** *Allan Berger, Chair, SABP*

9:00 – 9:30^{am} **History & Development of San Antonio Bay Partnership**

James Dodson, Program Facilitator, SABP, and Allan Berger, Chair, SABP

9:30 – 10:00^{am} **State of the Bays**

Mark Fisher, Science Director, Coastal Fisheries, Texas Parks and Wildlife Department

10:00 – 10:30^{am} Break

10:30^{am}-12:00^{pm} **SABP Partners and our Accomplishments**

- **Translating the National Estuary Program model to SA Bay** - *Kiersten Stanzel, Director of Partnerships, Coastal Bend Bays & Estuaries Program*
- **The Link between San Antonio and San Antonio Bay** - *Steve Raabe, Director of Technical Services, and Shaun Donavon, Sr. Aquatic Biologist, San Antonio River Authority*
- **Providing Water for Wildlife and Resiliency Before the Next Drought: ANWR, ICF, and SABP Partnering on Water Wells, Freshwater Ponds and Photo Monitoring for Whooping Cranes** - *Liz Smith, North America Program Director, International Crane Foundation and Joe Saenz, Aransas National Wildlife Refuge Manager, USFWS*
- **Abandoned Crab Trap Removal Program: Local Participation is Key to the Statewide Effort, and There is Still Work to Do after 18 Years** - *Holly Grand, Coastal Outreach Coordinator, Coastal Fisheries, Texas Parks and Wildlife Department*
- **Paddling Trails Program Supports Local Efforts & Ecotourism** - *Shelly Plante, Nature Tourism Manager, Texas Parks and Wildlife Department*
- **Yes, There is a Thriving Colonial Bird Rookery at the Chemical Plant: SABP and DOW Work Together to Protect the Carbide Rookery** - *Ed Boyer, Global Environment Health and Safety Expertise Principal, Dow Seadrift, and Amanda Urbano, Administrative Asst, Dow Seadrift*
- **Educating our Kids on How the Bay Works** - *Whitney Curry, Captain, Texas Floating Classroom*

Wednesday Afternoon

12:00 – 12:20^{pm} Lunch Served

12:20 – 1:30^{pm} Panel Discussion

THE ENVIRONMENT IN ART, MUSIC, FILM AND LITERATURE

Jeffrey Di Leo – UHV Dean of Arts and Sciences, Moderator

Panel: Andy Sansom, Author; "Miles Arceneaux," Author; Justin Sherburn, Composer & Conductor; Jim Blackburn, Poet; Bill Harvey, Photographer; and Anlo Sepulveda, Filmmaker.

1:30 – 2:00^{pm} Break: Meet the Panelists/Book Signing

2:00 – 4:30^{pm} **The Future of San Antonio Bay: Responding to Ongoing & Emerging Issues**

Climate Change: Evidence, Impacts and Mitigation Strategies for the Texas Coast

- **Evidence of Climate Change and Impacts on the Texas Coast** - *Wendy Gordon, Founder and Director, Climate Action Texas*
- **Strategies to Mitigate Sea Level Rise and Hurricane Damage to Coastal Resources – The Texas Coastal Exchange** - *Jim Blackburn, Attorney/Planner*

Coastal Protection Planning and Implementation

- **Transitioning Matagorda Island from a Military Facility to a Coastal Treasure** - *Andrew Sansom, Founder, The Meadows Center for Water and the Environment*
- **Living Shorelines: The ANWR Shoreline Restoration Project** - *Joe Saenz, Aransas National Wildlife Refuge Manager, USFWS; Cris Weber, Senior Managing Engineer, Anchor QEA; Rosario Martinez, Project Manager, Coastal Bend Bays & Estuaries Program*

Plastics in the Coastal and Marine Environment

- **Too much of a good thing! Consumer Plastics in the Marine Environment** - *Neil McQueen, Vice Chair, Coastal Bend Chapter Surfrider Foundation*
- **The Nurdle Patrol: Social Media as a Tool for Data Collection and Raising Awareness** - *Jace Tunnell, Director, Mission-Aransas National Estuarine Research Reserve and Project Director, The Nurdle Patrol*
- **Reflection on the Battle and on a Positive Way Forward** - *Diane Wilson, Executive Director, San Antonio Bay Estuarine Water Keepers*

Wednesday Evening

San Antonio Bay Partnership presents

THE LIVING COAST

at the Leo J. Welder Center for the Performing Arts

214 N. Main, Downtown Victoria

5:00 – 6:30^{pm} Reception in Welder Center Foyer (*drinks available; book signings*)

7:00 – 9:00^{pm} Montopolis performance of The Living Coast

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San Antonio Bay Partnership's 10th Anniversary Conference

Thursday Morning

8:15^{am} Doors Open, coffee

8:45 – 9:00^{am} **Opening Remarks & Recap of Wednesday's Sessions**

Allan Berger, Chair SABP

9:00 – 10:45^{am} **Future of San Antonio Bay: Responding to Ongoing & Emerging Issues**

Freshwater Inflows/Water and Watershed Management

- **Scope of the Problem and Possible Solutions**, - *James Dodson, Program Facilitator, SABP*
- **Developing a Basin-Wide Habitat Conservation Plan** - *Nathan Pence, Executive Manager Environmental Science and Community Affairs, Guadalupe-Blanco River Authority*
- **Dedicating Return Flows to the Bay** - *Gregg Eckhardt, Senior Resource Analyst, San Antonio Water System*

Habitat Loss /Recovery Programs

- **Oystercatchers at Risk** - *Sue Heath, Director of Conservation Research, Gulf Coast Bird Observatory*
- **Conserving Chester Island** - *Romey Swanson, Director of Conservation Strategy, Audubon Texas*
- **A Little Water Can Go a Long Way, Especially in a Drought: The Focused Flow Concept** - *Paul Montagna, Endowed Chair of Ecosystems and Modeling, Harte Research Institute, TAMU-CC*

Protecting/Enhancing Local Fisheries

- **Dirty, Muddy Work: How to Make Derelict Crab Trap Removal Fun and Productive** - *Allan Berger, Chair, SABP*

10:45 – 11:00^{am} Break

11:00^{am}– 12:00^{pm} **The Future of San Antonio Bay: Responding to Ongoing and Emerging Issues**

Creating/Restoring/Enhancing Oyster Reefs for Commercial Oyster Culture, Recreational Fishing and Ecosystem Services

- **Oyster Reef Creation/Restoration Projects in CCA's Artificial Reefs Development Plan** - *John Blaha, Assistant Director and Shane Bonnot, Advocacy Director, Coastal Conservation Association Texas*
- **Ecosystem Services and Benefits of Created Reefs** - *Jennifer Pollack, Associate Professor of Marine Biology, TAMU-CC*

New Opportunity for Oyster Mariculture in Texas: Changes in Texas Law Allowing a New Eco-Enterprise to Develop on the Texas Coast, - *John Scarpa, Associate Professor of Aquaculture, TAMU-CC*

Thursday Afternoon

12:00 – 12:30^{pm} Lunch

12:30 – 1:30^{pm} Keynote speaker

STATE REPRESENTATIVE GEANIE MORRISON

Passing the Oyster Mariculture Bill

and other legislative initiatives on issues affecting the Texas Mid-Coast

1:30 – 3:00^{pm} The Future of San Antonio Bay -- Environmental Education, Stakeholder Outreach and Involvement Chart the Course

- **Connecting River Kids to the Bay with Estuary Education** - *Shannon Sawyer, Elementary Science Curriculum Coordinator, VISD*
- **Whooping Crane Protection Begins with Education**
Landowner "Guidelines" - *Liz Smith, North America Programs Director, International Crane Foundation*
Visitor Education at ANWR - *Laura Bonneau, Visitor Services Manager, Aransas National Wildlife Refuge*
- **Environmental Education in Victoria by Texas Master Naturalists** - *Beth Hudson, Texas Master Naturalist, Mid-Coast Chapter*
- **Getting People on the Water: Why Paddling Trails are Important** - *Allan Berger, Chair, SABP, and Wilfred Korth, President, Canoe Trail Goliad*
- **Working Together on Regional Issues** - *Bill Balboa, Executive Director, Matagorda Bay Foundation and Janet Weaver, Vice Chair, Lavaca Bay Foundation*

3:00- 3:15pm Break

3:15 – 4:00pm The Future of San Antonio Bay – Be a Part of It

Panel Discussion and Participant Input - *Moderator James Dodson, SABP*

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