# PARKSIDE

HERMANN PARK CONSERVANCY NEWSLETTER

In the Park

2 From the Executive Director

3 New Board Leadership

4 – 5

Evening in the Park

Remembering Bill Coats

Conservation Posse

8 A Night at the Races New Signage

Interns Make a Difference

10 HPC Visitor Services Department

11 Upcoming Events



#### **MISSION**

Hermann Park
Conservancy is a
citizens' organization
dedicated to the
stewardship and
improvement of
Hermann Park—
today and for
generations to
come.



This rendering illustrates the planned Grand Gateway renovation looking from the Mecom Fountain toward the Sam Houston Monument.



# TxDOT Approves Nearly \$3 Million for Park Renovations

The City of Houston and Hermann Park Conservancy (HPC) were approved in late July 2010 to receive nearly \$3 million through a program administered by the Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT). Part of \$76 million designated for beautification and enhancement projects across the state, the funding will finance the renovation of the Grand Gateway, Hermann Park's historic entrance from the Mecom Fountain to the Sam Houston Monument, and the adjacent stretch of land flanked by Fannin and Main streets extending to the Texas Medical Center.

As drivers and METRORail riders can see, this highly utilized area featuring the majestic Main Street Live Oaks is sorely in need of rejuvenation. Made treacherous by busy street traffic, broken sidewalks, and a lack of lighting, the area is hardly pedestrian friendly, while poor irrigation and a lack of landscape design give the impression that it has been forgotten more than celebrated.

The improvements made possible by this funding will include beautiful gardens, walkways, benches, bike racks, and attractive lighting. The Grand Gateway, the landmark location featured on many a Houston postcard over the last century, was once the site of well-manicured sunken gardens, a look referenced in the conceptual design by White Oak Studio. Limestone planter beds will also tie into the historic beds around the Sam Houston Monument.

In order to receive the TxDOT funding, the Conservancy must raise 20% of the \$3.75 million total required for the project. Therefore, HPC will continue its fundraising efforts to secure enough private donations to meet this requirement. Donor funding will be directed toward leveraging this 4 to 1 match by TxDOT, as well as establishing a dedicated maintenance fund to ensure the area's long-term care.

For information about supporting this project, contact Meghan Miller at **713-524-5876** ext. **339** or mmiller@hermannpark.org.

www.hermannpark.org

As you read through this issue of *Parkside*, you'll see we've had a busy and exciting summer! The Conservancy's efforts to restore and maintain the Park are still going strong, and we are enthusiastically planning for upcoming Centennial Campaign projects as we reach ever closer to 2014 when

the Park turns 100.

These changes seen all around the Park would not be possible without the incredibly successful public-private partnership between the City of Houston and the Conservancy. Together, we have raised more than \$40 million for Hermann Park—an amazing feat which could only be achieved through collaboration.

The recent funding of nearly \$3 million approved by the Texas Transportation Commission (described on page 1) is an immense triumph for Hermann Park. The Conservancy is grateful to several individuals who helped make this funding possible, including Ned Holmes and Terri Kaplan of TxDOT; Mack Fowler, Deborah January-Beavers, Ann Lents, Dick Weekley, and Ed Wulfe of the Quality of Life Coalition; HPC board members Sanford Criner, Kenny Friedman, Linda Hunsaker, Ann Kennedy, and Jimmy Robertson; and Meghan Miller, HPC major gifts manager.

The Conservancy has worked closely with the City of Houston on improvements in the Park, and Hermann Park is lucky to have dedicated members of City Council on its side. Peter Brown, 2010 Evening in the Park honoree, is known for his dedication to urban planning and support of green spaces as a public official and an architect. He has been a huge proponent of the Conservancy's work, and we were pleased to honor his commitment to the Park this year.



As we look forward to fall and the exciting plans before us, I'd like to thank the Conservancy's past board chair, Tom Downing, for his infectious enthusiasm and strategic efforts to set the stage for a successful 2011 fiscal year. There is much to be done, and with Ann Kennedy at the helm and several talented new board members, we anticipate great things to come!

To all our donors, volunteers, and supporters, thank you for your continued support of Hermann Park. We could not do it without you.

See you in the Park!



#### DONORS

#### **Grand Gateway**

\$250,000-\$500,000

The William Stamps Farish Fund

#### \$5,000-\$9,999

Ray C. Fish Foundation - In memory of Nancy Attwell, Jack Collier, Wayne Duddlesten, Dan Duncan, Francis Fendley, Roger Jenswold, Nancy Prior, Weldon Weekley, and Phoebe Welsh

#### \$1,000-\$4,999

Sharon and Cecil Griffin River Oaks Blossom Club

#### Japanese Garden

\$10,000-\$24,999

The Japan-America Society of Houston, Inc.

#### Lake Plaza

In Kind

Overland Partners Architects

## Reforestation / Horticulture and Maintenance

\$500-\$999

John E. Walsh, Jr.

#### \$100-\$499

Native Plant Society Houston

#### Plant a Tree

\$100-\$499

Gracia and Robert Duncan - In honor of Rosemarie and Matt Johnson Mary Nugent - In honor of Hinda Simon Ann and Don Short - In memory of Dun Gifford

Kitty and Peter Quinn - In memory of Mary A. Walker

#### In Kind

Hannah Native Grasses, Inc.

#### **Rotary Grove**

#### \$5,000-\$9,999

John Lawler, Katherine and James Sides, Richard Sides, and Rob Sides -In memory of Peggy and Bob Sides

#### \$500-\$999

River Oaks Rotary Charitable Trust

#### Membership

#### Platinum (\$500-\$2,499)

Lee and Bob Ardell

Susan Garner

Elizabeth A. Germani

G.G. Hsieh and Mark Hausknecht Dr. and Mrs. William W. Ishee, Jr.

Dr. and Mrs. William W. Ishee, J Kate McConnico - In honor of

Ruth McConnico

Mary and Terry Murphree

Kay and Robert Onstead

Kitty and Peter Quinn

The Chris Reichert Family

Mary and Brian Rollins

Gabriela Rondon and Sergio Giralt Marisue and George Tallichet

Susan and Wil Uecker

Cheryl and James Watson

Sallie and Bob Wright

#### Gold (\$250-\$499)

William Boyer Frances and Oskar Cerbins Debra and Stephen Costello Linda and Mark Egan Stacy and Scott Humphries Harriet and Truett Latimer Dana Levy and Neil Kelly Judy and James Nicklos Louis H. Skidmore, Jr. - In honor of Margaret C. Skidmore Lynn and Mike Smith The Southampton Group Lucie Wray Todd Eleanor and Richard Viebig Marilyn Wolfe-Kirk - In honor of Matthew Wolfe, Rice MBA Graduate 2010

Silver (\$100-\$249) James S. Alley, Jr. Karen and Everett Anschutz Sherry Applewhite Roger I. Basu Karen V. Bentsen Sandra Bernhard Louise and Charles Berry Russell D. Brightwell Patsy Cravens Francoise and Ed Djerejian Judith and Frank Douglas Susan M. Edwards Andrea and David Faulkinberry Alice Gates Karen and Larry George Paula Hix Olive and Lynn N. Hughes The Keeling Family Elayne and Demo Kouzounis Alicia Kowalchuk and Benjamin Saldana Gwen Kunz Stephanie and Ed Larsen

Little Thinkers Day Care and
Learning Center
The Lorenz Family
Adah and Michael Mahon
Shannon and James Mann
Miriam and Jack Meyers
Karol and Dan Musher
David Newton and Billy Merryman
JoAnn Peeks and Allan Ring
Eula and Levi Perry
Margaret and Michael Pierce
Pam and Jim Pool
Phillip Sun
Cynthia and Allan Tang
Michele Thompson

Rabbi Roy A. Walter, Congregation

#### Annual Fund/ General Contributions

Linda and Richard Zoll

\$5,000-\$9,999

Emanu El

Brian Witt

The Powell Foundation

\$1,000-\$4,999

Takaaki Furuta
The Roaring Fork Club
Rome Family Fund
The Samuels Foundation - In memory
of Erin Gregory Neale
John E. Walsh, Jr.

Continued on page 8

# The Conservancy Welcomes New Board Leadership















Ann Kennedy, HPC board member since 2007, will lead the Conservancy as its board chair. After obtaining her MBA from Harvard, she returned to Houston and pursued a wide ranging business career in strategic planning, private equity, and mergers and acquisitions. Ann served full time as the executive director/CEO of the Houston Symphony from 2001-2005 and continues to serve on a number of community boards. She is deeply committed to Hermann Park, which she has enjoyed for over twenty years, starting with hundreds of train rides with her son when he was young.

Brent Friedman is an owner of Park Lane Companies, residential construction and commercial real estate firms. He grew up near Hermann Park, and moved back to the neighborhood after business school and frequently picnics here with his family. Brent is starting his third term with the HPC board after spending two years on the advisory board.

Christine Liang is a partner at Bridgeway Capital Management on the Investment Management Team. A native Houstonian, Christine's memories of Hermann Park span from riding the train as a toddler to frequent visits as a Rice University student. In her spare time, she enjoys the outdoors, cycling, and photography. Christine is also involved in various nonprofits in Houston.

Gene Locke is well known for his legal and civic contributions to our city. A partner at the Andrews Kurth law firm, Gene represents both government and private sector clients. He is a former City Attorney and has been instrumental in several major

downtown revitalization projects, including Minute Made Park, Reliant Stadium, and Toyota Arena. As a longtime Hermann Park user, he still can be seen on the jogging trail in the mornings.

5.

Joe Nelson was the president of Houston Endowment for 15 years, having served a total of 31 years. Since his retirement in 2005, he has worked part-time as a development consultant with Harriet C. Latimer & Associates assisting with capital campaigns for local nonprofits, while also serving on several volunteer boards. As a fourth-generation native Houstonian, Joe has enjoyed Hermann Park with his family since he was a young boy.

6. **Michael Trevino** is the managing partner of Reputation Management Associates and Trevino & Company, both consulting services. Though a native of San Antonio, Michael and his family have lived in Houston since 1997. His interest in Hermann Park is to protect

native of San Antonio, Michael and his family have lived in Houston since 1997. His interest in Hermann Park is to protect and enhance this valuable natural resource for all visitors—Texans and guests—to enjoy for another 100 years.

7.

Dan Wolterman is the president and CEO of Memorial Hermann Healthcare System. He has over 30 years' experience in the healthcare industry and a long history of community involvement. Dan serves on a number of nonprofit boards and national education and public health policy committees. He enjoys spending special moments with his family in the Park's beautiful surroundings.



Dressed in Palm Beach summer whites, over 400 Park supporters gathered in the heart of Hermann Park on Thursday, May 13, 2010, for the annual *Evening in the Park* gala benefiting Hermann Park Conservancy.

Following a stroll along the Jones Reflection Pool from the Lindsey Plaza, guests were greeted by chairs Anne and Noble Carl and Lucy and William Carl at Molly Ann Smith Plaza for cocktails and hors d'oeuvres. Peter Brown, Evening in the Park honoree, echoed the sentiment of the crowd by expressing his enthusiasm for the beautiful ongoing transformation of Hermann Park.

Thanks to Saks Fifth Avenue, Austrian fashion designer Devi Kroell was present for the event, and she generously provided signature leather key chains to guests and an exotic leather handbag for the raffle. Beyond the exciting raffle prizes, guests could bid on a luxurious stay with Exclusive Resorts, which donated a generous vacation prize for the live auction.

Following a seated dinner by Swift + Company on the Lake Overlook with spectacular views of McGovern Lake, guests concluded the evening by dancing under the stars to the tunes of the Richard Brown Orchestra.

Thank you to the chairs and to everyone who supported this event, which raised vital funding for ongoing efforts to improve Hermann Park.

Photography by PWL Studios





























#### HERMANN PARK CONSERVANCY

























1 Lucy Carl and Noble and Anne Carl 2 William Carl and Stewart Morris 3 Anne Clutterbuck 4 Bobby and Phoebe Tudor and George Lancaster 5 Scott and Karen Rozzell 6 Ed and Lorraine Wulfe 7 John Hernandez, Alec Walker, Terrylin Neale, Dick Dalton, and Ann Kennedy 8 Devi Kroell 9 Ann and Don Short 10 Barry Hunsaker, Miwa Sakashita, Merle Hunsaker, John Strohlein, and Linda Hunsaker 11 Scott Newmyer and June Deadrick 12 Gregg and Christine Hollenberg 13 CC Conner and Aryn and Paul De Lisi 14 Nidhika Mehta 15 Susie Criner and Claire Thielke 16 Brent and Michele Friedman and Sarah Tropoli 17 Kim Tutcher and Susan Hansen 18 Olivia Flores, Cherie Flores, and Annie Amante 19 Rosemarie and Matthew Johnson 20 Lance Smith, Lucy Carl, Anne Carl, and Alicia Smith 21 Kristen Nix and Sheridan and John Eddie Williams 22 Kim Moody, Alicia Smith, and Ursaline Hamilton 23 Devinder and Gina Bhatia 24 Catherine Crain, Tita Paddock, and Laurie Carl 25 Carolyn Robertson, Karen Anschutz, and Barbara Ryan 26 Peter Brown

Hermann Park, in a very real sense, defines our beloved city. It is a tribute to the vision, design excellence, and the tireless hard work of countless Houstonians committed to civic betterment. It is a memorable, inspiring, and very special place, which seems to have attained a life of its own. Dreams are the stuff our brightest future is made of. For all of us, this is a dream come true. I am certain that George Hermann, were he here, would be very pleased with our handiwork.

**Peter H. Brown**2010 Evening in the Park Honoree

# Hermann Park Remembers Bill Coats



Hermann Park lost one of its greatest friends and advocates with the passing of Bill Coats in May. As a Conservancy founder, Bill was a true visionary, believing in the Park's potential when it was in a serious state of disrepair. He loyally supported the Park and helped build the organization that would see tens of millions of dollars of improvements put into the ground.

With his passion and determination,
Bill fought for what he believed in and
single-handedly pushed through extraordinary changes in Hermann Park and around
Houston. Through his dedication to Hermann
Park and as a founder of Trees for Houston,
Bill was well known for his advocacy of
urban reforestation and his commitment to
improving Houston's civic landscape.

In late May, more than 500 people gathered in the Park to celebrate Bill's legacy. It was a fitting location for a friend who cared so much for this special place. Today the rejuvenated Park stands as a testament to Bill's determined vision, and he will remain an inspiration always.

"I am very proud to have been a part of the public/private partnership between Hermann Park Conservancy and the City of Houston. Look around you. There are not many public places in the world as beautiful as this one. With a dedicated HPC board and staff, incredible work by many wonderful planners and designers, and tremendous support from Houstonians, HPC and the City are creating one of the best urban parks in the world. Houston deserves a world class center, and this is it. It has been an honor to be a part of this great work."

— Bill Coats, 2009

#### DONORS

### GIFTS IN MEMORY OF BILL COATS

The following gifts were graciously given in memory of Hermann Park's dear friend, Bill Coats

#### **Bench Dedication**

#### \$5,000-\$9,999

John N. Molbeck, Jr.

#### **Habitat Conservancy Fund**

#### \$5,000-\$9,999

Tetra Tech EC, Inc.

#### **Garden Conservancy Fund**

#### \$100-\$499

Deborah Yahner

#### General Endowment Fund

#### \$100-\$499

Camden Property Trust

#### **Tree Conservancy Fund**

#### \$100-\$499

A friend of Bill Coats Starlett and Ben Hollingsworth Hinda and Barry Simon

#### Centennial Campaign

#### \$100-\$499

Roberts, Taylor & Sensabaugh, Inc.

#### Plant a Tree

#### \$500-\$999

Camden Development, Inc.

#### \$100-\$499

Heather Asselin and Thomas M. Valega, Jr.

Frances and Oskar Cerbins

Cecilia Coats

Cici Vu and Peter Coats

Ann Lents and David Heaney

Cherly and James Leonard

Richard Levy

Jack McGinty, FAIA and Vicki Ashy of McGinty Architectural Consultants, L.L.P.

Barbara and Tommy Pendergrast Carol and Robert Weir

Cad and Byron Willeford

### Annual Fund/General Contributions

#### \$1,000-\$4,999

Sadie Gwin Blackburn Kaim Family Foundation Kristin and Barry Palmer

#### \$500-\$999

Susan and Major Bradshaw Cokinos, Bosien & Young Crescent Real Estate, Greenway Plaza Marilyn and Steve Dishman Sissy and Denny Kempner III

#### \$100-\$499

Andrews Myers Coulter & Hayes, P.C. Associated Builders & Contractors of Greater Houston

Robert C. Bass, Jr.

BRH - Garver Construction, L.P.

Marcia Carter

Brenda and James Collura

Ford Nassen & Baldwin

Susan and Mike Garver

#### HERMANN PARK CONSERVANCY

#### Halls & Evans, LLC Foundation Humphrey Company, Ltd. Jamail & Smith Construction Josephine and Phil John Ann and Tom Kelsey Elizabeth and Albert Kidd Marilyn Klinger Stephanie and Ed Larsen Sally Lehr Victoria and Marshall Lightman MDC Systems Enterprises, LLC Barry Moore Claudia Morgan and Thomas Biddle Marcia Murphey and Doug Koch Macey and Harry Reasoner Rimkus Consulting Group, Inc. Dorry and Carroll Shaddock Carol and Peter Taaffe Robert Wachsmuth Joyce Waldroop, Kevin Needens, and Thomas Kivett John E. Walsh, Jr. Weinstein Spira & Company, P.C. Joe F. Wheat

# George Hermann Society

Doris A. Williams and Jeff E. Ross

Worldwide Court Reporters, Inc.

Winstead PC

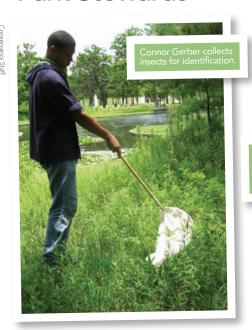
Genevieve L. Duncan May Shelmire Duncan Steppie and Robert Holsclaw David Langworthy Jackie and Malcom Mazow Terrylin G. Neale Doreen Stoller and Dan Piette John E. Walsh, Jr.

The George Hermann Society recognizes donors who have provided for the future of Hermann Park through bequests or life income gifts to Hermann Park Conservancy.

The names listed throughout this issue include donors who made gifts or pledges of \$100 or more between April 1 and July 31, 2010, as well as all George Hermann Society members. In compliance with IRS standards, commitments paid over time in installments are recognized once in full at the time of the pledge. Please contact the Conservancy if we inadvertently have not included your name or if you would like to be listed differently in future listings.



# Conservation Posse Cultivates Young Park Stewards



aritza Vazquez-Trejo and stherine Woodward try to entify medicinal plants in ayou Parkland.

A dozen students from across Houston ventured to Hermann Park for two weeks in June to participate in Conservation Posse, the Conservancy's free volunteer and educational program for teens. Through volunteer projects in Hermann Park, a speaker series, and educational activities, the students connected with nature and learned responsible conservation habits that will last a lifetime.

Under the direction of Diane Kerr, interim volunteer and education coordinator, the team tackled a range of volunteer projects, from removing ginger in the Japanese Garden to deadheading roses at the Garden Center. The students also learned about horticultural and environmental topics through activities such as hunting for medicinal plants in Bayou Parkland's urban forest and the always-popular recycle relay race!

The energetic bunch listened to informative talks by local experts in the new HPC volunteer center as well. Among this year's speakers were representatives from Brays Bayou Association, Green Team America, Houston Parks and Recreation Department, Katy Prairie Conservancy, and Trees for Houston.



Over the course of two weeks, the students recorded observations in daily journals, and developed group presentations to share their knowledge at the program's conclusion. Through fun projects and engaging speakers, participants left with a strong sense of the importance of the environment, conservation, and community activism.

In order to offer this free program, the Conservancy requests Conservation Posse sponsors for next year. If interested, please contact volunteer@hermannpark.org.

# A Night at the Races with Urban Green



On April 29, 2010, 400 of Houston's hippest young professionals gathered at Hermann Park's historic clubhouse for Urban Green's *Spring Soirée: A Night at the Races*. Clad in big hats and bowties, party-goers enjoyed traditional derby fare with mint juleps, planter's punch, fried chicken, jambalaya, and more.

DJ Senega set the tone of the evening with his festive playlist as the young philanthropists mingled on the lawn. Inside the clubhouse, guests had the opportunity to bid on attractive silent auction packages and document their fun in the clever photo booth provided by Photo con Queso.

Thanks to event chairs Whitney Bossin, Courtland Crosswell, Kat Hofmann, and Jessica Ledger, as well as the Urban Green steering committee led by Annie Criner, the event was a huge success. Look for information on Urban Green's upcoming fall event at www.hermannpark.org.



# New Signage Helps Direct Visitors

Recent visitors to Hermann Park have been pleasantly surprised by new signage along roads and walking trails. The Conservancy carried out its comprehensive signage plan in July, adding more than 100 signs at critical vehicular and pedestrian intersections. These new signs include vehicular directional signs to help drivers get into the Park and to its various institutions, as well as pedestrian wayfinding maps to help visitors on foot see where they are and understand how to get from here to there in Hermann Park. The pedestrian maps, which show destinations within the Park from the Japanese Garden to Bayou Parkland, will inspire Park users to explore its lesser known gems.

#### DONORS

#### Annual Fund/ General Contributions

continued from page 3

#### \$500-\$999

James Fiume

Pam and Steve Wakefield - In honor of Ryder and Lyra Swen

#### \$100-\$499

Elizabeth and Howard Ayers

Barbara Bass

Jane Block

Nancy and Patton Breland Irma and Louis Bujnoch

Patricia and Ian Butler

Patricia and Ian Butler

Courtney Black Danile and Marc Danile

Loann and John Eiman

Diane Lokey Farb

Helen and Jose Flores

Susan and Robert Hawkins

Elizabeth and Rogers Herndon

Larry Hitt

Monika Hraby and Denys Thorez

Elizabeth and Albert Kidd - In memory

of Jim Elkins

Dan A. King

Evangeline and Peter Mackintosh

Kay and Clark Martin

Becky and David McClanahan

Midori and Akihiro Mochizuki

Hideo Muroi

Barbara Murray

Tassie Nicandros

Yukihiko and Ako Nose

Elizabeth and Jim Patterson

Leila Perrin

Mary Ann H. Phillips

Dean Putterman

Marcia and Les Randall

Oscar Rose

Jeri and Marc Shapiro

Sharon and Christian Sheridan

Ed Smith

Leigh and Reggie Smith

Anna Steinberger

William Streng

Gabrielle and Heinrich Taegtmeyer

Cynthia Walker

Mary Faye and Peter Way

Paula O'Neill-Weedon and

Waland Weedon

Anita and Charles Weiner

Kathy J. Welch and John T. Unger

Becky and Dan Wieder

Sallie and Bob Wright - In memory of

Jim Elkins

n Kind

Continental Airlines, Inc.

#### Evening in the Park Gala

All gifts in honor of Peter Brown, honoree, and chairs Anne and Noble Carl and Lucy and William Carl

#### \$25,000-\$49,999

Cherie and Jim Flores
Kathy McGovern/John P. McGovern
Foundation

#### \$10,000-\$24,999

Anchorage Foundation of Texas Rosemarie and Matthew Johnson Strake Foundation Phoebe and Bobby Tudor Sheridan and John Eddie Williams

#### \$5,000-\$9,999

Gina and Devinder Bhatia Anne and Peter Brown/Carolyn and Jimmy Robertson Anne and Noble Carl/ Lucy and William Carl CenterPoint Energy/June Deadrick Anne and John Clutterbuck Susie and Sanford Criner Curtis & Windham Architects/ Catherine and Edward Crain Friedman Foundation/ Michele and Brent Friedman Terri and John Havens Christine and Gregg Hollenberg JPMorgan Chase Ann Kennedy and Geoffrey Walker June and Tommy Lott Sandra and Ken Moffet/ Hourglass Capital Vivie and Chris O'Sullivan Louisa Stude Sarofim Ann and Don Short Alicia and Lance Smith Kim and Dan Tutcher

\$1,000-\$4,999 Chinhui and Eddie Allen Arnold & Langrand Communications Jay Baker Baker Botts L.L.P. Janie and Dick Beeler Mary Ann and Bruce Belin Minnette and Peter Boesel Maria and Neil Bush Kara and Ray Childress Andy Cordes and Brad Alexander Almeria T. Cottingham Judy and Bob Craig Mary and Mark D'Andrea/ Gulf Coast Cancer & Diagnostic Center at Southeast Isabel and Danny David Steve Dolman Rodney Drinnon Bevin and Dan Dubrowski Kay and Al Ebert Marilyn and Lynn Elliott Jo Lynn and Gregg Falgout Fant Foundation Marion Barthelme and Jeff Fort Cheri and Andrew Fossler Cece and Mack Fowler Maco Stewart Fowlkes Lisa and George Francisco Susan and Mike Garver Kate and Steve Gibson Gilbane Building Company Jennifer and Lance Gilliam Maureen and Geoff Goddard Deborah Grotfeldt and John Walsh Beth and Curtis Harrell Hildebrand Fund Dorothy and James Hill Holthouse Foundation for Kids Linda and Barry Hunsaker Kathleen and Mike Johnson Sis and Hasty Johnson Marianne and Rob Jones Rick Kammerer and Tim Cagle Susan and Richard Keeton Margaret L. Kripke and Isaiah J. Fidler

# Interns Make a Difference

Thanks to grants from Shell Oil Company and ExxonMobil, two exemplary college students were selected to intern this summer at the Conservancy. During June and July, Kendra Dawsey (ExxonMobil) of Mahopac, NY, and Hannah Dyer Holzhauer (Shell) of Houston worked hard around the Park, making Conservancy conservation director Barbara Jo Harwell proud.

Under Barbara Jo's direction, Kendra and Hannah primarily updated the Park's massive tree inventory. Using a GPS unit, measuring tape, and basic tree identification skills, they brought the tree inventory maps to almost 8,000 trees. They also added new benches, tables, and train tracks to the user amenity maps. These maps and the interns' individual reports have helped refine the Conservancy's Forestry Management Plan, and will aid in replacing losses from Hurricane Ike and droughts, and locating ideal planting sites for new tree donations.





Hannah measures the diameter of a new tree while Kendra tracks its location with a GPS device. Together they helped update the Conservancy's tree inventory.

Hannah and Kendra spent the rest of their time coordinating volunteer projects with Diane Kerr, interim volunteer and education coordinator. One especially memorable assignment was helping with Conservation Posse, the Conservancy's two-week program for teens. Hannah and Kendra helped facilitate a range of activities for the group, including horticulture projects and local museum visits.

Hannah, now a sophomore at Austin College, has returned to school where she

is majoring in French Studies. While Hannah's love of nature and philanthropy are what drew her to this internship, she gained professional knowledge of nonprofits, which she will incorporate into her future career. Meanwhile, Kendra has started her sophomore year at Yale University, where she is pursuing Environmental Studies. This internship combined her passion for nonprofits and the urban environment. Hannah and Kendra ended their internships with an intricate knowledge of not only urban forestry, but the function and benefits of nonprofit organizations. They both left saying, "We love Hermann Park!"

# Spotlight on HPC's Visitor Services Department

A Conversation with Ron Misrack, Director, Visitor Services

# What is the history of the Visitor Services department and what is its role?

The Visitor Services department was developed in 2008 when HPC was awarded the contract by the City to manage the Hermann Park Train.

Specifically, we oversee and operate Hermann Park Railroad and the pedal boats, and coordinate activities with the gift shop, restaurant, and food vendors. Additionally, our maintenance team is responsible for the cleaning and upkeep of Lake Plaza.

# How does Visitor Services improve the visitor experience?

If the train is operating efficiently, the pedal boats are running smoothly, and the grounds are clean, visitors will leave with happy memories of their time here. In the past year, we have seen over 374,000 passengers on the Hermann Park Train and nearly 19,000 boat rides on McGovern Lake. It is our responsibility to ensure each visitor has an exceptional experience.

# As the new director, how are you developing the Visitor Services team?

I have just implemented a new service intensification program. The expectation is that every visitor is to be treated as a guest in our home, and is to be recognized and shown appreciation for visiting the Park by a knowledgeable team member. This program will be supported by a new interviewing process, focused new hire training, and coaching.

Ron Misrack, HPC Director of Visitor Services.

# How does Visitor Services help the Park?

Since the Hermann Park Railroad and pedal boat operations are run by HPC, every ticket purchased helps support the Conservancy's efforts. The net revenue from these operations goes toward Park maintenance. This ongoing funding source will help our maintenance staff keep Lake Plaza and other well-loved spots looking their best.

# In what new ways are you promoting Visitor Services?

We are utilizing social media to promote Hermann Park and market our operations. Facebook and Twitter are helping us keep Hermann Park friends involved, informed, and entertained. We encourage fans to share their photos and experiences with us as well.

Find us at:

www.facebook.com/HermannPark and www.twitter.com/HermannPark

vancy Stafi

Continued from page 9 Legacy Community Health Services Diann and Mike Lewter Sara and John Lindsey Carol and Michael Linn Nancy and Erik Littlejohn Nancy Manderson and Bill Coats Lisa and Will Mathis Susan and Jack Mayfield Jackie and Malcolm Mazow Joan and Doug McLeod Jessica and Philipp Meyer Joy and Stewart Morris, Jr. Sharon and William Morris III Lisa and Mike Mount Terrylin G. Neale - In memory of Erin Gregory Neale Mary Tere and Ricardo Perusquia Isla and Tommy Reckling Megan and Chris Reed Kim and Chris Reichert Leslie and Shannon Sasser Family Fund Barbara and Louis Sklar Aimee and Wynne Snoots, Jr. Elizabeth and Alan Stein Doreen Stoller and Dan Piette Anne and Taft Symonds Lynda Underwood and Letty Knapp Diana and Conrad Weil, Jr. Family Foundation Sue Trammell Whitfield Jennifer and Burke Windham Sallie and Bob Wright

\$500-\$999

Lorraine and Ed Wulfe

Anonymous Jana and Scotty Arnoldy Pam and John Barineau Anne T. Carl Jo A. Casady Jackson Chang Neva and John Dawson Patricia and David Dewhurst Thomas Downing Mary O. Driscoll-Levy Debbie and Gary Gibson Edna Gonzalez Houston Terry Wayne Jones Lisa and Drew Kanaly Tricia Moody D. Patricia Nelson H. Joe Nelson III Kathleen O'Reilly Valerie Palmquist Charles Perlitz Elizabeth and Gary Petersen Pierre Deux Michael Rudelson Evelyn and Kevin Shanley Kathy and John Stanton Cassie B. Stinson Beth and Joe Weikerth Randa and K. C. Weiner

\$100-\$499

Jane Anderson Curtis and Bill Curtis
Karen and Everett Anschutz
Kathryn and David Berg
Alan Bigman
Susan Boggio
Mark Bouzek and Deborah Parks
Robin and Richard Brooks
Donna and Max Buja
Virginia and William Camfield

Lucy and William Carl - In memory of Gay C. Brinson Laurie and Paul Carl

William Caudell and Randy Powers Louise and Denton Cooley Shawn and Chuck Dalio

Tracy Dieterich

Holly and St.-John Dinsmore Sara P. Dodd-Spickelmier and

Keith D. Spickelmier Rachel Dunlap Tamara and Pat Dyer Tara and Stacy Eastland Jane and Gus Eifler Nene Foxhall Ellie and Michael Francisco

Martha and Donald Freedman Jo Claire and Henry Gissel Carolyn and Carlos Hamilton Sandy and Bob Herrin

Dorene and Frank Herzog Merle Hunsaker

Gaye and John Kelsey Wendy and Mavis Kelsey, Jr. Fund

Devi Kroell Lucy Lee and Charles Lamme

Bedelle S. Langdale Carolyn C. Light

Jennifer and Todd Litton Marley Lott

Susie and Skip McGee Paulina McGrath

Nancy McGregor and Neal Manne

Susan and Tom McMahan Kathrvn McNiel

Brad McWilliams Susanna and Palmer Moldawer

Kim and Dan Moody

Beth Sanders Moore and Jess Moore

Maria O'Hanna Karen and Scott Rozzell Luigi Ruggieri

Candice and Lonnie Schiller Cathryn and Doug Selman

Carol and William Simmons Louis H. Skidmore, Jr.

Ed Smith Melissa and Stacy Smith

Sadako Sakashita and John Stroehlein

Michael Torres

Nicola and Richard Toubia

Saula Valente Marion and Ben Wilcox Pamela and Jack Wright

Special Thanks

Baccarat Continental Airlines, Inc.

Devi Kroell Lane Llewellyn Gary Moore

Stewart Morris/Stewart Title Company

The New Nursery (Newton)

Pierre Deux

Rachel and Tom Regan/ **Exclusive Resorts** Saks Fifth Avenue

Alicia Smith/Innovative Legal Solutions

Swift + Company Media Sponsor PaperCity Magazine

Concept & Design TPRB Advertising

#### **Volunteer Programs**

\$1,000-\$4,999

ExxonMobil Foundation Direct Energy

Lvondell

Shell Oil Company

In Kind

Chick-fil-A

Chipotle Mexican Grill

#### **Urban Green**

\$500-\$999

Annie Criner

Margo and Gary Harrod

\$100-\$499

Rachel and Tim Ballengee

Alex Baron

Divya and Chris Brown

Katie Christman and Franklin Bynum

Susie and Sanford Criner

Steve Dolman

John Guess

Kelley Hengst and Kacey Baccus

Kim and Arthur Hofmann

Joy Kaplan Blake Lasuzzo Caroline Negley Maria Patti Brittany Sakowitz

Mimi Sapp Sissy Shuffield Landon D. Taylor WaterLogic, Inc. Maudie Werlin

Ashley and Payton Wright

Michael Yates

In Kind

106.9 The Point à bientôt

Absolut Alden Limo Alley Theatre

Bergner & Johnson BrightBox, Inc.

**Buffalo Trace Butter Catering** 

Ceron

Courtland Crosswell Crowley Signs Groupon

Houston Ballet Houston Grand Opera

**HOUSTON** Magazine Last Concert Cafe

My Fit Foods Pappas Restaurants Patricia Peckinpaugh Photo con Queso

Raising Cane's Chicken Fingers Rice Food Markets, Inc.

Saint Arnold Brewing Co. Silver Eagle Distributors, L.P.

Swift + Company Three Olives Tony's Inc.

Tri-C Resources, LLC Vintage Lounge Wild Turkey

#### **Upcoming Events**

#### Pics in the Park:

A Bernar Venet **Photo Contest** 

Ongoing through September 30, 2010



Houston Center for Photography (HCP) is partnering with the Texan French Alliance for the Arts and Hermann Park Conservancy for Pics in the Park, a photo contest for photos of the monumental steel sculptures of Bernar Venet currently on exhibition around Hermann Park. The contest is open to photographers of all ages and skills. Prizes will be awarded. For information, visit HCP's website at www.hcponline.org.

#### **National Public** Lands Day

Saturday, September 25, 2010 8am to noon

Hermann Park

Volunteers are needed for this annual event, which brought 200 people to the Park last year! If interested in signing up, please email volunteer@hermannpark.org.

Visit www.hermannpark.org for up-to-date event details.



#### DISCOVERY GREEN® to HERMANN PARK

#### Park to Park Run

Saturday, October 16, 2010 starting at 8am

5 Mile Run from Discovery Green to Hermann Park

2 Mile Family Walk and

1K Kids' Fun Run in Hermann Park

Join us for the 7th annual Run benefiting Hermann Park! This popular event has been moved to the fall, so please help spread the word. Register at www.hermannpark.org. Sponsorship opportunities still available. For information, please contact this year's Run coordinator, Mindy Campbell, at campbell311@att.net or leave a message for her at the Conservancy office by calling 713-524-5876 ext. 333.

#### **Courtlandt Place Home Tour**

Benefiting Hermann Park Conservancy

Saturday and Sunday October 16 and 17, 2010 11am to 5pm

Courtlandt Place Neighborhood

Seven homes, several of which have never been on tour, plus two gardens, will be open to the public in Houston's historic Courtlandt Place. A portion of the proceeds will benefit HPC.

#### Save the dates!

#### Hats in the Park

Tuesday, March 8, 2011

Chaired by Franci Crane and Sandy Godfrey

Honoring Ned S. Holmes

#### **Evening in the Park**

Thursday, April 28, 2011 Chaired by Isabel David and Judy Nyquist

Honoring Jay Baker and Sanford Criner



# contribute today

Become a Conservancy member

Donate to the Centennial Campaign

Dedicate a bench

Plant a tree

Join the George Hermann Society

Volunteer in the Park



Non-Profit Org. U.S. Postage PAID Houston, TX Permit No. 7445



Printed on recycled paper using soy-based ink

#### PARKSIDE / FALL 2010

# Chair Ann Ke Execu Jay Ba Sanfor Danny Steve Ellie Fr Gregg Linda I Marga Diann Diann Cassie Phoeb Keith V Board Kathry Williar Gracie Milane Brent I

#### Chair Ann Kennedy

**Executive Committee** Jay Baker Sanford W. Criner, Jr. Danny David Steve Dolman Ellie Francisco Gregg Hollenberg Linda Hunsaker Margaret L. Kripke, Ph.D. Diann L. Lewter Terrylin G. Neale Gary Kenneth Porter James L. Robertson Brian Rollins Cassie B. Stinson Phoebe Tudor Keith Watson Wade

Natalye Appel, FAIA, LEED AP Kathryn Berg William G. Bowen Gracie Cavnar Milane Duncan-Frantz Brent Friedman Lainie Gordon Leisa Holland-Nelson Steppie F. Holsclaw Demetra C. Jones Christine Y. Liang

Gene Locke

Marley Lott

Kunio Minami H. Joe Nelson III Chris J. Reichert Karen A. Rozzell Donald W. Short Marvin Taylor Michael Trevino Kimberly A. Tutcher John E. Walsh, Jr. Joe Weikerth Sheridan Williams Dan Wolterman Herbert H. Yuan

Ex-Officio Joe Turner Rick Dewees

Executive Director
Doreen Stoller

Advisory Board Jane Anderson Curtis Anna Pearl Barrett Sadie Gwin Blackburn Jane Block Allison Bond Russell D. Brightwell Donna Buia John D. Burns James Calaway H. Mallory Caldwell Anne Carl Jo A. Casady Jackson Chang Kara Childress Annie Criner

Davetta Daniels , Ed.D. Kim Davis June Deadrick Scott Dorfman, M.D. Thomas Downing Michael Easely Lana C. Edwards, M.Ed. Charlene Evans, Ph.D. J. Kent Friedman Amy Grinstein Terri Havens Jay Hellums Molly Hubbard Barbara R. Hurwitz Rick Kammerer Susan Keeton Christopher Lykes Knapp Shannon Langrand Elvse Lanier Rashena Lindsay Flagg Carol Linn Kathy Lord Tommy Lott David R. Lummis James Lykes Jackie Wolens Mazow Anne C. Mendelsohn Kenneth A. Moffet Tricia Moody Vance Muse Warren R. Nicholson Kathleen L. O'Reilly, P.G. Roz Pactor Valerie E. Palmquist Dean Putterman

Glen Ragland David W. Robinson, AIA Michael E. Rome DeAndre Sam Lonnie Schiller Louis Sklar Ed Smith Harry L. Stille Timothy A. Surratt Tye P. Taft Heath J. Thibodeaux Claire Thielke Sarah Pennington Tropoli Pattie Dale Tye Wil Uecker L. Burke Windham III Susan Young

#### CONSERVANCY TEAM

Doreen Stoller Executive Director doreen@hermannpark.org

LaTonya Dilworth Assistant Manager, Visitor Services Idilworth@hermannpark.org

Lynne Donoghue Accounting Manager Idonoghue@hermannpark.org

Barbara Jo Harwell Conservation Director barbara\_jo@hermannpark.org

Derrick Jackson Maintenance Coordinator djackson@hermannpark.org

Mike Johnson Project Manager mjohnson@hermannpark.org

Meghan Miller Major Gifts Manager mmiller@hermannpark.org

Ron Misrack Director, Visitor Services rmisrack@hermannpark.org

Eliza Wright Marketing Manager ewright@hermannpark.org