

CLARIFIER

A P U B L I C A T I O N O F G U L F C O A S T A U T H O R I T Y



SPRING/SUMMER 2017

**GCA GM RICKY CLIFTON
RETIRING AFTER
43 YEARS**

**MONT BELVIEU REGIONAL
INDUSTRIAL WASTEWATER
TREATMENT AND REUSE
STUDY COMPLETED**

**ALL GCA WASTEWATER
TREATMENT FACILITIES
WIN NACWA PEAK
PERFORMANCE AWARDS**

Feature:

**CENTRAL
LAB**

GCA

GCA CHAIRMAN'S LETTER

GCA is enjoying another banner year, as you will see in this issue of Clarifier.

We're upgrading and improving our facilities in anticipation of continued growth in our service areas. We're engaged in educational and environmental outreach through events such as Envirothon and the annual Trash Bash cleanup of shorelines along waterways in the Houston-Galveston area. We're honoring our employees for their achievements and, I'm proud to say, receiving the recognition of our peers in the form of awards from environmental and water/wastewater treatment organizations. This recognition highlights a key department within the Authority, our Central Laboratory, which tests the performance of our treatment operations and helps verify compliance.

It is truly a pleasure to be a part of GCA. Our mission of protecting the waters of the State of Texas is one of vital importance. Our contributions to economic development within our state are equally vital. Our employees are dedicated professionals, enthusiastic in fulfilling our mission. And our participation in numerous environmental and educational outreach opportunities is helping create new generations of people who believe in ecological stewardship.

I would be remiss if I did not mention General Manager Ricky Clifton's upcoming retirement. Ricky has done a great job for all of us at GCA, having spent his entire career with the Authority, where he rose through the ranks to its top leadership position. On behalf of the entire Board of Directors, Ricky, thank you for your service and we wish you well.

Sincerely,

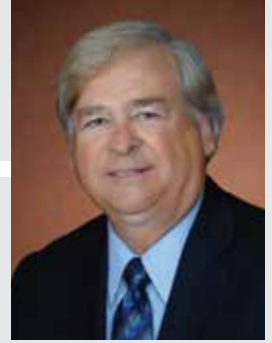
Franklin D.R. Jones, Jr.



**ON BEHALF OF
THE ENTIRE BOARD
OF DIRECTORS,
RICKY, THANK YOU
FOR YOUR SERVICE
AND WE WISH
YOU WELL.**



GCA GENERAL MANAGER'S LETTER



This will be my final letter to the readers of *Clarifier*, as I am about to retire after a full career with GCA.

I can't tell you enough how proud I am of this organization, all of our employees, our Board of Directors and all the customers and community members we work with and serve, side by side, in protecting the waters of the State of Texas while contributing in very significant ways to economic development in our state and in the regions where we operate. Thank you all so much for the support and encouragement and open communication we have enjoyed these many years. I appreciate your guidance and your friendship. Your dedication and professionalism continue to be an inspiration to me and my family.

Although I am retiring after a long career, I do plan to stay active in my community and in supporting GCA's mission and the health of the environment and economic development in general.

Thanks, for a great ride!

Sincerely,

Ricky Clifton

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Ricky Clifton". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Central Laboratory: Testing to Ensure GCA Compliance, Saving Money Through Technological Innovation

GCA's Central Laboratory, located on site with the Authority's Bayport Facility, was created in 1991 when management combined individual facility laboratories to enhance and expand testing operations and improve cost efficiency.

Smart move.

Wastewater and landfill regulatory monitoring and reporting requirements have grown in number and complexity in the intervening years and so have the testing regimes used to verify facility compliance and performance. Such testing falls under the purview of the Central Lab.

L

"They've done an excellent job of staying not just current but ahead of the curve when it comes to ensuring that our facilities accept wastewater

they can treat and then verifying the treated water effluent meets or



exceeds applicable environmental quality standards," says GCA General Manager Ricky Clifton.

The Central Laboratory tests more than 11,000 samples per month, operating 365 days a year for GCA facilities and other customers—

including the City of Seabrook. Most results are available the same day samples are received.

A

A job that big requires organization—a lot of organization—teamwork and commitment, "And our employees are more than up to the task," says Central Laboratory Manager Diane Maloy. "We're all on the same page when it comes to the importance of our work to GCA, our customers and the State of Texas. We work in a very collegial environment with very little staff turnover. It's almost like family."

Central Lab employs 32 people including Maloy. Accredited by both the National Environmental Laboratory Association Conference (NELAC) and American Association for Laboratory Accreditation (A2LA),



which are accrediting bodies recognized by the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TECQ), it's organized into four departments: Administrative; Conventional; Metals and Organics. The three non-administrative departments are named after the parameters for which they test.

Conventional analytics test for E. coli and Enterococci bacteria, alkalinity, ammonia, chlorides, cyanides, nitrates and nitrites, sulfate, sulfides, phosphorous, suspended solids and other materials. The

Organics Department focuses on priority pollutants and specialty organics. The Metals team tests for metal-based priority pollutants.

"We used to test only for conventional compounds," Maloy says.

"But sending the organics and metals samples outside to third parties took weeks to get back results, so we took all priority pollutants, which

include metals, in house

and now usually are

able to provide

results within

the same

week of

sample

receipt."

While individual facilities still perform some simple testing, the big stuff is accomplished at the state-of-the-art Central Laboratory.

"We're a vital cog in the GCA machine," says Maloy. "Not only do we test wastewater and other materials coming into our facilities, but we're also intimately involved in day-to-day operations, verifying that the effluent (treated water) meets regulatory standards for reintroduction into the environment. We also play an important role in the design, construction and upgrading of GCA facilities, in providing same-day test results for our customers, and in serving third-party customers such as the City of Seabrook." Maloy says the Central Lab provides services for all GCA facilities, from Odessa to Houston.

"WE'RE ALL ON THE SAME PAGE WHEN IT COMES TO THE IMPORTANCE OF OUR WORK TO GCA, OUR CUSTOMERS AND THE STATE OF TEXAS. WE WORK IN A VERY COLLEGIAL ENVIRONMENT WITH VERY LITTLE STAFF TURNOVER. IT'S ALMOST LIKE FAMILY."



GCA

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The Lab also conducts testing for non-customers in emergency situations such as spills, when immediate results are needed.

Maloy graduated from South Carolina State University with a degree in chemistry and initially wanted to become a physician, “but I didn’t like being around sick people,” she laughs. “Then I answered an ad in a newspaper to work at a facility called 40-Acre between Houston and Galveston run by an organization called the Gulf Coast Authority.”

Maloy says she had a hard time even finding the facility, but liked what she saw once she got there. “I started at 40-Acre as a chemist in 1981 and it turned out to be one of the best decisions of my life.”

She transferred to GCA’s Central Lab Facility, adjacent to our Bayport wastewater treatment facility, in 1985 as an organics chemist, then moved to the position of Organics Coordinator. She was named Central Laboratory Manager in April 2007.

R

Apart from running a large, successful operation that does important work for the environment and the economy, Maloy is especially proud of some of the cost-saving initiatives her team has undertaken.

“As a state-created organization, it is incumbent upon everyone at GCA to save money wherever possible,” Maloy says. “I’m very proud of our Web-based Laboratory Information Management system, or LIMS,

which we implemented in 2009. One of the big cost/time savers of the LIMS system is its ability to generate automatic reports, something our analysts used to have to do by hand.”

I

Other points of pride include:

- Robotic testing systems for biochemical oxygen demand, introduced in 2014. “It used to be a very time-consuming process, but now all you do is set it up and walk away and the machine does all the work.”
- Introduction of gas generators for making nitrogen, oxygen and hydrogen in house. “We now produce all the gasses our equipment requires for various tests, with the exception of argon and helium. It’s been a big cost saver.”
- Cuvette replacement. “Cuvettes are small cups we had to buy for testing via spectrophotometer.



It's a little thing, but they were quite expensive. We were able to cut way back on these by introducing a new spectrophotometer that uses an optic probe, eliminating the need for cuvettes in this application."

- "Another new technology we introduced enabled us to reduce the size of sample we normally use for phenolic and cyanide testing from one liter to only six milliliters, saving storage, transportation and time costs because we don't have to collect as much.
- "Total Organic Compounds used to require up to three days for results because the technol-

ogy we were using diluted the samples for us, but it took three stages and a lot of time. With new testing technology, we save time and money by diluting the samples ourselves, so we now have a one-day turnaround."

E

"Working at GCA is very exciting and rewarding because we all know we are making Texas a better place by ensuring our water is clean and safe, and we're working with industry, meaning we're contributing to a vibrant economy" Maloy says. "What could be better than that?"

D



GCA GENERAL MANAGER

RICKY CLIFTON RETIRING AFTER 43 YEARS



In 1974, Richard Nixon resigned as president, the price of gasoline was 55 cents per gallon, Muhammad Ali defeated George Foreman in the “Rumble in the Jungle” of Zaire, and Ricky Clifton began his career with GCA. His experience in waste management goes back further, though. This July, Clifton retires from his position as GCA General Manager. It’s been quite a ride.

“My dad worked for waste disposal service companies, managing industrial waste, and my summer jobs were always in that field,” says Clifton. “I became familiar with the Bayport Facility one summer on a service run there before GCA owned it. I liked what I saw and soon found a position as an operator-trainee. A year-and-a-half later I was promoted to chief day operator.” Two years later the Authority took over the Bayport Facility and Clifton became a GCA employee.

The future GM put himself through college while working fulltime for GCA, earning a Bachelor of Science Degree in Biology with a concentration in Environmental Science in 1980 from the University of Houston-Clear Lake.

After 20 years at Bayport, he accepted the manager position at the Campbell Bayou Facility in 1994, and in 2000 was named manager of the 40-Acre Facility located just a mile down Loop 147 from Campbell Bayou. He was transferred to the Bayport Facility as Manager in July 2005 and in 2007 was promoted to Manager of Industrial Operations joining the senior staff at the Central Office. In 2009, Clifton was



promoted to Assistant General Manager of GCA and two years later the Board appointed him to the top leadership position of General Manager.

“What I am most grateful for in my career with GCA is all the professional and personal growth opportunities I’ve been offered here,” Clifton says. “I read somewhere that the average person only works for a company for five years these days; I’ve been very fortunate to have spent over 40 years in a field and with an organization I love.”

Clifton has witnessed—and managed—a great many changes during his long career. “We’ve become much more structured as environmental regulations, compliance requirements, technology and our customer base have evolved.

Though we thought of ourselves primarily as a wastewater treatment organization, we also manage air emissions at our facilities, we operate a state-of-the-art industrial landfill, and recently the governor and the Texas Legislature expanded our authority to handle other types of water projects for the state.”

It was on Clifton’s watch as GM that the Authority created and promoted a business development group. “We’re looking for new industrial customers to serve and other ways we can contribute to a strong economy and a clean environment. Our mission is protecting the waters of the state of Texas, but in doing so, we are providing services that attract industries to our state and region and help these businesses grow. In that sense, we’re job creators.”

Clifton has high praise for GCA employees. “They’re professional, enthusiastic, committed and loyal. Dedicated to a clean environment in all its aspects—volunteering for

cleanup events such as Trash Bash and serving on boards and liaison committees. Our employees are the best.”

What are his plans for retirement?

“I’ll continue to be involved with the Texas Water Conservation Association and some other organizations I’ve worked with at GCA. I’m going to help my community wherever I can be of service—though not in politics. I’ll stay active in my church and with the Knights of Columbus. I’ll do some fishing and golfing and there’s always something to do on my homestead—gardening, property upkeep, running some cattle. Plenty of things to do.”

Clifton is past President of the Texas Association of Clean Water Agencies (TACWA) and is a member of the board of directors of the National Association of Clean Water Agencies (NACWA), the Texas Water Conservation Association (TWCA) and the TWCA Risk Management Fund. Other professional affiliations include Water Environment Federation, Water Environment Association of Texas, and the American Water Works Association. A lifetime resident of Galveston County, Clifton and his wife Vicki reside in Hitchcock.

“Ricky has dedicated his entire professional career to GCA,” said Board Chairman Frank Jones. “He’s done a great job and the entire Board of Directors wishes him well in retirement.”



News Release

GCA OFFICIALLY RENAMED GULF COAST AUTHORITY

AUSTIN, June 15, 2017—Texas Governor Greg Abbott today signed Senate Bill 1489, which officially changes GCA's name from Gulf Coast Waste Disposal Authority to Gulf Coast Authority, effective immediately.

"We are excited about the name change since it better reflects the regional services GCA provides, including industrial and municipal wastewater treatment, solid waste and water systems, all of which promote economic development statewide. The 'waste disposal' part of our old name seemed somewhat limiting," said GCA Assistant General Manager Lori Traweek.

The renaming formalizes a convention and logo that have been used for a number of years. The Texas State Legislature created the Authority under its former name in 1969.

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News Release

GCA SUCCESSFULLY COMPLETED A \$150,000 GRANT TO STUDY THE FEASIBILITY OF SITING A REGIONAL INDUSTRIAL WASTEWATER TREATMENT AND WATER REUSE FACILITY IN THE MONT BELVIEU AREA

HOUSTON, November 28, 2016- Gulf Coast Waste Disposal Authority (GCA) is pleased to announce that the \$150,000 planning grant from the Texas Water Development Board (TWDB) to evaluate the feasibility for GCA to site a regional industrial wastewater treatment and water reuse facility in the Mont Belvieu, Texas, area has been successfully completed.

Half of the \$150,000 grant came from matching funds provided by GCA, the City of Mont Belvieu and a consortium of petrochemical companies: Exxon Mobil, Targa Downstream, Enterprise Products and Oneok Hydrocarbons. The grant was kicked off a year ago after being awarded by TWDB as an effort to address the need for additional wastewater capacity, improve water quality and alleviate anticipated water supply shortfalls due to recent drought conditions and economic and industrial growth in the area driven by energy development. GCA guided the collaborative effort, engaging the City of Mont Belvieu, the four industrial companies, Texas Water Development Board and other local interested parties throughout the report development process. Parsons provided planning and engineering support throughout the project. GCA has been providing reliable regional wastewater treatment solutions in the State of Texas for more than 45 years and has extensive experience in the co-mingling of industrial and municipal wastewater streams for treatment. This is a service that is essential to industry in the area. The study confirmed that a regional wastewater treatment facility could provide a viable solution for the participating industries and the City.

In addition, the companies in the industrial consortium are experiencing tremendous growth in the area and will require additional sources of industrial water for use in their processes. This additional demand could further stress the region's water resources, which could limit future growth not only of industry but also of communities that ultimately will provide workers for these same industries. The water reuse component of the feasibility study found that reuse of the treated effluent from the proposed wastewater treatment facility would be a viable industrial water supply alternative.

GCA's mission of protecting the waters of the state of Texas is tailored to advance this type of project.

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GCA TECHNICAL DIRECTOR LEVINE SPEAKS AT TWO EVENTS

GCA Technical Director Leonard Levine gave two talks in February to help spread the good news about the Authority. In the first engagement on Feb. 2, he spoke before the Southeast Texas section of the American Institute of Chemical Engineers (AIChE) at the organization's monthly meeting. The presentation described how over the last half-century the treatment of wastewater from the chemical industry has evolved driven by changes in environmental regulations. Using real-life examples from facility upgrades, Levine illustrated how technology has adapted to a regulatory environment that is constantly in flux.

Two weeks later, on Feb. 16, he spoke at a half-day seminar spon-



sored jointly by the Southeast Chapter of the Texas Sector of the American Water Works Association (AWWA) and the Southeast Texas Chapter of the Water Environment Association of Texas (WEAT). His presentation highlighted some of the differences between industrial and municipal wastewater and described some of the real-life challenges encountered in treating industrial

wastewaters. He also discussed some of the unique technologies implemented by GCA to meet those challenges.

TRAWEK SPEAKS AT GCA-SPONSORED ECONOMIC ALLIANCE BUSINESS EDUCATION LUNCHEON

GCA Assistant General Manager Lori Traweck addressed The Economic Alliance Houston Port Region's Business Education Luncheon February 28 at San Jacinto College Central in Pasadena, TX. Before an audience of approximately 200, Traweck described GCA's role as an engine for economic development in Texas by providing regional environmental water and wastewater solutions to industries wishing to locate or

ACADEMY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY WINS TEXAS ENVIROTHON

A team of high school students from the Academy of Science and Technology in The Woodlands won the 2017 Texas Envirothon championship held in Junction, Texas, April 8 through 10. GCA was a Bronze Sponsor of the annual event. The Science Academy of South Texas earned second place honors, while third place was awarded to the team from Richardson High School.

Envirothon is an academic, extra-curricular environmental and natural resource education program and competition designed for high school students. Teams composed of five

students answer questions focusing on five areas of study: aquatics, forestry, soils, wildlife, and a current environmental issue. In addition to the field experience, students also participate in an oral component focusing on a real-world environmental problem.

"GCA is a proud continuing sponsor of this important educational program that helps develop future environmental scientists," said GCA Assistant General Manager Lori Traweck. "Congratulations to the award winners and all the participants."

The five-member winning team of Amanda Varner, Ilam Silva, Lucas Warma, Sanjana Ramchandran, and Indiana Schnicer will travel to Emmitsburg, MD, to compete against other North American teams for scholarships at the NCF Envirothon.

Top scoring teams on the field exams and oral presentation also received awards: Clear Lake High School took the top spot in Aquatics; Forestry and Soils were won by the Academy of Science and Technology;



expand in the Houston-Galveston and Permian Basin areas, as well as elsewhere in the state.

GCA sponsored the luncheon, which featured guest speaker Patrick Jankowski, Senior Vice President of Research for the Greater Houston Partnership, who spoke on the 2017 Economic Outlook for Houston.

The Economic Alliance Houston Port Region, created in 1985, provides professional economic development services for the businesses and communities surrounding the 25-mile Houston Ship Channel. Since 2008, the Economic Alliance has supported over 57 successful projects that have helped create 5,500 new jobs and over \$6 billion of capital investment to the Houston Port Region.



Left to right) Steve Cote, Sr. Vice President and Shareholder at Brady, Chapman, Holland & Associates, Inc.; Dr. Brenda Hellyer, Chancellor of San Jacinto College; Patrick Jankowski, Greater Houston Partnership; Jim Griffin, Economic Alliance President; Natalie Picha, Chairman of Economic Alliance Business Growth Task Force; Lori Traweek, Assistant General Manager of GCA; Ricky Clifton, GCA General Manager; Kim Ontiveros, GCA's Bayport Facility Manager; and Chad Carson, VP of Economic Development at Economic Alliance.

The Science Academy of South Texas took first place in both the Wildlife and Current Issue categories; and the Academy of Science and Technology team placed first in Oral Presentations.

Twenty-two teams representing 15 Texas high schools participated in the competition. Financial support for the event was provided by conservation districts and natural resource related agencies and businesses from across Texas.



Academy of Science and Technology took top honors at the Texas Envirothon, sponsored in part by GCA. Left to right: Tom Arsuffi, Director of the Llano River Field Station; Sanjana Ramchandran; Indiana Schnicer; Amanda Varner; Ilam Silva; and Lucas Warma. The team will represent Texas at the NCF Envirothon.

BLACKHAWK REGIONAL TREATMENT FACILITY ADDING THIRD CLARIFIER AND RELATED EQUIPMENT



The Blackhawk Regional Treatment Facility, GCA's only regional municipal sewage facility solely dedicated to that purpose, is undergoing improvements to add additional reliability to the treatment process. GCA, in conjunction with Klotz Engineering and LEM construction, is adding a third secondary clarifier to the facility.

In addition to the new secondary clarifier, the facility will replace its existing diversion structure. This structure receives the flow from the facility aeration trains, dividing it between the clarifiers for sedimentation settling. The new clarifier also will have two new return-activated sludge (RAS) pumps to remove settled solids from the clarifier and return them to the head works to continue the treatment process.

All electrical wiring and controls related to the new clarifier will come from a new Motor Control Center (MCC) located adjacent to the clarifier. The controls from two existing aeration blowers will be routed into the new MCC.



Three existing RAS pumps and related controls which are approaching end of life will be replaced. The new equipment will have updated controls as well. All five RAS pumps will have variable-frequency drive (VFD) units. These VFD controls allow each individual pump to operate at different speeds to regulate the amount of settled solids remaining in each clarifier and the amount of solids returned to the head works.



BH

Additionally, the two existing clarifiers will receive improved scum-removal systems. The scum will be removed from the treatment process and delivered to the digestion process of the facility. Sludge-blanket monitoring equipment will be installed in both the new clarifier as well as the existing clarifiers which will continually monitor the sludge-blanket levels and transmit that

data to the control room. Dissolved oxygen (DO) meters will be installed on the existing aeration treatment trains to improve reliability and assist in maintaining the most efficient level of treatment possible.

These projects are scheduled for completion in November 2017 and will enhance our Blackhawk Facility's ability to support future growth and provide the highest quality of treatment to support our mission of protecting the waters of the State of Texas.

Bayport, GCA's largest facility, continues to stay ahead of the growth across the Bayport Industrial Complex. October 2016 marked the successful end of a two-year journey to construct and commission the facility's fourth main clarifier. In conjunction with this major GCA milestone we completed piping projects to replace and upgrade the lines that interconnect Bayport's first-step tanks, second-step basins

and main clarifiers. All of this work was accomplished safely while the facility remained online, reliably meeting our customer needs and fulfilling our mission of protecting the waters of the State of Texas.



BP

**BAYPORT FACILITY CONSTRUCTION
PROJECTS DESIGNED TO
ACCOMMODATE CUSTOMER
EXPANSIONS
BY KIM ONTIVEROS
BAYPORT FACILITY MANAGER**

Another project related to in-plant hydraulic improvements kicked off in January 2017 and is focused on replacing the Return Activated Sludge Pumping Stations, including all associated above ground piping.

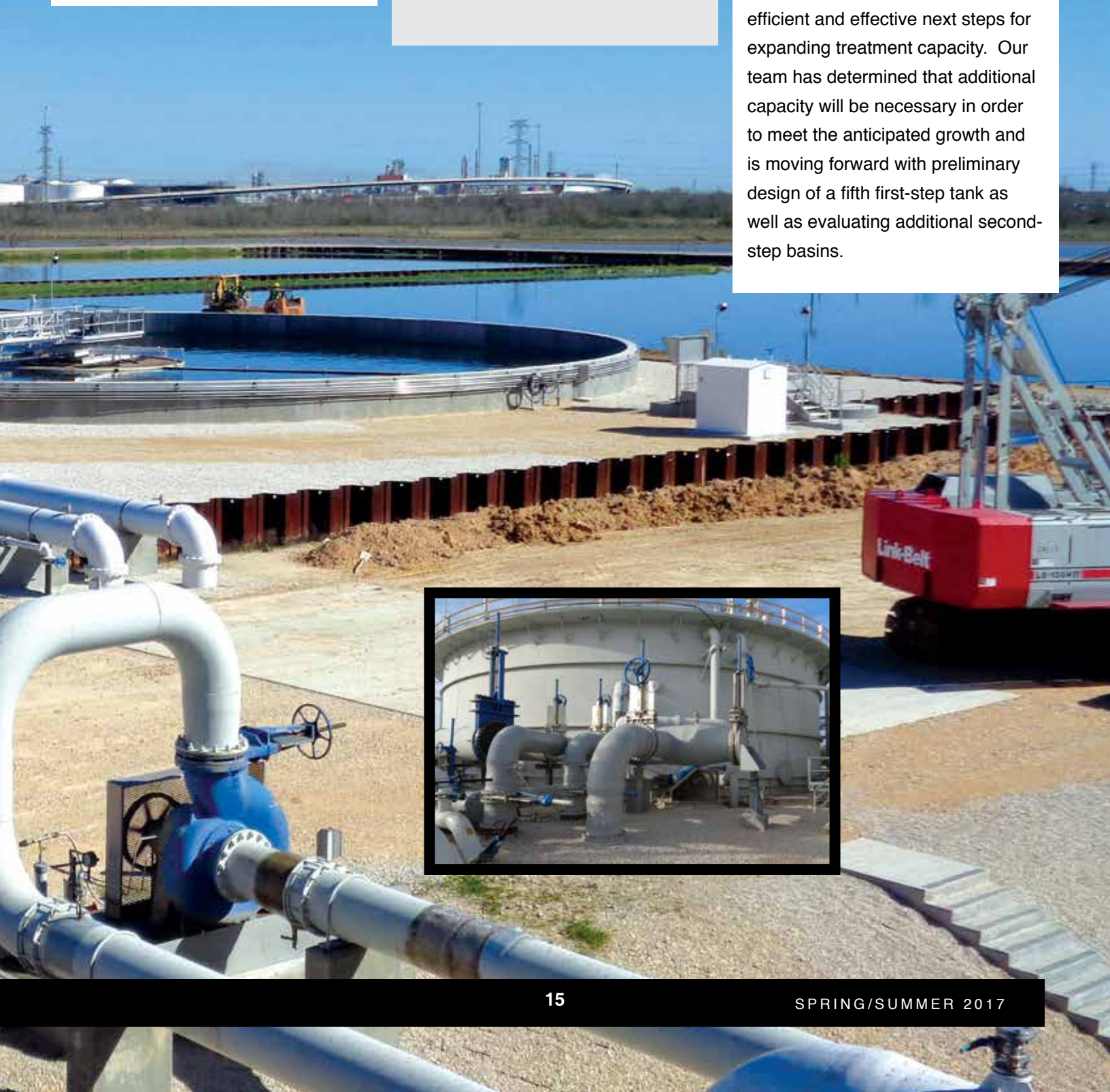
Together, these projects ensure improved reliability and continued focus on excellent environmental compliance.



In addition to in-plant improvements, the Bayport Team has been focused on ensuring the collection system utilized by all customers, the BIOSAN pipeline, is well maintained. We are in the process of replacing all existing carbon steel sections of this critical system with upgraded fiberglass sections and new tie-in points

for future customers in anticipation of growth. In addition, the project is ensuring the support systems for the two-and-a-half mile pipeline continue to protect its integrity and ability to handle a variety of process conditions unique to receiving influent (incoming wastewater) from more than 65 different petrochemical companies and two municipalities.

The Bayport Industrial Complex is expected to experience strong growth for the foreseeable future with significant expansions by our customers scheduled to come online in 2019. GCA continues to evaluate anticipated demand for the Bayport facility and has completed an organic capacity evaluation aimed at determining the most cost-efficient and effective next steps for expanding treatment capacity. Our team has determined that additional capacity will be necessary in order to meet the anticipated growth and is moving forward with preliminary design of a fifth first-step tank as well as evaluating additional second-step basins.



NACWA AWARDS

ALL GCA WASTEWATER TREATMENT FACILITIES WIN

The National Association of Clean Water Agencies (NACWA) has announced the 2016 recipients of its prestigious Peak Performance Awards and, for the first time ever, *all* GCA wastewater treatment facilities are winners.

Our 40-Acre Facility received the coveted Platinum Award, while the Blackhawk, Bayport, Odessa South and Washburn Tunnel facilities each captured Silver Awards.

Platinum Awards recognize 100% compliance with permits over a consecutive five-year period. Silver Awards are presented to facilities with no more than five violations per calendar year.

The Peak Performance Awards recognize NACWA member agency facilities for excellence in permit compliance. Recipients will be honored during the organization's Utility Leadership Conference & 47th Annual Meeting in St. Louis on July 24, 2017.

"Congratulations to each of our facilities and all our employees on this tremendous achievement," said GCA General Manager Ricky Clifton. "The Board and management are all so proud of our team. Your dedication is exemplified in this well deserved recognition from your peers across the country."

For more than four decades, NACWA has been the nation's recognized leader in legislative, regulatory and legal advocacy on the full spectrum of clean water issues, as well as a top technical resource for water management, sustainability and ecosystem protection interests.

NACWA represents public wastewater and stormwater agencies of all sizes nationwide. The Association's unique and growing network strengthens the advocacy voice for all member utilities, and ensures they have the tools necessary to provide affordable and sustainable clean water for all.

OD



ODESSA PROJECT UPDATE: REUSE WATER PRESERVES POTABLE RESOURCES

GCA's Odessa South Facility has completed installation of advanced treatment processes designed to improve the quality of the reuse water it supplies for oil and gas exploration.

The improvements have resulted in the cost-effective reduction of certain constituents in the water to meet oilfield usage requirements. This reuse water has received nothing but positive feedback from the end users since the improvements went on line in October of 2016. The project was executed in less than a month, using primarily in-house GCA project resources, after receiving notice to proceed.

Water resources are especially critical in arid regions such as West Texas, so it is important that industry identify sustainable water sources that do not compete with drinking water supply. GCA's reliable reuse water supply has reduced the demand on potable resources by more than 60 million gallons per month, representing yet another example of GCA's commitment to protecting the waters of the State of Texas.

ODESSA

Final 2016 **SCRIPT** *award winners announced*

GCA SCRIPT award winners for the last half of 2016 are seen here accepting their awards. SCRIPT is an acronym for GCA core values of Stewardship, Communication, Reliability, Integrity, Planning, and Teamwork. These SCRIPT Award recipients exemplify our core values in their everyday work at GCA. These awards carry a special meaning to each winner in that their nominations come from peers or supervisors. Congratulations to our winners who live **SCRIPT** in their work-life at GCA!



John Bourman, 40-Acre

John Bourman, Mechanic at our 40-Acre Facility, has distinguished himself to his peers by exhibiting core values in his everyday duties. He is very personable and involves and notifies others of any issues and identifies solutions. He takes swift action to correct any problems. John, along with his supervisor, Jesse Williams, plan and execute maintenance orders and requests to ensure no interruption of service with minimal impact on operations. A true team player, John portrays a positive work ethic, takes pride in his work and takes care of the team at 40-Acre. John is seen here receiving his SCRIPT Award from Terri Strachan, 40-Acre Facility Manager.



Lynda Norton, Central Office

Lynda Norton, Executive Assistant to GCA General Manager Ricky Clifton, was a winner for her continued dedication to the Executive Staff and the Board of Directors for GCA. Lynda coordinates all activities and schedules for Mr. Clifton and his staff that involve the facilities, employees and interests of GCA and serves as gatekeeper for inquiries for the Staff and Board. She is also recognized for her abilities in facilitating GCA's Trash Bash activities and service in other volunteer capacities. Lynda is seen here receiving her SCRIPT Award from Ricky Clifton, GCA General Manager.



Craig Martin, Bayport

Craig Martin, Operator-Bayport Facility, demonstrated excellent SCRIPT values during a lock-out-tag-out incident of T-2003. He identified a failed breaker that could have resulted in serious injury even with the equipment locked out. His double-checking and follow-up ensured the safety of others working to repair the equipment. Craig is great example of SCRIPT in action. His thoroughness in following procedures, taking action and speaking up and involving others led to the proper and complete shutdown of T-2003, avoiding potential problems. His actions and teamwork make him a SCRIPT winner. Craig is shown here receiving his SCRIPT Award from Scott Harris, Manager of Operations.



Chris Levy-Central Lab

Chris Levy, Chemist-Central Lab, has been instrumental in developing pH programs for Bayport samples. He has been responsible for developing different ways to streamline testing while maintaining data and



results integrity. His efforts have resulted in new and more efficient testing processes. Chris has an infectious personality which is appreciated by his co-workers. He takes the time and effort to encourage his teammates in their daily duties.

When help is needed, Chris is the guy who always steps up. Along with other lab mates, he coordinated a water drive for Flint, Michigan, early last spring. Chris is seen here receiving his SCRIPT Award from Diane Maloy, Central Laboratory Manager.



Anna Brown-Washburn Tunnel

Anna Brown, Compliance Coordinator-Washburn Tunnel, ensures all aspects of efficient and timely compliance. She has assisted in many facets of the operations including answering inquiries, taking care of guests, training operators on the Spill Prevention, Control and Countermeasure (SPCC) Plan and assisting the maintenance staff on air field logs. More recently, Anna took on the challenge of reorganizing WT labs by coordinating a "lab pack" which provide for the proper disposal of old chemicals. She was extremely hands-on, performing much of the physical cleanup herself. All this while maintaining her duties as Compliance Coordinator. She demonstrates all the core values and personifies reliability and teamwork,

among others. Anna, center, is seen here receiving her SCRIPT Award from Phyllis Frank, Washburn Tunnel Facility Manager, and Manager of Operations, Scott Harris.



Jackey Lasater-Bayport

Jackey Lasater, Electrician-Bayport, is well known for his attention to core values. He is very involved in project start-ups, especially when it comes to safety. His planning with tech services, operations and contractors has been most helpful in fostering teamwork among the different groups. Jackey is quick to offer his expertise on issues and effectively communicates his honest opinions. He checks, re-checks, verifies and ensures procedures are followed and conditions are right for a safe start-up. His leadership is counted on at Bayport. Jackey is seen here receiving his SCRIPT Award from Scott Harris, Manager of Operations.



Cliff Pabon, 40-Acre

Cliff Pabon, Chief Operator at 40-Acre, is known to be proud of "his" facility. This was particularly true one night when a 13-inch rain created a potential overflow situation at a clarifier. Quick to realize the potential problem, Cliff opened discharge valves that directed the overflow into a drainage basin. He took pictures and brought this to the attention of the 40-Acre team. In recognizing this issue, his quick actions and follow-up brought about the need for all to be vigilant of clarifier overflow potential and other areas where downpours may affect operations and safety. Cliff is seen here receiving his SCRIPT Award from Scott Harris, Manager of Operations, and Terri Strachan, 40-Acre Facility Manager.

GCA's SCRIPT awards have been presented to more than 20 employees since the program began in 2014. All GCA facilities have had representatives win these prestigious awards.

Congratulations!

**DESPITE A TURNOUT DECLINE
DUE TO OVERNIGHT RAINS,
THE 2017 RIVER, LAKES, BAYS
'N BAYOUS TRASH BASH®,
ATTRACTED 3,242 VOLUNTEERS
WHO BRAVED SOGGY
CONDITIONS TO COLLECT 52
TONS OF TRASH, 1.5 TONS
OF RECYCLABLE MATERIALS
AND 574 ILLEGALLY DUMPED
VEHICLE TIRES FROM 150
MILES OF LOCAL SHORELINE.**



TRASH





TRASH BASH 2017



THIS YEAR MARKS TRASH BASH'S 24TH ANNIVERSARY. CUMULATIVELY, 106,000 EVENT VOLUNTEERS HAVE COLLECTED 2,189 TONS OF TRASH, 16 TONS OF RECYCLABLES AND 10,709 TIRES. IMAGINE ALL THAT DEBRIS CLOGGING OUR WATERWAYS AND SPOILING THEIR BEAUTIFUL SHORELINES.



Half of the volunteers at this year's event, held March 25th, were under 18 years of age and 843 cleanup team members were involved in scouting. As usual, Platinum Sponsor GCA provided volunteers and site coordinators for two cleanup sites in addition to financial support.

Phyllis Frank, Washburn Tunnel Facility Manager, coordinated the Sims Bayou site with site support and volunteers from Goodyear, TPC Group, Port of Houston and TCEQ Region 12. A number of GCA



volunteers also participated including Anna Brown, Brian Sanders, Mike Morris, Anita Higgins, Brianna Morales, Olga Martin, Lynda Norton, Gordon Pederson and wife Donna, April Malone, and Dennis Parnell. To the south, 40-Acre Facility Manager Terri Strachan, again coordinated the Virginia Point Trash Bash site with volunteers from Scenic Galveston, and Eastman Chemical, OilTanking, Waste Connections, and Matthews Tire, who disposed of the used tires collected. GCA employees including General Manager Ricky Clifton, Keith Hardcastle, Denise Ehrlich, Scott Harris, Troy Bellmyer, Jesse Williams, Joanne Vasquez

and John Bourman also lent a helping hand.

"Trash Bash is an excellent reflection of our values and underscores GCA's commitment to protecting the waters—and shorelines—of the State of Texas," said Authority Assistant General Manager Lori Traweek.

This year marks Trash Bash's 24th anniversary. Cumulatively, 106,000 event volunteers have collected 2,189 tons of trash, 16 tons of recyclables and 10,709 tires. Imagine all that debris clogging our waterways and spoiling their beautiful shorelines.



TRASH BASH 2017 T-SHIRT ART DESIGN WINNERS

Students from seven schools representing five school districts competed in this year's contest to design the official 2017 Trash Bash T-shirt. Students from Cy-Fair ISD took the top three honors, with Hopper Middle School providing the first and third-place winners, and Cook Middle the second-place slot.

1st



3rd



2nd



**Honorable
Mention**



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Protecting the waters of the State of Texas
through environmentally sound and economically
feasible regional waste management practices