

# C.E.C. NEWSLEAF

OCTOBER, 1986

EDITOR: GINGER HOBART



## TEXAS COASTAL CLEANUP A MAJOR SUCCESS

On Saturday Sept. 20 nearly 3,000 people converged on state beaches to help in Texas' first Statewide Coastal Cleanup. Sponsored by the Center for Environmental Education (CEE) in Austin, the Coastal Cleanup involved ten states.

The Texas coast was covered from Beaumont to Brownsville with the following results.

### Estimates for Texas Coastal Cleanup

# of volunteers	2,720
of bags filled	7,862
# of tons of trash	91.84
# of pounds of trash	182,000
# of coastal miles cleaned	108.5

Houston's cleanup zone covered the thirty mile stretch of Bolivar Peninsula and was unique since it was the only non-coastal community involved. Ginger Hobart of the CEC and Mary Ann Young, coordinators of the event, estimate that four hundred volunteers travelled up to three hours to scrub the beaches.

The Bolivar residents were out in full force and included a group of 4-H students who spent far more than the three hours the CEE suggested volunteers spend gathering trash.

At the end of the day volunteers filled in surveys designed to pinpoint the source of the debris collected. The effort had been a learning experience for one 10 year old Bolivar boy. "I got paper cups and a toy boat and plastic, plastic, plastic!" he cried upon reading in his survey form. And then, quietly but with conviction, he stated, "I'll never drop litter anywhere again!"

But where is the trash coming from? Estimates show that from 70% to 90% of the debris washes in from offshore, but

## FIFTH ANNUAL WATERFRONT FESTIVAL/ SPLASH FOR TRASH SCHEDULED FOR BUFFALO BAYOU

Houston's only environmental fair, the Waterfront Festival will celebrate its major downtown waterfront, the Buffalo Bayou. Scheduled at Allen's Landing Park from noon to five on Sat. Oct. 25, many of the CEC members will have booths explaining the nature of their organization.

The music promises to be an interesting mix of Texas' history. Pappy Sleth and the Blue Ridge Playboys, the Houston Highlanders, Godfrey's Rangers, and Ted and the Polka Dots speak to the diversity of our city's ethnic heritage.

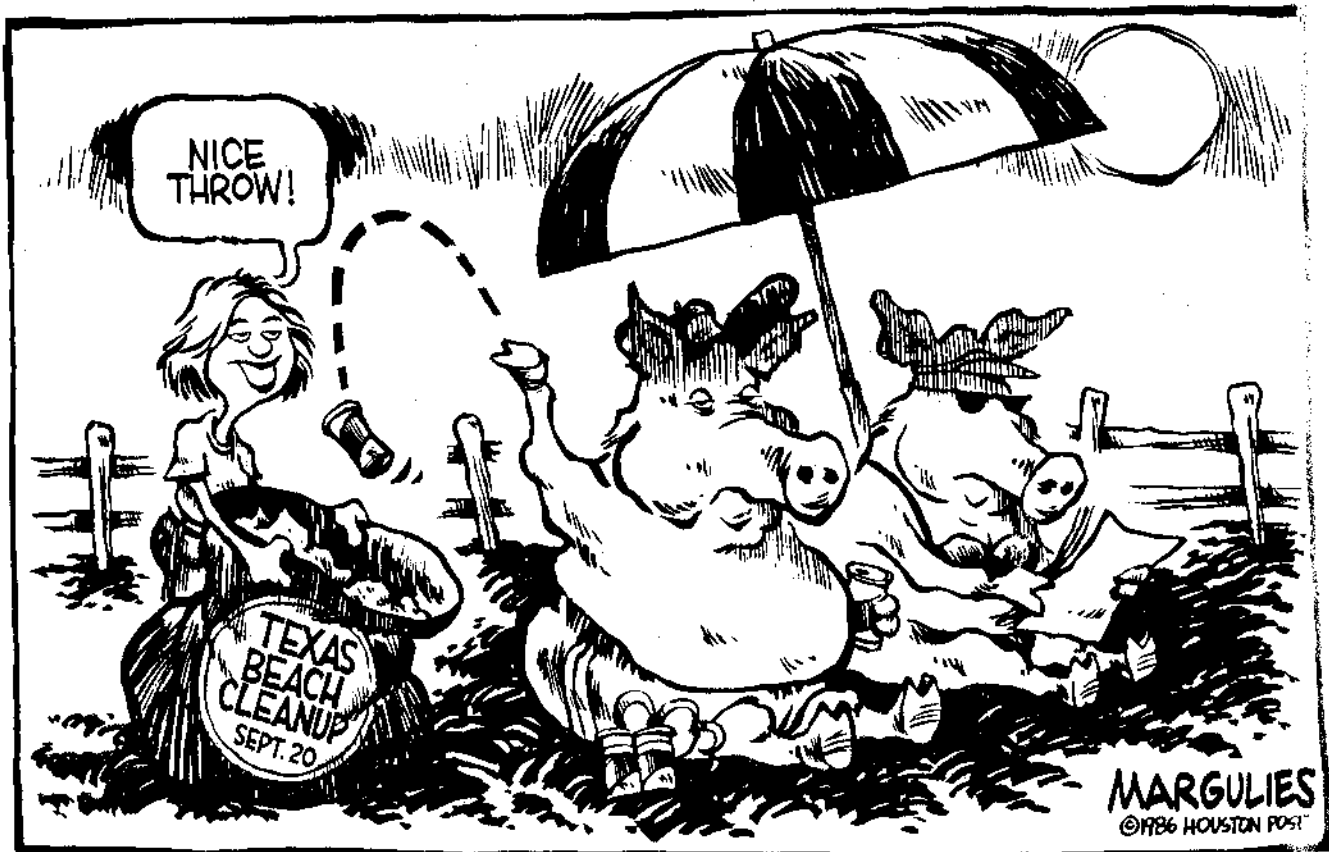
Proceeding the Waterfront Festival will Splash for Trash II. As Team Hou prepares to drastically alter Buffalo Bayou adjacent to the Wortham Center, Sierra Club has plans for the remaining portion of the bayou. Volunteers will help initiate the change along Buffalo Bayou (from 8 am to noon) as Sierra Club outlines its proposal at a press conference.

To become involved in either aspect of the day's events contact Rory Miggins at 926-0329 or Anna Martin at 665-8528.

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these are international statistics and are, therefore, misleading. Obviously population density increases in point source pollution. Also, certain areas of the country are more attuned to the Keep America Beautiful campaign. Unfortunately, Texas is not one of them!

The CEE is to be congratulated for a most successful Texas Coastal Cleanup. The Houston/Bolivar efforts added 20,000 pounds of trash to the total removed from our coast. The coordinators would like to thank each and every volunteer for an amazing day; we hope to see you next year.



**EPA FORCED INTO ACTION**

EPA has been forced into regulating wood stoves and garbage-burning incinerators by the Natural Resource Defense Council in settlement of a recent lawsuit.

While the smoke from an individual wood stove may seem minor, added together, millions of stoves discharge

tens of thousands of tons per year of dangerous particulate matter, carbon monoxide and a family of cancer-causing chemicals known as polycyclic organic matter. Under the agreement EPA must issue final standards for new stoves by Jan. 1988.

A new accelerated process of "negotiated" regulation is being used where the various concerned interest

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To become a CEC member--

NAME:

ADDRESS:

PHONE: (D)

(E)

My Check is enclosed For:

- \$15-Individual
- \$25-Family
- \$35-Organization
- Contribution \$ \_\_\_\_\_

I would like to learn about the volunteer opportunities the CEC has to offer.

MAIL TO: CEC  
1413 Westheimer  
Houston, TX 77006  
523-3431

HAVE YOU RENEWED YOUR MEMBERSHIP?

Staff: Ginger Hobart  
President: Dr. George Smith

groups have regular input to the decision making process. The goal is to find consensus among the competing interest so that lawsuit challenges do not delay or thwart the needed regulation.

Garbage-burning incinerators are also essentially unregulated with emission of dioxins, dibenzofurans, cadmium, chromium, lead, sulfur oxides, hydrochloric acid and formaldehyde. Hundreds of these plants are planned across the U.S. including 2 for Houston. Under an agreement with NRDC, the EPA is required to publish a report on the most effective emission control measures available for such incinerators and establish a timetable for regulation.

#### SIERRA CLUB CRITICAL OF CLEAN AIR STUDY COMMITTEE

The Sierra Club of Austin has blasted the Clean Air Study Committee for the recommendations approved by the Committee at its meeting in Austin Sept. 19. The Study Committee was established by the 69th Texas Legislature to examine three major air pollution control issues and to report its findings to the next regular session of the state Legislature which begins in January.

The three issues given to the Committee to study were possible controls on ship and barge emissions, the Texas Air Control Board's renewable permit system established by the 69th Legislature, and the possibility of requiring "grandfathered" facilities to obtain Air Control Board permits.

The Sierra Club criticized the Committee's recommendations in all three areas. On the issue of ship and barge emissions, the Committee recommended that the issue be addressed at the national level rather than at the state level despite the significance of hydrocarbon and other air emissions from ships and barges in Texas ports and waterways. "What we have from the Clean Air Study Committee is a nice sounding resolution on regulation of ship and barge emissions and no assurance that it will lead to any action," said Ken Kramer, spokesperson for the Sierra Club.

On the issue of the renewable permit program just created by the last

regular session of the Legislature, the Study Committee recommended that the program be repealed if the 70th Texas Legislature does not appropriate money for its implementation. The Sierra Club criticized this position, accusing the majority of Committee members of trying to subvert the renewable permit program before it has even had a chance to get underway.

On the issue of permitting "grandfathered" facilities, the Committee ignored the concerns of some of its members and recommended that the Air Control Board do nothing to improve its oversight of grandfathered facilities. The Committee refused to accept a compromise resolution to establish a "tiered" review of those grandfathered facilities in compliance with Air Control Board rules and regulations and would have required a full-blown technical review of facilities with records of substantial noncompliance with air pollution control laws. Ignoring the large number of grandfathered facilities polluting the air in Texas, the Study Committee adopted a recommendation for no new action.

Speaking for the Sierra Club, Ken Kramer said that the majority of the Clean Air Study Committee members appeared to be acting as a "Stagnant Air Study Committee." He criticized the majority of the Study Committee members as being "too concerned about short-term economic interests of a few powerful Texas industries and not enough concerned about the long-term interests of the public's health and welfare." He said that a majority of the Committee members seemed to have closed minds from the outset and never allowed new information or public concerns to affect their thinking on the issues which came before the Committee. Kramer said that four of the ten Committee members--Chairman Hubert Ixford, State Rep. Watson, Dr. George Smith (of the CEC), and Mr. Ken McKenzie--maintained open minds throughout the deliberations and sought to achieve legitimate compromises but that their efforts were thwarted by the "Stonewall" of a majority of close-minded Committee members.

OCTOBER CALENDAR

Sat 4 TRASHFEST '86-Texas Gulf  
9:00- Coast Council of Diving Clubs  
7:30pm sponsors Cleanup on Comal River. Meet at Hinman Park for team assignments. FMI:433-4761.

Tue 21 Sierra Club General Meeting.  
7:30 Texas Sierra Club Legislation Priorities for 1986 by Ken Kramer, State Capital Representative. 6221 Main.

Thur 9 Houston Sportsman's Club General Meeting-Snakes: Identification & Information by R. Christensen. Heights Presbyterian Recreation Hall. 246 W. 18th St.

Fri 11 Houston Archeological Society General Meeting-Rock Art in West Texas by Patty Bass. St. Thomas University/M.D. Anderson Hall.

Tue 14- River Oaks Garden Club Pink  
Wed 15 Elephant Sale. "A giant garage sale." St. Philips  
10:00- Presbyterian Church. 4807  
6:00pm San Felipe. FMI:523-2483.

Sun 19 Houston Audubon Society's  
2:00- Annual Auction. Edith L.  
5:30pm Moore Sanctuary. 440 Wilchester. FMI:932-1392.

Mon 20 CEC Board Meeting. 1413  
7:30 Westheimer. FMI:523-3431.

Tue 21 League of Women Voters  
11:30- Brown Bag Series-Health  
1:00pm Care. LWV Conference Room #313. 3400 Montrose. FMI: 529-3171.

Sat 25 SPLASH FOR TRASH II. Major  
8:00- volunteer Cleanup along banks  
Noon of Buffalo Bayou near Allen's Landing. Allen's Landing Park-Commerce & Main. FMI: Clark Martonson-650-1470.

Sat 25 FIFTH ANNUAL WATERFRONT FESTIVAL. Houston's environmental community will be on hand to celebrate Buffalo Bayou. (See Article) FMI: 926-0329 or 921-2939.

GROUND WATER HYDROLOGY SEMINAR OFFERED

Ground Water Hydrology Seminar is designed to give geologists, engineers, and other professionals a basic understanding of the fundamental concepts of ground water hydrology and pollutant transport, information which will be useful in current and future work assignments. October 14-18. FMI: 520-6022

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