

COASTAL BEND
BAYS FOUNDATION

For additional information, please contact:
Maggie Moorhouse (361) 883-6016
or
Teresa Carrillo (361) 882-3439

**For Immediate Release -
April 2003**

**Coastal Bend Bays Foundation Announces 2003 Environmental and
Conservation Stewardship Award Winners**

CBBF
P.O. BOX 23025
Corpus Christi, Tx
78403-3025

The Coastal Bend Bays Foundation (CBBF) is pleased to announce winners of the 2003 Environmental and Conservation Stewardship Awards Program. The program is designed to recognize and honor outstanding Coastal bend citizens, educators, businesses, governing bodies and other entities that have made significant contributions to the protection of the natural resources, habitats and native species of the Coastal Bend. Award categories and winners are:

- **Public Service** (for a public servant whose efforts and leadership on behalf of the Coastal Bend Region exceed the requirement of his or her job): **Art Morris**, Texas Parks and Wildlife, for his abandoned crab trap clean up program which resulted in the protection of numerous fish and game species;
- **Citizen Volunteer** (for a citizen who dedicates time and energy to the preservation of the Coastal Bend Region without any expectation of compensation or recognition): **Pat Suter** for her unwavering commitment to the environment and her work to keep Corpus Christi a healthy city;
- **Coastal Community** (for farsighted public stewardship over the Coastal Bend's resources and for leadership in enhancing the Coastal Bend environments): The **community of Aransas Pass** for developing Eco- and outdoor tourism and recreational opportunities;
- **Business and Industry** (a Coastal Bend company for leadership in giving protection of the region's environments the high priority they deserve): **Flint Hills Resources L.P.** for the designation of the 120-acre wildlife preserve and for serving more than 350 area students and over 350 adults with biological and environmental education for the past three years at the preserve;
- **Small Business** (a small business in the Coastal Bend for leadership in giving the region's environments the high priority they deserve): **Gills Landscape Nursery** for their emphasis on native plants and their assistance in Xeriscaping;
- **Organization or Nonprofit Group** (a Coastal Bend organization that has worked to preserve the region's heritage, protect the natural environment and nurture the prosperity of the Coastal Bend): **The Coastal Bend Land Trust Wildlife Photo Contest** for helping to promote landowner stewardship of the environment and public awareness of our natural resources and wildlife;

Physical Address:

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723 N. Upper Broadway
Suite 411
Corpus Christi, Texas
78401

Phone
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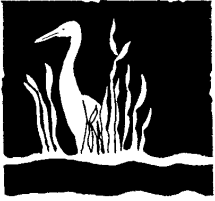
Fax
361-882-5625

Email
cbbf@baysfoundation.org

Web
www.baysfoundation.org

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- **Education and Public Awareness** (an institution or individual for dedication and effectiveness in educating Texans about the natural resources of the Coastal Bend): **Dr. Henry Hildebrand** for his contribution to fisheries protection and for the establishment of the marine science and biology program at what is now Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi;
- **Individual Coastal Contribution** (an individual, business or organization who has made a lasting and significant contribution to the betterment of the Coastal Bend Region): **Dr. Donna Shaver** for her world-renowned work with the Kemp's ridley sea turtles; and
- **Coastal Bend Bays Foundation Chairman's Award** (given for commitment to and extraordinary effectiveness in preserving Texas' rich coastal heritage): **The Nueces Delta Project** for the innovative cross-functional approach to conservation and environmental problem solving. Several groups and individuals worked to make this project a reality. **The Nueces Delta Project Partners include: The Coastal Bend Bays & Estuaries Program, The Nature Conservancy of Texas, and the City of Corpus Christi.**

The award criteria were outlined by a committee of CBBF. Nominations were solicited throughout the Coastal Bend. An independent selection committee, chaired by Dr. J.W. (Wes) Tunnell, determined the winners in each of the categories. Other award selection committee members included John LaRue, Executive Director, Port of Corpus Christi Authority; Linda Simpson, Region II Service Center; Alan Bligh, Better Business Bureau; Jim Moloney, Coastal Bend Community Foundation; Smiley Nava, Texas Parks & Wildlife Department; and Johnny French. CBBF Chairman Paul Swacina selected the Chairman's Award.

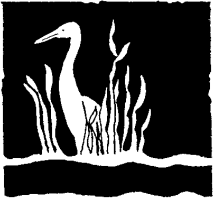
CBBF received over eighty nominations in this first year. According to awards chairman Maggie Moorhouse, "We were worried that no one would respond to the idea, but then we had so many great nominations, selecting a winner became difficult. I am glad that we had a selection committee in place to review the nominations because I wanted to give every nominee an award."

The awards will be presented at the First Annual CBBF Conservation and Environmental Stewardship Awards Dinner will be held on Friday, May 9, 2003 at 6:30 PM at the Solomon P. Ortiz International Center, located at 402 Harbor Drive in Corpus Christi.

Invitations, sponsor favors and speaker gifts were designed by third graders at Windsor Park Elementary. Students block print designs of coastal bend wildlife during Art class. A total of eight designs will be used. The students used the Coastal Bend Land Trust's "Wildlife in Focus" book as a guide to study endangered species and wildlife in the Coastal Bend.

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The keynote speaker for the dinner will be Dr. Wes Tunnell. His address will focus on "Texas Coast Natural Treasures." The evening will provide a silent auction featuring nature tourism and adventure activities including birding, kayaking, fishing and boating activities. In addition, several local artists that feature natural resources in their work have been invited to contribute to the silent auction. In addition each of the award winners will be recognized and receive their award. Proceeds from the event will be used to continue the work of CBBF, such as Earth Day and the monthly educational meetings.

Sponsor tables can be purchased for \$1,000 (VIP seating) or \$500 (basic seating) and individual tickets are available for \$50 (Friend of the Bay) or \$35 (general admission). Additional event and ticket information is available online at www.baysfoundation.org or by calling Teresa Carrillo, Executive Director, CBBF, at (361) 882-3439.

CBBF area of interest includes the counties of Aransas, Bee, Brooks, Duval, Jim Wells, Kenedy, Kleberg, Live Oak, McMullen, Nueces, Refugio, and San Patricio. We are a membership-based, public interest organization incorporated in 1991 and dedicated to the conservation of freshwater and coastal natural resources through communication, advocacy, research and education. CBBF sponsors the annual Earth Day-Bay Day event, founded the Coastal Bend Land Trust, partnered in the creation of the Coastal Bend Wildlife Photo Contest, and we continue to do much more. For additional information on membership, please contact Teresa Carrillo at (361) 882-3439.

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