

Annual Water Conference

Creating 'New' Water: Exploring the Options

Friday, March 4, 2005 • Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center • Austin

EVERYONE KNOWS we can't create new water. But the definition of water we consider available for our use is expanding as technological advances and additional data shed light on previously inaccessible reserves. In fact, a number of the **alternative water supply strategies** being examined in Texas hold considerable promise for helping to meet our growing water demands. But along with the promise of enhanced water supplies come challenges and limitations that must be addressed.

OUR GOAL at this conference is to create an open forum for speakers and attendees to explore the true "water creating" potential—including the challenges and limitations—of the more popular of these alternative strategies.

During the morning session, panels of experts will discuss the issues surrounding **land stewardship** and **desalination**. In the afternoon, we'll have a presentation on **rainwater catchment systems**. The final panel of experts will delve into the topic of **conservation**. Conservation is just now gaining the momentum and appreciation it warrants as a way to help Texas better manage its water supplies.



ENVIRONMENTAL DEFENSE

finding the ways that work

44 East Avenue, Suite 304
Austin TX 78701
(512) 478-5161

8:30 Registration

9:00 Visioning Water: International Perspectives

Special Guest Speaker

WENDY WATRISS, Co-founder
& Artistic Director of FotoFest

9:20 Land Stewardship

According to some sources, there's huge potential to "free up" water reserves by altering the landscape's vegetative covering. This selective removal of certain "brush" species is becoming a popular technique to increase spring flows, enhance recharge, and supplant surface water resources across the state. This panel will discuss the potential of brush management as a water supply strategy.

Moderator: MELINDA TAYLOR
Ecosystems Program Manager
and Senior Attorney
Environmental Defense

Statewide Perspective on Brush Management

DR. ALLAN MCGINTY
Professor & Extension Range Specialist
Texas A&M Extension Service

Insights from the Leon River Project

DR. WAYNE HAMILTON
Director, Center for Grazinglands &
Ranch Management, Department of
Rangeland Ecology & Management
Texas A&M University

The Funding Options

STEVE MANNING, Project Manager
Leon River Restoration Project

11:00 Desalination Potential

The potential supply of water from desalination of seawater from the Gulf is theoretically limitless, and the total volume of brackish groundwater "in place" in Texas aquifers is currently estimated at more than 2.5 billion acre-feet. Given these statistics, the desalination of seawater and brackish groundwater is considered a potentially important source of our state's drinking water supply in

the future. This panel will discuss the potential, feasibility, and possible drawbacks and limitations of desalination in Texas.

Moderator: SUSAN KADERKA
Director, Gulf States Natural Resource
Center, National Wildlife Federation

State Involvement in Desalination

ROD PITTMAN, Chairman

Texas Water Development Board

Potential of Brackish Groundwater Desalination

JAMES BEACH, Associate
LBG-Guyton Associates

Issues of Desalination and Concentrate Management

MIKE MICKLEY, P.E., PhD.

Mickley & Associates
Boulder, Colorado

12:30 Lunch (provided)

1:30 The Mainstreaming of Rainwater Systems in Texas

PETER PFEIFFER

Principal, Barley & Pfeiffer Architects

2:00 Conservation Defined

Simply conserving water and using it more efficiently can be as important to meeting our future water needs as any wells or reservoirs we might propose. While planners and water managers grapple with how to realize this potential, there are still some core issues in the debate regarding how conservation is defined and what measures constitute conservation. Our first two panelists stand on different sides of these debates and will give insight into their perspectives. We'll also get an update on the status of the recommendations set forth by the Conservation Implementation Task Force this past November.

Moderator: KEN KRAMER, Director
Lone Star Chapter of the Sierra Club

MARK JORDEN

Lower Colorado River Authority

JAMES OLIVER

General Manager

Tarrant Regional Water District

Conservation Task Force Recommendations: Where are they now?

CAROLE BAKER

Director, Intergovernmental Relations
Harris-Galveston Coastal Subsidence
District

Special Guest Speaker **Wendy Watriss** “Visioning Water: International Perspectives”

Wendy Watriss is co-founder and artistic director of **FotoFest**, an international photographic arts and education organization based in Houston.

In 2004, Fotofest’s **Tenth International Biennial of Photography & Photo-Related Art** focused on water and included a four-day Global Forum on Water.

Fotofest is one of the largest photography biennial events in the world and is the oldest and longest-running biennial of its kind in the United States.

For more about Fotofest, visit



Our Annual Water Conference

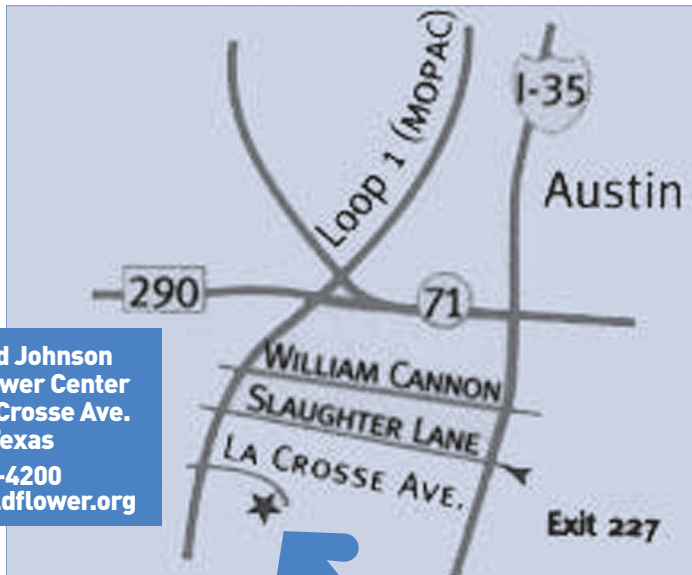
This year’s conference is the fifth in an annual series of statewide water conferences sponsored by the **Texas Living Waters Project**. The goal of this project—a collaborative effort of the **National Wildlife Federation**, **Environmental Defense** and the **Lone Star Chapter of the Sierra Club**—is to improve the way Texas manages and uses its fresh water.

This effort—and the conference series—is made possible through the generous support of:

- **The Houston Endowment**
- **The Meadows Foundation**
- **The Brown Foundation**
- **The Jacob and Terese Hershey Foundation**
- **The Magnolia Charitable Trust.**

For more on the Texas Living Waters Project, visit:

www.texaswatermatters.org.



Lady Bird Johnson
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4801 La Crosse Ave.
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www.wildflower.org

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