



**SIERRA  
CLUB**  
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The Lone Star Chapter of the Sierra Club announces seventeen winners of 2012 awards for outstanding work for Texas and Texans' air, water, wildlife and the connections between nature and people.

The Lone Star Chapter of the Sierra Club recognizes Sierra Club members and others whose outstanding work exploring, enjoying and protecting Texas' natural treasures furthers the goals of Sierra Club and the spirit of John Muir.

The Awards Dinner honors Sierrans and others whose actions on parks and wildlife, water issues, and environmental justice as well as chapter service in 2012 merit recognition and appreciation from all Texans. The 2012 Awards Dinner is Saturday, April 6, 2012 in Austin.



**Orrin Bonney Award – David Griggs**, for his success as Political Chair, strengthening the chapter's political influence through representation and funding. David Griggs is an attorney living in Farmers Branch. The award commemorates the late Orrin Bonney, a Houston attorney and a co-founder of the Lone Star Chapter of the Sierra Club and was instrumental in the establishment of the Big Thicket National Preserve in East Texas. In addition to their work in Texas, Orrin and his wife Lorraine co-authored guidebooks to the mountains of Wyoming and a book about Yellowstone

National Park.

**Art in Service to the Environment Award – John Graves**, for his work in bringing attention to the Brazos River. John's book, *Goodbye to a River*, which chronicles a canoe trip Graves made in 1960 to see the Brazos before dams changed its character, remains in print and is considered a Texas classic. In 2005 the Texas Legislature designated 115 miles of the Brazos the John Graves Scenic Riverway. John is a native Texan and resident of Glen Rose.



**Chapter Conservation Award – Roy Waley**, for his role in revitalizing the conservation efforts of the Austin Regional Group. Roy is a tireless advocate for Central Texas Region and the State. A sixth generation Texan, Roy bicycles in Austin.

**Chapter Service Award – Grace Martinez**, for her revitalization efforts in the Houston Sierra Club group and Galveston County. Grace works at NASA and lives in Houston with her husband Jay Cross.

**Environmental Justice Award – ShaleTest**, for their commitment to collecting environmental data and providing testing to lower income families and communities negatively impacted by natural gas exploration. ShaleTest was founded in 2010 by Tim Ruggiero and Calvin Tillman.



**Environmental Reporting Award – Dianna Wray**, for her reporting on complex environmental issues, including a seven-part series of special reports on Eagle Ford Shale development, one of which received a National Press Club Award. Dianna lives in Victoria and writes for the Victoria Advocate.

**Evelyn R. Edens Award – Friends of the Brazos River**, for their efforts to protect the stretch of the Brazos River that John Graves wrote about in his seminal book *Goodbye to a River*. Through their spirited efforts, the John Graves Scenic Riverway should be extended through Somervell County during the current legislative

session. The group has been fighting the Brazos River Authority's attempt to claim ownership, and the right to sell every drop of water in the Brazos not already allocated. The members of Friends of the Brazos River are restoring a sound ecological environment to the Brazos, especially between Possum Kingdom Lake and Lake Whitney.

**Evelyn R. Edens Award – Jim Blackburn and Mary Carter**, for their environmental legal work, most notably for their role in two seminal decisions: the Aransas Project which established that the state was at fault for the excessive salinities causing the deaths of 23 Whooping Cranes during the winter of 2008-2009; and second, *Sierra Club v. FEMA*, a case they handled largely pro bono, resulted in FEMA correcting its map of the Upper Cypress floodplain. Blackburn & Carter is located in Houston and is celebrating over 20 years of environmental defense.



**Harrold Tabor Award – Margot Clarke**, for her commitment to the Lone Star Chapter of the Sierra Club, including her role hosting a successful retirement celebration, a major fundraising event, honoring the retiring Lone Star Chapter director, Ken Kramer. Margot is an Austin native, a former Sierra Club staff member and a current member of the Lone Star Chapter Sierra Club executive committee.



**Ken Kramer Living Waters Award – Cindy Loeffler**, for her tireless work advocating for Texas's rivers, bays, and estuaries. Cindy has worked with the Lone Star Chapter on water resource protection efforts for many years. She and her staff at Texas Parks and Wildlife graciously give of their time as public servants to inform stakeholders and decision makers about the science behind water-resource protection. Cindy was also a key player in the development of the Edwards Aquifer Recovery Implementation Plan, a collaborative, consensus based stakeholder process designed to develop a plan to protect federally listed species affected by the management of the Edwards Aquifer. Cindy is the Water Resources Branch Chief for the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department.



**Special Service Award – Sister Elizabeth Riebschlaeger**, for immersing herself in the study of hydraulic fracturing policies; she has shared valuable information about the technology involved with various governmental civic, environmental, and church groups across the state. Especially noteworthy is Sister Riebschlaeger's initiative to organize Neighbor-to-Neighbor town hall meetings where scientists and engineers were available to answer questions posed by citizens about oil/gas technologies.

**Virginia Murray Brewer Award – James Moody**, for his unmatched service trips leadership. At the national level, he has led service trips to Guadalupe Mountains NP and Big Bend NP for over fifteen years. These trips are so successful there has long been a waiting list to get a spot on one of them, even though there is a charge of several hundred dollars for the privilege of working all day for a week. James Moody has been an outings leader at the local and national levels for years and leads the Fort Worth Sierra Club's Big Bend outing every November.



**Environmental Justice Award – Eva Malina and Allison Sliva**, for their work in stopping the White Stallion coal fired power plant in Matagorda County. "I think they thought that since we were a small rural community, they would not encounter opposition. They were wrong," said Eva Malina, president of the No Coal Coalition.



**Hermann Rudenberg Award – Carole H. Allen**, for her dedication to defending and protecting the Kemp's Ridley sea turtle, a critically endangered species that counts the Texas coast as part of its range. Carole founded HEART (Help Endangered Animals-Ridley Turtles) in 1982 and is the Gulf Office Director for The Sea Turtle Restoration Project. Carole lives in Houston and is a member of the Board of the Sea Turtle Restoration Project.

Carole was fortunate enough to meet Mr. Rudenberg years ago while both working with the Kemp's Ridley sea turtles, which she is still defending today.



**Special Service Award - Sharon Wilson of Texas Oil and Gas Project.** Sharon's honored for her influence within Texas, the nation and internationally as an expert on the effects of Hydraulic Fracturing, “fracking”, on people, their land, their water and air.

*Founded in 1892 by John Muir, the Sierra Club is America's oldest, largest and most influential grassroots environmental organization. The Sierra Club's mission is to explore, enjoy, and protect the wild places of the earth; to practice and promote the responsible use of the earth's ecosystems and resources; to educate and enlist humanity to protect and restore the quality of the natural and human environment; and to use all lawful means to carry out those objectives. The Sierra Club – Lone Star Chapter is made up of 24,000 Texans and 10 regional groups from Big Bend to Beaumont.*

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