

NEWSROOM 2009

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GREEN BANK SHOWS CONSISTENT GROWTH IN Q2

June 30, 2009

Loans up 4.6%--bank grows 3.8%

THIRD QUARTER PROVES STRONG FOR GREEN BANK

September 30, 2009

Bank grows 10.5%

2009 NUMBERS HIGHLIGHT SUCCESSFUL FIRST YEAR

December 30, 2009

Bank grows 41%; loans grow nearly 20%

THE CITIZENS' ENVIRONMENTAL COALITION HONORS LOCAL VOLUNTEERS AT ITS ANNUAL SYNERGY AWARDS

December 30, 2009

Nicole Bradford



The Citizens' Environmental Coalition of Houston recently honored winners of its 12th annual Synergy Awards, which recognize individuals and organizations that create positive environmental change and improve quality of life in the Houston-Galveston area.

This month, 13 awards were presented in 10 categories, including Conservation, Sustainable Planning and Corporate Awareness.

“The CEC created these awards specifically to honor the hard-working unsung heroes of Houston’s environmental movement — those who work day in and day out, often as volunteers — and actually make change in our community,” says CEC board President Rachel Powers. The winners in 10 categories were:

- This year’s Government Award winner was Andy Sipocz, wetlands biologist with the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department. Sipocz spent his career creating and conserving critically needed wetlands in the Gulf Coast area. One of Sipocz’s recent projects involved the development of a series of wetland ponds at Brays Bayou.

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- The Corporate Awareness Award was presented to Keatingrove Farms, the only certified organic farm in Harris County, located west of Tomball. As a USDA certified organic farm, Keatingrove has met rigorous requirements, including no use of synthetic fertilizers, pesticides or genetically modified organisms, and keeps detailed records of all the products used on the farm.
- Josetta Hawthorne, executive director of the Council for Environmental Education, was the winner of this year's Environmental Education Award. One of Hawthorne's projects is a national urban environmental education program called Wet in the City, a multidisciplinary, hands-on urban water education curriculum that engages K-12 students typically under served by environmental education.
- The 2009 Army & Sarah Emmott Conservation Award went to Flo Hannah of the Houston Audubon Society, and Jaime Gonzales of the Katy Prairie Conservancy. Both were instrumental in native plant rescue events held at Saums Road Prairie during the summer of 2008. Native grasses and wildflowers were relocated from this site before its destruction for a development project and transported to sites across the city of Houston to create small pocket prairies. Their efforts led to the creation of the Coastal Prairie Partnership, the first local group dedicated to the conservation of coastal prairies.
- The winner of the Community Activist Award was Juan Parras, founder of Texas Environmental Justice Advocacy Services. For more than 30 years, Parras has been a voice for low-income minorities through his work as an international union representative, antipollution activist and community outreach coordinator.
- The Lifetime Achievement Award was presented to Frank Smith, a leader of Houston's environmental organizations since the early 1960s when he joined Terry Hershey to fight the channelization of Buffalo Bayou. The effort resulted in the formation of the Bayou Preservation Association. In 1972 Miss Ima Hogg called upon Smith and three others to look after Memorial Park when she was no longer able to do so. They formed the Memorial Park Advisory Committee. As the Bayou Preservation Association president in 1974, he worked to establish the Armand Bayou Nature Center.
- The 2009 Media Award winners were: Yolanda Green, host of "Going Green with Yolanda Green," a weekly, half-hour television program on KIAH-TV, Channel 39, and environmental newspaper writer Matthew Tresaugue.
- The Sustainable Planning Award winners were the American Institute of Architects and Rice Design Alliance for their joint project, "The 99K House Competition." The national, 2-stage competition encouraged the development of a house with as many sustainable features as possible within the constraints of a \$99,000 budget. The winning design of the 99K House Competition has been built and incorporates sustainable features including rapidly renewable materials, rainwater harvesting and natural ventilation. It will be sold to a low-income family.

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- The President's Award went to Ann Hamilton, grant officer with the Houston Endowment Inc. and steadfast supporter of CEC member groups and the CEC itself.
- The 2009 Founders' Award winner was Anne Olson, president of the Buffalo Bayou Partnership which oversees beautification and redevelopment activities along Houston's historic Buffalo Bayou waterway. Over the past 10 years, Olson and her board of directors have raised approximately \$50 million for Buffalo Bayou's redevelopment. Currently, the organization is facilitating approximately \$25 million worth of projects.

The Citizens' Environmental Coalition, or CEC, is an alliance of more than 100 nonprofit, governmental and educational organizations whose activities impact the environment and quality of life in the Houston-Galveston area. Bank grows 41%; loans grow nearly 20%