

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 21, 2021

THANK YOU FOR JOINING US
AS WE CELEBRATE



Cocktails for the Colorado

BENEFITING THE COLORADO RIVER ALLIANCE

John Lay River Hero Award Honorees

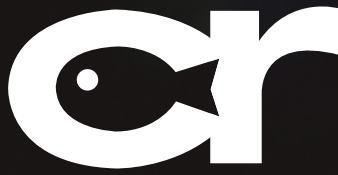
Kyndel & Laura Bennett

Presented by



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Colorado River Alliance

A healthy, flowing river is imperative to the long-term well-being of the communities through which it runs. With a commitment to innovation and collaboration, the Alliance provides educational and engagement activities that empower Texans with knowledge and tools to protect the Texas Colorado River and ensure its long-term vitality.

Executive Committee

John Erskine, President · Jennifer Walker, Secretary
Chip Bray, Treasurer · John Burke · John Pitts, Jr.
Stephanie J. Moore · Wade Webster

Board of Directors

Sally Allen · Susan Butler · Greg Cox · Breck Harrison
Susan Turrieta · Augusto Villalon · David Yeates

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Pam Akins · Joseph Beal · Kyndel Bennett · Paul Bury
John Dickerson, III · Gary Farmer · Dan Herd · Laura Huffman
Arthur Milberger · Robert Neblett · Peter Pincoffs · Pat Robertson
Andy Sansom · Ray Wilkerson · Peggy Winkler

Endowment Board

Jim DeCosmo · Mike McHenry · Robert Neblett
Ray Wilkerson · Steve Cooper

Staff

Adrienne Longenecker, CFRE, Executive Director
Keri Pearson, Director of Development
Katie Bedrich, Programs Manager

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

Sponsored by

Heritage Title Company

WFP Reception

Entertainment by Jaelyn Penner

Sponsored by

H-E-B

Reception

Cocktails · Hors d'oeuvres · Silent Auction

Entertainment by Jaelyn Penner

Welcome

Ed Clements, Emcee

John Erskine, CRA Board Chair

Sponsored by

Austin Water

Dinner & Program

John Lay River Hero Award Presentation

Kyndel & Laura Bennett, 2021 Honorees

Live Auction

Cowboy Auctioneers

Paddles Up!

**Your gift tonight protects and preserves the Texas
Colorado River by funding CRA's mission**

Raffle Winners Announced

***Must be present to win**

Scan QR Code for Auction:



Cocktails & Mingling

Online Silent Auction

Closes Friday, October 22 at 9pm

***CRA staff will coordinate pick up
of auction items with the winners**

2021 SPONSORS

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2021 SPONSORS

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Thundercloud Subs · Tito's Handmade Vodka
Susan & Gilbert Turrieta · YETI**

HONOREES

2021 John Lay River Hero Award Honorees

Kyndel & Laura Bennett



What will be your legacy? For Laura and Kyndel Bennett, the Texas Colorado River is a consistent and steady pillar for their family, providing treasured memories. The River is also our community's lifeblood, providing essential resources as well as essential recreation for our health and well-being. The Bennetts believe protecting our River

is a priority and illustrate value through their support of Colorado River Alliance. They will leave a legacy of River Stewards.

Laura is an avid paddler, practicing her skills for 15 years. In fact, Laura is one of the original Austin paddle boarders – she was the second person in Austin to own a paddle board. Enjoying the River and supporting the Alliance is an endeavor of the entire family. Barkley and Johnny, their two children, spend time each week on the river, and Barkley was a CRA Programs Intern.

In addition to being a savvy business owner and respected developer, Kyndel is also an avid fisherman and paddler. As Chair of the Board of Directors, Kyndel's leadership helped launch the Texas Colorado River Mobile Learning Experience, the "Mobile River," which has provided educational experiences to more than 38,000 Texans across the river basin. Kyndel currently serves as an Advisory Council Member and Corporate Partner.

Supporters of Colorado River Alliance for many years, the Bennetts have served our mission in important ways including as Cocktails for the Colorado Gala Event chairs, as Tributary League Members, as connectors, and as dear friends. As philanthropists and active community volunteers, Laura and Kyndel embody the meaning of John Lay River Heroes, and we thank them for their commitment to our community and the Texas Colorado River.

SPECIAL THANKS

A heartfelt thanks to our amazing gala committees.
Thank you for all your hard work!

Host Committee

**Dam & Marty Akins · Ben & Susan Bufkin
Robert & Melinda Neblett · Wade & Sarah Webster**



Planning Committee

**Sally Allen · Kelly Belt · Adrienne Longenecker
Keri Pearson · Amanda Wilson**

Vendor Partners

**360 Press Solutions · ATXGiving · Jim Canning
Ed Clements · Cowboy Auctioneers · Encore
Jules Joye · Kimpton Hotel Van Zandt
Jaelyn Penner · Zappy Springs**

CORPORATE PARTNERS

Corporate Partners of the Colorado River Alliance are philanthropic leaders with a serious commitment to protecting the Texas Colorado River. In addition to providing essential support for the CRA mission, partners gain access to specialized marketing, employee engagement, and networking opportunities to develop relationships that reach deep into Texas' diverse water community.

Thank you to our Legacy Leader Partners



Helping Here.



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AUSTIN, TEXAS



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TRIBUTARY LEAGUE

Tributary League Members ensure tomorrow's scientists, legislators, land developers, farmers, nonprofit professionals, and entrepreneurs develop a passion for water stewardship and a science-based understanding of our interdependence on the River. Members are an exclusive group of donors who, like the tributary rivers that flow into the Texas Colorado River contributing to its vitality, provide a steady flow of funds to sustain the mission of the Colorado River Alliance.

Thank you to our Tributary League Members

Dam & Marty Akins · Kathi & David Allen · Sally & DJ Allen
Linda & Steve Balas · Nancy & Joe Beal
Laura & Kyndel Bennett · Becky Bonham · Chip Bray
Susan & Ben Bufkin · Susan Butler · Les & Gretchen Canter
Bergan & Stan Casey · Joan & Steve Clark
Michelle & Alan Cline · Debbie & Tim Collins · Steve Cooper
Colin Corgan · Melissa & Matt Dausch · Cindy & Jim DeCosmo
Meg & John Erskine · Stephanie & Clayton Duncan
Susan & Gary Farmer · Angela & Sergio Garcia · Terrell Gates
Patsy & Roald Gertson · Jennifer & Breck Harrison
Cindy & Pete Hayes · Dan Herd · Jill & Mark Hughes
Eugene R. Vaughan, III · Karen & Philip Ingram
Joyce & Keith Jackson · Carl & Paige Lay · Jill & John Lay
Mollie & Steve Leach · Carol & Tom Martine · Janis Monger &
Tom Mason · Lynn & Mike McHenry · Stephanie J. Moore
Scott Moorhead · Melinda & Robert Neblett · John E. Burke, P.E.
Lesley & John Pitts · Lynda Rife & Wallace Vog
Becky & David Roche · Bryan Teeple · Leslie & Tim Timmerman
Marie & Barth Timmerman · Susan & Gilbert Turrieta
Katey & Augusto Villalon · William Volk · Don Walden
Sarah & Wade Webster · Karen & Ray Wilkerson
Peggy & Matt Winkler · Tomi & Pete Winstead
Suzanne & Kevin Zarling

In Loving Memory of Steve Balas

February 20, 1946 - April 20, 2021

On April 20, 2021, we lost a true conservation champion and pillar of the Texas community. Stephen "Steve" Kent Balas was dedicated to the betterment of his family, community, and the river, and was a respected board member of Colorado River Alliance. In addition to being a pharmacist and owner of Eagle Lake Drugstore, Steve was also a knowledgeable and successful rice farmer in Eagle Lake and possessed a deep appreciation for the great outdoors.

Never in short supply of a kind word or helping hand, Steve served on countless boards including First National Bank of Eagle Lake, Rice Medical Foundation, the David and Eula Wintermann Foundation, United Methodist Church, Colorado River Land Trust, and many more. Steve also served on the board of the Lower Colorado River Authority for multiple terms.

He was a wonderfully kind man and we are deeply grateful for Steve's contributions and commitment to the land, water, and Texas way of life.



PAST RIVER HEROES

- 2021 Kyndel & Laura Bennett
- 2020 Tim Timmerman
- 2017 Peggy Winkler
- 2016 Pam Akins
- 2015 Family of Lyndon & Lady Bird Johnson
- 2014 Gary Farmer
- 2013 Ray Wilkerson
- 2012 Charles Williams · John Burke
- 2011 Debbie Richardson · Florence Shapiro
- 2010 Hughes & Betsy Abell · Austin American Statesman
Bill Moore · Matthew Evans
- 2009 Stephanie Koenig · Troy Fraser · PBS&J Env. Commitment
Ray Benson · Turk Dipkin
- 2008 Joe Beal · Kip Averitt · Pete Winstead · Barbara ten Brink
Lady Bird Johnson
- 2007 Andrew Sansom · Woodbine Development · Michael & Pam Reese
Jimmie Dale & Janet Gilmore · Meredith Keelan · Tom Craddick
- 2006 Patricia & Robert Ayres · Judy McCoy
Ed & Susan Auler · David Dewhurst · John P. Cowan
- 2005 Jeff Wentworth · Pam Meier · CH2M Hill
Chairman Kathleen Hartnett White · Greg B. Westmoreland
Vanishing TX River Cruise
- 2004 Will Wynn · John Graves · John Moore · Mary Eastberg
Quentin Martin · Wyman Meinzer
- 2002 Haskell Simon · Elisabeth Welsh · Robby Cook · Susan Combs
Tex Robertson · The Lake LBJ Fish and Habitat Committee
- 2001 Mark Rose · Ken Armbrister · Kirk Watson · Les Apelt
Pete Laney · Rick Perry

PADDLES UP

Your gift today will directly impact the Texas Colorado River by helping fund CRA's mission to empower Texans with knowledge about how to help protect the Texas Colorado River to ensure its long-term vitality. You may choose to make your donation in honor of 2021 John Lay River Hero Honorees, Kyndel & Laura Bennett, or any other Colorado River Alliance supporter.

LEVELS

- \$10,000** Powers a Mobile River visit for 500 middle school students, providing a powerful, immersive experience of our precious water resources.
(Includes a year-long Tributary League Membership)
- \$5,000** Supports Redbud Field Trip and transportation scholarships for 250 elementary students attending a Title I school.
(Includes a year-long Tributary League Membership)
- \$2,500** Supplies sanitization materials, essential tools, and environmental education for a volunteer clean-up event.
(Includes a year-long Tributary League membership)
- \$1,000** Provides Spanish translation to help expand the CRA dual-language Digital Resources Center.
(Includes a year-long Tributary League membership)
- \$500** Ensures an online River Reflections event, a virtual speaker series dedicated to Texas Colorado River topics, reaches 100 people throughout the River Basin.
(Includes a year-long River Society Membership)
- \$250** Assists in the design of water-related activities such as the Colorado River Crossword Puzzle and Water Conservation Bingo available via the CRA Digital Resource Center.
(Includes a year-long River Society Membership)
- \$100** Delivers a virtual field trip to 50 students to support educators and schools throughout the Texas Colorado River Basin.

To make a Paddles Up donation,
scan this QR code:

