



Contact: Claire de Blanc, 281-576-1634, Cdeblanc@Bayouland.org

Bayou Land Conservancy's Land Lover Gala, "Our Land, Our Legacy" raises more than \$150,000 to support land conservation in the region.

Jeff Hodges received Trailblazer Award while Nathan Ingram named Conservation Champion

HOUSTON, November 10, 2024 – Bayou Land Conservancy's (BLC) Land Lover Gala "Our Land, Our Legacy" at The Springs-Pinehaven in Magnolia raised more than \$150,000 supporting the conservancy's mission to preserve land along streams for flood control, clean water, and wildlife. Over 200 land preservation enthusiasts attended the fundraiser, which honored BLC volunteer, **Jeff Hodges**, with the Trailblazer Award and **Nathan Ingram, owner of Tranquility Ranch** with the Conservation Champion Award. The event presenting sponsor was **Plains**.

Bayou Land Conservancy is a local land trust protecting the drinking water of millions in the Houston region. Each year, the Land Lover Gala brings together supporters across greater Houston. Co-workers, clients, board members, friends and nature lovers gather to recognize the hard work of BLC partners and celebrate the positive impacts of land conservation in the community.

"Our 2024 Land Lover Gala was by all accounts a huge success," says Bayou Land Conservancy Executive Director **Jill Boullion**. "We are grateful to all of those who came out to raise money, honor our Trailblazer and Conservation Champion awardees and mix and mingle with like-minded conservation supporters. We love how our keynote speaker, Ashley Jones, made the connection between the past, present, and future of the lands we preserve."

Keynote speaker, **Ashley Jones**, Principal Archeologist at ASH&E, LLC., spoke about the history of indigenous peoples in our region and how their use of our streams and bayous connects them to our lives and creates a legacy for future generations.

Serving as Honorary Event Chairs for the Land Lover Gala were **Jordana Paker and Ken Fatur**. Ken previously served on the BLC board of directors (for more than 3 years) and is Managing Director of the JP Morgan Houston office. Jordana is Business Development Manager for Austin Commercial. **Kim Castro**, meteorologist for KHOU-TV, Channel 11, was the emcee for the evening.

Jeff Hodges, who lives in The Woodlands, was recognized for his stewardship and leadership on projects at BLC's Arrowwood Preserve. The Trailblazer nominations are made by fellow volunteers. Jeff was nominated for his role in leading a volunteer project to remove 5,000 feet of silt fence and more than 500 t-posts that were impacting wildlife habitat at Arrowwood. Jeff is also an avid wildlife photographer and is well-known for his photography and his work re-wilding his suburban Woodlands yard.

Nathan Ingram, owner of the Tranquility Ranch Preserve, in Magnolia was honored for his partnership with BLC to preserve nearly 1,000 acres of his land along Lake Creek. As Nathan said, "Three housing developments have been constructed adjacent to my property during the last few years. Each of them has virtually destroyed every aspect of the original land ecology. Where did all those animals and plants go? They died. It is a mistake to believe that wild creatures just re-locate when their homes are

destroyed. Putting 965 acres into a perpetual conservation easement will provide the only hope of survival of the wildlife. Preservation of habitat is the best solution. I want to do my part.”

BLC guests also experienced the kick-off of fundraising to support Cindy’s Redbud Preserve project near Montgomery. This 87-acre preserve features restored native Texas prairie and hosts an abundance of plant and animal life. Fundraising for the stewardship of Cindy’s Redbud Preserve will run through June 1, 2025. The fundraising goal is \$62,000.

More information here: www.bayoulandconservancy.org/redbudnaturepreserve

Notable guests who attended “Our Land, Our Legacy” include:

- Bruce Berger, Chief of Staff, Montgomery County Commissioner Precinct 2 Charlie Riley
- Lisa Lin, Director of Sustainability, Harris County
- Dr. Tina Peterson, Director, Harris County Flood Control District
- Matthew Dantzer, Mayor, City of Magnolia
- Chris Harris, Mayor Pro-Tem, Katy
- Aaron Cox, CEO, The Woodlands Chamber of Commerce
- Paulina Diaz, Harris County Precinct 4 Commissioner Leslie Briones

This year’s Host Committee included: Mary and David Bauer, Kelly and Nathan Dietrich, Alison and Matt Genotte, Monica and Justin Hicks, Maegan and Michael Jimenez, Alex Noll and Alan Woodlock, Lisa Lin and Sam Poe, Sonya and Michael Nelson, Michelle and Glen Roscoe, Amanda and Sergio Van Dusen, and Melanie and Carson Stokes.

For more information about Bayou Land Conservancy, visit www.bayoulandconservancy.org.

About Bayou Land Conservancy

Bayou Land Conservancy’s mission is to preserve land along streams for flood control, clean water, and wildlife. Since 1996, we have been a land and water conservation leader throughout greater Houston. Bayou Land Conservancy is the only local land trust preserving land from Huntsville to Houston, and we have preserved over 14,000 acres. Funding from “Our Land, Our Legacy” goes directly to our efforts to preserve more land that we have identified for conservation.

About Plains

Plains is a publicly-traded master limited partnership that owns and operates midstream energy infrastructure and provides logistics services for crude oil, natural gas liquids (NGL) and natural gas. We own an extensive network of pipeline transportation, terminalling, storage and gathering assets in key crude oil and NGL producing basins and transportation corridors and at major market hubs in the United States and Canada. On average, PAA handles more than 6 million barrels per day of crude oil and NGL in its Transportation segment. The company is headquartered in Houston, Texas, with its Canadian operations based out of Calgary, Alberta.

###