

WINGS OVER THE WETLAND

# Twilight Soirée

an elegant evening of jazz  
SATURDAY, OCTOBER 22, 2022

JOHN BUNKER SANDS WETLAND CENTER

## HOST COMMITTEE REQUEST

If Bunker Sands had lived to write a memoir, it would be a good guess the climactic scene-- where Bunker's journey and vision connect with national recognition--- would have been this year's [Aldo Leopold Conservation Award](#) ceremony held in Austin, Texas in May 2022. Recognized by the Sand County Foundation as Texas' premier private lands conservation project in 2022, the John Bunker Sands Wetland Center inspires others to engage and connect with water and wildlife conservation in a way that Bunker envisioned years ago. In a sense, this year we are living Bunker's unwritten memoir as we gather to celebrate at our annual fundraiser **Wings Over the Wetland ~ Saturday, October 22, 2022**.

Bunker's big idea has made it possible for generations of students to make a connection between themselves and a wetland of enormous significance to North Texas. What could be a more important contribution to the cause of water and wildlife conservation (and young peoples' mental health!) than inspiring them with fun aquatic science investigations from the tiniest frog to the vast scale of North Texans drinking water of ninety million gallons a day, naturally filtered through the East Fork Wetland. The science and methods of water and wildlife conservation, jumpstarted by inspiration: this is the formula lived large by Bunker, his brother David, and their dear friend Steve Seay, each in his own way. The new classrooms named for David and Steve are tangible expressions of their immersive experience and teaching ideas.

As a close friend of Bunker, David, and Steve, I am honored to join with Clayton & Lacy Sands to serve as Honorary Chair of this year's Wings Over the Wetland. We remember how the Sands homeplace in Chatfield, Texas, had a metal tank on a platform by the kitchen door for rainwater collection. The growth of water demand in the region since those days is staggering. North Texas is one of the fastest growing areas in the U.S. Students need the "brain food" to comprehend the scale of this.... and how the uplifting effects of wetlands on water quality is of critical importance. Most important, supporting a sustainable water supply, wildlife conservation, and education in this time of environmental stress is a measure of our belief in the future and each other.

This year's theme is a Twilight Soirée – an elegant evening of smooth jazz, dinner, and fancy cocktails, celebrating a year of growth, recognition, and an eye on the horizon for the next chapter of the John Bunker Sands Wetland Center.

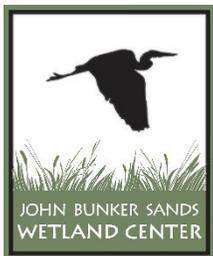
Will you support the Wetland Center by joining our Host Committee to spread the word and build upon Bunker's original vision so honored by the Sand County Foundation? Please help the JBS Wetland Center build upon this milestone and moment!

The Host Committee plays an important role in a successful fundraiser. Our goal is to make participating exciting and engaging with a small investment of your time. Here's what we need you to do:

- Attend the fundraiser on **Saturday, October 22<sup>nd</sup> from 5:00pm-9:00pm**
- Invite family, friends, and colleagues to attend the Twilight Soirée
- Make a sponsorship gift that is meaningful to you and can sustain our organization  
\$600 - \$35,000 Sponsorships – your commitment is all we need now
- Allow us to share your name as a supporter in our sponsorship packet and invitation

Please say **YES** and support the Wetland Center's mission by becoming part of our Host Committee.

**If interested, contact John DeFillipo [jdefillipo@wetlandcenter.com](mailto:jdefillipo@wetlandcenter.com) 972-474-9100 by Monday, August 8<sup>th</sup>.**



*Charles Francis*

Charles Francis  
Honorary Chair, Wings Over the Wetland

*Clayton & Lacy Sands*

Clayton & Lacy Sands  
Co-Chairs, Wings Over the Wetland