

John Bartos
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Houston Audubon has had an advocacy group for as long as I am aware of. They have looked at various issues that have come up and tried to deal with them as they affect our mission statement. Back in 1971, Houston Audubon entered in litigation to try to stop the Wallisville Reservoir. The Wallisville Reservoir was a proposed huge reservoir out in the Lower Trinity Delta area and it would have inundated the last standing cypress swamp on the Texas coast and it's a tremendous habitat for birds.

That litigation went on for years and it even looked like it might have been lost; but then in the 80s, they found some nesting Bald Eagles out there and it basically kept the reservoir from being built. The land that was acquired for the reservoir has been dedicated to public access, and ultimately it was a win for the environment. It was a win for recreationists. It's a great place to canoe, one of my favorites. And a great win ultimately for Houston Audubon and the partner organizations who were involved in it with us.

We don't just fly off the handle. We try to make decisions based on science and rational decision making and I think our reputation is very solid.