

# Rising Damp Symposium 2013



**GALVESTON HISTORICAL FOUNDATION**

Center for Coastal Heritage

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## Acknowledgements



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*A special thanks to Galveston Historical Foundation's Green Revival  
Committee: Matthew Pelz, Tom Schwenk, Lauren Scott, Brax Easterwood,  
Chris Arneson, and Chula Ross-Sanchez*

## Program Overview

Thank you for joining us! We're very excited to continue our symposia series developed through Galveston Historical Foundation's Center for Coastal Heritage (CCH). The purpose of CCH is to support the local Galveston community through education and research on topics found at the intersection of historic preservation and the coastal environment.

Our hope is that the information, research, and strategies developed through this center will become a regional influence to address historic preservation within the context of sustainable building, environmental health, and disaster resilience. More information about the Center for Coastal Heritage is available on pp. 9 - 10

## Symposium Objective

The purpose of our 2013 Rising Damp Symposium is to provide builders, architects, preservationists, and homeowners a platform to understand the challenges surrounding rising damp as it affects the structural integrity of historic buildings. Rising damp is a process within historic structures whereby water, through the process of water capillary action, rises up and into the foundations of built structures. Through the repeated process of water saturation and evaporation, the effects on the masonry will become quickly evident. Beyond the initial aesthetic consequence of rising damp, long term deterioration can intensify as the structure is left with corrosive solutes (usually salt), which, in turn, can accelerate the degradation of the material affected.

The Gulf Coast, including Galveston Island, is especially susceptible to moisture-related issues as it experiences above average occurrences of storm surges, hurricanes, ground erosion, and natural flooding.

As the CCH continues its mission to become a regional leader in sustainability and coastal resiliency, this symposium will provide necessary resources and tools for the experts in their field, and by extension, the larger community in which they serve.

Our two day symposium will meet this objective by featuring presentations, hands-on site tours of affected structures, and a panel discussion pulling together the diversity of perspectives by our speakers.

After the completion of this symposium, participants will be able to properly identify rising damp, understand the variety of approaches toward source remediation, and recognize many of the larger environmental effects contributing to its process. The information produced through this symposium will be organized and published as a companion guide and also be made available online through the GHF website.

## Future Outcomes

The education and insight gained from this symposium will be used to develop a rising damp companion guide for contractors, builders, and homeowners. This guide will provide basic solutions and approaches to rising damp as well as a list of additional resources. The information, solutions, and resources condensed into this guide will be a part of Galveston Historical Foundation's larger initiative of building a comprehensive library on disaster resiliency and sustainability for coastal communities.

WE want to again thank you for joining us in this effort. Your support and participation is an intrinsic component to the success of our long term initiatives.

## Schedule Day 1

Friday, Oct. 25, 2013

7:45am - 8:30am	Registration/check-in
8:30am - 8:50am	Greeting/introduction: Michael Guillot/Mardi Mitchell
8:50am - 10:00am	Patrick Sparks, Sparks Engineering, TX
10:00am - 11:10am	Eric Doehne, Scripps College, CA
11:10am - 11:20am	<b>10 min BREAK</b>
11:20am - 12:30pm	Jimmy Price, Virginia Lime Works, VA
12:30pm - 1:30pm	<b>LUNCH: Trinity Episcopal, located on the corner of 22<sup>nd</sup> and Winnie</b>
1:30pm - 2:15pm	Site 1: Trinity Episcopal Church
2:15pm - 3:00pm	Site 2: Old Galveston Square
3:00pm - 3:45pm	Site 3: Heidenheimer Bldg.
4:00pm	<b>End of Symposium Day 1</b>
5:00pm	<b>Join us for dinner and drinks at OKTOBERFEST</b>

## Schedule Day 2

Saturday, Oct. 26, 2013

8:30am - 9:30am	Chris Hutson, VOH, TX
9:30am - 10:20am	Eric Doene: Scripps College, CA
10:20am - 10:30am	<b>10min BREAK</b>
10:30am - 11:30am	Jimmy Price, Virginia Lime Works, VA
11:30am - 12:30am	Patrick Sparks, Sparks Engineering, TX
12:30pm - 1:30pm	<b>LUNCH: GHF Sears Bldg, located on the corner of 23<sup>rd</sup> and Broadway</b>
1:30pm - 3:00pm	Discussion Panel/Final Review: Moderated by Rick Lewis, UTSA, TX
3:00pm - 3:15pm	Event Conclusion: Michael Guillot, GHF  <b>Oktoberfest is still in full swing. Drop by for a late afternoon beer and bratwurst.</b>

## About the Presenters

### Patrick Sparks

Patrick Sparks, president of Sparks Engineering, Inc. in Round Rock, Texas, is a consultant specializing in the investigation, analysis, and rehabilitation of existing structures. He is a graduate of Texas A&M University and Georgia Tech. He is a long-time member and former director of the Association for Preservation Technology and is a professional fellow of the Center for Heritage Conservation at Texas A&M. He is also an expert member of ISCARSAH, an international committee for structural conservation.

### Rick Lewis

Rick Lewis, AIA is an architect with a varied career in public service, higher education, and an extensive portfolio of practice largely focused on preserving historic buildings and significant cultural landscapes throughout the American Southwest. Mr. Lewis holds degrees in architecture from Texas Tech University and The University of Texas at Austin, and is a licensed architect in Arizona, New Mexico, and Texas. Since 2001, Rick has been a faculty member of the University of Texas at San Antonio, College of Architecture and is an outspoken citizen-advocate on the part of recognizing and protecting Texas' architectural heritage. Among the numerous civic and professional service affiliations, Mr. Lewis is a member of the Antiquities Advisory Board to the Texas Historical Commission.

### Eric Doehne

Eric Doehne is a professor, heritage scientist and consultant specializing in historic materials, such as ancient pigments, ceramics and stone. He holds a B.S. in geology from Haverford College, and M.S. and Ph.D. degrees in geology from the University of California, Davis. Dr. Doehne teaches interdisciplinary courses in Art Conservation at Scripps College (Claremont California) as part of the first undergraduate major in Art Conservation on the West Coast of the United States. A staff scientist and consultant for the Getty for many years, Dr. Doehne is also the 2012 International Chair at the University of Cergy Pontoise for the PATRIMA.org project in French cultural heritage preservation.

### Jimmy Price

With over 40 years' experience in commercial, residential, and historic masonry, Jimmy Price is owner and president of Virginia Lime Works. His business specializes in Natural Hydraulic Lime and pre-mixed lime mortars, with a focus on the preservation of historic masonry. He offers hand-on application direction, mortar analysis, and workshops on how to work with traditional lime mortars. Past clients include the



White House, the Metropolitan Museum of Art in New York City, the Virginia State Capitol, Brown University, and Thomas Jefferson's villa retreat, Poplar Forest.

### Chris Hutson

Over the course of his 24-year career, Chris Hutson has served as project architect on numerous rehabilitation and restoration projects throughout Texas. After graduating from the University of Houston in 1989, he began his professional career in Galveston, where his preservation experience was first honed. He has broad experience in building assessment, cost estimating, programming, design, and construction contract management.

# Center for Coastal Heritage (CCH)

The Center for Coastal Heritage (CCH) actively works to preserve historically and architecturally significant buildings, neighborhoods, and landscapes as they relate to the environment and natural history of Galveston Island. To this end, CCH works in collaboration with local, state, and regional partners to provide meaningful research, working resources, and applicable education for examining cultural heritage as it intersects with the coastal environment.

## CCH Objective

It became evident during the response to Hurricane Ike in September 2008 that the Gulf Coast Region does not have a sufficient network of experts to provide simple solutions to the problems that arise quickly in this unique and often volatile environment. The CCH will take a leadership role to develop a new network of resources and information that directly targets the greatest areas of vulnerability on Galveston Island, with a specific focus on sustainable building, environmental health, and disaster resilience. This will be accomplished by developing a repository of information and research for providing local builders, homeowners, and organizations with the tools and knowledge needed for living within and sustainably adapting to a coastal environment.

The Center for Coastal Heritage is poised to take on the tremendous responsibility to expand the education and outreach programming on issues of coastal preservation, disaster resilience, and sustainable living. Building upon our nationally recognized achievements in coastal sustainability, the CCH will become a regional leader and national model for coastal communities

## Who we are

Galveston Historical Foundation preserves and revitalizes the architectural, cultural, and maritime heritage of Galveston Island.

Galveston Historical Foundation is Texas' oldest historical preservation organization and one of the largest locally based preservation groups in the country. Join Galveston Historical Foundation and help GHF continue its aggressive and effective community redevelopment and historical preservation programs, including neighborhood restoration, downtown redevelopment, and educational program for both adults and children.

## Contact Us

2228 Broadway  
Galveston, TX 77550

Phone: 409 750-9108

Email: [foundation@galvestonhistory.org](mailto:foundation@galvestonhistory.org)

Web: [www.galvestonhistory.org](http://www.galvestonhistory.org)

The logo consists of a solid green square with the words "GALVESTON HISTORICAL FOUNDATION" in white, uppercase, sans-serif font, centered within the square.

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