



**Barton Springs  
Edwards Aquifer**  
CONSERVATION DISTRICT

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For more information, contact: Robin Gary, Senior Public Information and Education Coordinator, (512) 282-8441 or rhgary@bseacd.org

## **Aquifer District Announces Winners of 2013 Scholarship Contests**

(Austin) - The Barton Springs/Edwards Aquifer Conservation District has announced the winners of the Kent S. Butler Memorial Groundwater Stewardship College Scholarship Essay Contest and its Aquatic Science Adventure Camp Scholarship program.

Robin Gary, the District's Senior Public Information and Education Coordinator, notes, "The District Scholarship Program is so successful because we're able to partner with our permittees and the community to directly support motivated, passionate students. It is inspiring to see how excited the candidates are about science, aquifer research, and water conservation." The District would like to thank Goforth Special Utility District for donating a portion of their Conservation Credits to the scholarship program.

### **Kent S. Butler Memorial Groundwater Stewardship College Scholarship**

The District's college scholarship is dedicated as a memorial scholarship honoring one of Austin's most influential environmental planners, Kent Butler. Dr. Butler specialized in bringing science and policy together. He encouraged open conversation, collaboration, and participation from all perspectives. The Kent S. Butler Groundwater Stewardship Scholarship Essay Contest increases the awareness of groundwater issues by rewarding high school students for high quality research and writing.

This year's winner of the Kent S. Butler Memorial Groundwater Stewardship College Scholarship Essay Contest is Liberal Arts and Science Academy High School senior Bonnie Devany. An independent evaluation panel scored Ms. Devany's essay, titled "We Need a Solution for Our Water Pollution", with the highest marks for content, accuracy of information, originality, grammar, quality of research, and style. She will receive a \$2,500 scholarship to the college, community college, or training institution of her choice. Essays had to focus generally on groundwater or groundwater issues; however, it was not mandatory that applicants be planning a career in water resources. High School students attending public schools in the Austin, Eanes, Dripping Springs, Hays Consolidated, Del Valle, Bastrop, and Lockhart Independent School Districts, as well as private and home-schooled students in these areas, were eligible.

District staff selected at-large judges from the Austin area along with a District Director and a staff member to read and evaluate the essays. This year's judges were Lisa Benton, Water

Quality Coordinator with the Lower Colorado River Authority; Bridget Cameron, Water Conservation Specialist for the Texas Water Development Board; Liza Colucci, Biologist with the City of Austin Watershed Protection Department; Richard Parrish, Hays County Extension Agent with Texas AgriLife; Gary Franklin, BSEACD Precinct 2 Director; and Alan Andrews, BSEACD Staff Hydrologist.

### **Aquatic Science Adventure Camp Scholarships**

The District awards program also includes additional age groups of District-area students through scholarships to the Edwards Aquifer Data and Research Center's Aquatic Science Adventure Camp at Texas State University in San Marcos. This very successful program required interested students to submit an application and a 1-page essay/artwork entitled "Why I want to attend the Aquatic Science Adventure Camp!" to establish eligibility. The contest was open to children ages 9 through 15 who reside in one of the six school districts that cross the District's boundary.

Two winners for 5-day camp scholarships and two winners for 2-day camp scholarships were chosen in a random drawing. 2013 Winners for the 5-day camp are Ty Pirkle of Dahlstrom Middle School and Skyler Johnson of Blanco Vista Elementary. 2013 Winners for the 2-day camp are Courtney Alexander of Ralph Pfluger Elementary and Leonardo Uriarte of Ralph Pfluger Elementary.

All winners are invited to be special guests of the District's Board of Directors at its regular meeting at 6:00pm on Thursday, May 23, to be officially acknowledged and commended for their efforts. The meeting will be held at District Headquarters at 1124 Regal Row, Austin, 78748. Public and media are welcome.

For information about future scholarship programs visit [www.bseacd.org](http://www.bseacd.org).

*BSEACD is a groundwater conservation district charged by the Texas Legislature to preserve, conserve, and protect the aquifers and groundwater resources within its jurisdiction, which includes parts of three Central Texas counties. It is governed by a Board of five elected directors and staffed with hydrogeologists, groundwater regulatory compliance specialists, environmental educators, geospatial systems specialists, and administrative support personnel.*

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