

Friday, March 11, 2016

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Barton Springs/Edwards Aquifer Conservation District

Scholarship deadlines approaching

Each year, the Barton Springs/Edwards Aquifer Conservation District, in collaboration with our permittees, offers scholarships for 2 different age groups. The Kent Butler Memorial Groundwater Stewardship Essay Contest offers a \$2,500 scholarship to a high school junior or senior with the winning groundwater-related essay. The Aquatic Science Adventure Camp contest will send several students to the Texas State Summer Camp.

Both contests close on March 22, 2016 at 5:00. Students living within one of the eight school districts that cross the District's boundary are eligible (Austin, Del Valle, Dripping Springs, Eanes, Hays Consolidated, Lockhart, San Marcos Consolidated, and Wimberley).

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2015 Groundwater Stewardship Award Winners

Photos online from last week's awards' luncheon. Congratulations and thank you to all this year's winners!



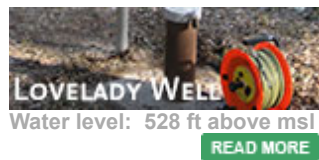
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Current Drought Stage: NO DROUGHT

The District uses two drought triggers to manage pumping and coordinate conservation.



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WELL DATA: In the digital age, an increasing amount of information is available online to help well owners understand more about the aquifer that they rely on and the surrounding wells. Texas Water Development Board offers a data clearinghouse for Submitted Well Drillers Reports (requirement as of 2003) and water quality information. Both types of data can be a useful source of information about surrounding wells.

[TWDB Water Data Interactive](#)

GEOLOGY DATA: The District in partnership with the UT Jackson School of Geoscientists helped georeference many of the local-scale geology maps in the District's area. These maps are viewable and downloadable from the UT Library Digital Archive. Many thanks to the authors, professors, staff, and students that helped make this possible.

[UT Library Geospatial Geology Data](#)

Proposed Rule Changes

At the March 1st Work Session and special-called Board Meeting, the Barton Springs/Edwards Aquifer Conservation District Board initiated a formal rulemaking process to better equip the District to manage prospective large-scale Trinity aquifer water projects, clarify definitions, update application requirements, and update actions on permits. Overall, the rule changes focus on management strategies that will protect both localized, short-term impacts and long-term aquifer health.

A statutory 20-day notice period has begun, and the District Board will hold a public hearing on the proposed changes to the Rules on March 24, 2016.

Rule changes are available through the Proposed Rule Changes Spotlight on the District home page. Comments can be made via written comments or oral comments at the Rule Hearing.

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Well Water Checkup and Open House

This year's Well Water Checkup and Ask-An-Expert Open House will be on Wednesday, April 13, 2016. Screening is available to the first 75 well owners in the District to come in, pre-register and pick up sampling supplies and instructions. Sample kits will be available starting Tuesday, March 15 at the District office.

The USEPA recommends that private water wells should be tested annually for contaminants that can jeopardize the health of its users, especially vulnerable populations like children, the elderly, or those with compromised immune systems. Samples from private water wells will be screened for common contaminants, including fecal coliform bacteria, nitrates, and salinity.

Many thanks to the experts for being available from 11-1 on the day of the Well Water Checkup. You'll be able to bring in your water sample and ask the experts what you've always wanted to know about:

- **Well Maintenance and Water Treatment** (Texas Well Owner Network)
- **Hydrogeology** (BSEACD staff)
- **Landscape Management** (John Gleason, LLC)



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- **Pool and Spa Maintenance** (Rick Beaubouef, Easy Pools)

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Upcoming Events, Meetings, & Deadlines

Tues., Mar. 15: **Well Water Checkup Supplies Avail.** ([details](#))

Tues. Mar 22: **Scholarship applications due** ([details](#))

Thurs., Mar 24: **BSEACD Board Meeting** ([details](#))

Fri., Apr. 1: **Permittee meter readings due** ([details](#))

Thurs., Apr. 14: **BSEACD Board Meeting** ([details](#))

Thurs., Apr. 28: **BSEACD Board Meeting** ([details](#))

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1124 Regal Row - Austin, TX 78748 - 512-282-8441

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