



**Barton Springs
Edwards Aquifer**
CONSERVATION DISTRICT

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Aquifer District Announces Its 2008 Groundwater Stewardship Award Winners

(AUSTIN) With the aquifer already in Alarm Stage Drought and a Critical Stage Drought declaration likely just weeks away, the Barton Springs/Edwards Aquifer Conservation District's Board of Directors took a moment at its meeting last night to recognize some exemplary efforts of concerned citizens, organizations, companies, and agencies to conserve and protect the groundwater resources of the District. The District's Board selected this year's Groundwater Stewardship Award winners from an impressive number of nominations. The District congratulates all those who were nominated and especially the following recipients of this year's awards:

Water Quality Protection: *Jack Dahlstrom and the Dahlstrom Family*

The Dahlstroms were nominated for their generosity and special efforts to preserve 2,200 acres of their land in the Onion Creek Watershed for water quality protection. This property has numerous well-defined karst features that take on significant amounts of upland recharge. In addition, 370 acres will be set aside for public access and education.

Water Conservation by Water Supplier or Permittee: *Bill and Shirley Burrell*

The Burrells live over the aquifer recharge zone and have served as model permittees by adhering to the District's requirements associated with being a Nonexempt Domestic User of the aquifer in an exemplary manner and by responsibly operating their well with conservation as a priority. They have an average household water use of about 3,000 to 5,000 gallons per month. They also actively participate in District sponsored conservation education activities such as town hall meetings and presentations.

Water Conservation by an Aquifer End-User: *The Grenga Family*

The Grenga family conserves water through a "home-spun" rainwater collection system that contains clusters of rain barrels strictly devoted to non-potable water storage and a completely separate "pod" of rain barrels devoted strictly to storing rainwater that will later be filtered and purified for drinking. From October 2007 to May 2008, they had the lowest water use of any household in Sunset Valley with an average monthly use of only 2,074 gallons.

Education: *Kyle Environmental Study Center*

Kyle Elementary has sought out and received over \$9,000 in grants to develop an outdoor classroom for teaching about water protection and conservation and the environment. The classroom has water-wise plants and four rain barrels, and is maintained by the students and their parents. They have designed a web page, brochure, and blog to record and share their project (<http://web.mac.com/pfmulligan/iweb/kyleproject/Home.html>).

Education: *Iconmedia*

Iconmedia has produced a series of "Texas Water 101" programs, which showcase water issues, water conservation leaders, and water education events. Some of the programs that appear weekly on Channel 10, Austin's public access station include "Water Issues in the Hill Country", "BSEACD: Drought in Central Texas", "Selected Texas Springs", "BSEACD" about the District, and "Austin Cave Festival". These programs are available for viewing at www.iconmedia.org.

Research: *Nico Hauwert*

Mr. Hauwert was nominated for his years of commitment to studying the Barton Spring segment of the Edwards Aquifer. His work has contributed significantly to the conceptual model of the Edwards Aquifer and he has published numerous technical articles, reports, and papers.



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Innovation: *Centex Materials*

Centex has been instrumental in helping the District execute the 319h Non-point Source Pollution Grant, which was awarded to the District by the US Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and administered through the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ). The goal of the grant is to reduce sediment entering the aquifer, particularly through Antioch Cave, which is the most significant recharge feature in the District. The cave is located on Onion Creek west of Buda. Centex has provided access from the north side of their property, and they have contributed staff time, heavy equipment for lifting, and cement to help cut costs for the construction phase of the project. Centex's participation has helped reduce the over-all costs for the project. Because of this project, more clean water will recharge the aquifer, helping to prolong water resources during periods of drought.

Permittee of the Year: *City of Hays*

The City of Hays has worked closely with the District by providing input to the District's drought management programs and recent rule and policy changes. They have modified the City's water use rates and tariffs to create additional financial disincentives for egregious water use by its end users during drought, and they have aggressively implemented the measures of their User Drought Contingency Plan to ensure compliance with pumpage limits during drought. The City has been proactive in initiating efforts to pursue alternate water sources to reduce pumping from the Edwards Aquifer during drought, including considering investment in deeper Trinity wells and connection to City of Austin surface water supplies. The City of Hays has served as a model for a District/Permittee partnership and cooperation in all mutual issues related to aquifer sustainability and preservation.

The District will recognize this year's winners at the Groundwater Stewardship Awards luncheon on Friday, November 7, 2008. The Bowie High School Culinary Arts program will host the luncheon. Each year, the District presents these conservation awards to deserving individuals, organizations, companies or agencies that have excelled in efforts to preserve, protect and conserve groundwater resources.

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