



**Barton Springs  
Edwards Aquifer**  
CONSERVATION DISTRICT



# AQUIFER BULLETIN

May - August 2008

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Last year marked the 20th anniversary of the District, and this milestone was commemorated with a series of outreach events that included the Austin Cave Festival, the BSEACD Groundwater Stewardship Awards, and the District's 20th Anniversary Reception. This landmark also served as the impetus for the District to audit its current communication vehicles in efforts to better serve District permittees, end-users, and other stakeholders.

The District contracted Sherry Matthews Advocacy Marketing to assist us with some new communication strategies, which included support with media relations, the design of a District calendar/educational piece, and the creation of a new logo that would better associate the District and its mission and set forth a more distinctive identity.

The District's new logo is a symbol of its commitment to all that rely on us to help conserve, protect, recharge, and prevent waste of our groundwater resources. We believe this new logo illustrates our role as stewards and caretakers of these precious and valuable resources. While we will still use our old logo, the District "seal," on select administrative forms and official documentation, the new logo will be our "face" on our communication and outreach materials. It is our hope that this distinct mark will raise the awareness of our organization, its efforts, and our commitment to groundwater management based on good science and sound public policy.

As we embark on the next twenty years of aquifer protection (and beyond!), we ask you -- our District stakeholders, groundwater users, and friends -- to help us better facilitate communication. It is our goal to design new outreach tools like an easier-to-navigate website and additional print materials, but we need your feedback. Please let us know that you are reading our communications, and contact us and let us know how to better connect with you!

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## DROUGHT STATUS

### NO DROUGHT

If no substantial rainfall occurs in the next month, drought triggers are on a trajectory to reach **Alarm Stage Drought** by early- to mid-June.

## EDWARDS AQUIFER UPDATE

Water levels and spring discharge remain below their long-term average and continue to decline. Rainfall has been below average for 7 of the past 9 months, with only the past two months having average rainfall at the District's weather station in Manchaca. As a result, Onion Creek, the largest contributor of recharge to the aquifer, stopped flowing in September 2007.

Central Texas is currently experiencing antecedent drought conditions. Much of the District and Contributing Zone area is encountering "abnormally dry" conditions according to the U.S. Drought Monitor. Spring (May) is typically our wettest period of the year, but unfortunately, the outlook for wet conditions is not favorable. The U.S. Seasonal Outlook is indicating "drought ongoing, some improvement" for our area. This is primarily due to the development and persistence of "La Nina" conditions in the Pacific Ocean, which often results in decreased rainfall in Texas. "La Nina" conditions are projected to last into July.

If no rainfall occurs in the next few months, Barton Springs and the Lovelady Well are on a trajectory to reach **Alarm Stage Drought** by early- to mid-June 2008.

The District will continue to monitor conditions. For the most current drought levels, please visit our blog at: <http://droughtmonitor.blogspot.com/>

- BRIAN HUNT, HYDROGEOLOGIST

## BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Dr. Robert D. Larsen  
Precinct 3 - President

Jack A. Goodman  
Precinct 4 - Vice President

Craig Smith  
Precinct 5 - Secretary

Gary Franklin  
Precinct 2 - Director

Mary Stone  
Precinct 1 - Director

## DISTRICT STAFF

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Administration Manager

Tammy Raymond  
Administrative Assistant - Personnel

Shannon DeLong  
Administrative Assistant - Accounting

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Environmental Educator  
Newsletter Editor

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Senior Hydrogeologist

Brian Hunt, P.G.  
Hydrogeologist

Joseph Beery  
Hydrogeologist

John Dupnik, P.G.  
Regulatory Compliance Specialist

Guy Rials  
Regulatory Compliance Technician

Nathanael Banda  
GIS Specialist

## BSEACD FY2008 PERMITTING SUMMARY (SEPTEMBER 2007 to MAY 2008)

All wells are required, at minimum, to be registered by the District. **Exempt Wells**, which are generally small, low capacity, residential and livestock wells, are required to be registered but are exempt from permitting for pumpage. All other nonexempt wells are required to be permitted for groundwater withdrawals from the aquifers managed by the District. There are two forms of authorization for pumpage from nonexempt wells: 1) **Nonexempt Domestic Use (NDU) General Permit** authorization for residential use on small lots in areas where there are no other alternative water sources; and 2) **Individual Production Permits** for all other nonexempt wells. Since 2004, all permitted pumpage from nonexempt wells including **Permit Amendments** is classified as "conditional", meaning that pumpage is interruptible and subject to greater curtailment levels than "historical" permits (up to cessation of pumpage during extreme drought).

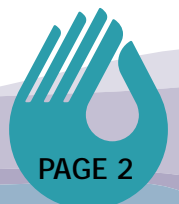
Permit Type	Number of Permits	Permitted Pumpage (Million Gallons/Year)
Exempt Wells	2	N/A
NDU General Permit	5	1.45
Individual Production Permits	1	3.7
Permit Amendments	1	50
<b>Total</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>54.57</b>

- JOHN DUPNIK, REGULATORY COMPLIANCE SPECIALIST

## BSEACD CALENDAR

The Board of Directors usually meets on the 2nd and 4th Thursdays of the month beginning at 6 p.m. However, the meeting schedule is subject to change. Please contact the District office at 512-282-8441 or the website at [www.bseacd.org](http://www.bseacd.org) for more information about upcoming meetings of the Board as well as advisory committee meetings. The agenda for posted meetings can be found on the District website. Most Board Meetings and Work Sessions are held at the District's office at 1124 Regal Row, Austin, TX 78748.

May 22	6:00 p.m.	Board Meeting
May 26		Office Closed for Memorial Day
June 12	6:00 p.m.	Board Meeting
June 26	6:00 p.m.	Board Meeting
July 4		Office Closed for Independence Day
July 10	6:00 p.m.	Board Meeting
July 24	6:00 p.m.	Board Meeting
August 14	6:00 p.m.	Board Meeting
August 28	6:00 p.m.	Board Meeting



## FROM THE GM'S DESK ...

At least once each five years, all groundwater conservation districts in the state must review and, as needed, revise their District Management Plans. These plans, which include both strategic and tactical elements, are part of the governing documentation of a district, and articulate the various activities and initiatives that the district is authorized to implement during the course of the plan period. A district's Rules and Bylaws must flow from the Management Plan, and its governing statutes. Beginning in 2005, revisions to Management Plans must be approved by the Texas Water Development Board (TWDB), which ensures that statutory requirements are sufficiently included.

The Barton Springs/Edwards Aquifer Conservation District adopted its current Management Plan almost five years ago, so it is required to be reviewed this year. In addition, the current plan is woefully out-of-date with respect to our knowledge of the aquifer, the characteristics of our regulated community, and our community involvement. For more than a year now, our District, led by an internal Planning Team consisting of the five Team Leaders, has been developing a comprehensive revision to our District Management Plan. This has involved all staff in our District, our Board, various stakeholders, and the public at large in both informal meetings and a formal hearing. In June 2008, the Board is expected to adopt the new Management Plan, after the final set of edits and changes from the most recent round of reviews, and submit it to the TWDB for approval this summer.

So, right about now you might be wondering, "What's new?" The short answer is, everything. The new Management Plan bears only a superficial resemblance to the old plan, as even the statutory requirements and the TWDB implementation guidance have also changed in the intervening years. The revised Management Plan is posted on the District's website, which can be accessed at <http://www.bseacd.org/rules.html>; the version linked here will be considered preliminary until approved by TWDB. The District's programs have evolved over the years to meet current needs, at least to the extent feasible within the strictures of the prevailing plan and statutes, and while the new Management Plan is decidedly different than its forerunner, you will not likely perceive any immediate changes in how the District operates and how it manages the groundwater resources in the District, as a result of adoption and approval of the new plan.

But the new plan provides a much better basis for groundwater management in the future, as we deal with a fully subscribed Edwards Aquifer and a burgeoning demand for water resources. I am listing here a few of the more important aspects of the new plan, just to give you a flavor of what the new plan contains.

- Establishes (or re-states) the District's mission, vision, values, staff guidelines, and strategic purpose.
- Updates the total and groundwater demand and supply by aquifer, and provides greater detail of the role of District's groundwater in regional water planning.

- Addresses greater participation in Water Planning Region L, as demand in this part of the District increases substantially.
- Establishes management zones based on aquifers and various vulnerabilities, each of which could have different sets of rules and priorities.
- Implements the concept of the Extreme Drought Withdrawal Limitation, and the aquifer caps comprising the new conditional permitting system with accelerated curtailment schedules during drought.
- Fosters the development and use of alternative water supplies, including non-Edwards Aquifer groundwater, surface water, reclaimed water, and saline-zone resource development (desalination, aquifer storage and recharge).
- Implements pro-active joint planning with other Groundwater Conservation Districts on an aquifer-by-aquifer basis, to determine future conditions for groundwater supplies acceptable to all constituents of the groundwater management areas.
- Commits to more effective communications with the legislative community, local political jurisdictions, and stakeholder groups.
- Enables consideration of and specifying conditions for annexation of other, adjacent areas into the District.
- Ensures permittees have up-to-date conservation and drought contingency plans with permit renewals.
- Emphasizes water quality sampling of creek waters and groundwater to ensure recharge quality, prevent waste, and conform to the 2005 Regional Water Quality Protection Plan.
- Increases the District's commitment to education of the public concerning aquifers, groundwater, water conservation, drought management practices, and water quality protection.
- Specifies new performance metrics and success measures for goals and objectives.

Over time, District stakeholders should expect some changes in the District and in our Rules and implementation policies that are enabled by a number of these changes, with the overarching goal of preserving, conserving and protecting the groundwater and the aquifers in our jurisdiction. Moreover, as the joint regional planning process with other GCDs produces TWDB estimates of "managed available groundwater" and as the District's Habitat Conservation Plan with the US Fish and Wildlife Service is finalized, it is possible that the District will have to review and amend the new Management Plan within the upcoming five-year plan period. However, any such changes will be made "in the open," with plenty of opportunity for stakeholder and public inputs and review.

- KIRK HOLLAND, GM



## SUMMER WATERING SCHEDULE

Summer is just around the corner! Follow the "once every 5-day" watering calendar, and use the tips below to maintain your landscape while saving water and money through the hot, dry summer.



**Go Native:** Keep Texas Looking like Texas! Plant native plants and trees and reduce the amount of turfgrass in your landscape. Drought-resistant, native plants thrive in our climate and soils and require very little water and maintenance if established correctly. ([www.ci.austin.tx.us/growgreen](http://www.ci.austin.tx.us/growgreen))



**Want to save water and weed less?** Add a 3-inch layer of organic mulch to your garden beds. This easy step will cover and shade the soil, minimize water evaporation, inhibit weed growth, and reduce soil erosion.



**Watch the Weather.** If it rains one inch or more, delay lawn watering for another five days (or if you have an irrigation system, install a rain shut-off device, which will automatically delay watering). Skipping one cycle can save you up to 3,000 gallons.



**Tame Irrigation Waste.** Over half of household water goes into our landscapes. Chances are your landscape is getting watered more than it needs, which can cause plant disease and decline. Visit [www.lcra.org/docs/water\\_irrigation\\_tips.pdf](http://www.lcra.org/docs/water_irrigation_tips.pdf) and find out how to give your irrigation system a check-up!



For more ideas on how to save water and money, visit the Barton Springs/Edwards Aquifer Conservation District at [www.bseacd.org/conservation.html](http://www.bseacd.org/conservation.html) or call 512-282-8441 for more assistance.

Para más información en español, visite nuestra página electrónica [www.bseacd.org/conservation.html](http://www.bseacd.org/conservation.html)

**NOTE:** District groundwater users should continue to follow the "once every 5-day" watering calendar. City of Austin utility customers must now follow a twice a week watering schedule that will be active May 1 through September 30. Please contact your water provider, or the District at 512-282-8441, with any questions.

Print out this page, cut along dotted line and place on refrigerator



**Barton Springs  
Edwards Aquifer**  
CONSERVATION DISTRICT

## Summer Watering Calendar Horario de Regar durante el Verano

If your address ends in . . .  
Si el último número de su  
domicilio termina en . . .

*Recommended Watering Times*

(check with your water supplier for prohibited times):  
Hose-end Sprinklers: 7pm to Midnight or Midnight to 10am  
Underground Systems: Midnight to 10am



Then your watering days are . . .

Entonces su día de regar es . . .

<b>0 or 9</b>	May 1,6,11,16,21,26,31	June 5,10,15,20,25,30	July 5,10,15,20,25,30	Aug. 4,9,14,19,24,29	Sept. 3,8,13,18,23,28
<b>1 or 8</b>	May 2,7,12,17,22,27	June 1,6,11,16,21,26	July 1,6,11,16,21,26,31	Aug. 5,10,15,20,25,30	Sept. 4,9,14,19,24,29
<b>2 or 7</b>	May 3,8,13,18,23,28	June 2,7,12,17,22,27	July 2,7,12,17,22,27	Aug. 1,6,11,16,21,26,31	Sept. 5,10,15,20,25,30
<b>3 or 6</b>	May 4,9,14,19,24,29	June 3,8,13,18,23,28	July 3,8,13,18,23,28	Aug. 2,7,12,17,22,27	Sept. 1,6,11,16,21,26,31
<b>4 or 5</b>	May 5,10,15,20,25,30	June 4,9,14,19,24,29	July 4,9,14,19,24,29	Aug. 3,8,13,18,23,28	Sept. 2,7,12,17,22,27

During a Critical Stage Drought, all lawn irrigation using groundwater is prohibited.  
Si la sequía llega a la Etapa Crítica, se prohibirá regar el césped por completo.





The Barton Springs/Edwards Aquifer Conservation District is pleased to announce that its Regulatory Compliance Technician, Guy M. Rials, has been issued a Texas Irrigator License by the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality. Licensed irrigators (LI) can sell, design, consult, install, maintain, alter, repair, or service an irrigation system including the connection of such system to a private or public, raw or potable water supply, or any water supply located in the State of Texas. In order to achieve better water conservation in the District, Guy will be available to assist permittees and end-users in evaluating irrigation systems, reviewing irrigation permits, water audits, adjusting automatic controllers/timers, and general assistance related to irrigation systems. Please feel free to contact Guy M. Rials at 512-282-8441 or [guy@bseacd.org](mailto:guy@bseacd.org) for assistance and guidance relating to your irrigation systems.

## HCA PHOTO CONTEST - DEADLINE MAY 31, 2008

Any resident who has taken a picture of a field of bluebonnets knows the Texas Hill Country's special beauty was meant to be photographed. Now the Hill Country Alliance 2008 Photo Contest adds incentive to the simple pleasure, offering cash prizes up to \$1,500 and inclusion in the HCA's popular annual Hill Country calendar for winning images.

The photo contest celebrates what's great about the Hill Country and raises awareness of its fragile condition. "We believe photography can capture what is of value and what is at stake," says Lee Carrell, an HCA Board Member. "We're looking for beautiful photography that captures the unique beauty, natural qualities, people and places of this special region. HCA believes a strong economic future for this region depends on our ability to direct growth in a way that conserves the very resources that make the Texas Hill Country such a desirable place to live."

The HCA has teamed up this year with the Texas Hill Country Nature Photography Alliance to offer access to some of the Hill Country's prettiest scenery. There are six beautiful private ranches in THCNP and they are opening their gates to photographers and nature enthusiasts. They have offered a bonus \$1,000 prize (on top of HCA's prize money) if the grand prize winning photograph is taken at a member ranch. Reservations are required before accessing the designated ranches. Contact [www.hillcountryphoto.org](http://www.hillcountryphoto.org) for details and mention the Hill Country Alliance to receive \$25 off access fee.

Deadline for submissions is May 31, 2008!  
For more information, visit [www.hillcountryalliance.org](http://www.hillcountryalliance.org).

education  
conservation  
cooperation



## THE DISTRICT WELCOMES ITS RETURNING DIRECTORS

The Barton Springs/Edwards Aquifer Conservation District is governed by a five-member Board of Directors. The directors are elected on a single-member precinct basis, with staggered four-year terms. This year the director positions for Precincts 1, 3, and 4 were up for election.

On the last filing date for candidates (March 10, 2008), all three of these precincts had unopposed candidates, with the candidates being the incumbent directors: Ms. Mary Stone in Precinct 1; Dr. Bob Larsen in Precinct 3; and Mr. Jack Goodman in Precinct 4. Ms Stone was appointed in early 2008 to the director position vacated by former director Chuck Murphy's relocation out of state and is seeking her first full term; Dr. Larsen is seeking his second full term; and Mr. Goodman is seeking a record-setting sixth term, as he has been on the Board since the District's inception!

Since no write-in candidates subsequently filed to be counted in the director elections, on March 27, 2008, in accordance with its Bylaws, the Board cancelled the election at its regularly scheduled meeting. In the May 22, 2008, Board meeting, the first meeting after the local elections held this year on May 10, 2008, these incumbent directors will reaffirm their oaths of office and be empanelled as Board members for their full terms as Directors. These terms of office will expire in May 2012. We congratulate and thank Ms. Stone, Dr. Larsen, and Mr. Goodman for their continuing dedication to the District and its mission.

As stipulated in our Bylaws, the five directors will select three members to serve as officers of the Board for the upcoming year in one of the Board's two meetings in June 2008. The current officers of the District's Board are Dr. Bob Larsen, President; Mr. Jack Goodman, Vice-President; and Mr. Craig Smith, Secretary.

If you have any questions or inquiries regarding the election procedure or directorships in general, please contact General Manager Kirk Holland at 512-282-8441.

## DISTRICT INSTALLS MULTIPOINT MONITOR WELL

In February 2008, the District installed a Westbay® multiport well capable of monitoring 14 distinct zones in the Edwards, Upper Trinity, and Middle Trinity aquifers (Figure 1). The well was installed on City of Austin Watershed Protection Lands adjacent to the Ruby Ranch Subdivision in Hays County. The purpose of the well is to gain a better understanding of the relationships between the Edwards and the Trinity aquifers and to collect groundwater samples from each zone to determine water quality.

The total depth of the well is 1,120 feet. The upper three zones are in the Edwards Aquifer, the middle three zones are in the Upper Glen Rose Formation (Upper Trinity Aquifer), and the lower eight zones are in the Middle Trinity Aquifer that consists of the Lower Glen Rose, the Hensel, the Cow Creek, and the Hammett formations.

The Westbay® system is designed so that sections of PVC pipe, connected with couplings, are installed in the full extent of the borehole. Each monitoring zone consists of a measurement port, a pumping port, and packers above and below these ports (Figure 2). The packers seal the annular space between the borehole wall and the PVC pipe to ensure that formation fluids cannot move between zones.

Using special Westbay® equipment, groundwater samples can be collected from each zone using the measurement ports. Hydraulic head, or water level, can be measured in each zone with the same equipment. Slug tests can be conducted by opening the pumping ports, from which hydraulic conductivity of the zones can be calculated.

Results of well testing indicate that there is a significant hydraulic head difference between the Upper Glen Rose and the Lower Glen Rose, on the order of about 35 feet. Head differences between the Edwards and the Upper Glen Rose are about 3 feet. With decreasing heads between the upper zones of the well and the lower zones, the potential for vertical flow is downward. Low permeability beds most likely prohibit any vertical flow in the vicinity of the well. Where faulting cuts across the Edwards and Trinity units, downward flow of groundwater could be occurring.

Groundwater samples have been collected so far from nine of the fourteen zones. Each sample was analyzed for total dissolved solids (TDS). Results show that two Edwards zones and two Cow Creek zones are low in TDS with values between 292 milligrams per liter(mg/L) (Edwards) and 674 mg/L (Cow Creek). The highest TDS value was 2,600 mg/L in one zone of the Upper Glen Rose. These values indicate that there is very little, if any, vertical flow between the zones. Further sampling will be conducted this summer as part of a program with the Texas Water Development Board.

- BRIAN SMITH, BSEACD SENIOR HYDROGEOLOGIST

Figure 1



ABOVE: Westbay and District staff pressure test the Westbay components prior to installation in the borehole.

BELOW: Key components of a Westbay® multiport monitoring system.

Figure 2





## A CLEAN SWEEP FOR BARTON CREEK

"We have been waiting for this for so long, and we thank you all for coming out on this fine morning!" This year's creek cleanup volunteers were greeted with these kind words from Continental Retirement Home resident Ms. Frances Tomlinson. She and other retirees were very grateful to the 75 volunteers that spent the morning of April 12th removing trash from the drainage area right outside their balconies.

The Continental is located near Westgate Blvd and Highway 290 on a drainage ditch that empties to a section of Barton Creek over the recharge zone of the Barton Springs segment of the Edwards Aquifer. An immense amount of trash had blown in from the nearby highways, prompting Continental residents to contact the City of Sunset Valley for assistance. After visiting on March, staff from the City of Sunset Valley and the District decided to change its annual Williamson Creek cleanup site to concentrate efforts on this drainage area, hoping to prevent this debris from traveling downhill where it would clog recharge features (like caves or sinkholes) and degrade water quality.

In just over an hour and half, volunteers picked up over 85 bags of trash and trash treasures like a shopping cart, a radio, and an intact toilet bowl. Volunteer groups included students from Circle C Troop 395, Lanier High School's French Club, Austin High School's Hispanic Leadership Club, and Travis County Search and Rescue Group.

Interested in cleaning up your neighborhood creek or natural area? Keep Austin Beautiful will provide your group with the trash bags and other needed materials to make your cleanup a success. Visit [www.KeepAustinBeautiful.org](http://www.KeepAustinBeautiful.org) to learn more about Clean Sweep Austin Day and other cleanup efforts across the city.

The Barton Springs/Edwards Aquifer Conservation District would like to extend its thanks to the staff of Sunset Valley and all the volunteers who made this event possible.



## SPACES REMAIN FOR FREE TEACHER CONFERENCE



**June 24 - 26**  
**The Lady Bird Johnson**  
**Wildflower Center**

Just a few spaces remain for Groundwater to the Gulf: Summer Institute for Central Texas Educators, which will be held on June 24-26, 2008. The three-day, field trip-based program provides hands-on learning opportunities with local water experts for 50 teachers and informal educators. Participants will follow the path of water in Central Texas from its origins to its final destination in the Gulf of Mexico. Activities will be centered around hydrogeology, groundwater, urban watersheds, water quality, water protection and water conservation. Educators receive curricula, learning tools, and resources for the classrooms, as well as continuing education credits.

For more information or to register, visit:  
<http://www.KeepAustinBeautiful.org/GroundwatertoGulf>



## 2008 BSEACD SCHOLARSHIP WINNERS

This year's winner of the Groundwater Essay Contest and scholarship is James Bowie High School senior Jenna Kromann. An independent evaluation panel selected her essay, and she will receive a \$1,500 scholarship to the college, community college, or training institution of her choice.

Essays had to address general 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.

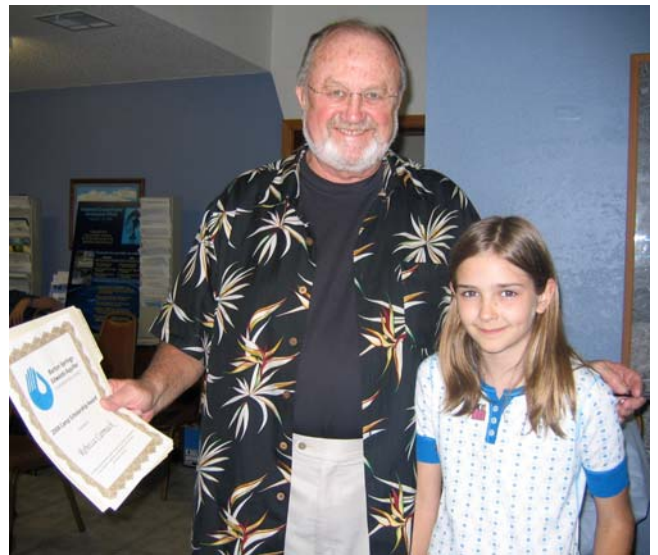
District staff selected four at-large judges from the Austin area along with a District board member and a staff member to volunteer their time to read and judge the essays. This year's judges were Stephen Brueggerhoff, public programs manager with the Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center; Marsha May, biologist with the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department; Sara Heilman, environmental conservation information specialist with the City of Austin's Watershed Protection Department; William Russell, vice president of Texas Cave Management Association; Mary Stone, BSEACD Precinct 1 Director; and John Dupnik, regulatory compliance team leader with BSEACD.

In addition to the essay scholarship, the District broadened the scope of this program to reach 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 well received pilot 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!" The contest was open to

children ages 9 through 15 who reside in one of the seven school districts that touch the District's boundary. Four winners were chosen in a random drawing: Melanie Bobrowski (age 14) who attends Hays High School in Buda, Rebecca Carmack (age 10) who attends Lee Elementary in Austin, Eric Kroeger (age 10) who attends Elm Grove Elementary in Buda, and Yvonne Naziraje (age 13) who attends Fulmore Middle School in Austin. The District would like to thank its permittee, St. Andrew's Episcopal School, for donating its Conservation Credits to the camp scholarship program. Their donation will be used to send two students to the 2-day camp.

The winners were special guests of the District's Board of Directors at its regular meeting on Thursday, May 8, where they were formally acknowledged and commended for their efforts.

For information about future scholarship programs or to read this year's winning essays, visit [www.bseacd.org](http://www.bseacd.org).





## SUMMER EDUCATIONAL EVENTS

### UPCOMING EVENTS WITH THE CITY OF AUSTIN WILDLANDS CONSERVATION DIVISION

Austin Water Utility's Wildland Conservation Division is pleased to announce several hiking and volunteer opportunities in the months of May and June. Listed below are just a few of the unique wildland experiences posted on our website [www.cityofaustin.org/water/wildland](http://www.cityofaustin.org/water/wildland) under the "Calendar" link. There you can click listings for more details and click the blue button to sign up online.

#### **Birding on the Edge**

Sunday, May 18th, 7:30-10:00 a.m.

Join this easy to moderate hike on the Vireo Research Area to become better acquainted with the variety of birds in our area this time of year. All skill levels are welcome. This property is on the eastern edge of the Balcones Canyonlands Preserve.

#### **Scenic Views and Hidden Springs**

Sunday, May 18th, 8:30 - 11:00 a.m.

True to the title, this wonderful hike over hill country terrain shows off land management practices restoring it to an oak-juniper savannah. Walk through grasslands sprinkled with seasonal wildflowers to vistas of the surrounding wooded landscape and down to a hidden spring, though flow is dependent on plentiful rain.

#### **Onion Creek Cross Country**

Saturday, May 24th, 8:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.

This is the latest addition to the suite of guided hike opportunities on Water Quality Protection Land managed by the City of Austin. At 6-hours long and an estimated 7 miles it is not for the faint of heart. But for the outdoor adventurer, it is a chance to experience some beautiful land in northern Hays County that overlies the Barton Springs Edwards Aquifer Recharge Zone.

#### **Birds, Butterflies, and Fossils (For Kids)**

Saturday, June 28th, 8:00 – 9:30 a.m.

Youth 12 years old and younger (and their parents) will be treated to an enjoyable walk on one of the City's Balcones Canyonlands Preserve properties. Hands-on activities led by an experienced naturalist will help youngsters discover the wonderful wildlands we have in our own community and what they can do to help with conservation.



### UPCOMING EVENTS AT THE LADY BIRD JOHNSON WILDFLOWER CENTER

#### **June through August: Summer Camps with Abrakadoodle®**

Abrakadoodle®, Remarkable Art Education!, in partnership with the Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center, is pleased to announce 18 special half-day and full-day camp options for children ages 3 to 5 and 6 to 12, as well as one camp for 8 to 14 year olds (Animé Camp) for Summer 2008! Parents and their kids can join us too for our new Thursday evening Family Nights workshops: "Soil, It's Alive" and "Amazing Aquifer!" Learn more at [www.wildflower.org/camps](http://www.wildflower.org/camps). Register today by calling 512-380-7555 or online at [www.abrakadoodle.com/tx03.html](http://www.abrakadoodle.com/tx03.html).

#### **Nature Nights**

Thursdays, 6 p.m. to 9 p.m. each evening

\$1 admission

[www.wildflower.org/nature/](http://www.wildflower.org/nature/)

Join us for family fun 4 Thursday evenings in July. Nature Nights are fun explorations of plants, animals, and the ecology of Central Texas. Each evening will host interactive presentations with experts and some of their amazing friends. Learn about fossils, dragonflies, reptiles, and raptors through activities and habitat hikes. More to come, so come on out!

July 10: Dragonflies; presentation with Dr. John Abbott

July 17: Snakes; presentation with Dr. Travis LaDuc

July 24: Raptors; presentation with Last Chance Forever  
(one performance with live raptors at 7 p.m.)

July 31: Fossils; sorry, no live dinosaurs!

### UPCOMING CAMPS WITH THE CITY OF AUSTIN

#### **Free Adult/Child Clean Creek Camp**

To Parents, Scout Leaders and other Supervising Adults: Join your 9-12 year olds for a week of fun exploring Austin's creeks and aquifer!

June 16-20: Watershed & Aquifer Camp

July 7-10: Aquifer Camp

July 21-24: Watershed Camp

Cost: \$20 reimbursable deposit per family.

Go to [www.ci.austin.tx.us/watershed/cleancreek\\_camp.htm](http://www.ci.austin.tx.us/watershed/cleancreek_camp.htm)

for more information and to register, call Susan Wall at 974-6571.

#### **FREE Hydrofiles Camp:**

##### **An Environmental Summer Camp for Teens**

The City of Austin invites outdoorsy teens to experience the life of a watershed scientist by studying creek life, caving through the Edwards Aquifer, and swimming in Barton Springs. Campers must arrange for their own transportation to a different nature site each day. For ages 15-19.

June 9-12: 9am-12:30pm.

Cost: \$25 reimbursable deposit per person.

Visit [www.ci.austin.tx.us/watershed/hydro\\_camp.htm](http://www.ci.austin.tx.us/watershed/hydro_camp.htm)

for more information and to register or call

Sara Heilman at 974-3540.

## SUMMER EDUCATIONAL EVENTS (Continued from Page 9)

### UPCOMING EVENTS AT THE AQUARENA CENTER

#### Aquarena Stewardship Academy

[www.aquarena.txstate.edu/Educational-Tours/Summer-Camp.html](http://www.aquarena.txstate.edu/Educational-Tours/Summer-Camp.html)

This summer 6th-8th grade students will become actively involved in the restoration of the San Marcos River through Stewardship Academy Summer Day Camps. During these camps students will learn about exotic species and their negative effect on our habitat. Students will remove Honeysuckle and Elephant Ears from the Wetlands Boardwalk, hone their canoeing skills while collecting water hyacinth, replant native species, participate in a trash cleanup, and learn how to control erosion. Students will be rewarded for their hard work with fun recreational activities.

For more information visit our website. Scholarships are available to financially challenged students.

#### Aquarena Friday Fun Summer Day Camp

[www.aquarena.txstate.edu/Educational-Tours/Summer-Camp-Elementary.html](http://www.aquarena.txstate.edu/Educational-Tours/Summer-Camp-Elementary.html)

A unique blend of recreation, education and fun for 1st-5th graders! Activities include a glass-bottom boat ride, tour of the park, crafts, games, and educational activities.

### MARK YOUR CALENDAR!

#### 2008 Austin Cave Festival

Saturday, October 25, 2008

9 a.m. - 4 p.m.

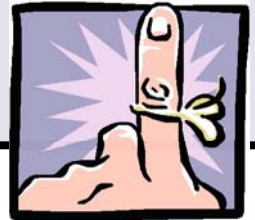
Village of Western Oaks Karst Preserve

La Cresada and Davis Lane just west of MoPac  
Caving, Booths, Hands-On Activities, and Prizes.  
Free!

#### 2008 Groundwater Stewardship Awards

The District will begin accepting applications for this year's Stewardship Awards in July.

More information on the Awards can be found at  
[www.bseacd.org/stewardship\\_awards.html](http://www.bseacd.org/stewardship_awards.html)



# Wildlife Austin

The City of Austin and National Wildlife Federation are challenging Austin neighborhoods to certify the most number of yards within their boundaries as wildlife habitats. Participating neighborhoods will have the chance to win the challenge and help Austin earn points towards becoming certified as Texas' first NWF-certified Community Wildlife Habitat.

The Neighborhood Habitat Challenge begins May 1 and ends October 31. The top three neighborhoods that have met all the challenge criteria and certified the most number of habitats will be awarded first, second and third place prizes. Neighborhoods that take the challenge must also organize a community invasive plant removal and promote gardening for wildlife through neighborhood newsletters and websites, in addition to certifying the highest number of yards as habitats during the contest period. Upon completion of the challenge, neighborhoods must register their neighborhood with the Wildlife Austin program.

Residents can certify their yards by visiting the National Wildlife Federation's website, [www.nwf.org/gardenforwildlife](http://www.nwf.org/gardenforwildlife) or can request a pre-paid habitat certification application (limited quantity) from the Wildlife Austin program at 512-327-8181 x29.

For more information visit [www.keeptaustinwild.com](http://www.keeptaustinwild.com)