



**Barton Springs
Edwards Aquifer**
CONSERVATION DISTRICT



AQUIFER BULLETIN

September - December 2008

DROUGHT STATUS

ALARM STAGE DROUGHT

EDWARDS AQUIFER UPDATE

Drought Status: ALARM STAGE DROUGHT

Barton Springs/Edwards Aquifer Conservation District

September 16, 2008

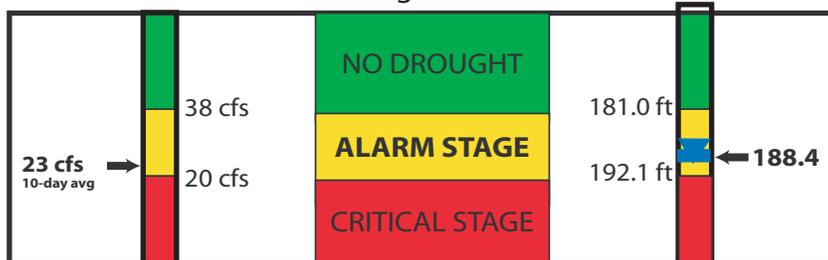


**Barton Springs
Discharge**
(cubic feet per second)



**Lovelady Monitor Well
Depth to water level**
(feet)

Drought Status



The Barton Springs segment of the Edwards Aquifer has been in Alarm Stage Drought since June 23, 2008. Both of the drought indicators, water levels in the Lovelady well and spring discharge at Barton Springs, have continued to decline and are approaching Critical Stage. Barton Springs is currently discharging about 23 cfs, and the depth to water in the Lovelady well is about 188 feet. Thresholds for Critical Stage are 20 cfs for Barton Springs, and a depth to water of 192.1 feet for the Lovelady well. Either Barton Springs OR the Lovelady well can trigger a drought declaration by the Board.

Despite improving drought conditions for much of Texas, The U.S. Drought Monitor shows central Texas remaining under "Extreme Drought" conditions. The area has largely missed recent rainfall from hurricanes and cold fronts, with the weather station in Manchaca showing about a 9-inch rainfall deficit for the year. Rainfall has been at or below average for the past 9 months; accordingly, Onion Creek, the largest contributor of recharge to the aquifer, stopped flowing back in the Fall of 2007.

Unless substantial rainfall occurs in the aquifer's contributing watersheds, drought indicators of the Barton Springs segment of the Edwards Aquifer are predicted to enter **Critical Drought** Stage as soon as mid-October.

One positive drought forecast made by the U.S. Seasonal Drought Outlook indicates that drought conditions may improve, easing impacts on our area. The District will continue to monitor conditions. Please visit our website and drought monitor webpage at: <http://droughtmonitor.blogspot.com/>

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BSEACD PERMITTING SUMMARY (MAY 2008 TO SEPTEMBER 2008)

Permit Type	Number of Permits	Permitted Pumpage (Million Gallons/Year)
Exempt Wells	2	N/A
NDU General Permit	5	1.54
Individual Production Permits	0	0
Permit Amendments	0	0
Transport Permits	1	50

Exempt Wells - These are low capacity wells used solely for large lot residential or livestock needs. These wells are exempt from permitting but must be registered with the District and meet District Well Construction Standards.

Nonexempt Domestic Use (NDU) General Permit – This authorization is for wells that will be used solely for the domestic needs of residences located on small lots where there is no other alternative water source available.

Individual Production Permits – All other new nonexempt wells must have one of these permits to be authorized for pumpage. All new Individual Production Permits are designated as “Conditional” Permits, which means that they are subject to 100% curtailment during extreme drought.

Permit Amendments – These amendments are required to increase authorized pumpage for existing permittees (permit holders). All new permit amendments are designated as “Conditional” Permits, which means they are subject to 100% curtailment during extreme drought.

Transport Permits – These permits are required to authorize the transport of groundwater out of the District. A Transport Permit may only authorize the transport of water permitted under an approved production permit.

- JOHN DUPNIK, REGULATORY COMPLIANCE SPECIALIST

DISTRICT CALENDAR

The Board of Directors usually meets on the 2nd and 4th Thursdays of the month (beginning at 6 p.m) at the District's office at 1124 Regal Row, Austin, TX 78748. However, the meeting schedule and location is subject to change. The agenda for posted meetings can be found on the District website at www.bseacd.org. Please contact the District office at 512-282-8441 with any questions.

September 25	6:00 p.m.	Board Meeting
October 9	6:00 p.m.	Board Meeting
October 23	6:00 p.m.	Board Meeting
November 11		Office Closed for Veterans Day
November 20	6:00 p.m.	Board Meeting
November 27 - 28		Office Closed for Thanksgiving
December 11	6:00 p.m.	Board Meeting
December 24 - 26		Office Closed for Christmas



“To fail to plan is to plan to fail.”

Some of you undoubtedly have heard that little aphorism before. It sounds like something that would come from some business management guru, or maybe a military leader. But in fact, it was first said by a rather obscure psychotherapist! Still, its wisdom is marked by its general applicability to just about every human endeavor. And that certainly includes groundwater management, and in particular the operations of your favorite groundwater conservation district.

Even if there were not a statutory requirement for us in the BSEACD to establish and keep updated a District management plan, we would do so because, as the good psychotherapist reminds us, it supports our success in preserving, conserving, and protecting the groundwater resources of the District. Our most recent certified Management Plan was adopted in 2003, and state law requires us to review and, as necessary, revise our Management Plan at least every five years. So it is time. And in the intervening five years since the prior plan, there have been a lot of changes in both the internal and external environments that we work in. Our Management Plan has now been substantially revised to reflect those changes and the District's new priorities. The Management Plan is not just a plan specifying goals, objectives, strategies, and tactics, but in a very real sense is also an authorizing document for what our District can do and how our results are to be measured during the plan's period.

Our new Management Plan was adopted by the Board on July 10, 2008, and submitted to the Texas Water Development Board for approval shortly thereafter. At TWDB staff's suggestion we have made a few, non-substantive changes to the document since then, and it has now been submitted to their Board for formal approval, which is reasonably expected soon. There have been many changes to the Management Plan since the 2003 edition – so many that it really is a complete re-write rather than a revision. I am enumerating a few of the more important changes very briefly in this column. But I encourage any of you who would like more details to download the new Management Plan from the District website:

www.bseacd.org/graphics/BSEACD_Management_Plan_Adopted_7_10_08.pdf

1. The new Plan's most far-reaching change is the establishment of five different “management zones,” based on aquifer and aquifer characteristics, which will allow us to tailor as necessary the regulatory rules, fees, scientific investigative priorities, well construction standards, educational programs, etc. to appropriate parts of the District rather than have one set for all aquifers throughout the District, as we are currently required to do under the old Plan.

2. The new Plan implements the concept of the Extreme Drought Withdrawal Limitation (EDWL – now there's an acronym!) to provide a minimum aquifer water level and springflow condition even during a recurrence of a drought of record, and provides the capability for us to reduce the EDWL over time for the benefit of all users of the aquifer.
3. The new Plan fosters the development and advocates the use of alternative water supplies where available and feasible, including non-Edwards groundwater, surface water, reclaimed effluent, and brackish groundwater development, including desalination and aquifer storage and recovery.
4. The new Plan emphasizes more, and more effective coordination with Region K and Region L Water Planning Groups, and also joint planning with other GCDs on an aquifer-by-aquifer basis, to determine desired future conditions for groundwater supplies that are acceptable to the majority of constituents of the state-defined Groundwater Management Areas.
5. The new Plan commits us to more effective communications with the legislative community, officials of neighboring local political jurisdictions, and stakeholder groups.
6. The new Plan continues and increases our educational outreach to the public concerning aquifers and groundwater, water conservation and drought management practices, and water quality protection.
7. The new Plan provides a much greater emphasis on water quality sampling of recharge creeks and groundwater to ensure recharge quality, to prevent waste, and to conform better to the 2005 Regional Water Quality Protection Plan.

A major component of the new Plan is the specification of realistic and measurable performance metrics and success measures for each of the goals and objectives. Each year, the District's elected Board will evaluate whether those objectives have been met (or, alternatively, if satisfactory progress is being made toward achieving them during the course of this planning period), and as necessary it will re-prioritize District activities to ensure that they are meeting the needs of our local constituents and stakeholders. It is important to note that this local control of groundwater management assures local and regional societal needs are being addressed and properly balanced, rather than the alternative approach, which is some state-level or super-regional administrative bureaucracy that doesn't answer to the people most affected by such resource management decision-making.

- KIRK HOLLAND, GM



WORK CONTINUES ON ONION CREEK RECHARGE PROJECT

A recent grant from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality has provided the District an opportunity to make some major upgrades to the Best Management Practice (BMP) structure constructed over Antioch Cave on Onion Creek. The funds are from a federal program to address non-point source pollution issues, also called the 319h program from that particular section of the federal Clean Water Act. The BMP was installed at Antioch in 1998 as part of a similar grant project. The purpose of the system is to reduce the amount of contaminated water and sediment entering the aquifer through Antioch Cave during storm-flow events. A 36-inch diameter valve on the BMP is left in the closed position prior to a storm and is opened manually after the main storm pulse has passed, which prevents sediment and debris from plugging the cave and potentially reducing recharge to the aquifer. The new grant will allow us to automate the system so the valve at the cave will remain closed until Onion Creek's turbidity (suspended sediment) levels decrease below storm levels. At the moment when levels are acceptable, the system will send a command to the valve to open, allowing recharge. Construction of the upgrade began in June 2008 and is nearly complete as of September 12, 2008.

Part of the upgrade to the system is a large screen through which water passes before it enters the cave. This will filter out most of the suspended organic material (leaves and branches) and other debris (trash) that often clogs the current intake structure. The screen is made from expanded metal and is formed into a 36-inch diameter pipe that is 24 feet long (Figure 1). This is attached to a 16-foot long by 36-inch diameter pipe that is attached to the BMP.

At the heart of the upgraded system is instrumentation for a Continuous Water Quality Monitoring Network (CWQMN). This system sends data from the site to TCEQ computers from which District and TCEQ personnel can monitor conditions at the site without having to visit the site. Instruments measure the water flowing in the creek for such parameters as temperature, dissolved oxygen, turbidity, flow rate, and water level. Those data are transmitted wirelessly by the instruments to the TCEQ computers (Figure 2).

Following completion of the Antioch upgrade, another site on Onion Creek will be selected for installation of a similar system. More water being diverted into the aquifer during wet periods will lessen the impacts of drought on the aquifer.

- DR. BRIAN SMITH, BSEACD SENIOR HYDROGEOLOGIST

Figure 1



Figure 2



GARDENING DURING DROUGHT

Despite somewhat cooler temperatures and recent rains, the District area remains in Alarm Stage Drought, and the Barton Springs/Edwards Aquifer Conservation District reminds its groundwater users to remain mindful of their water use, especially in the landscape. Here are some water-saving tips for the upcoming fall months that will help protect your landscape from the lingering heat and on-going drought conditions.

- **Get your shovel and mulch!**

Add a 3-inch layer of organic mulch to your plant beds. This simple addition will cover and shade the soil, minimize water evaporation, inhibit weed growth, and reduce soil erosion.

- **Aerate your turf with a plug aerator to encourage deeper root growth.**

Aeration devices remove small plugs from your lawn, thus increasing the amount of water, nutrients and oxygen that can get to the roots of your turf. Manual aerators can be purchased at a hardware store, a power aerator can be rented at a local tool rental store, or a company can be hired out to complete the task. For best results, follow aeration with a 1/8 to 1/4-inch of sand and compost top dressing.

- **Give your irrigation system a rest.**

From November through February, most lawns will go dormant and require little to no extra irrigation. As long as your grass receives about 1 inch of rainfall every 2 to 3 weeks, no extra watering will be needed. In addition, native and adapted plants need little or no supplemental water during these months. Until November, remember that your lawn will only need 1 inch of water a week to survive if it already hasn't gone dormant and remember you can put off watering for a week after a good rain. To learn how to dispense this amount from your irrigation system, visit:

www.bseacd.org/watering_schedule.htm

- **Put down those pruning shears!**

Even though it might be more "unsightly," hold off pruning your shrubs until spring. Pruning stimulates new growth, which can damage your plants if hot temperatures persist or later, when a hard freeze moves through the area. In addition, wildlife can benefit from left over seeds, berries, and protective covering.

- **Plant a native tree!**

October through February is the ideal time in Central Texas to plant trees and doing so will provide shade and reduce

evaporation of water needed for understory plants. Fast growing native options include Texas Ash, Texas Redbud, Desert Willow, Cedar Elm and Texas Pistachio.

- **Want to protect your landscapes against future drought? Plant Texas native plants this fall.**

Central Texas gardeners know that fall, not spring, is the ideal time to plant perennials in the Austin area, owing to cooler temperatures and expected increased rainfall. Not sure how to get started on your new drought-resistant landscape? Visit the District's website for a step-by-step guide that will take you through the process of evaluating your current landscape, designing a new layout, selecting plants, and maintaining your new investment (www.bseacd.org/conservation.html).

Need more ideas or have questions about drought or water-wise landscaping? Please do not hesitate to call the District at 512-282-8441.

Other related links:

- **Can switching to a water-wise landscape save me money?**

www.lcra.org/docs/water_hill_country_landscape.pdf

- **Where can I buy native plants?**

www.bseacd.org/graphics/waterwise_resources.pdf

- **How can I better use my irrigation controller?**

www.lcra.org/water/landscape_irrigation.html

- **How do I find out if I have a water leak?**

www.lcra.org/water/utilities_waterleak.html

- **Are there any incentives for rainwater harvesting in my area?**

www.bseacd.org/conservation.html

www.bseacd.org/graphics/Rainwater_Harvesting_Resources.pdf

- **Read about the Rainwater Harvesting Evaluation Committee Final Report for the 80th Texas Legislature:**

www.twdb.state.tx.us/iwt/rainwater/docs/RainwaterCommitteeFinalReport.pdf

- **Read the Assessment of Water Conservation in Texas from Texas Water Development Board for 80th Legislature:**

www.twdb.state.tx.us/publications/reports/TWDBTSSWCB_80th.pdf

RULE CHANGES: RECENT COURT DECISION FIRMS UP HISTORIC USE PERMITTING

Groundwater management in Texas, which has steadily evolved over the years, has recently been a subject of much debate. While much of the evolution has been a response to the burgeoning population growth in Texas (as exemplified by development in the Hill Country) and resulting supply conflicts between more urban and more rural areas, it has also been an indicator of the realization that our water supplies are not limitless. The stakes are high, and the debate over how best to manage this precious resource involves many different stakeholders and as many different opinions. Occasionally, a particularly contentious issue will get litigated and elevated to the higher courts where Groundwater Conservation Districts (GCDs) may then get some general direction on how to legally proceed. An example of this has been provided recently by the Texas Supreme Court on some of the legal issues related to management concepts that are based on "Historic Use."

"Historic Use" is a concept that preserves or "grandfathers" the permitted use of groundwater from nonexempt wells (wells used for residential use on small lots in areas where there are no other alternative water sources exist) for a beneficial use for a certain amount at a specified point in time. Here at BSEACD, we have implemented this concept by assigning "Historic Use Status" to those groundwater production permits issued prior to September 9, 2004 for amounts consistent with true, non-speculative demand. That date corresponds to the adoption by the BSEACD Board of Directors of our primary aquifer's sustainable yield, as supported by the then just-completed, firm-yield water availability determination. Those so-called "Historical Use" permits allow certain amounts of firm-yield pumpage for beneficial uses even during times of extreme drought. All other permits for nonexempt wells issued since that date are "Conditional", which means they are interruptible and therefore, do not guarantee firm yield pumpage during extreme droughts.

Recently in the *Guitar Holding Co. LP v. Hudspeth County Underground Water Conservation District* case, the Texas Supreme Court issued a ruling that provides some direction to GCDs on implementing "Historic Use" permitting. In short, the court ruled that:

...the amount of groundwater used and its beneficial purpose [emphasis added] are components of "historic or existing use" and that the district thus exceeded its rule-making authority in grandfathering existing wells without regard for both. (Opinion by Justice David Medina)

In other words, "Historic Use Status" can be maintained so long as the amount AND the type of use at the time the Historic Use status was assigned do not change. In this particular case, the court ruled that transferring the water out of that District would constitute a change in the use and would not, therefore, maintain the "Historic Use Status."

Although the BSEACD Rules and Bylaws and its permitting scheme were not in conflict with the Court's decision, the Board instructed staff to initiate the rule-making process to more explicitly reflect this ruling. In addition, the Board also instructed District staff to address other rule areas that needed attention. A public hearing was held on August 14, 2008, after which the Board voted unanimously to approve the proposed rule changes with a few amendments.

A brief summary of the more significant changes can be found below. A more detailed summary of the substantive rule revisions and a complete copy of the District Rules and Bylaws may be obtained through our website at www.bseacd.org/rules.html. Please feel free to contact our office at 282-8441 with questions or for further information on any these changes.

- JOHN DUPNIK, REGULATORY COMPLIANCE SPECIALIST

Historic Use

- "Historic Use Status" definition amended to include use type for pumpage and transferred water, to reflect Court ruling: "a status applied to authorized groundwater withdrawals of a specified amount and for a designated use, from a registered existing, nonexempt well approved by the District prior to September 9, 2004. A change in type of use of such withdrawals terminates the Historic Use Status of that well."

Administrative and General

- General non-substantive administrative clean up
- Amended rules to reflect that the Board is the sole entity for determining compliance with our Rules
- Amended certain provisions to more consistently reflect Texas Water Code Chapter 36
- Added provision and definitions related to Notices of Alleged Violations
- Amended Bylaws related to District travel expenses
- Amended Rules to specify the types of and place of publication of notice for all public hearings

Conservation Credits

- Added provision to reference eligibility criterion in drought rules
- Deleted some formulas and redundant language already in Conservation Credit Policy
- Amended rule to allow eligibility for conservation credits if minimum drought stage curtailments are met on an aggregate basis

Drought

- Expanded "Drought Contingency Plan" definition to reference plans required by other regulatory entities
- Changed Lovelady Alarm Stage Drought trigger level from 180.8 to 175.0 feet depth to water
- Amended rule to specify that a drought stage can be discontinued when either or both indicators are or will be above their respective trigger levels
- Allows credit for regulatory fees if pumpage within 5% of monthly pumpage limit
- Amends rule related to application for and Board consideration of variances



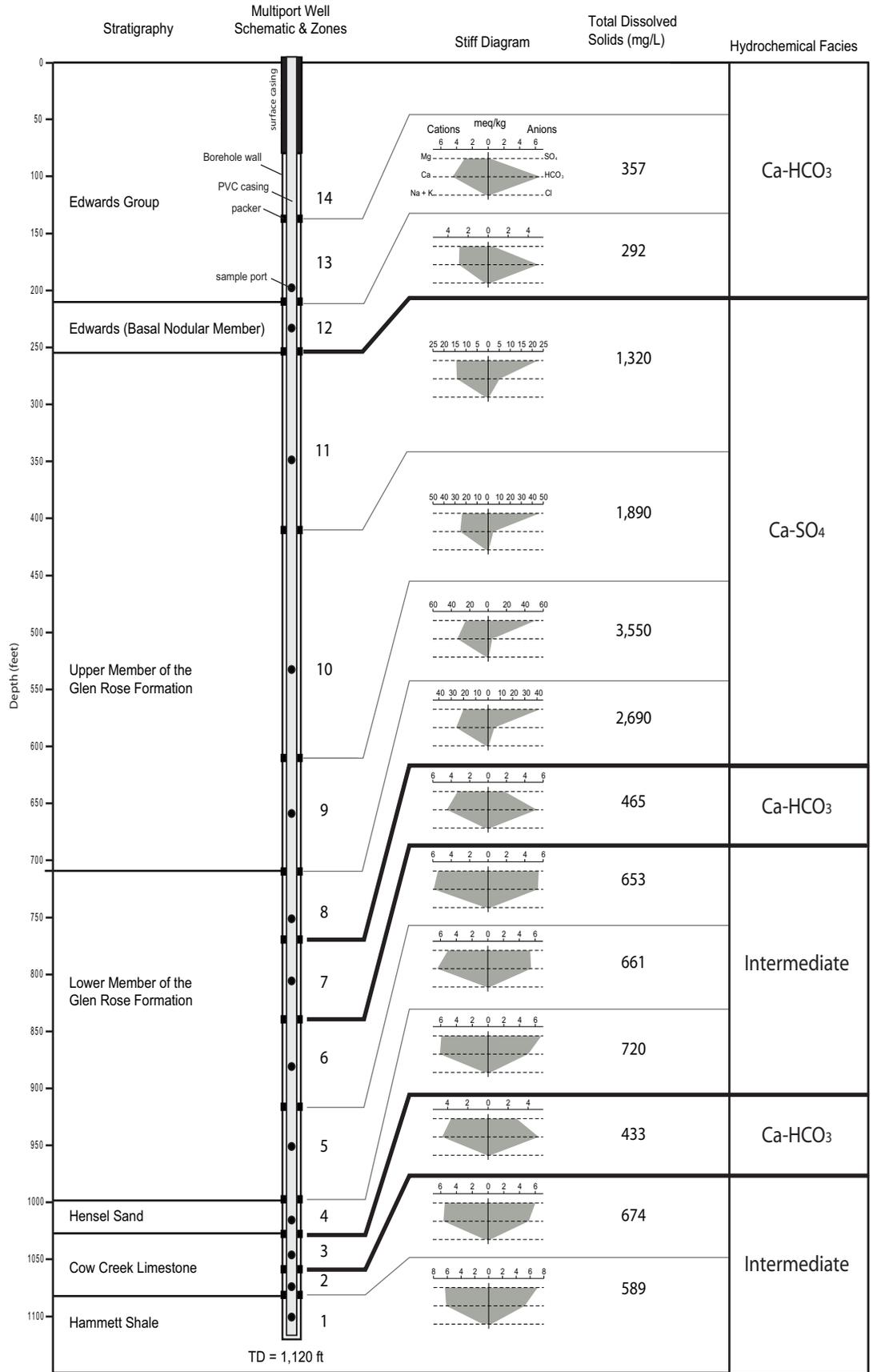
NEW SAMPLES FROM DISTRICT MULTIPOINT WELL

In February 2008, BSEACD installed a Westbay® multiport well in Hays County near the Ruby Ranch subdivision (see BSEACD "Aquifer Bulletin" May – August 2008 for more details on the installation). This 1,120 foot well has 14 sampling zones that span the Edwards, Upper Trinity, and Middle Trinity Aquifers. Since installation, District staff has collected several rounds of samples for water-quality analyses and measured head (water level) in each zone of the well.

Initial samples from the multiport well have shown that one water-quality indicator, total dissolved solid (TDS) values, varies considerably between zones, with the lowest TDS values from the Edwards Aquifer with concentrations of about 300 milligrams per liter (mg/L) and the highest TDS values (3,550 mg/L) from a zone in the upper Glen Rose Limestone (Trinity). Additional sampling conducted in July 2008 shows that these high TDS zones have large concentrations of sulfate, which can lead to the "rotten egg" smell that can be noticed in some wells that tap into the Trinity Aquifer. Based on analyses of the samples, distinct hydrochemical zones could be identified for each sampled zone.

Data from this well are already leading to a better understanding of the aquifers within the District. Knowledge we gain from this well should help in the planning of water-supply wells so that zones of poor quality water can be avoided when completing wells.

- DR. BRIAN SMITH,
SENIOR HYDROGEOLOGIST



The figure above shows values for TDS in each zone, the hydrochemical zone (facies) that that each zone was assigned to, Stiff diagrams of the basic chemistry of each sampled zone, and the well construction and associated stratigraphy. The high sulfate zones (Ca-SO₄) of the Upper Glen Rose are readily distinguished from the other zones as indicated by the Stiff diagrams.

San Marcos, Kyle & Hays County

HOUSEHOLD HAZARDOUS WASTE COLLECTION

630 E. Hopkins, San Marcos, TX
512-393-8036

Saturdays: 8 a.m.- Noon : Rain or Shine

[Oct. 18 '08 | Jan. 18 '09 | April 18 '09 | July 25 '09]



Will Accept

Drain cleaners, concentrates, degreasers, oven cleaners, solvents, polishers, pool chemicals, household batteries, latex and oil based paints, spray paints, thinners, strippers, preservatives, brush cleaners, pesticides, sprays/dusts, weed killers, rat poisons, insecticides, antifreeze, batteries, motor oil and oil filters, brake fluids, transmission fluid.



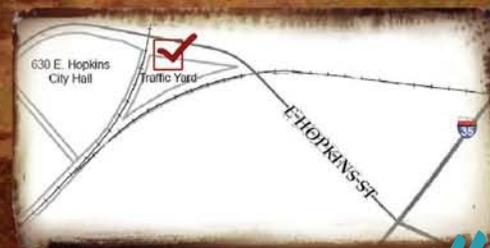
Will NOT accept

Tires, containers larger than 5 gallons, medical wastes, empty containers, compressed gas cylinders or wastes generated by businesses.

SAFETY TIPS: Do not combine chemicals; keep products in original containers; transport chemicals in trunk and if broken or leaking, place in containers of like material.

FREE for San Marcos, Kyle & Hays County Residents.
[proof of residency required]

This is a drive-through event, please do not exit your car.



FALL EDUCATIONAL EVENTS

UPCOMING EVENTS WITH THE CITY OF AUSTIN WILDLANDS CONSERVATION DIVISION

The WQPL is part of the City of Austin's Wildland Conservation Division. Its mission is to optimize water quality and quantity entering the Barton Springs segment of the Edwards Aquifer from project lands. To register for a hike or see the most current volunteer and educational opportunities go to the calendar page of our website at www.ci.austin.tx.us/water/wildland. All hikes are free and open to the public. Pre-registration is required.

Scenic Views and Hidden Springs

Saturday, October 4, 10:00 a.m. - 12:30 p.m. *AND*
Sunday, December 14, 2 p.m. - 4:30 p.m.

This moderate 2.5-hour hike in western Travis County takes in views from a high ridge before dipping down into a canyon and visiting a spring.

Introduction to the Water Quality Lands

Sunday, October 12, 2:00 p.m. - 3:30 p.m.

This is an easy hike for all ages at our Slaughter Creek tract in SW Travis County.

Onion Creek Ramble

Saturday, November 8, 9:00 a.m. - 3:30 p.m.

This is a rugged and strenuous 7-mile off-trail hike on the 2,500 acre Onion Creek property. See historic home sites, areas managed with prescribed fire, and Onion Creek.

Mini Onion Creek Ramble

Saturday, December 6, 9:00 a.m. - 3:30 p.m.

This rugged 3-mile off-trail hike on the 2,500 acre Onion Creek property explores uplands and riparian areas of Onion Creek. This is a different route than the longer November hike.

UPCOMING EVENTS AT THE LADY BIRD JOHNSON WILDFLOWER CENTER

Fall Plant Sales and Gardening Festival

Saturday and Sunday, October 17-19
9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.

Fall is the perfect time to plant native plants and seeds, and this festival is the perfect way to get expert advice and a great selection for your garden. You'll find your favorite or hard-to-find native plants at this annual festival and plant sale. Guided walks and talks with tips on how to prepare your garden this fall will be offered throughout the day,

Goblins In the Garden

Sunday, October 26, 4:00 p.m. - 7:00 p.m.

Boo! Time to put on your best costume and come to the Wildflower Center's third annual Goblins In the Garden family Halloween festival!

There are plenty of spooky surprises and special treats for the entire family. Visit the children's Little House where the little ones can explore our Mad Scientist's Laboratory and complete fun craft activities. The fun never ends as you have your family portrait taken in the Punkin' Patch, Trick or Treat around the gardens and check out the Haunted Tower. Halloween fun at the Wildflower Center for the whole family! Don't forget to dress up!

Wildflower Center Admission: \$7 for adults, \$6 seniors and students and \$3 for children 5 to 12 years old (under 5 free).



STATE SEEKS NOMINATIONS FOR PRESTIGIOUS ENVIRONMENTAL AWARD INCLUDING FIRST-TIME WATER CONSERVATION CATEGORY

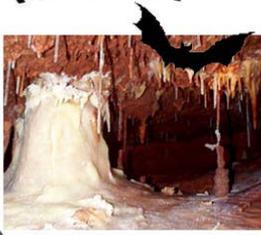
Texas Commission on Environmental Quality is seeking nominations for its Texas Environmental Excellence Awards (TEEA). These awards celebrate the bold efforts of citizens, communities, businesses, and organizations to preserve and protect the Texas environment.

- * Agriculture
- * Civic/Nonprofit
- * Education
- * Government
- * Individual
- * Innovative Technology
- * Large Business/Nontechnical
- * Large Business/Technical
- * Small Business
- * Water Conservation
- * Youth

For more information and nomination forms, please visit: <http://teea.org/>.



The 7th Annual Austin



Cave Festival

FREE!

BOOTHS, HANDS-ON ACTIVITIES, and PRIZES!!!!!!

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 25, 2008

9 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Village of Western Oaks Karst Preserve at
La Cresada and Davis Lane, just west of
MoPac

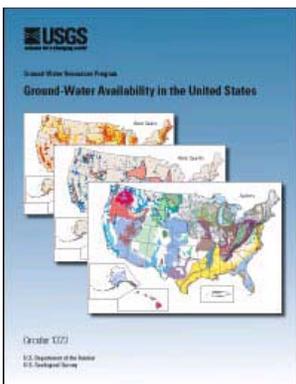
For directions, a schedule of events, list
of booth presenters, and more:
www.bseacd.org/western_oaks.htm

- Come visit 2 caves and see how water gets to Austin-area aquifers.
- Learn about animals that call Austin's caves home.
- See real arrowheads and how replicas are made by flintknappers.
- Enjoy a cave-themed Halloween storytime!
- Try on vertical caving gear and see if you have what it takes to ascend and descend caves.
- Do you know your watershed? Learn about your local creeks and what steps you can take to protect them.
- Visit with a rainwater harvesting expert and learn about conservation incentives in your area.
- And much more!

USGS RELEASES REPORT ON THE STATE OF THE COUNTRY'S GROUNDWATER

In an effort to help address the Nation's increasing competition for water, scientists from the U.S. Geological Survey have proposed a strategy to study the Nation's groundwater supply. Outlined in the report "Ground-Water Availability in the United States," The Survey examines what is known about the Nation's groundwater availability and outlines what steps state and local agencies can take to make informed water-availability decisions.

View the report on-line at <http://pubs.usgs.gov/circ/1323/>.





Barton Springs
Edwards Aquifer
CONSERVATION DISTRICT

Submit Your Nomination for the 2008 Groundwater Stewardship Awards

The Barton Springs/Edwards Aquifer Conservation District presents these stewardship awards each year to deserving individuals, organizations, companies or agencies that have invested exemplary effort towards the protection and conservation of water resources in the District.

The District will accept nominations in these categories:

Water Conservation - Honors efforts to use water wisely. Three separate awards may be given:

- Water Conservation by an End-User in the District
- Water Conservation by a Water Supplier in the District
- Water Conservation by a Builder/Developer in the District

Education - Honors efforts to educate individuals, neighborhoods, school groups, professional contacts, or an entire community about water-related issues.

Research - Honors efforts that lead to improved understanding of or advanced practices in areas such as groundwater, hydrogeology, water treatment, alternative water supplies, well drilling, or structural and non-structural best management practices to reduce non-point source pollution.

Water Quality Protection - Honors efforts that focus on water quality issues such as water monitoring, sampling/testing, pollution prevention (e.g., creek cleanups), and land use practices to reduce non-point source pollution.

Innovation - Honors efforts that incorporate new and creative practices or represent outstanding efforts in communication and partnership toward the betterment of the aquifer and related environmental issues.

Permittee of the Year - Honors a District permittee who is an exemplary steward of the groundwater in the District. The permittee of the year will have demonstrated a continued commitment to education, water quality protection, and water conservation. The District will nominate and choose the winner of this award.

An individual, group, company or agency may be nominated in any one category, and anyone can nominate a deserving entity. The District's Board of Directors will select the recipients; awards may not be given every year in every category, and categories may be added if needed. District staff, Board members, or projects are not eligible.

Fully completed nominations must be received in the District office by Tuesday, September 30, 2008 by 5 p.m. Nomination forms are available on the District's website at: www.bseacd.org or by contacting the BSEACD office at 512-282-8441.

The Bowie High School Culinary Arts program will host this year's awards ceremony in November 2008.

Send nominations to:
BSEACD, Attn: Awards
1124 Regal Row, Austin, 78748
or fax to 512-282-7016

