



A view of the 204-acre Classen-Steubing Ranch, approved by City Council in June

EDWARDS AQUIFER PROTECTION PROGRAM

NEWS AND UPDATES

Happy Summer! It's starting to get hot outside, but the intense Texas summer heat hasn't slowed down the Edwards program team. We are staying as busy as ever, meeting with landowners, acquiring property and conservation easements, monitoring properties, and working hard to protect the sensitive lands over the Edwards Aquifer.

In May, the City successfully acquired the 41-acre Bluehill Pass property in NW Bexar County. The property is adjacent to the Scenic Canyon natural area, which is part of the City's Parks and Recreation Department inventory. The acquisition increased the overall size of Scenic Canyon to 494 acres. In June, City Council approved the acquisition of two properties, the 10-acre Boulders at Canyon Springs tract, and the 204-acre Classen-Steubing Ranch, which will be acquired using a combination of Edwards funds and other City funding.

Also in June, we added a new Management Analyst to the Edwards program. David Bernal, a biologist by training, joined the team after spending two years with the City's Environmental Division in the TCI department. Please join us in welcoming David to the Edwards program. We are all happy to have him on board!

CONSERVATION ADVISORY BOARD

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 City of San Antonio Parks & Recreation

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For more information on the program or
 to sign up for quarterly newsletters,
 please visit our website at:

[http://www.sanantonio.gov/
 /edwardsaquifer](http://www.sanantonio.gov/edwardsaquifer)

For information on upcoming
 Conservation Advisory Board
 meetings, please visit the COSA board
 meetings and agendas website at:

[https://webapps2.sanantonio.gov/
 boardcomm/](https://webapps2.sanantonio.gov/boardcomm/)





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WATER QUALITY NEWS

WARNING ON NON-STICK CHEMICALS IN DRINKING WATER

Last month, seven years after the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) issued its first health guidelines on perfluorinated compounds in drinking water, the agency has lowered the level recommended in safe drinking water.



Source: Water Technology

Perfluorinated compounds, the common chemicals found in non-stick cookware, such as Teflon and related brands, is a 20th century chemical innovation. However, in the late 1990s after decades of use, the EPA began investigating the chemicals after reports of cow fatalities from drinking stream water near production facilities. Furthermore, investigations of kidney cancer, high cholesterol levels, and thyroid disease in citizens near production facilities found their drinking water to contain perfluorinated compounds.

In 2002, the EPA reached voluntary agreements with companies to phase out production of PFOA and PFOS, the two perfluorinated compounds determined to be of the greatest health concern. Because these chemicals are often discarded in landfills, the compounds can seep into the ground and eventually contaminate potable water wells. The EPA's recent recommendation lowers the level of PFOA/PFOS for safe drinking water to 0.07 parts per billion combined. The EPA's recommendation is not a regulation or standard, but an advisory, which was originally issued in provisional form in 2009. The health advisory differs from a standard in that it only identifies contamination levels at which a health risk could occur and is not an enforceable regulation with fines and deadlines. For an advisory to become a standard, it must go through an extensive scientific and economic analysis.

Both PFOA and PFOS are on a list of unregulated contaminants that the EPA monitors. Every five years, the EPA requires certain water utilities to test drinking water supplies for several dozen pollutants, including PFOA/PFOS, which are used to set regulatory standards. For more information on PFOA/PFOS, please visit: <https://www.epa.gov/ground-water-and-drinking-water/drinking-water-health-advisories-pfoa-and-pfos>.

SUMMER ACTIVITIES

FUN FOR THE WHOLE FAMILY

Enjoy these fun-filled activities for the whole family:

- **Bracken Bat Flight** – Be amazed to witness the awe-inspiring world's largest bat colony at the Bracken Bat Cave—June 19th thru August 28th
- **Ford Canoe Challenge** – Come out and cheer on 150 participants in 2-person teams, competing in timed canoe heats on the downtown portion of the San Antonio River Walk—August 6th
- **Wildscaping: Landscaping for Wildlife & Conserving Water** - San Antonio is the first Monarch Champion City in the nation. Help solidify this title by learning how to promote birds, butterflies and other pollinators, Botanical Gardens—August 27th



For more information on family fun things to do this summer, please visit the websites below:

Bracken Bat Cave:
[http://www.naturalbridgecaverns.com/\(S\(yl5ix555hyraairl2hwyxuzc\)\)/brackenBatFlight.aspx](http://www.naturalbridgecaverns.com/(S(yl5ix555hyraairl2hwyxuzc))/brackenBatFlight.aspx)

Ford Canoe Challenge:
<http://www.thesanantonioriverwalk.com/events/ford-canoe-challenge>

Botanical Gardens:
<http://www.sabot.org/>



Source: The Nature Conservancy



LOCAL CONSERVATION NEWS

LANDOWNERS AND NATIVE POLLINATORS



Source: TPWD

The Texas Parks and Wildlife Department's (TPWD) Nongame and Rare Species Program has developed new guidelines for landowners which could qualify them for a wildlife tax valuation. These guidelines are intended to protect native pollinators and help landowners to develop wildlife management plans for their properties, such as the land areas over the Edwards Aquifer that are under Land Conservation Easements.

Landowners can qualify for an Agricultural Tax Appraisal based on Wildlife Management Use if the new guidelines to protect and support native pollinators are followed. To qualify, a landowner must have their property evaluated under an Agricultural Tax Valuation. Private landowner involvement is necessary for effective native insect pollinator conservation

given that more than 95 percent of Texas lands are privately owned. By applying management practices that sustain the activities of pollinators, which promote growth of a number of agricultural crops at no cost, landowners can promote conservation and preservation of these valuable species.

For more information on the TPWD's Management Recommendations for Native Insect Pollinators in Texas, please visit <http://bit.ly/TXNativePollinators>.

DID YOU KNOW?

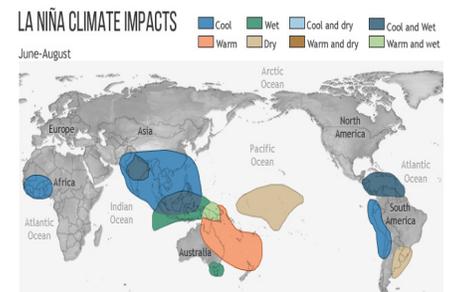
- Pollination by insects of agricultural fields accounts for approximately 33 percent of all the food we consume.
- Crops pollinated by bees generate more than \$15 billion to the U.S. economy on a yearly basis.
- Most flowering plants in North America are pollinated by bees.

Source: TPWD News

WEATHER REPORT

LA NINA PREDICTION ON TEXAS WEATHER

The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's (NOAA) Climate Prediction Center (CPC) has issued an official end to El Niño weather patterns, which was one of three strongest on record, and La Niña will dictate the climate during the winter months. According to the CPC, there is a 75 percent chance that La Niña conditions will take over within the upcoming months beginning in the fall and will most likely cause a warm and dry winter for the state of Texas. The five year drought that Texas experienced prior to the arrival of this last El Niño event had initiated with a La Niña event. For more information on the weather impacts of La Niña please visit: the NOAA's CPC at: <http://www.cpc.ncep.noaa.gov/>.



Source: NOAA Climate.gov

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

UPCOMING SUMMER EVENTS

Don't miss out on these informative events and activities regarding water and land conservation related issues:

- EAPP Conservation Advisory Board monthly meeting — San Antonio, TX — July 27th
- Texas Rural Water Association 2016 Training & Technical Conference—Galveston, TX—July 13th-14th
- Water Reuse in Texas Conference—San Marcos, TX—July 15th
- TCEQ 28th Annual Texas Environmental Superconference—Austin, TX—August 4th-5th
- TCEQ 2016 Annual Public Drinking Water Conference — Austin, TX — August 9th-10th

Useful Links

City of San Antonio Parks and Recreation Dept.

<http://www.sanantonio.gov/ParksandRec/NewsEvents.aspx>

San Antonio River Foundation
<http://www.sariverfoundation.org>

Edwards Aquifer Authority
<http://www.edwardsaquifer.org/>

San Antonio Water System
<http://www.saws.org/conservation/calendar/>



EDWARDS AQUIFER PROTECTION PROGRAM (EAPP) PROFILE

MEET THE EAPP STAFF!



David Bernal, newest staff member of the EAPP



Susan Courage, EAPP Senior Management Analyst



Grant Ellis, EAPP Special Projects Manager

David Bernal

David is the new Management Analyst for the Edwards Aquifer Protection Program. He has been with the City of San Antonio since 2014. He began working in the Environmental Management Division where his duties included National Environmental Policy Act compliance and Storm Water Pollution Prevention Plan oversight of City projects. David has a Master of Science degree in Biology from the University of Texas at San Antonio where his studies led him to focus on the subject of Ecology. He has always enjoyed science and has had the opportunity to be an instructor at the college level imparting his knowledge of the interactions of man and his environment and his love for nature. He is both excited and humbled to be a part of the EAPP which he feels is an extremely important effort on a local level as well as for the surrounding communities which depend on the Edwards Aquifer as a water source.

Susan Courage

Susan has been with the Edwards Aquifer Protection Program since 2012 supporting water conservation and preservation initiatives. She is responsible for the management and oversight of the EAPP's monitoring program and works closely with landowners to ensure proper adherence to their conservation easements. She has earned a Bachelor of Science degree in Biology and Master of Science degree in Environmental Science from the University of Texas at San Antonio. Susan's appreciation of the outdoors stems from a childhood love of nature. She understands the importance of land conservation, not only for water preservation, but for the many benefits it provides both locally and regionally. Susan is proud to be a part of such an important program and the legacy it will provide to future generations.

Grant Ellis

Grant Ellis is the Special Projects Manager for the City of San Antonio's Edwards Aquifer Protection Program. As the project manager for the City's voter-supported aquifer protection initiative, Grant oversees the identification and acquisition of property interests on the recharge and contributing zones of the Edwards Aquifer to protect water quality and quantity for the citizens of San Antonio. To date, the program has protected over 140,000 acres of land. A native Texan, Grant was born and raised in Fort Worth. He has a B.A. in History from Trinity University in San Antonio and a law degree from the University of Oklahoma. He has been with the City since November 2011.