

From: Comal County Conservation Alliance <info@comalconservation.org>
Sent: Sunday, December 03, 2023 10:52 AM
To: Roxanna Deane
Subject: CCCA December 2023 Conservation Insider



Conservation Insider

December 2023

Hello, CCCA Friends, Partners, and Volunteers,

As 2023 comes to a close we must take a moment and look back on all that we have accomplished. Over one year, we have brought hundreds of people together to protect land, water, and wildlife here in Comal County. Our board hired its first Executive Director and now the organization has two staff members, bringing more consistency and expertise to our work. Our board has begun developing a five-year strategic plan, a development strategy, and a new communications brand script that will meet our evolving needs in 2024. We also celebrated our fifth anniversary and the amazing conservation efforts of sisters, Joyce Moore and Cynthia Martinez, who placed Honey Creek Cave, the longest cave in Texas, into conservation. Last but not least at the end of November **our board voted to make our first award from the Comal Land Conservation Fund in support of a conservation easement** at John Knox Ranch. There is so much to be grateful for and none of it would be possible without you.

Thank you for your steadfast support of Comal County Conservation Alliance. As we close out this incredible year of growth, I want to ask you to **join me and make a recurring financial contribution** to the Comal County Conservation Alliance. Funds secured through our new online giving portal will put wind in our sails and **create a steady drumbeat of support for our cause**. The wild and working lands of Comal County have never needed your support more than they do today.

It is estimated that by 2050 8.2 million people will live in the Austin San Antonio Metroplex 400,000 of them will call New Braunfels home. The environmental

systems that sustain our communities and fuel our economies are bracing for a strain that has never been seen before and you can make a difference. **By supporting the Comal County Conservation Alliance you're making a critical investment in the life-giving waters of the Guadalupe and Comal Rivers**, you're showing local officials that economic growth can be balanced with conservation measures that **protect our most treasured natural resources**, and you're standing with your neighbors in **support of the incredible natural systems that make Comal County the gem of the Texas Hill Country**. We are so grateful for everything that you do to protect our communities, thank you.

Ryan K Spencer
Executive Director

[Give Now](#)



"McKenna Foundation seeking nonprofit nominations for \$10K grants"

To celebrate the end of the year the McKenna Foundation is collaborating with the public to identify two nonprofits to receive \$10,000 "impact grants". Members of the community are encouraged by the Foundation to nominate their favorite nonprofit using the button below.

Comal County Conservation Alliance would love your support as we continue our work to preserve land, water, and wildlife during this period of rapid growth in our county. For over five years CCCA has brought our community together to preserve natural areas that will allow our aquifers to recharge, help reduce flooding, and keep our rivers and springs flowing. These efforts add to our quality of life and fuel our economies. **Please consider nominating CCCA before the December 6th deadline** and don't forget to add a few sentences about why this issue and our work matter to you.

[Nominate Here](#)



CCCA NEWS

Message from Elizabeth

Dear CCCA Friends,

A sincere thank you to each of you, for your support and friendship over the past 6 years. As I head into my last month as President of CCCA's Board of Directors, I want to let you all know how much I've enjoyed working with the dedicated CCCA supporters and volunteers who make up our "Friends of CCCA" community.

Having attended the 2017 "Planning for Growth" conferences with many of you, and walking away with the feeling that "somebody needs to DO something about this," I am immensely proud of what our 'small band of committed citizens' has been able to accomplish. YOU are the ones who *are doing something* and I hope you are proud of the work we have done together as CCCA!

I especially want to thank the inspiring and hard-working volunteers who have stepped up to serve on CCCA's Board of Directors since our founding and worked to make conservation a priority in Comal County. My thanks and gratitude also go out to all the volunteers who joined a CCCA committee, helped at an event, or offered their special skills. Your time and talents have helped establish CCCA as a respected conservation leader in the Hill Country, helped spread awareness of the urgent need to save Comal's natural areas and put into action the ideas we dared to dream about back in early 2018.

CCCA is in good hands with Executive Director Ryan Spencer, incoming Board President Roxanna Deane, and the dedicated folks who will be making up our 2024 Board. While my time as President is ending, my commitment to CCCA's mission remains strong and I look forward to seeing you at CCCA's Community Programs and helping at outreach booths. There is still much to be done and I have every confidence that, together, we will continue to make a difference in Comal County.

Most sincerely,

Elizabeth Bowerman

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Photo Courtesy of Tri-Cities Masonic High-12 Club

Executive Director, Ryan K Spencer, gave a presentation to the Tri-Cities Masonic High-12 Club. It marks the first time that CCCA spoke to the group. The presentation left the group inspired to donate. The gift is aimed at supporting the Comal Land Conservation Fund.



### Looking for a way to help protect Comal's rivers and springs?

Preserving Comal County's natural beauty and rural character is a job for the whole community. Won't you join the effort? CCCA is looking for volunteers to help advance the conservation work in Comal County by helping CCCA in one of the following areas:

- 
- 
- Graphic Designer
- Facebook Manager
- Newsletter Editor
- Website Assistant

Interested candidates should submit their contact information and interests here: [Become a Volunteer](#)



## SAVE THE DATE

### January Community Program

**WHAT: Jessica Karlsruher, CEO of the TREAD Coalition** will join CCCA to talk about ***"What is Natural Infrastructure, and Why Do We Care?"***

In this time of rapid growth and development in Comal County, we are losing many of the benefits that natural areas and open lands provide. When we think about infrastructure, we think about rooftops, commercial buildings, roads and transmission lines. But what about the natural capital – our natural assets - that provide infrastructure to our surroundings and contribute to our daily lives?

Land and water act as natural infrastructure providing a myriad of benefits to us from clean air to fresh drinking water from our faucets. Maintaining our natural infrastructure is equally important to man-made landscapes.

Come learn what you should know and why you should care about stewarding your natural capital.

**WHEN:** Tuesday, January 9th, 6:00 - 7:30 PM

**WHERE:** McKenna Events Center, 801 W. San Antonio Street, New Braunfels, TX 78130.



**CCCA**  
COMAL COUNTY  
CONSERVATION  
ALLIANCE

## COMMUNITY PROGRAM

Everyone is Welcome!

### PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

When we think about infrastructure, we think about rooftops, commercial buildings, roads and transmission lines.

But what about the natural capital – our natural assets - that provide infrastructure to our surroundings and contribute to our daily lives? Land and water act as natural infrastructure providing a myriad of benefits to us from clean air to fresh drinking water from our faucets.

Maintaining our natural infrastructure is equally important to man-made landscapes. Learn what you should know and why you should care about stewarding your natural capital.



**SPEAKER**  
Jessica Karlsruher, CEO of the TREAD Coalition

**TOPIC**  
"What is Natural Infrastructure and Why Do We Care?"

**WHEN**  
Tuesday, January 9, 2024, 6:00-7:30 PM

**WHERE**  
McKenna Event Center  
801 W. San Antonio St.  
New Braunfels

[www.comalconservation.org](http://www.comalconservation.org)

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CCCA H-Z DECEMBER COLUMN

"STANDING WITH THANKS AND APPLAUSE!"

by Frank Dietz, for the H-Z December 2, 2023

First, allow me to give a shout out for the marvel of greening throughout our Comal County and the Texas Hill Country. Just a modest rainfall in a few sessions has produced a circumstance that gives one the feeling the blades and leaves are applauding. Hurrah! May it continue to break the sustained drought pattern.

Second, while in celebration and applause, I hope many of our readers and our neighbors will accept some "well done" pats on the back. The impressive success of Propositions 6 and 14 results in votes amending the Texas Constitution to transfer current surplus funds for Water Development and in establishing the Centennial Parks Fund to expand our state parks system well into the future. It is

true that beloved and appreciated (finally!) retired teachers and a measure offering some property tax relief proved even more popular but what a step for Texans voting. In Comal County highly favorable affirmation exceeding 70% for water and land measures is outstanding. Thanks to all who voted!

Third, I want to take a moment to note some major transitions for us at Comal County Conservation Alliance (CCCA). It has been nearly a decade since some significant studies and opinion papers urged that we of Comal begin to band together to lift a voice for water, land, and wildlife. With the assistance of Hill Country concerned groups and locally informed citizens the preliminary convening for conversation began about responsible land use and protection. Then a vision and purpose linking voices, energies and lots of willing workers created CCCA. Soon thereafter Elizabeth Bowerman was prevailed upon to lead the way in these last five years. Two of her compadres for this long distance run included Eva Silverfine Ott out on the northwest end of the County and Hill Country Alliance assistance was provided through spirited Cliff Kaplan. With terms concluding this month expect their input and energies to remain helpful but without participation on the Board.

All of us and even those unknowing need to take our hats off for the extraordinary dedication and purposeful drive rendered by our outgoing President Elizabeth Bowerman. In fact, we stand and applaud the impressive service rendered to recruit, link, build, and encourage an exemplary expression of nonprofit stewardship. Few such boards achieve the personal involvement and direct deliverance as is currently seen and experienced with CCCA. Yes, others are stepping forward whom you'll hear from going forward. The impressive jump start rendered through Elizabeth's efforts will be apparent. The hours have been too long, the correspondence and virtual outreach and in reach have been continuous. Noteworthy, too, is how CCCA managed to cease many public involvements for the extended pandemic but even periodic virtual programs sustained a growing number of interested folks who care about conserving land. We remain indebted to Elizabeth in pointing us toward protecting the treasures that make Comal such a Texas Hill Country jewel. Yes, there's a magnetism that has drawn people to the springs and rivers along with the rise of the hills for productivity and recreation along with an impressive quality of life. CCCA's Elizabeth Bowerman has been key to helping assure this for future generations. THANK YOU, ELIZABETH BOWERMAN as we all stand to applaud and are joined by our recently greening surroundings!

The efforts go forward. Perhaps in part inspired by CCCA efforts and allies a Comal family currently is working out a way to donate acreage to expand the County's Curry Nature Center. Keep it rolling!

Our website comalconservation.org will identify the 2024 Board members and so much more.



IN OTHER NEWS

"Water Fight: Local group concerned about quarry's potential impact"

by Milann Guckian, President of the Preserve Our Hill Country Environment Foundation.

Milann gives a great explanation of the damaging effects the Vulcan quarry would have on the natural resources of Comal County – especially our water - that all our Comal residents can appreciate! She also recaps the legal steps PHCE has gone through with TCEQ and the judicial system.

View full article: [Herald-Zeitung Nov. 25, 2023](#)

"Land Donation could expand Comal's Curry Nature Center."

by Theresa Davis

"Comal County could soon expand the property at the James C. Curry Nature Center, thanks to a landowner who wants to donate their land to the county."

View full article: [Herald-Zeitung, Nov. 9, 2023](#)

Visit our website for more news you can use!


Working to preserve land, water, and wildlife in Comal County!

Comal County Conservation Alliance

<https://www.comalconservation.org/>

info@comalconservation.org

Thank you for being a FRIEND OF CCCA!

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Comal County Conservation Alliance
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Canyon Lake, TX 78133



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