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January 2021 Conservation Insider

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# Conservation Insider

January 2021

Happy New Year CCCA friends and volunteers! Here is our first newsletter of 2021, with a bit of news and a message from our CCCA President, Elizabeth

**Bowerman.**

### **With a hopeful and optimistic heart, I wish you all a Happy New Year!**

2020 was a year that challenged our collective spirit. As I look back at 2020, I am thankful for your support and encouragement as CCCA endeavored to keep a spotlight on the need for conservation in our fast-growing county and to focus attention on the importance of nature to our community's physical, mental and emotional health. In this time of uncertainty, fear and frustration, Nature has provided a sanctuary and a place to escape, refresh and renew.

The new year is here, and we are looking forward to holding in-person programs again and seeing you at community events when COVID safety protocols allow these to resume. Until that time, we will keep our website active and interesting, sharing conservation articles and success stories. Our monthly Conservation Insider newsletter will continue to bring you CCCA news and focus on aspects of nature that delight and sustain us. Starting in January we will begin an every-other-month series of Zoom programs with guest speakers. Tune in January 12th to hear Mark Enders, Watershed Protection Program Manager for the City of New Braunfels. (More information about the presentation below.)

As we set out on this new year, we say good bye and thank you to departing Board Member, Leah Cuddeback, and welcome five new members to our Board of Directors: Dick Bigelow, Dirk Davidek, Diane DeSimone, Steven Grainger, and Steve Jones. CCCA is also very pleased to welcome our newly established Advisory Board members – a group of talented, experienced community members who will help guide and advance CCCA's conservation efforts. Members of our 2021 Board of Directors and our 2021 Advisory Board are listed below.

On behalf of the CCCA Board, I thank you for being a Friend of CCCA and look forward to your continued support in 2021. Preserving the precious natural resources and rural character of our county for future generations will take a village, and you are an important part of the work ahead.

Wishing you the best in the coming year,  
Elizabeth Bowerman

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### **OUR 2021 LEADERSHIP TEAM**

#### **2021 CCCA Board of Directors**

President — Elizabeth Bowerman

1st Vice President — Helen Ballew

2nd Vice President — Cindy Millichamp

Secretary — Eva Silverfine Ott

Treasurer — Steve Jones

Resource Development Committee Chair — Marne' Peterson

Outreach Committee Co-chairs — Diane DeSimone and Steven Grainger

Government Affairs Committee Co-chairs — Frank Dietz and Dirk Davidek

Director at Large — Cliff Kaplan

Director at Large — Jane Finneran

Director at Large — Dick Bigelow

## 2021 CCCA Advisory Board

Roxanna Dean  
Garry Merritt  
Annalisa Peace  
Katherine Romans  
Andy Sansom  
Les Shephard  
Carolyn Smith  
Dianne Wassenich  
Jeff Weigel

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### UPCOMING CCCA PROGRAM !

Tuesday, January 12, 2021

6:00 PM — 7:00 PM

**Zoom Link:** <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82497935472pwd=bzgrMythM1dLbndqcUmbFc5MWNHdz09>

Password: CCCA

### **Our speaker Tuesday night will be Mark Enders, City of New Braunfels Watershed Program Manager.**

Mark will be speaking on “Watershed Protection Initiatives & the Importance of Protecting Our Local Water Resources”. Mark’s presentation will focus on Edwards Aquifer Habitat Conservation Plan activities, the status of implementation of the Dry Comal Creek and Comal River Watershed Protection Plan and the City’s MS4 Stormwater Management Program. Mark will also discuss thoughts on ideas for furthering conservation of our local water resources. There will be time for questions and answers following the presentation.

***Please join us for this informative and interesting Zoom program!***

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### MONTHLY HERALD ZEITUNG COLUMN

#### **Troubled & troublesome water**

**Frank Dietz**

**January 2, 2021**

It has been gratifying to receive several comments regarding an earlier discussion about our good fortune in Comal County to be blessed with an array of water resources.

To follow up on our discussion about the stewardship and responsibilities we have personally and as area dwellers, let’s begin with a striking reality that needs to be front and center for our thinking and planning.

The Earth’s surface is 71% water. Of that, however, only 3% is “fresh.” To make it even more dramatic, 2.5% is “unavailable” for use, leaving just at .5% as what we have to work with and

steward. Hmm.

Our surface and subsurface resources locally remain impressive. It does seem we are rapidly moving into a threatened circumstance if you just think of every new well as “another straw” dipping into our aquifers.

But for good rainfalls, we have to face with honesty the limitations the circumstances present to us... *Read more at:* <https://www.comalconservation.org/precious-water.html#020221>

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## LOOK TOWARD THE FUTURE WITH A GIFT OF LOVE



### **Love the land on Valentine's Day!**

**Get ready to Share the Love! Let's make Valentine's Day – “Love the Land Day!”**

Show a special someone that you're thinking of them by making a donation to CCCA, and have a virtual Valentine's Day message to your chosen someone posted on our website. This year, CCCA's work is more important than ever and we invite you to be a part of it. We have ambitious goals for protecting land, water, and wildlife in Comal County and will be working on innovative solutions for balancing growth with conservation.

Comal County has many unique features that make it a special and sensitive place, from the headwater springs of the Comal River and the Edwards Aquifer recharge zone, to the endemic and endangered species found in our rural lands, to the tourism and recreation

opportunities offered by Canyon Lake and the Guadalupe River. There is a lot to love. Join us and be part of the solution.

In the count-down to Valentine's Day (February 14th) please consider a donation of \$25, \$50, or \$100 to CCCA as a way of honoring a special someone. Protecting our beautiful Hill Country land, our precious water, and our wildlife is critical, and we need your help. Visit [www.comalconservation.org/](http://www.comalconservation.org/) for details and to select your Valentine's Day E-card!

Thank you for your past support of CCCA. We hope we can count on you again!  
Happy Valentine's Day to All!

***Stay safe, stay healthy, enjoy nature! See you soon.***

**Comal County Conservation Alliance**

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

[info@comalconservation.org/](mailto:info@comalconservation.org/)

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