



Conservation Insider

November 2021

Welcome Friends, Partners and Volunteers!

November is the month when we feel the chill in the air become more frequent and we begin to plan gatherings with our friends and families. We also find time to reflect on our challenges as well as accomplishments. Here at CCCA we are so grateful to all of you for your help, support and encouragement. It seems too simple to say "we couldn't do it without you" but it is absolutely true. It takes all of us to protect our home in Comal County and make it the place we want to live - today and into the future. Thank you!

CCCA NEWS

CCCA's NOVEMBER VIRTUAL COMMUNITY PROGRAM

Tuesday, November 9, 6:00 - 7:30 PM

"Comal County Caves & Karst: Opportunities and Challenges"

With guest speaker Dr. George Veni, world famous karst hydrologist, aquifer pioneer, and adventurer.

Join Zoom Meeting:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85639256724?pwd=MncrSVVBSHNFdGk4aDdlREpNSGIwdz09>

Meeting ID: 856 3925 6724

Passcode: 431503

You know what caves are but do you know what karst is? Much of Comal County is karst, so we ought to know what it is, right?

Join us as one of the world's authorities gives us a lesson on this cavernous terrain that covers 25% of the USA, and most of our county. Comal County's karst contains one of the most biodiverse aquifer ecosystems in the world, with bizarre aquifer-dwelling species that occur nowhere else.

For more program details and login options, go to:

www.comalconservation.org/upcoming-events-2021.html#Veni

To learn more about karst and caves, visit: <http://www.comalconservation.org/caves-karst.html>

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Looking for a way to help Keep Comal Wild?

CCCA is looking for motivated volunteers to help support our work to preserve land, water and wildlife by volunteering in the following important areas. Interested candidates should submit their contact information and brief message at:

www.comalconservation.org/donatecontact.html

VOLUNTEERS needed for:

-Development Manager or Grant Writer to assist with fundraising - researching grants and completing grant applications; assisting in developing donor base

-Communications Coordinator to coordinate information between managers of CCCA website, newsletter, social media and news media.

-Facebook Manager to monitor and post input on CCCA Group and Business pages

-Publicity Manager to write CCCA publicity notices for programs and events and distribute to news media

Our Latest HZ Article - Nov. 2021

TRAILBLAZERS ENCOUNTERED!

Frank Dietz, November 6, 2021

Among my scouting leaders long years ago we had the benefit of a forestry specialist who gave enthusiastically of his time. I suspect his hope was that what he shared would be long lived and contagious for members of our group. We had notable special excursions related to trails. We had an opportunity to learn and discover the art of trail mending, trail tending, trail signing and marking among others. Most memorable for those of us invited was to learn something of trailblazing. There were so many facets to observe as a new, fresh trail was contemplated in a stretch of yet undisturbed wooded acres. We were to discover how to be wise and discerning in creating something new that would respect and make available for others what was there. I mention my own mentoring in trailblazing to share a special salute with three special folks who have been among us in Comal County and our beloved Texas Hill Country. Two have left significant markers along the way, one we will have an opportunity to meet in short order on 9 November 6pm.

Continue reading at: <https://www.comalconservation.org/published-columns.html>

SAVE THE DATE

The Heritage Museum of the Texas Hill Country Fall Educational Programs

Digging Up Dinosaurs and Fossils!

Date: November 20, 2021

When: 9:00 AM — 12:30 PM

Where: [4831 FM 2673, Canyon Lake](#)

More at: <https://www.theheritagemuseum.com/>

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Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service

Landowner Management Workshop

Rain Water Harvesting

December 8th from 12 - 1 pm

Register by calling the Mammen Family Public Library at 830-438-4864

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VISIT CCCA AT THE NEW BRAUNFELS FARMERS MARKET

Saturday December 18 from 9 AM to 1 PM

Please stop in at the New Braunfels Farmers Market on Saturday, December 18 and visit with CCCA volunteers at our booth! We'll demonstrate how karst rock allows recharge of

our aquifers, and share what's being done for conservation in Comal County, what still needs to be done, and what you can do to help. Please stop by and say "hi". Bring your family too. We'll have a special holiday nature make-and-take activity for the kids and a free "KEEP COMAL WILD" sticker for your car or truck to show your support for conservation in Comal County.

In Other News

From the City of New Braunfels Parks and Rec Dept - Fischer Park

Thank you to all of our residents who voted in the Perk Your Park contest. We are proud to announce Fischer Park is one of the winners!

The \$90,000 will be used to make 30 acres of restored Blackland Prairie available to the public. Way to go NB!

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My Canyon Lake, "Canyon Lake Library Wins Night Sky Award for fighting Light Pollution"

By Stephanie Johnson - 10/28/21

The Rotary Club of Canyon Lake and the Comal County Friends of the Night Sky presented a Night Sky Friendly Business Certificate to Tye Preston Memorial Library for keeping the night lights low around its building and grounds. The library also received a copy of *Cassandra and the Night Sky*, a children's book published by a member of Friends of the Night Sky.

Rotarian Maureen Schein said her organization will continue to partner with Friends of the Night Sky to recognize area businesses that avoid needless lighting at night.

Larry Wells, founder of Comal County Friends of the Night Sky, told MyCanyonLake.com last year that one of his group's sayings is "one light at a time, and we've turned out some lights." The organization advocates for outdoor lighting fixtures and practices and following updated guidelines and using available technologies for efficient, non-intrusive lighting. Wells said one of the reasons Canyon Lake residents don't see many fireflies is that it's too bright for the insects - They can't see each other in the glow of artificial lights.

"Austin is coming from the east and San Antonio from the south," according to Blanco County's Friends of the Night Sky group. "We can still see the stars, for now, but the day is coming when that may no longer be the case. Unless we act. This is why we're here...development is inevitable, but development with an eye on the heavens can give us all good lives enriched even further by being able to look up and see the stars."

from <https://mycanyonlake.com/>

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Community Impact, "City of New Braunfels submits application for grant funding to support Comal River improvements"

by Lauren Canterbury - 10/27/21

The New Braunfels City Council on Oct. 25 approved the submission of an application for \$1.5 million in grant funding that would be used for improvements on the Comal River.

The grant is part of the American Rescue Plan Act Travel, Tourism and Outdoor Recreation funding opportunity offered by the Economic Development Administration and the U.S. Department of Commerce.

City staff submitted the application in hopes of receiving funding that would be used to construct an underwater landing and an inclined elevator at the last tuber's exit on the Comal River. The landing would provide people with a place to stand as they wait to ascend the stairs from the river to East Lincoln Street.

City documents show the total cost of the landing is estimated to be \$1.5 million, though the cost could change as the project is currently in the design phase. Read more at: <https://communityimpact.com/austin/new-braunfels/parks-recreation/2021/10/27/>

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San Antonio Express-News, "BLAST ZONE: Quarries are expanding in the Texas Hill Country and rivers, streams and once pristine landscapes are paying the price."

by Brian Chasnoff

Flat Creek had always been translucent, flowing clear and cold through Kathleen Wilson's 15-acre spread in the Texas Hill Country. Then something changed. The dust was the first sign. "That was really the first noticeable thing, the whole surface was covered with dust," said Wilson, 63, who runs an eco-friendly bed and breakfast on the Blanco County property. "You'd stick your hand in and it would, like, stick to you."

Soon the water was chocked with "mucky, nasty stuff," Wilson said. "It was never dirty before. This is a spring fed creek." The source of the problem: a limestone and caliche quarry four miles south of Wilson's land, near the headwaters of the creek. Read more at:

<https://www.expressnews.com/projects/2021/hill-country-quarry-impact/>

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Community Impact, "6,000 home Mayfair Development to break ground in early 2022"

by Lauren Canterbury - 11/1/2021

Mayfair, a 1,888-acre mixed use development slated to be built over the course of 15-20 years, is on track to break ground soon as developers finalize agreements with the city and other entities.

The project, which has the potential to bring thousands of new residents to the New Braunfels area over the next 20 years, could break ground as early as the first quarter of 2022 pending the approval of a utility agreement with New Braunfels Utilities, said Thad Rutherford, CEO of SouthStar Communities, the development company behind Mayfair.

Mayfair is located in the extraterritorial jurisdiction, or ETJ, of New Braunfels on property that was previously owned by the Texas General Land Office, Rutherford said. Over the next 15 years, SouthStar is anticipated to build up to 6,000 new residences that will

include single family homes, townhomes and multifamily units. Homes will span a range of price points and will include affordable and workforce housing.

"This isn't just another housing subdivision," Rutherford said. "We're going to have some potential for industrial or data centers or other things that will only benefit the city of New Braunfels from an economic standpoint." Read about it at:

<https://communityimpact.com/austin/new-braunfels/development/2021/11/01/>

Reminder

CCCA is on AmazonSmile – AmazonSmile is a simple way for you to support your favorite charitable organization every time you shop, at no cost to you. AmazonSmile is available at smile.amazon.com and on phone apps. When you shop with AmazonSmile, you'll find the exact same low prices, huge selection and convenient shopping experience as Amazon.com, with the added benefit that AmazonSmile will donate 0.5% of your eligible purchases to the charitable organization of your choice. You can choose from over one million organizations to support – we hope you'll choose CCCA and help save natural areas in Comal County.

There is much more information about water, land and wildlife on our website!

Stay safe, stay healthy, enjoy nature! See you next month.

Comal County Conservation Alliance

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

Info@comalconservation.org

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