



# Conservation Insider

October 2021

**Welcome Friends, Partners and Volunteers.**

**Fall is upon us and the days grow shorter as we await the season of winter. But there is still much work to be done and we will continue.**

**"I hope I can be the autumn leaf, who looked at the sky and lived. And when it was time to leave, gracefully it knew life was a gift." – Dodinsky**

~ ~ ~ ~ ~

**In loving memory and appreciation of Jensie Madden, humanitarian, conservationist, co-founder and friend of CCCA and Dan Madden, humanitarian and conservationist.**

~ ~ ~ ~ ~

# CCCA NEWS

Big thanks to all who donated toward our fundraising during the Big Give! You are what drives us in the Conservation effort in Comal County. We can't do it without you - our friends!

Remember to look for us at these events:

- Folkfest – Oct. 9 & 10 – Heritage Village (NB)

\*\*\* Lindheimer Native Plant Chapter is having their Native Plant Sale at

Folkfest – Oct. 9 & 10, from 10 AM to 6 PM \*\*\*

- Monarch Fall Festival – Oct. 9 – Fischer Park (NB)

\*\*\* New Braunfels Native Plant Chapter is having their Native Plant Sale at the

Monarch Fall Festival from 10 AM to 2 PM \*\*\*

- NB Farmers Market – Oct. 30 & Dec. 18

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](https://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.

Looking for a way to help protect Nature? CCCA is looking for an experienced Development Coordinator or Grant Writer to assist with fundraising to support our work to preserve land, water, and wildlife in Comal County. Interested candidates should submit their contact information and brief message at: [www.comalconservation.org/joincontact.html](http://www.comalconservation.org/joincontact.html)  
<<http://www.comalconservation.org/joincontact.html>> .

## SAVE THE DATE

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

CCCA's NOVEMBER VIRTUAL COMMUNITY PROGRAM

## "Comal County Caves & Karst: Opportunities and Challenges"

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

Caves and karst. 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.

### Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85639256724?pwd=MncrSVVBSHNfdGk4aDdlREpNSGlwdz09>

Meeting ID: 856 3925 6724

Passcode: 431503

For more details and options, go to:

[www.comalconservation.org/upcoming-events-2021.html#Veni](http://www.comalconservation.org/upcoming-events-2021.html#Veni)

## In Other News

### October is Hill Country Night Sky Month!

The celebration is back for another month of proclamations, lighting renovations, contests, star parties, moon howls, and more. Join partners and communities from across the Hill Country as we pay tribute and our respects to one of our region's most beloved features, the star-filled night sky. Tune in here for all the news, events, and updates on Night Sky Month 2021!

<https://www.hillcountryalliance.org/nightskymonth>

### Bring Back the Night at Home!

October 6, 2020 - October 31, 2021

The Comal County Friends of the Night Sky announces the Bring Back the Night at Home Challenge. Show how easy it is to upgrade your exterior lighting and help improve our night sky by reducing light pollution! Take photos of your exterior lighting "BEFORE and AFTER" your retrofit and we will publish (with the owner's permission) your "before and after" photos on our website.

See how at <https://comaldarksky.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/09/CCFNS.Lighting-Guidelines.v9.23.20-.pdf>

Challenge dates: October 2020 through October 2021

Send your photos to [CCFNSSEC@gmail.com](mailto:CCFNSSEC@gmail.com)

Provide your first name and Comal County city or neighborhood you live in

Let's see which city posts the most photos!

**Texas Children in Nature Network Presents:**

**Your Brain on Nature: Why Time Spent Outdoors is Good for our Mental Health**

**October 6, 2:00 and 7:00 Webinars**

**Workshop with Dr. Amanda Wetegrove-Romine**

Research confirms that spending time in green spaces improves how our brains respond to stress. Exploring the outdoors has been linked to lower rates of depression and anxiety. A walk-in nature can also improve memory and decrease worry. This workshop is designed to share this information and help participants develop their own plan for getting outdoors regularly. Guided walking mindfulness can be included for an immersive experience.

Register here: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/your-brain-on-nature-why-time-spent-outdoors-is-good-for-our-mental-health-tickets-154083027483>

**The Heritage Society of New Braunfels Hosts Annual Folkfest – a Celebration of our Pioneer History**

**Heritage Village**

**October 9 and 10, from 10 AM — 6 PM**

**1370 Churchill Dr**

**New Braunfels, TX 78130**

Join us for the New Braunfels Folkfest on October 9 & 10, 2021 at Heritage Village in New Braunfels, Texas. New Braunfels Folkfest is an annual “Family Heritage Festival” sponsored by the Heritage Society of New Braunfels on the grounds of the Museum of Texas Handmade Furniture. Starting the second Saturday in October, Folkfest features living history re-enactments, pioneer craft demonstrations, free furniture museum tours, children’s activities, musical entertainment, and delicious food. All proceeds benefit the Museum of Texas Handmade Furniture and their historic preservation projects.

Read more: <https://texashandmadeurniture.com/folkfest?fbclid=IwAR2v2KlpWqqdRtvXmSbT44UettxcT5Bati-lGQMo7XwXK10WU8jYnZFLKgg3>

**Mark your calendars! Keep Canyon Lake Beautiful will be hosting our Fall Community Cleanup on Saturday, October 23!**

**Due to the pandemic, KCLB will continue conducting socially distanced cleanups!**

**The SAFETY of our volunteers is very important to us! We love our volunteers and want to ensure we have a successful and careful cleanup, while still helping our community and having fun!**

**All supplies will be provided in a curbside pickup bag including:**

- \* Trash grabbers \* Gloves**
- \* Trash bags \* Hand sanitizer**
- \* Face masks \* Safety vests (if working on roadside pickup)**
- \* Bottled water \* Surprise thank you gifts!**

**Sign up here: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/30e0844a9ac2baafa7-fall2>**

**The Heritage Museum of the Texas Hill Country Fall Educational Programs**

**Digging Up Dinosaurs and Fossils!**

**Date: October 16, 2021 & November 20, 2021**

**When: 9:00 AM — 12:30 PM**

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

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

**The City of New Braunfels is co-hosting a free Riparian and Stream Protection Workshop on November 2, 2021**

**New Braunfels, along with the Texas Water Resource Institute, is having a workshop on Nov 2.**

**The training will focus on the nature and function of stream and riparian zones and the benefits and direct impacts from healthy riparian zones. The riparian education programs will cover an introduction to riparian principles, watershed processes, basic hydrology, erosion/deposition principles, and riparian vegetation.**

**The workshop will be held at the Landa Haus in Landa Park. To register or for more information:**

**Register by emailing Clare: [clare.entwistle@ag.tamu.edu](mailto:clare.entwistle@ag.tamu.edu) or online on the event webpage: <https://twri.tamu.edu/our-work/engaging-educating/texas-riparian-stream-ecosystem-education-program/trainings/2021/november/riparian-stream-ecosystems-training-comal-river-watershed/>**

# CCCA OCTOBER SPOTLIGHT

## Aquifer Conservation

This month continues our focus on water and in particular on our aquifers. We start off with Frank's column and continue with some articles you'll find on our website that delve more deeply into the need to take care of our aquifer water resources.

### How Many Straws Will It Take?

Written by Frank Dietz for the Herald-Zeitung, October 2, 2021

As a young teen in New Orleans, I participated in a social group that spent many times together socializing and exploring our fair city. We had limited allowance remaining at week's end and one of our favorite treats was a nearby special root beer vendor. We liked their frozen mugs of root beer. Our problem was that we seldom had enough for individual orders, so we pooled our change and ordered one "super mug." It came with "as many straws as you need." We learned early on that beyond eight straws drawing root beer at the same time, it was a losing effort. When we tried to squeeze in others, it just didn't work and all of us were left wanting. That early life lesson keeps coming to mind as I ponder the circumstances of the pace of growth in our area and the demands on the aquifer that supports us for essential water.

Read the entire article at: <https://www.comalconservation.org/aquifer-conservation.html>

### From the Edwards Aquifer Website

Issues Surrounding the Edwards Aquifer: A Brief Retrospective and a Summary  
By Gregg Eckhardt

I am always surprised at how little and how slowly this page has to be changed. When I started this website in 1995, the primary issue that had to be resolved was how much users could pump, and the Edwards Aquifer Authority had been handed the job of allocating water rights. This question was not fully resolved until 2007, when the Edwards pumping cap was revised upwards to 572,000 acre-feet. Even so, there is still uncertainty regarding minimum necessary spring flows and the pumping levels that would ensure them.

Read the entire article at: <https://www.comalconservation.org/aquifer-conservation.html#EA-website>

### Austin American Statesman

It's Time to Pay Attention to Water We Can't See

By Vanessa Puig-Williams

February 7, 2021

Texas' rivers are iconic. The groundwater that sustains them is invisible.

We see the dichotomy in state law. Naturally flowing water in rivers and streams is owned by the state and held in trust for the public good. That's because we can see that water and what it means. It provides for our cities, towns, farms, and ranches. We live, work and play beside it. And we rely on state law to prevent it from vanishing.

Read the entire article at: <https://www.comalconservation.org/aquifer-conservation.html#AA-S>

**UTSA Today**

**Study Highlights How Edwards Aquifer Protection Has Staved Off Water Scarcity**  
“Water is essential to human existence. This is what motivated me to focus on the aquifer.” — *Neil Debbage, assistant professor and urban climatologist in the UTSA Department of Political Science and Geography*  
July 8, 2021

It's known as Day Zero, when city residents will have to wait in lines for hours under the blazing sun with hopes of finding water. In 2019, this was the scene that played out in Cape Town, South Africa, before the city adjusted its water management practices. Farmers even stopped growing crops for a period of time.

UTSA geography researchers have now shown in a new study how the protective measures taken closer to home—in South and Central Texas along the fast-growing I-35 corridor between Austin and San Antonio—have helped protect our own water supply, the Edwards Aquifer. However, the study also identified key aquifer areas that are still at risk due to urbanization.

Continue reading at: <https://www.comalconservation.org/aquifer-conservation.html#study%20highlights>

**Texas Water Development Board – Texas Water Newsroom**  
**New Water Supply Coming Soon for High-growth Central Texas Communities**  
September 7, 2021

**TRANSCRIPT**

**Jane Hughson, San Marcos Mayor**

“Playing catch-up isn't going to work with water. You know, you can always go out and pave some roads, but with water, you've got to find the sources. Water is the new oil in Texas, and water is not plentiful. It is a renewable resource. It is not an unlimited resource.”

Read this article and link to the YouTube video at:

<https://www.comalconservation.org/aquifer-conservation.html#new%20water>

**From the Edwards Aquifer Website**

**Conservation: The Edwards Aquifer Depends on You**

The bottom line on residential conservation is that it is cheap and easy, and the water savings are real and immediate. Conservation is our cheapest, quickest source of additional water to support economic growth.

The reasons for conserving water and the impact of doing so are a little different in San Antonio than in most places. Lots of places get their water from surface reservoirs and when users conserve, the water remains in the reservoir for later use. In contrast, when users in San Antonio conserve water, all of the water conserved does not remain available for use tomorrow.

Read this at: <https://www.comalconservation.org/aquifer-conservation.html#EA%20website>

*Remember, 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](mailto:Info@comalconservation.org)

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