

# BANDERA COUNTY RIVER AUTHORITY AND GROUNDWATER DISTRICT

*Monthly Newsletter*



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### **FLOOD EARLY WARNING SYSTEM**

A project funded by Texas Water Development Board, as well as other local contributors, designed to save lives and property. p. 03

### **ARUNDO CONTROL PROJECT**

This is a collaboration with Texas Parks and Wildlife's *arundo donax* control project. The District assists with identifying areas with the invasive species and contacting landowners. p. 04

## **HIGHWAY CLEANUP**

On September 25, 2019 the District conducted a highway cleanup as part of their Adopt-A-Highway contract with TXDOT. The cleanup is a demonstration of the staffs dedication to natural resource stewardship and the protection of our environment. The staff involved with the cleanup are firm believers in the promise to protect and preserve the natural resources of the State of Texas.



## TEXAS ALLIANCE OF GROUNDWATER DISTRICTS SUMMIT

The Texas Alliance of Groundwater Districts, also known as TAGD, held their annual summit August 20-22, 2019 at the Hyatt Regency Resort in San Antonio, Texas. Dave Mauk, General Manager of Bandera County River Authority and Groundwater District, was a guest speaker on an interesting discussion panel regarding the interaction of surface water and groundwater. Alongside John Dupnik, Deputy Executive Administrator, Water Science & Conservation, for TWDB, James Beach, Senior Supervising Hydrogeologist and Area Manager of WSP, James Kowis, Principal Owner, James Kowis Consulting, and Joe Yelderman, PhD, Professor, Department of Geosciences, Baylor University, Dave delved into the topic of "Where Do You Draw the Line? Surface Water/Groundwater Interactions." The panel held a lively discussion on the proper way to manage the resources, whether that be jointly or separately.



## USDA- NATURAL RESOURCE CONSERVATION SERVICES STATE TECHNICAL COMMITTEE

The Texas State Technical Committee is an advisory organization created to provide information, feedback, and guidance to the U.S. Department of Agriculture on the Federal Farm Bill legislation. The District was first invited to participate on this committee on April 2, 2019 in order to be an active voice in the conversation regarding the protection of source water. The District sent Hayli Phillips, Intergovernmental Affairs, to represent the District on this committee. The Technical Committee met again September 5, 2019 with a much larger group of water resource activists who were prepared to work collectively toward water conservation across the State of Texas.



## TWDB- DIRECTOR JACKSON JOINS BCRA GD IN PRESS RELEASE

Texas Water Development Board Director, Kathleen Jackson, paid a visit to Bandera County River Authority and Groundwater District for the release of the Medina River Flood Early Warning System. Director Jackson addressed the attendees of the press release and commended the District and US Geological Survey on their perseverance and hard work that made this new tool set possible. Additionally, she presented the District with a certificate of completion, as pictured in the top right, with Board President, Don Sloan and General Manager, Dave Mauk.

## FLOOD EARLY WARNING SYSTEM

On August 26, 2019 the District held a joint press release with U.S. Geological Survey and Texas Water Development Board for the completion of the Medina River Flood Early Warning System. The system includes real-time data from gages surrounding the Medina River, a model demonstrating the potential flooding from rain events, and a few alert notification applications. These include a text alert system that allows you to set parameters specific to your needs and curiosity regarding the river nearest you. For more information check out the links listed below:

<https://txpub.usgs.gov/water-onthego/>  
<https://txpub.usgs.gov/txwaterdashboard/>  
<https://water.usgs.gov/wateralert/>  
<https://water.usgs.gov/waternow/>

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*These new flood-preparedness tools will give emergency management the ability to coordinate a precise response during flood events to help protect lives and property.*  
-Dave Mauk, General Manager



## ARUNDO CONTROL PROGRAM

The District has partnered with Texas Parks and Wildlife to control the non-native, invasive species known as *Arundo donax*. This cane-like plant produces seeds, but the seeds are not viable. Instead, it regenerates from the breaking of individual nodes on the stalk of the plant. In addition to rapid growth and spread, the plant consumes large quantities of water and counteracts water conservation efforts. In an effort to control the spread of this invasive species, the District is diligently working with Texas Parks and Wildlife to find and treat patches of *Arundo* growth. If you believe you have *Arundo* growing on your land and would like to have it treated, please contact the District's River Authority Operations Manager.



## CLEAN RIVERS PROGRAM

In collaboration with Texas Commission on Environmental Quality, Nueces River Authority, and San Antonio River Authority, the District takes part in the Texas Clean Rivers Program. This statewide program is designed to monitor water quality within Texas rivers. Our District's focus is on the Medina River and the Sabinal River Basins within Bandera County. By monitoring the water quality and flow, the District is able to provide valuable data to partnered agencies that better enable the District to make informed decisions concerning the health and safety of the valuable resource for the citizens of Bandera County.

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*The importance of the Clean Rivers Program cannot be expressed enough. The goal of the program is to maintain and improve water quality in the rivers by providing high-quality data to TCEQ. The promotion of cooperative watershed planning between partnerships is crucial in the protection of Texas's most valuable resource.*

*-Levi Sparks, River Authority Operations Manager*



## **BENNETT TRUST WOMEN'S CONFERENCE**

The ladies of the District were fortunate to attend the Bennett Trust Women's Land Stewardship Conference hosted by Texas A&M Agri-Life program, held in Fredericksburg, Texas. During the conference, the women were exposed to various techniques of land stewardship and wildlife protection. Throughout the course of the two day conference, our ladies were trained in plant identification and provided the resources and tools to maintain healthy land.

Additionally, the ladies were allowed the opportunity to visit a local ranch and take part in archery and shotgun shooting events, coached by trained professionals associated with the Agri-Life program. This conference provided valuable information geared toward women managing land or involved in the agriculture industry.

## **MADRONA GARDEN CLUB**

Our Education and Outreach team frequently attends the monthly meetings of the Madrona Garden Club. During these meetings, a group of environmentally conscious peers engage in proper natural resource stewardship. Within this group are several master gardeners who share their wealth of knowledge with the group regarding water conservation, soil health, and proper techniques for plant survival in their natural environment.