

BANDERA COUNTY RIVER AUTHORITY AND GROUNDWATER DISTRICT

Bi-Monthly Newsletter



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MISSION STATEMENT

The principle mission of the Bandera County River Authority and Groundwater District is to **protect and preserve** the County's water and natural resources for the State of Texas. The District is also tasked with **maintaining local accountability** of the County's water resources to help safeguard the property rights of the citizens of Bandera County.

COVID-19: The District's Response

As of March 23, 2020 the BCragd is closed to the general public to help combat the spread of COVID-19, however we are still here to serve you. As a taxing-entity we have the responsibility to maintain open and honest communication with the public. In order to do so we are still taking phone calls and answering emails, as well as monitoring the current situation and responding appropriately.

We have determined that it is in the best interest for the District staff and the community that we serve, that we take all necessary precautions to help stop the spread. This includes social distancing, working from home when applicable, and following guidelines from the CDC. For any questions or concerns please reach out to us by phone: (830)796-7260 or email us at: media@bcragd.org

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The safety and well being of the Bandera community is of the utmost importance to our District. We will continue to monitor the COVID-19 pandemic and continue to serve the community to the best of our abilities.

Texas is a strong state and together, through the cooperation of local and state agencies, we will prevail through this difficult time.

*-Hayli Phillips,
Intergovernmental
Affairs Manager*



PROJECT WILD

Education and Outreach Manager Corrina Fox and Education and Outreach Coordinator Charley Curd attended Project WILD workshops on February 27, 2020, and March 6 & 7, 2020. Both became facilitators for presenting and hosting Project WILD workshops. Project WILD is a part of the National Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies and hosted through Texas Parks and Wildlife. Project Wild's mission is to help students learn how to think, not what to think, about wildlife and the environment. This allows BCRA GD to offer low-cost workshops for community teachers and other environmental educators.

For more information on Project WILD visit <https://tpwd.texas.gov/education/project-wild>

WHY PROJECT WILD?

"As our planet grows more crowded every day, natural and wild places are rapidly diminishing . . . and so is wildlife. Project WILD explores how people can understand wildlife and habitat and make decisions that use natural resources wisely."

PROJECT WILD IS:

- Easy to use
- Works indoors or outdoors
- Correlated with TEKS
- Earn TEA approved CPE and TEEAC credit
- Activities develop conceptual skills such as analysis, classification, description, estimation, evaluation, inference, hypothesis formation, and problem solving



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 it treated, at no cost to you, please contact our River Authority Operations Manager, Levi Sparks.

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



Flood Early Warning System Updates:

On February 26, 2020 BCRAGD hosted an update meeting on the Upper Sabinal Flood Early Warning System with U.S. Geological Survey. This project is set to be completed in 2021 and will resemble the already completed Flood Early Warning System for the Medina River. Additionally, BCRAGD held a public training to demonstrate the effectiveness and capabilities of the new system. With the Flood Early Warning System web application, users are able to predict water levels and reach of flooding at multiple stages, as well as receive real time data from multiple gage sites along the Medina River. For more information please visit our website at www.bcragd.org

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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*