

BANDERA COUNTY RIVER AUTHORITY AND GROUNDWATER DISTRICT

Quarterly Newsletter



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Report!
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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.

ZEBRA MUSSELS DETECTED AT MEDINA LAKE

On March 16, 2021, the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department (TPWD) designated Medina Lake as "positive" with the invasive species, Zebra Mussels. The first sighting in Medina Lake was on February 11, 2021, by a member of the community who contacted TPWD for verification. Shortly after this, TPWD conducted their own searches and located at least 1 more Zebra Mussel. BCRA GD also conducted a search on February 24, 2021, locating a single Zebra Mussel. BCRA GD staff continues to monitor the lake to track for further spread of the mussels.



The link to the full press release made by TPWD is as listed.
<https://tpwd.texas.gov/newsmedia/releases/?req=20210316a>

TIPS FOR FLOOD PREPAREDNESS

1. Have candles and matches in case of power outages
2. Keep at least a three day supply of non-perishable foods
3. Have at least three days supply of drinkable water
4. Have a backup source for charging technology
5. Keep a supply of fuel for a generator if you have one
6. Keep a list of emergency phone numbers and websites readily available to obtain current information
7. Have Prescription meds
8. Remember “ Turn Around, Don’t Drown”; Never drive a vehicle through floodwaters.

Zebra Mussels Workshop

CLEAN – DRAIN – DRY

May 22, 2021

10 AM - 12 PM

Join us for presentations and boat cleaning demonstration on ecological impacts and what you can do to prevent the spread of invasive Zebra Mussels in Medina Lake.

The Lakehills Civic Center
11225 PR 37, Lakehills, TX 78063

To register for the event email
media@bcragd.org

or call (830) 796-7260

Space is limited!

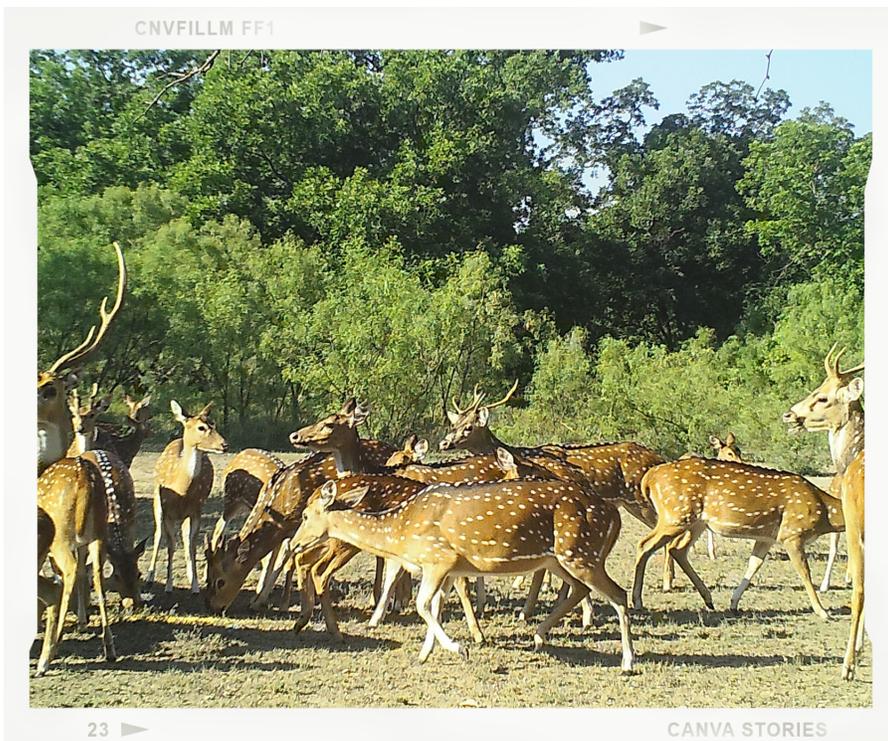


TEXAS
PARKS &
WILDLIFE

AXIS DEER PROJECT

Axis Deer are an exotic species that were introduced from India to the Texas Hill Country in the 1930s. Since their introduction, this species has proliferated in several portions of the Hill Country, adversely impacting agricultural production, native wildlife, and riparian, or creek-side, habitat.

The Hill Country Alliance, Texas Tech University's Department of Natural Resources Management, Bandera County River Authority, and Groundwater District, and partners launched the Axis Deer Control Project in January 2021. The goals of the Axis Deer Control Project are to raise awareness about the impacts of free-ranging Axis Deer, recognize land stewards for their efforts to control this exotic species, and support research that will improve control effort. The project was completed on March 16, 2021. Landowner participation provided researchers with enough information to further investigate the population patterns of the Axis Deer.



WATER CONSERVATION TIPS

1. Be mindful of running water. Don't keep the faucet running the entire time you're brushing your teeth or washing your hands.
2. Fix leaks as soon as possible.
3. Don't let the toilet run
4. Wash full loads of dishes and laundry. ...
5. Run the sprinklers in the morning.

FLOOD SEASON: GAINING REAL-TIME INFORMATION DURING A FLOOD EVENT

Flood season is upon us! As residents living within and adjacent to the Hill Country, we certainly understand the roller coaster weather patterns of Droughts and Floods, more specifically - Flash Floods. Although providing much-needed water to replenish our resources, the seriousness of a flash flood and the negative impacts it can have can be devastating.

BCRAGD applied for and was awarded cooperative funding Grants from Texas Water Development Board to team up with the United States Geological Survey (USGS) for implementing a Flood Early Warning System (FEWS) for Bandera County. The FEWS monitors critical segments of the Medina and Sabinal River basins and includes river gauges at several locations. In addition, the USGS has installed several rainfall gauges throughout both basins and within the headwaters of the upper Edwards plateau. The USGS created a scientific simulation model which uses the information from the FEWS gauges to create a flood inundation map and graph for areas that would be impacted by various degrees of flooding. The FEWS river gauges and high-intensity rainfall gauges can provide near real-time actual conditions such as water stages (rising or falling) water flow (increasing or decreasing).

Residents can go to the USGS WaterAlert website <https://water.usgs.gov/wateralert> to sign up for updates. Also, residents can go to <https://webapps.usgs.gov/infrm/fdst> to view a flood inundation map. Residents can click on a particular flood gauge and area to see how far flood waters will go outside the banks of the waterway.