October 2021

Vol 1 Issue 08

BANDERA COUNTY RIVER AUTHORITY AND GROUNDWATER DISTRICT

Quarterly Newsletter

Inside the Issue

Check out our website for our 2020 Annual Report!
www.bcragd.org

Connect with us:
Facebook @bcragd
Instagram @bcragd_tx
Twitter @BCRAGD_TX

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.

In Memory of Marvin Gene Wehmeyer

Marvin “Gene” Wehmeyer passed from this life on July 31, 2021 in San Antonio, Texas after a courageous fight with cancer at the age of 76. He was born on December 18, 1944 in Guadalupe County, Texas to William Henry Wehmeyer and Ruth Helen Stahl, the youngest of six children.

Gene moved from Seguin to San Antonio when he was eight, attending Highlands High School. His career in machining and steel fabricating that began at Alamo Iron Works was interrupted by the call to active duty. He served in the U.S Army’s 238th Maintenance Company assigned to the 5th ARVN Infantry in My Tho, Vietnam and was honorably discharged after being wounded in 1968. Shortly after his return, he moved to Bandera, where he operated his own machining and steel fabricating business for nearly 40 years. During his long career, Gene proudly built many things in and around the San Antonio area including the Hemisphere Park arch and he worked on the Tower of Americas when it was being built for the 1968 World’s Fair. Never one to be idle, Gene liked to spend his spare time building hotrods and volunteering in the community. He served as a Director for the Bandera County River Authority & Groundwater District from 2009-2021.

Meet our new Team Members!

This quarter Bandera County River Authority and Groundwater District added three new members to our team.

Meet Diane Irvin
Diane joined the District in August of 2021 as our Office Coordinator.

Meet Luke Whitmire
Luke joined the District in August of 2021 as our Surface Water Science Manager.

Meet Shelby Sckittone
Shelby joined the District in September 2021 as a Natural Resource Specialist, after interning at the District for three months.

Water Quality Sampling

District In-House

The District has expanded the number of In-House sampling sights to include:

1. Medina River @ Peaceful Valley Rd
2. Privilege Creek @ SH 16
3. Medina Lake @ Pop's Place
4. Medina Lake @ Haby's Cove
5. Medina Lake @ Red Cove Marina

This brings the total number of Quarterly In-House Sites to 31. A map of the most recent sampling results can be found on the BCRAGD website under the Surface Water tab or at this link https://www.bcragd.org/water-quality-testing/

Clean Rivers Program

The San Antonio River Authority and the Nueces River Authority successfully conducted their biannual CRP Assessment of BCRAGD CRP protocols on July 15th, 2021.

The District obtained two additional sampling sites for the Clean Rivers Program
TCEQ-22306: Sabinal River near Lost Maples SNA
TCEQ-18407: Diversion Lake just upstream of Diversion Lake Dam.

Rainwater Harvesting Benefits

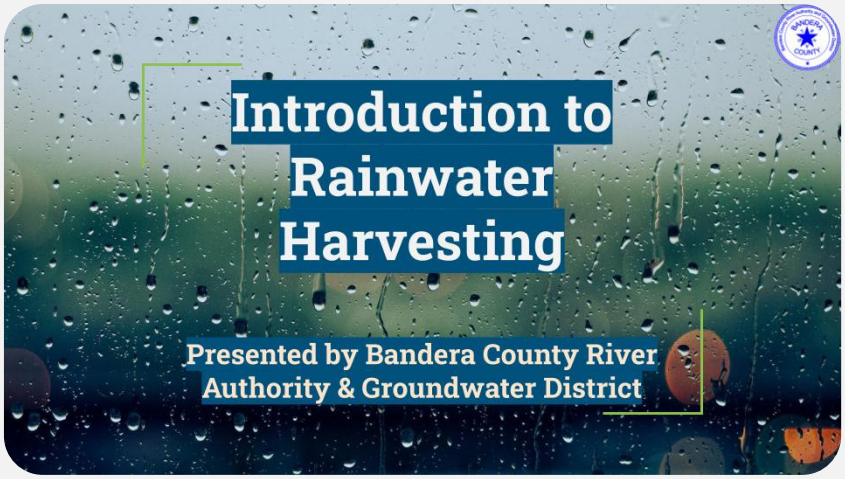
1. Reduces demand and strain on traditional water supplies, such as water utility systems and the aquifer.
2. Each 2,000 square feet of collection surface generates approximately 1,200 gallons of water
3. Reduces runoff and storm drain flow and spread of pollution
4. Rainwater is FREE!
5. Rainwater has great water quality: zero hardness, Sodium-free, nearly neutral pH (there are exceptions in some areas)
6. Better for landscaping and gardens than treated water

Education Update

The BCRAGD Education and Outreach team partnered with **Medina Library** on July 27, 2021 to offer water conservation and preservation education to children of various ages. Charley Curd presented the water cycle story time and activity boards to the younger age group and Corrina Fox presented the What is a Watershed information and build your own watershed activity to the older age group. There were a total of 18 children that participated in the event

RAINWATER HARVESTING CAMPAGIN

BCRAGD EDUCATION TEAM CONDUCTED A MONTH-LONG **RAINWATER HARVESTING CAMPAIGN** THAT CONSISTED OF INFORMATION POSTED VIA SOCIAL MEDIA SITES ACROSS SEVERAL WEEKS IN SEPTEMBER. THIS CAMPAIGN CONCLUDED WITH A VIRTUAL PRESENTATION OF AN INTRODUCTION TO RAINWATER HARVESTING.



Arundo

Photographed below is Arundo donax in Bandera County. BCRAGD works with Texas Parks and Wildlife toward control of this highly invasive non-native grass! Arundo can be significantly damaging to the health of streams and rivers by affecting water quality and quantity!
For more information visit the link!
https://tpwd.texas.gov/.../aquatic.../healthy-creeks.phtm

UPCOMING EVENTS

BCRAGD Quarterly Board Meeting - **Nov 4th**

Bandera SWCD Shrub, GRASS & Tree Sale
- Order forms due Nov 15th.
- Pick up Dec 1st.

America Recycles Day - **Nov 15th**

If interested in having BCRAGD give a talk to your organization please email us at
media@bcragd.org