

Dear GEAA members and friends,

I recently returned from the [International Congress of Speleology](#), held in Brno, Czech Republic. The Congress was great! I learned plenty during a full week of presentations. I was especially impressed by a presentation about programs offered in Kentucky and [Florida](#) to [promote karst groundwater awareness and sustainability](#). We here at GEAA have long wanted to devise a campaign to educate citizens, (especially those who live over the Edwards Aquifer Recharge and Contributing zones!) about the how best to protect our groundwater. It looks like we can contract with the folks who put these campaigns together to offer this here in Central Texas, and I am seeking to funding to make this happen. If you are interested in contributing to this effort please let me know – [or send your contribution](#) today.

While abroad, I toured the Slovenian and Morovian Karst areas of Eastern Europe. Besides enjoying the scenery, seeing some of the most beautiful caves in the world, and learning about the geology of these regions, I also learned something about the Edwards. Nowhere did I see the porous rocks riddled with holes that are so common to the recharge zone of our aquifer. This brought home what geologists are always saying about the Edwards – that it is uniquely prolific among karst aquifers. Not only does water enter through sink holes, faults and caves, it enters the Edwards directly through every bit of ground on the Recharge Zone. Of course, this makes the Edwards uniquely vulnerable to pollution from development of this area.

You may have read recently about developments proposed for [San Marcos](#) and [Austin](#). Meanwhile, GEAA just received notice of an application to the City of San Antonio to put 5,526 dwelling units on 800 acres of the Edwards Aquifer Recharge Zone on Bulverde Road just north of Loop 1604. GEAA and all of our member groups need your support – both financial and as advocates - to keep new high density developments off the Recharge Zone. This is challenging but, every bit of recharge zone that we protect will be so appreciated by those drinking this water in the years to come.

I'm glad to be back, and I hope to hear from you soon.

Annalisa Peace
Executive Director
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