



Dear GEAA members and friends,

Lots going on this past week and in the weeks to come!

Congratulations to new Edwards Aquifer Authority Board Member, Susan Hughes, who was chosen to fill an unexpired term to represent District 3. You can read more [here](#).

Please note that ten of the fifteen elected EAA Board members are up for re-election in November – Districts 1, 3, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 11, 13, and 15. Learn more about incumbent board members [here](#) and find out what district you are in [here](#). Information about how to file to run for a seat on the board will be posted on the [web site](#) sometime in August, with applications accepted in August and September of 2018. For further information about running for election you can call 210-222-2204.

A lawsuit involving the EAA is in the [news](#) again. In 2012, the League of United Latin American Citizens (LULAC) sued the EAA on the grounds that the structure of the board is unconstitutional because the rural areas of the district have greater representation than do the citizens of Bexar County. The case has been pending a decision from Chief U.S. District Judge Orlando Garcia. We will be following this case very closely and, frankly, do not relish the prospect of upsetting the balance between rural and urban interests that rely on our Aquifer. You can read more from the Rivard report [here](#). Stay tuned for more.

New Braunfels Parkland Dedication Ordinance

On Monday, March 12th the New Braunfels City Council considered and postponed a vote on revising the Park Land Dedication and Development ordinance. Mayor Casteel spoke of the benefits of adopting the full ordinance as recommended by City staff. He lauded the foresight of the council members who voted in 1938 to purchase the land for Landa Park, pointing out that this was done during the depression and council still went ahead with the

purchase because they realized that the site is a treasure and that the City of New Braunfels has benefitted from this purchase ever since.

Justin Meadows, Dist. 2 Council member, feared that developers would “flee” New Braunfels if staff recommendations were adopted. He would like to “phase” the new requirements in over three years and reduce the fees. Councilman Ron Reeves, Dist. 3 made a motion to adopt the fee at 60% of staff recommendations. Several spoke in favor of reducing the fees but, few citizens were there to support the ordinance.

These revisions are greatly needed to meet the challenge of providing parks - so that as New Braunfels grows, it will remain among the most beautiful and livable cities in the Texas Hill Country.

The vote is now scheduled for this coming Monday, March 26th at 6:p.m. at New Braunfels City Hall (550 Landa Street). This is item 4C on the [Agenda](#). Click [here](#) to learn more about the revised ordinance, including a comparison with the current ordinance.

Please plan on speaking in favor of the staff recommended revisions and/or contact Mayor Casteel and your [City Council representatives](#) and urge them to vote yes on the Parkland Dedication and Development ordinance as proposed by City staff. I hope to see you on Monday night at City Hall!

Announcements:

Which City is the Wildest?

Cities around the world will compete on April 27 – 30, 2018 to see which urban area has the most nature and the most engaged residents. This [City Nature Challenge](#) will include more than 60 cities around the world including 7 metro areas here in Texas: Amarillo, Austin, Dallas/Fort Worth, El Paso, Houston, Lower Rio Grande Valley, and San Antonio.

If you live in or around one of these areas, show the world just how much nature we have here in Texas! It's easy to participate by joining an event or making observations on your own using the [iNaturalist app](#). Take a picture of a wild animal, plant, or fungi, upload it to [iNaturalist](#), and the online community will help you accurately identify the species. We will also need help May 1-3, 2018 with identifications on iNaturalist, so no matter where you are in the world, share your Texas nature knowledge to help make this project a success.

Texas Parks and Wildlife, the Texas Master Naturalists, the Audubon Society, and many others in Texas will be joining this fun challenge. The data generated from this event will help researchers, land managers, and policy makers, so please participate! How will we measure up to other cities around the world?

Go to www.tpwd.texas.gov/naturechallenge to watch the Texas leaderboard or learn more about how you can participate. You can also contact the [Texas Nature Trackers program](#) with any questions. Let's find some nature!

Public Meetings to Plan Hays County Trail System

The public is invited to attend workshops to learn about and provide input on the [Emerald Crown Regional Trail concept](#). The Emerald Crown Trail, as envisioned, would link Buda, Kyle and San Marcos. The workshops will begin with an overview presentation about the trail concept, followed by an opportunity for the public to provide input on what the trail could look like, potential destinations and trailhead locations, and feasible trail routes. The Emerald Crown Trail is still in the very early stages of planning, and input is needed from the public to refine the trail concept. The workshops will be facilitated by the National Park Service Rivers, Trails and Conservation Assistance Program. Regional Trail Work Group members include the San Marcos Greenbelt Alliance; Hays County; the cities of Buda, Kyle and San Marcos; the Meadows Center for Water and the Environment at Texas State University; the Guadalupe-Blanco River Trust; the Hill Country Conservancy; the Texas State University Geography Department; and Take-a-Hike San Marcos.

There will be a 30 minute presentation at 7:p.m. followed by an open house for public feedback from 7:30 to 9 p.m. on the following dates:

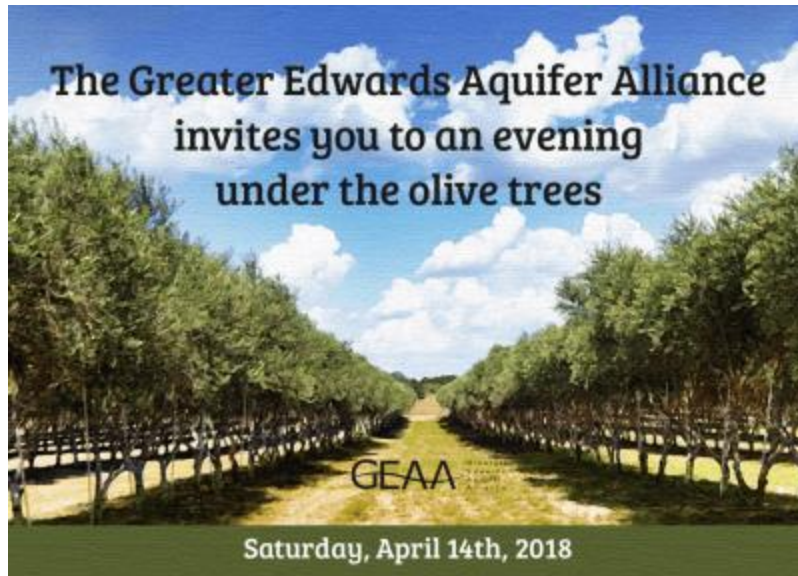
March 27, Rec Hall in San Marcos City Park near Lions Tube Rental, 170 Charles Austin Drive, San Marcos.

March 28, Buda City Council Chambers, 121 S. Main, Buda.

March 29, Kyle City Hall, 100 W. Center St, Kyle.

Don't miss your chance to learn more about this exciting project!

Come Party with GEAA!



Come celebrate 13 years of accomplishments of the Greater Edwards Aquifer Alliance with good food, good music, and good friends at the Sandy Oaks Olive Orchard.

Just 20 miles from San Antonio, you won't want to miss this extraordinary evening in the orchard!

Libations and a four course buffet dinner will be served from 5:p.m. to 9:p.m.

The Ken Slavin Trio will perform for your dancing and dining pleasure.

\$125/individual \$200/couple

Saturday, April 14th from 5:00 to 9:00 p.m.

Look for your invitation in the mail or [click here](#) to purchase tickets.

Hope you are all enjoying this lovely spring weather and I hope to see you at one or more of these events. Have a great weekend!

Annalisa Peace

Executive Director
[Greater Edwards Aquifer Alliance](#)

You can donate to GEAA [on line](#) or mail a check to PO Box 15618, San Antonio, Texas 78212

You can always keep up with interesting water news on [GEAA's Face Book page](#)