



MEMBER SPOTLIGHT



This month's member group spotlight is focused on our two caver member groups:

Bexar Grotto and Texas Cave Management Association.

This fascinating article in the December Issue of Texas Monthly titled "*Deep - very, very, very Deep- In the heart of Texas*" and its focus on aquifer quality inspired us to share the important work of these two organizations and their commitment to the conservation of caves and karst resources in Texas. Texas Cave Management Association and Bexar Grotto serve as much

needed protectors of these delicate ecosystems, helping to ensure that they can survive for generations to come.

As noted by the [Texas Cave Management Association](#), caves are a valuable natural resource that takes hundreds of thousands of years to form and are home to unique and endangered species. However, even the slightest change in these environments can have detrimental effects to the cave chemistry and fauna. TCMA owns and manages caves and nature preserves across Texas, from the Texas Hill Country to the heart of major cities, such as Whirlpool Cave in Austin and Robber Baron Cave in San Antonio. The work of groups like TCMA and Bexar Grotto serves as much needed protectors of these delicate ecosystems, helping to ensure that they can survive for generations to come.

The [Bexar Grotto](#) has been a forum for cavers to meet in San Antonio, Texas since 1983. They offer opportunities for individuals who want to join their friendly group of cavers for caving activities and muddy fun, including:

- **Exploration** where they explore and map caves
- **Karst Projects** to discover new caves, like the ongoing karst projects at Government Canyon SNA and Hill Country SNA;
- **Events**, such as the hugely popular Robber Cave Open House
- **Education** with members frequently giving caving presentations, hosting informational booths and kiosks at events, and supporting field trips for schools and outdoor groups;
- **Conservation** by assisting private landowners and government agencies in developing management plans for caves and karst.

As noted in the Texas Monthly story shared above, reports and information derived from exploring our caves are as valuable to our understanding our ecosystem as a surgeon is to understanding the human body. It is there we learn a tremendous amount about the status of our groundwater!

GEAA is extremely thankful to Texas Cave Management Association and Bexar Grotto for all they do and for being valued member organizations of the Greater Edwards Aquifer Alliance.

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