



## **Support research, education, and community outreach programs.**

Technical Research – GEAA’s Technical Team is made up of professionals from various fields who volunteer their expertise in various research projects that are designed to inform development of policy that promotes preservation of our regional water resources.

Technical teams directed by GEAA staff and expert volunteers engage student interns from Trinity University, Texas State University, St. Mary’s University, the University of Texas at San Antonio, Texas A & M at San Antonio, and Our Lady of the Lake University in semester –long research projects. The program provides students the opportunity to work closely with experts in their field of study and has leveraged hundreds of thousands of dollars in expertise and research time.

GEAA submits all research for peer review prior to publication. Reports and research generated by GEAA have served to inform decisions of local governments and agencies, the State Legislature, and others. Through these efforts, we promote common sense conservation measures and advocate for new ways of thinking about water conservation and how we will serve a growing population, as well measures needed to protect the quality of our ground and surface water resources.

Our monthly Water Wonks Lecture Series shares the latest research on a variety of scientific topics related to management of Central Texas’ water resources. This series is becoming a networking opportunity for us water wonks to work together and share exciting new information and opportunities. Recordings of all of our lectures are available on GEAA’s website.

### Education

Community Education - GEAA staff presents lectures on the geology and hydrology of the Edwards and Trinity karst aquifers to home owners’ associations, religious congregations, GEAA member organizations, and various other civic organizations.

Lectures often address current events and issues and may be tailored to specific topics requested by the host organization. GEAA staff are also invited as featured speakers for conferences and panel discussions throughout the state. Each semester we present lectures at area colleges and universities.

Community organizing and coalition building are critical to ensuring that other approaches are effective. A well-educated public engaged in advocacy of public policy based on sound, up to date science is needed if we are to succeed in systematic change in water conservation and spring protection.

Educating Elected Officials and Policy Makers – GEAA has initiated and maintained good relationships with our regional delegation on the State legislature and is recognized as providing scientifically sound information to bolster policy positions at all levels of government. We have also developed relationships with many of the County Commissioners, City Council members, and Trustees of the regional Groundwater Conservation Districts, serving as a resource that is at their disposal for expertise on specific topics related to protection and management of our water resources, land use issues, and best management practices. We find that the elected officials, citizens, and staff who serve in local governance respond very favorably once they are educated as to the special fragility of a karst aquifer system.

Press and Publicity - One of the strengths of the GEAA staff is that we have been able to translate the work of scientists and researchers into easily digestible news items and alerts, and apply that information to issues of concern in order to engender support for the work that we are doing to preserve our water and natural resources. Because GEAA has built a reputation for knowing the issues, statements from GEAA staff are regularly requested, especially from print news publications. The work we do with the media to publicize these issues has also been extremely effective.

Were it not for our ability to communicate these issues in formats amenable to policy makers, press and media, as well as the general public, it is highly unlikely that these issues would gain the traction needed to effect positive change.

Sustain the dedicated staff and resources essential to our conservation work.

GEAA does an enormous amount of work given the size of [our staff](#). In addition to Executive Director, Annalisa Peace, we are blessed to have three expert Technical Directors (Deborah Reid, Nathan Glavy, and Mike Clifford) and Policy Director, Rachel Hanes.

Our Office Manager, Kellie Fichter, with her assistant, Olivia Walshak produces our monthly newsletters, designs our communications, and plans our various events, including our annual gala.

GEAA staff represents our members on the following state and national committees and stakeholder groups. None of these activities are grant-funded, though participating in these activities is integral to fulfilling GEAA's mission of preserving and protecting the environment and water resources of Central Texas.

- Texas Water Development Board's Regional Flood Planning Groups for the Guadalupe and San Antonio Watersheds - Executive Director, Annalisa Peace and Technical Director, Deborah Reid respectively
- Region L Water Planning Group representing environmental interests – Ms. Peace
- City of San Antonio Stormwater Advisory Committee – Ms. Reid
- Mayfair Conservation Study Committee of New Braunfels – Policy Director, Ms. Hanes
- Texas Chapter of the American Water Works Association – Conservation & Reuse committees – Ms. Hanes
- Texas Water Action Collaborative – Ms. Peace
- Texas Riparian Association, Board Member At-Large – Technical Director, Mr. Glavy
- Wastewater Conservation Coalition – Ms. Peace and Mr. Glavy
- San Antonio River Authority Environmental Advisory Committee – Ms. Peace
- Texas Hill Country Conservation Network – Ms. Peace
- Camp Bullis Sentinel Landscape Project – Ms. Peace, Ms. Reid, Mr. Glavy
- Federal Regional Conservation Partnership Program – Ms. Peace
- EPA San Antonio Urban Waters Federal Partnership – Ms. Peace, Mr. Glavy
- Edwards Aquifer Habitat Conservation Plan – Ms. Peace
- Joint Base San Antonio Comprehensive Land Use Plan – Ms. Peace
- Medina River Watershed Protection Plan – Mr. Glavy