

An aerial photograph of a rural landscape. A dirt road runs diagonally from the top left towards the bottom right. To the right of the road is a fenced-in area with several large rocks and small plants. In the center, there are two small structures with red roofs. A large, dense cluster of green trees is in the lower-left quadrant. Utility poles and power lines are visible across the scene.

NEWS DROP

A Publication of The Edwards Aquifer Authority

TAKING AQUIFER RESEARCH TO NEW HEIGHTS

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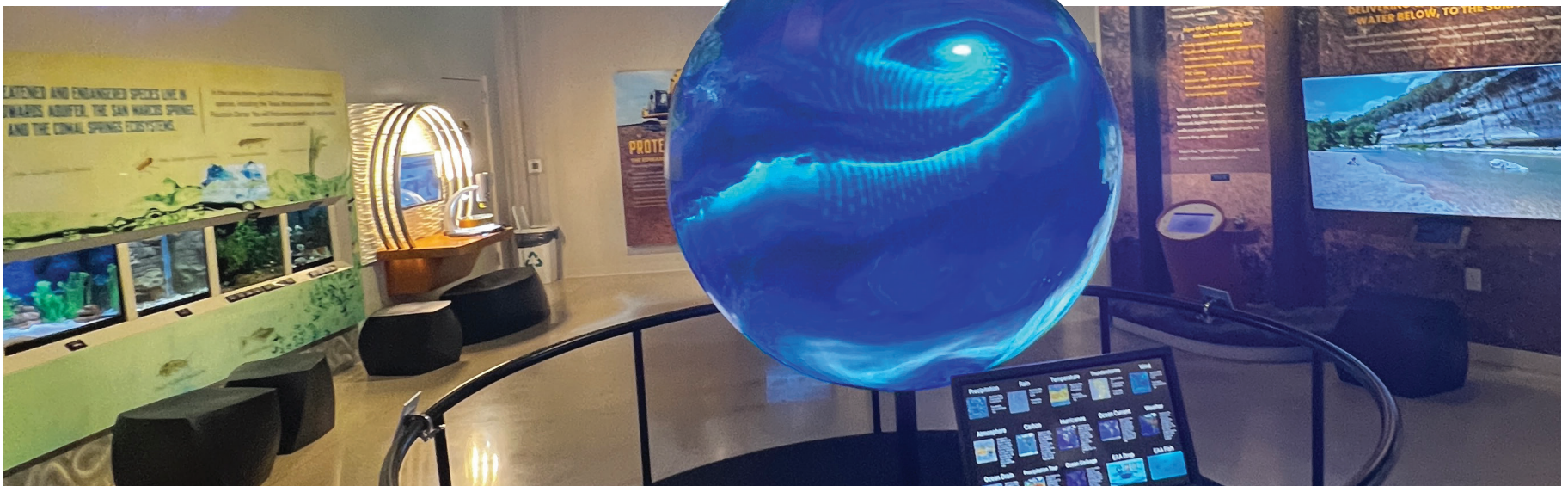


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EAA BOARD MEETING
ON FACEBOOK LIVE:



AQUIFER UPDATE



An aquifer conditions update is reported every month at the EAA board meeting to inform board members and the public about the status of the J-17 Index Well, J-27 Index Well, the Comal Springs and the San Marcos Springs springflows. These index wells and springs are indicators of the health of the aquifer and critical to drought management.

The EAA board meeting takes place every second Tuesday of the month at 4:00 P.M. You can watch the meetings on Facebook Live or click the link below:

<https://edwardsaquifer.legistar.com/Calendar.aspx>

A MESSAGE OF THANKS

By: **Mike De La Garza**,
Executive Director, Communications & Development

In 2023 Texas continued to suffer from drought conditions. The Edwards Aquifer region has not been spared – currently, the area is experiencing moderate to severe drought. And while sporadic rain events have brought the occasional welcome respite, the deficit remains, and we continue to struggle.

As with all struggles, applying an ongoing, focused effort to address them head-on and propel forward, is critical to successfully overcoming them. And in this moment, we at the Edwards Aquifer Authority are focused and determined. We have proven systems in place to regulate the withdrawal of water from the Edwards Aquifer. In this way, everyone who depends on it for their lives and livelihoods can rest assured that an adequate water supply is on hand. EAA scientists are working collaboratively with other agencies to study and consider techniques which can increase both the yield of Aquifer water, while potentially enhancing its quality. We monitor and protect endangered species, ensuring their survival even in the direst of conditions. And we continuously communicate and interact with the communities we serve so that our programs are understood, and offer aid and training where needed and requested.

LIKE THE FLOW OF WATER,

the work of the Edwards Aquifer Authority is a continuous and ongoing motion, never-ending and always on a journey. Our journey is one of continuous improvement – from investigation, to observation, to insights gleaned and applied. We are an organization that works to apply the energies of each one of our employees, into a force for good. We imagine possibilities, we innovate solutions, and most importantly, we endeavor to include everyone to be a part of the journey.

At this time of year, when we traditionally pause and reflect on what we're thankful for – amongst the many things to celebrate are the pioneers who worked to create the Edwards Aquifer Authority and saw it through its many struggles in its formative years. Today, we stand on their shoulders as we pursue the Next Generation journey of the EAA, building upon their good work and great faith in the efforts to conserve and protect the waters of the Edwards Aquifer. It is with deep appreciation and gratitude that we say "thanks" to all who have made the Edwards Aquifer Authority what it is today, and what it will be, moving forward. Here's to the journey!





EAA SCIENTISTS ARE WORKING COLLABORATIVELY WITH OTHER AGENCIES TO STUDY AND CONSIDER TECHNIQUES WHICH CAN INCREASE BOTH THE YIELD OF AQUIFER WATER, AND ITS QUALITY.”

DRONES ARE HELPING EAA SCIENTISTS AT THE FIELD RESEARCH PARK

By: **Brent Doty**, P.G.
Research Manager

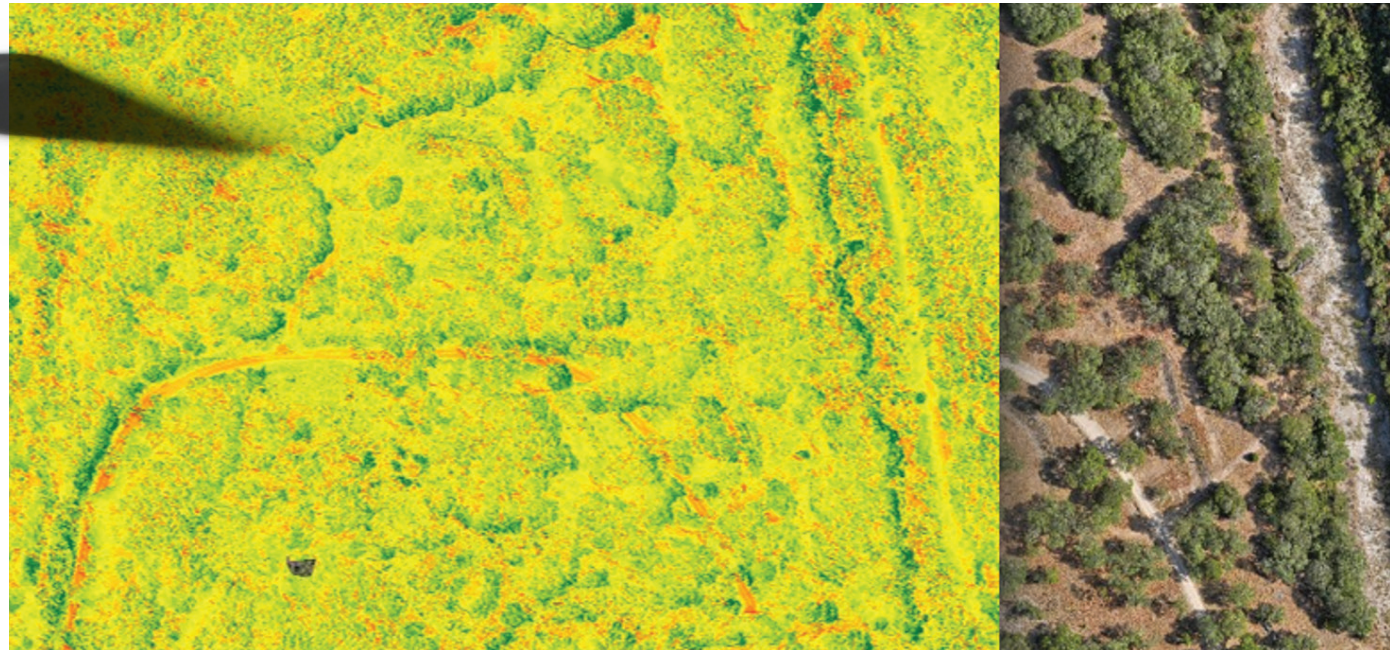
Scientists at the EAA's Field Research Park are investigating the potential to use natural infrastructure to benefit both the water quantity and quality to the Aquifer. Land management techniques such as the addition of berm and swales, rock sills, and other simple rock structures can slow, spread, and sink additional runoff, improving infiltration and filtering of potential recharge. Work at the Field Research Park involves a dynamic multiyear study examining all facets of the water budget, from rainfall and evaporation to infiltration and runoff. With so much happening over a relatively large study area, how can we monitor changes across the landscape or ecosystem? Drone-based remote sensing may provide part of the answer.

Remote sensing is the process of gathering information from a distance—we are literally “sensing” information about the earth from a distance. Historically, satellites and aircraft were the primary platforms for remote sensing. While those techniques remain important today, drones are now playing a growing role in collecting low-cost high quality remotely sensed data. EAA scientists use drones to conduct 2D and 3D photogrammetry, multispectral imaging, and thermal infrared spectroscopy. Data from each of these methods can give us unique information about our study area.



Geoscientist II Taylor Bruecher and Environmental GIS Analyst II Matthew Rogers conduct a drone-based remote sensing mission at the EAA's Field Research Park.

An NDVI or Normalized Difference Vegetation Index uses a ratio of the red and near-infrared spectra to quantify vegetative health. Illustrated here, the reds and yellows represent vegetation that scored lower in the index and is stressed or dying due to ongoing drought conditions.



2D AND 3D PHOTOGRAMMETRY

2D and 3D photogrammetry is likely the most familiar remote sensing technique. Have you ever used Google Earth, or Bing Maps? If so, you have used remotely sensed data. 2D and 3D photogrammetry includes true color images or maps of the Earth's surface. These images are taken within the visible spectrum, or the spectrum of light that we can see as humans. 2D images show the landscape in true color, but do not indicate elevation or topography. 3D photogrammetry shows the Earth as we all see it, in three dimensions. EAA scientists are using 2D and 3D photogrammetry collected by drones to create hi-resolution maps for research, to monitor changes over time, and to create outreach tools for education.



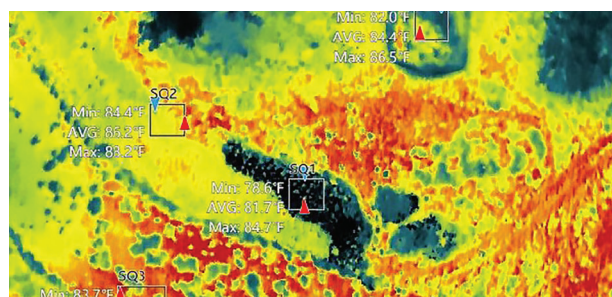
Hi-resolution 2D images help researchers document changes over time and provide accurate field maps for planning purposes.

MULTISPECTRAL IMAGING

Multispectral imaging uses specific wavelengths of light across the sun's electromagnetic spectrum. While we as humans normally see a blend of the visible wavelengths, a multispectral camera can isolate wavelengths of both visible and invisible light, such as near-infrared, red, green, and blue, to provide valuable information about the landscape. EAA researchers use multispectral indices, specific ratios of the individual spectral bands collected by a multispectral drone, to quantify the health and vitality of vegetation across the study area.

THERMAL INFRARED SPECTROSCOPY

Thermal Infrared Spectroscopy (TIR) is a remote sensing method that measures the infrared radiation emitted from the surfaces. EAA scientists are using a TIR equipped drone to monitor temperature variations of land management features compared to control areas. For example, land management techniques that lower surface temperatures during hot weather may be conducive to healthier soils and subsequently more water storage.



Thermal Infrared Spectroscopy (TIR) is used to measure the radiation emitted by different materials on the Earth's surface. This TIR image was captured via a drone flown over some of the land management practice areas at the FRP.

WE'LL KEEP DRONING ON

As the land management features mature, and weather and climate conditions change at the Field Research Park, EAA scientists will continue to conduct routine drone-based remote sensing flights to develop valuable datasets to assist with the overall research goals of the site.

Learn more about the Field Research Park and drone-based remote sensing through this interactive Storymap here: [Next Generation Aquifer Resiliency \(arcgis.com\)](https://storymaps.arcgis.com/stories/645867b27ab9432c8950ba32be6ef018)

<https://storymaps.arcgis.com/stories/645867b27ab9432c8950ba32be6ef018>



MUNICIPAL AND INDUSTRIAL METER UPGRADES FOR AUTOMATION

BUREAU OF RECLAMATION FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE GRANT CALENDAR YEARS 2023 AND 2024

By: **Earl E. Parker II**, P.G. #3350,
Senior Director of Regulatory Affairs



Beginning in 2015 with an initial set of volunteer participants at 60 well locations, EAA launched its automated meter reading (AMR) program for irrigation permit

holders. As initially conceived, EAA staff would retrofit existing mechanical water-flow meters on these permitted wells with electronic and communications capabilities that allows same-day transmission of meter data to the EAA. The EAA benefits from AMR by collecting an expanding database of accurate meter readings while the permit holder benefits by no longer having to file groundwater use reporting forms with the EAA. By the end of 2018, there were 68 AMR stations operating in an expanding network of volunteer participants.

During a Technical Briefing to the EAA Board of Directors in July 2019, the Board allowed staff to offer AMR to volunteer Municipal and Industrial (M&I) permit holders. After addressing a few additional technical challenges integrating different meter types, EAA entered into an agreement with Medina River West Water Supply Corporation in August 2021 to operate our first AMR stations for a municipal permit holder.

It was about this time EAA staff was made aware of Federal Grant opportunities with the Bureau of Reclamation that could be applicable to AMR. With prior experience working with the Texas Water Development Board with grant opportunities related to electronic meters, EAA responded to the Bureau



of Reclamation's Small-Scale Water Efficiency Project for a grant.

In January 2023, EAA was notified that it was selected for funding through the Small-Scale Water Efficiency Project (SWEP). Through this program, the Bureau provides cost shared financial assistance to organizations like the EAA to implement small-scale water efficiency projects. EAA was awarded a "Municipal and Industrial Meter Upgrades for Automation" project for an amount of \$63,712 (EAA's share is \$31,856) to be utilized during 2022 and 2023.

As stated in the award letter, "The Edwards Aquifer Authority will upgrade 21 municipal and industrial manual read flowmeters with digital registers and the capacity to communicate with the EAA's existing SCADA system. By automating the meter reading program, water permit holders will improve accuracy and real-time understanding of their water usage and help comply with water use regulations."

EAA staff is well on its way to fulfilling its obligations under this federal grant. Municipal permit holders signed up to volunteer under this proposal includes the City of Converse, City of Live Oak, City of Leon Valley and Universal City, and 10 meters have been upgraded to AMR, with four more to go by the end of this year. EAA staff is seeking out Industrial permit holders to participate. On November 7, 2023, EAA staff

hosted a small delegation from the Bureau of Reclamation who were attending a conference in San Antonio. They were shown two recently completed AMR retrofits under the grant at wells belonging to the City of Converse.

With AMR, the EAA meter program hopes to collect quality meter information to support future data analysis and aquifer modeling efforts while providing the permit holder timely groundwater use information to better manage their permits. As a science-based organization rooted in a philosophy of Regulation through Service, the more information provided to policy makers, the more informed are the decisions that better manage, enhance, and protect the Edward Aquifer System.



EAA AWARDED GFOA'S CERTIFICATE OF ACHIEVEMENT FOR EXCELLENCE IN FINANCIAL REPORTING FOR FISCAL YEAR ENDED 2021

Earlier this year, the Government Finance Officers Association of the United States and Canada (GFOA) awarded the Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting to the Edwards Aquifer Authority for its annual comprehensive financial report for the fiscal year ended December 31, 2021.

The GFOA established the Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting Program (Certificate Program) in 1945 to encourage and assist state and local governments to go beyond the minimum requirements of generally accepted accounting principles to prepare annual comprehensive financial reports.

Upon submission, the report is judged by an impartial panel to determine if it meets the high standards of the Certificate Program, which includes demonstrating a constructive "spirit of full disclosure" to clearly communicate its financial story and motivate potential users and user groups to read the report. The Certificate of Achievement award is the highest form of recognition in governmental accounting and financial reporting, and its attainment represents

a significant accomplishment by a government and its management.

The EAA has received this award each year for the past several years and it is a testament to the commitment to a sustained level of excellence and public transparency by the EAA Board and staff. The EAA's Finance Department, headed by Shelly Hendrix, leads the charge to ensure a comprehensive, meaningful, and transparent report is submitted year after year. The Finance Department collaborates with many staff members across the organization to produce this award-winning document. In addition to the Certificate of Achievement award presented to the EAA, the GFOA also recognized the individual efforts of Finance Department staff with an award of Financial Reporting Achievement.

Congratulations to Shelly and her team!

Government Finance Officers Association.
Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in
Financial Reporting (COA) Program.
<https://www.gfoa.org/coa-award>



A FORECAST OF GRATITUDE THIS THANKSGIVING

BILL TAYLOR: THE WEATHER CHIEF WITH A TOWERING PRESENCE AND A BIG HEART FOR THE EDWARDS AQUIFER

By: **Nikki Young**,
Sr. Community Engagement Administrator

WATER IS LIFE

**AND I FEEL THE EDUCATION
OUTREACH CENTER IS CRUCIAL FOR
AREA RESIDENTS. IT'S TEACHING US
ALL SO MUCH ABOUT THIS AREA'S
PRIMARY WATER SOURCE.**

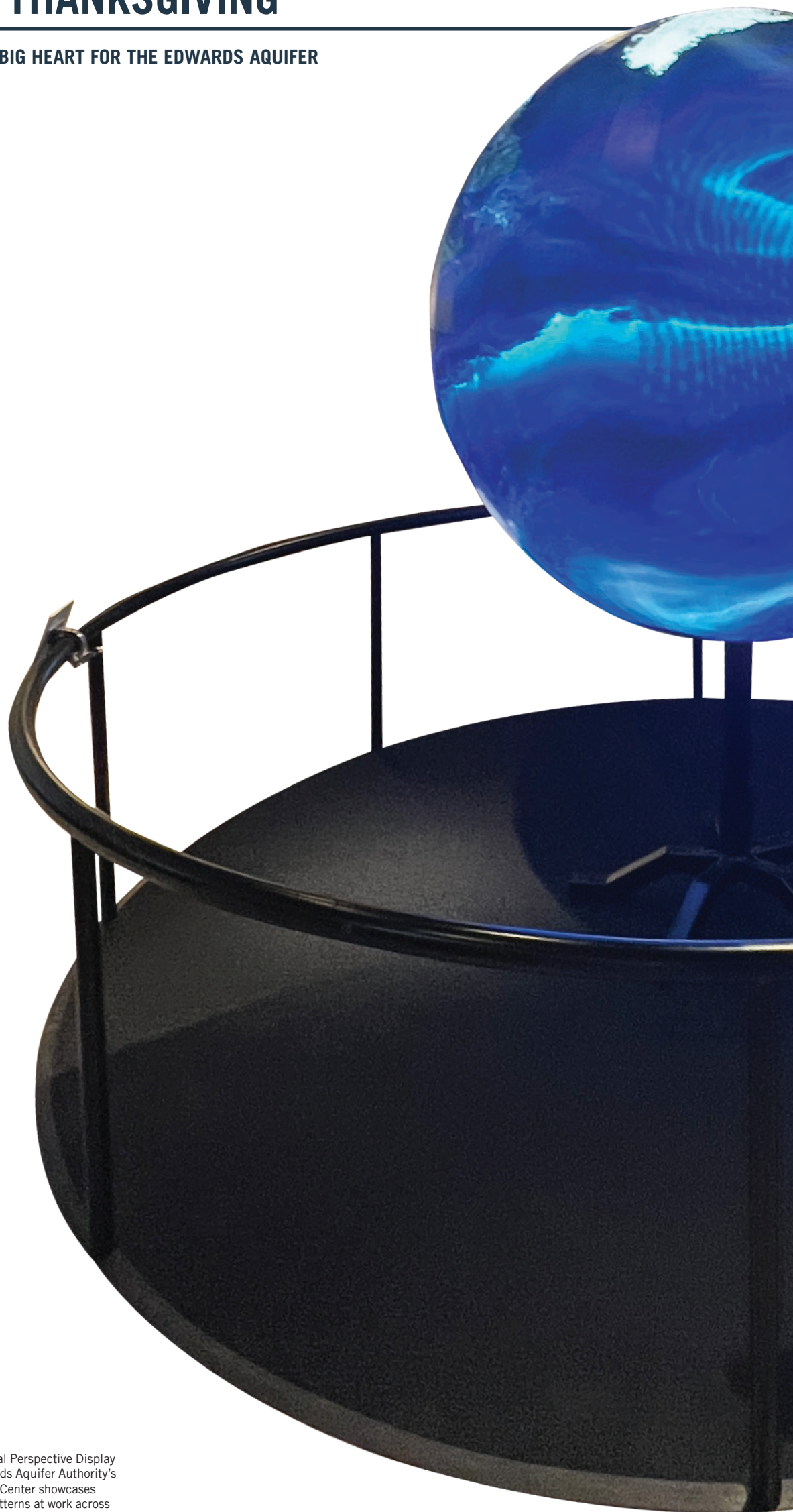


- **Bill Taylor, Weather Chief**
KENS 5 Television

This Thanksgiving, the forecast calls for a storm of heartfelt gratitude for the unwavering support of Bill Taylor, Chief Meteorologist at KENS 5 Television in San Antonio.

In the world of meteorology, there are forecasters, and then there are those whose presence can be felt far beyond the weather maps. Weather Chief Bill Taylor, hailing from the charming streets of New Jersey, journeying through the tempestuous skies of Louisiana, and finally finding his meteorological calling in the heart of Texas, is one such meteorologist who has made an indelible mark on the community. With more than 25 years of dedicated service with the CBS affiliate, KENS 5 Television in San Antonio, Bill Taylor is a towering figure both in stature at 6'3" and in the hearts of those he serves.

The interactive Global Perspective Display located at the Edwards Aquifer Authority's Education Outreach Center showcases real time weather patterns at work across the globe.





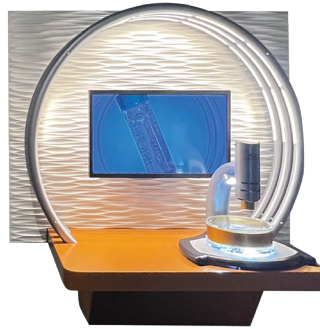
Bill's contributions are a beacon of light for the Edwards Aquifer Authority's Education Outreach Center (EOC) a free learning space open to the public located on site at Morgan's Wonderland Camp in northern Bexar County. Through interactive exhibits, presentations, and engaging activities, the center serves as a way to best educate and inform the community how a staff of nearly a hundred manages, enhances, and protects the main water resource for two-and-one-half million across eight counties.

Each week, Bill generously provides a detailed 7-day weather forecast report displayed on the EOC's weather center monitor, free of charge. According to Sarah Valdez, Sr. STEAM Educator for the Edwards Aquifer Authority who oversees day-to-day operations for the Education Outreach

Center, "Bill's weekly weather reports provide such a welcoming presence to our visitors who walk through the doors. We appreciate that each week he produces such engaging visuals and fun facts to make meteorology both educational and exciting for all to enjoy."

General Manager of KENS 5 Television, Tom Cury added, "this partnership means so much to us at KENS 5 Television, because of the important connection between our local weather and its effect on the Edwards Aquifer."

Yet, it is not only visitors who benefit from Bill's expertise. The dedicated staff, volunteers, and online community of the Education Outreach Center rely on his forecasts to make informed decisions about water management and conservation, ensuring the responsible use of our region's most precious resource.



Bill's motivation stems from a deep sense of community responsibility, and it is grounded in the belief that understanding the weather is crucial for our community's well-being. When asked why he shares his knowledge so generously, "anytime I have a chance to be a part of educating our area residents on weather and making the complex world of meteorology accessible to all, I'm happy to be a part of it." Bill's passion for meteorology and his dedication to community welfare are evident in every report he provides, and thankfully we all benefit from it.

This Thanksgiving, as we reflect on our blessings, we recognize the transformative power and blessing of individuals like Bill Taylor. He exemplifies how one person can make a significant difference by sharing knowledge generously. In him, we have not only found a trusted meteorologist, but also a dedicated friend and champion of the Edwards Aquifer.



Student visitors enjoy Bill Taylor's entertaining weather report at the Edwards Aquifer Authority's Education Outreach Center photo by: Robin Jerstad

THE EAA UNDERGROUND STORAGE TANK RULES

ENSURE COMPLETE TERTIARY PROTECTION BY 2032

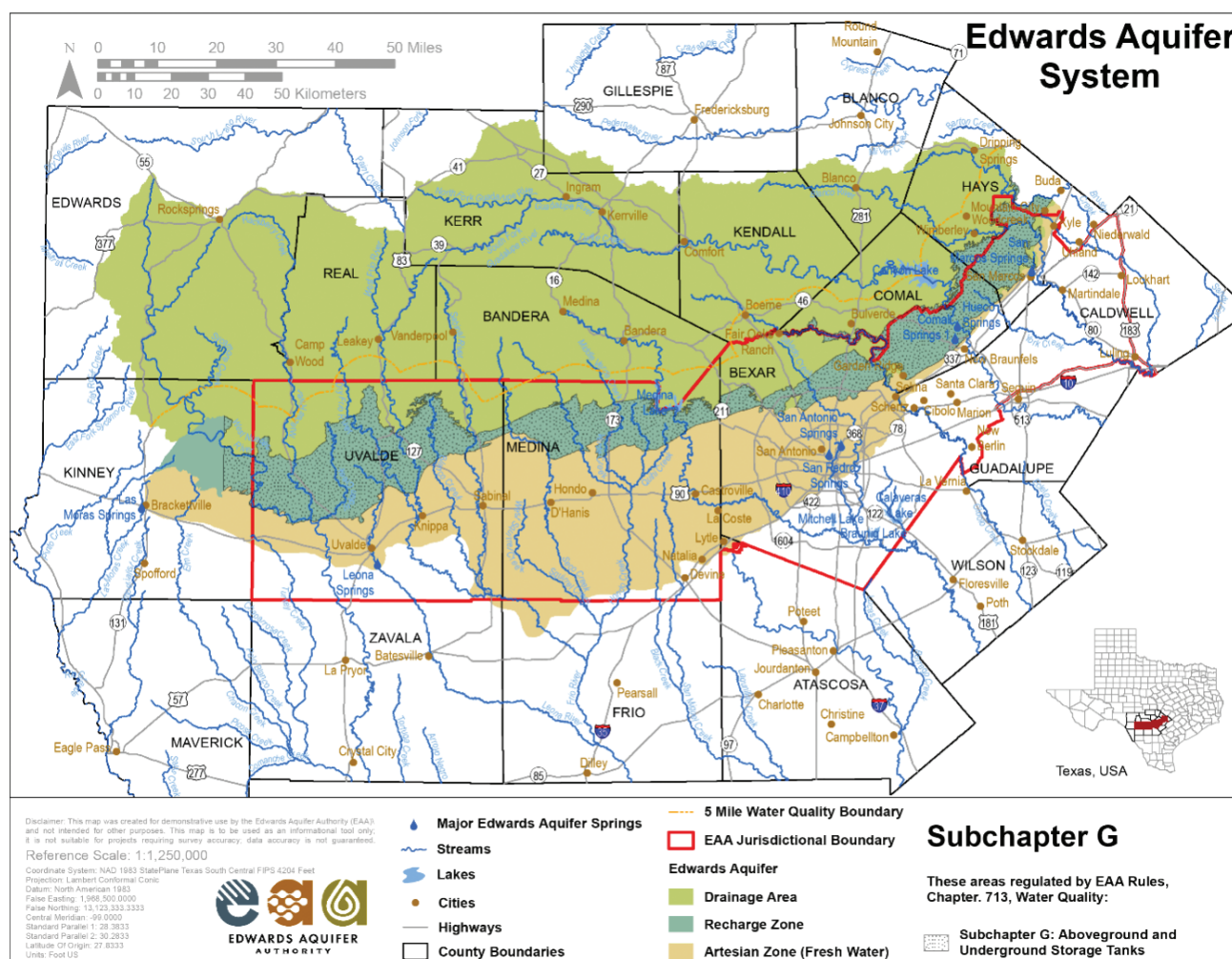
By: **Kyle Craig**, CPESC-IT, CESSWI
Recharge Zone Regulation Supervisor

Underground Storage Tanks, or UST's, store petroleum for gas stations across the nation. Within the EAA jurisdiction our agency ensures that the Edwards Aquifer Recharge Zone is free from underground contamination by requiring UST upgrades per the Edwards Aquifer Authority (EAA) Underground Storage Tank (UST) Rules. These rules were established in 2002, and required that any UST installed after October 18, 2002, must incorporate tertiary containment, and any UST installed prior to October 18, 2002, must upgrade to tertiary containment within thirty years from the date of installation. This tertiary containment upgrade is essentially a third wall or barrier of protection within the UST, which prevents the release of contaminants from migrating beyond the third wall or barrier before the release can be detected.



The Edwards Aquifer Recharge Zone is a highly sensitive part of the system where the Edwards Limestone is exposed at the surface and provides direct conduits to the aquifer underground. This zone spans across Uvalde, Medina, Bexar, Comal, and Hays counties, but USTs are only located in Bexar, Comal, and Hays. If a leak were to occur from a UST that ultimately migrated to a karst feature such as the Edwards Limestone, it would have a direct impact on the water quality of the Edwards Aquifer. The EAA has implemented these UST rules to provide a higher level of protection so that the risk of contamination of the aquifer is reduced. By 2032 all 143 USTs located on the Recharge Zone will be either upgraded to tertiary containment or removed from service.

Currently, the EAA Recharge Zone Protection staff has overseen the removal of 64 older USTs from the Recharge Zone and is a little less than





halfway through. Any business or entity that wants to install a new UST system on the Recharge Zone of the Edwards Aquifer must submit an Application for Major Modification, and gain approval from the EAA General Manager, before installation. Once approval is granted and construction begins, EAA staff will conduct several inspections. During the excavation phase, staff will look for sensitive features (e.g., karst features, sinkholes, conduits, etc.). Following that, during the installation phase, staff will verify several technical aspects of the UST system such as the make and model of the product, installation of brine solution, pressure testing, and installation and function of various sensors.

To learn more about this Recharge Zone Protection effort, please watch this video at: <https://youtu.be/C1vrje6K7HY>



THE EOC IS THANKFUL

The EOC Jamboree Festivities from this month's event.



The Edwards Aquifer Authority Education Outreach Center has so much to be thankful for this Holiday Season! Visitation numbers have more than doubled since last year and the word is spreading as more and more groups make reservations. We have seen family groups, gardening groups, school groups, and more this year and we are thankful for each and every visitor! The EOC is especially thankful this season for our teachers who help spread the word about how valuable our Edwards Aquifer is. Teachers are the backbone of the Edwards Aquifer Authority's mission to protect the Edwards Aquifer. Teachers prepare students to be future leaders and the next generation of decision makers so it is essential that students learn all about water.

We are also thankful for our volunteers. The EOC has a fearless group of volunteers assist when large school groups flood the Education Outreach Center. Volunteers help to set up activity stations, guide students through the exhibits, share their knowledge with students, and put everything back in order once the students have left the building. Parents and teachers love the security of knowing that our volunteers are there to answer questions and children love seeing smiling volunteers eager to help them learn. We also have volunteers who help keep the Native

Plant Demonstration Garden looking beautiful year round. Garden volunteers prune back wild plants and ensure that each plant is properly labeled so that visitors can get the most out of their visit.

The EOC appreciates any feedback from our valued visitors. Below, you'll find a selection of heartfelt testimonials we've recently received from teachers who shared their experiences at the EOC.

Maria Scagliola from Paschall Elementary says, "Our field trip to the Edwards Aquifer Authority Education Outreach Center was one of the best field trips we have been on. Very organized, they kept in constant touch with us, and had a person from the center easily available throughout our time spent there. The students enjoyed the stations, special live animal presentation, and they learned a lot of information they didn't already know. Thank you so much."

Melody Kneupper from a homeschool co-op says, "As a homeschool group, we had students and all of their mothers with us. Every single parent had only great things to say about our visit. We are a Wild + Free homeschool group that emphasizes nature studies. We all, young and old, learned so much about our aquifer, ground water usage and natural resources in our area. This information is vital all the time, but especially during our current drought. Not only was it so important for us to educate ourselves and our children about water conservation in our area, but the experience we had there was so organized and well planned! We appreciate that so much! It is difficult to accommodate multiple families and their children into groups and we appreciate the time and energy that went into planning this out before we arrived."

We are so grateful for the EAA EOC and the work that they are doing to inform and educate the public about groundwater. We are already planning to return in the future!

THANK YOU SO MUCH!"

Amy Dawn Curtis, from the San Antonio Barefoot University homeschool group, says, "Scheduling the trip was extremely convenient online. The staff was prompt and friendly in responding to our request, as well as with setting up final details before our visit. The presentation was informative, and the interpreter did a wonderful job engaging our students at an appropriate level. She was mindful of their energy levels, and made adjustments to ensure the students remained interested. The facilities are beautiful, and our students thoroughly enjoyed interacting with the exhibits. The cloud maker was the crowd favorite, but they enjoyed learning about and looking at the animals, as well. Some of our parents came back to us after and informed us that their kids were able to tie back what they learned from the EAA EOC with their school lessons and also with excursions around San Antonio. We would recommend this field trip to other schools and families."

The EAA EOC staff sincerely appreciates the support and praise we've received from both volunteers and visitors. As we approach the holiday season, we extend our warmest wishes to you. We continuously welcome guests to our free, public Education Outreach Center!



EAA EDUCATION OUTREACH CENTER'S NATIVE PLANT DEMONSTRATION GARDEN RECEIVES *TEXAN BY NATURE* CERTIFICATION



The Edwards Aquifer Authority was approached by Texan by Nature in early August. Texan by Nature wanted to recognize the Edwards Aquifer Authority's efforts to harvest rainwater to supply the demonstration garden at the Education Outreach Center. A Texan by Nature Certification recognizes outstanding conservation projects by highlighting them via a story-telling feature on their website and across social media channels. Recognized projects serve as examples of best practices for others to learn from and follow suit!

The Native Plant Demonstration Garden at the EOC serves as an educational resource for the community. It offers opportunities for visitors to learn about the state's unique ecological heritage. Being part of the Texan by Nature initiative connects us to a network of organizations and initiatives across Texas dedicated to conservation and sustainability. This interconnectedness allows us to collaborate, share best practices, and collectively make a more significant impact.

On Tuesday, September 12, 2023, The EAA Education Outreach Center (EAA EOC) Native Plant Demonstration Garden received a Texan by Nature Project Certification from Texan by Nature Program Manager, Kenzie M. Cherniak, for its conservation efforts.

Our Native Plant Demonstration Garden was created to educate our guests on the concepts of water conservation through the use of colorful

native plants that are drought tolerant. We also have our rainwater harvesting system that serves as the only water source for our garden. This system consists of a larger tank holding more than 20,000 gallons of rainwater collected from our 6,376 square-foot roof. This tank then feeds into a smaller tank holding about 1,000 gallons for drip irrigation. Our demonstration garden and rainwater harvesting system are used to educate our guests about the benefits of conserving water and the value of planting native plants. Our guests can further learn about native vs. non-native plants by viewing our plant wall exhibit inside our facility. The EAA EOC Native Demonstration Garden is proud to be Texan by Nature Certified and continues to be a sight to see for EAA EOC visitors eager to learn about different drought-tolerant and Texas native plants they can grow in their yards.

"Texan by Nature is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit founded by former First Lady Laura Bush to align the broad interests of conservation groups with business, healthcare, schools, the scientific community, and faith-based organizations. It is our mission to spur Texan-led conservation that produces tangible benefits for people, prosperity, and natural resources" (Texan By Nature. (n.d.).

Texan By Nature. (n.d.) About Us. Who We Are. Retrieved November 21, 2023, from <https://texanbynature.org/who-we-are/>

The Edwards Aquifer Authority Education Outreach Center is proud to showcase our Texan by Nature certification by hanging a "Texan by Nature Certified" sign in our garden!

Though our Texas drought remains, the 20,000 gallon rainwater tank is currently almost full and will continue to water our Native Plant Demonstration Garden for months to come. The EOC staff is always accepting volunteers and visitors to help maintain or view the garden. Like the Texan by Nature organization, we are always striving to build our community of conservationists and further our conservation efforts. Be sure to come out to the EOC and see this marvelous Texas by Nature certified garden for yourself!



'TIS THE SEASON TO GOBBLE UP SOME GOODWILL

FOR THE EAC: VALERO TEXAS OPEN'S CHAMPIONS FORE CHARITY PROGRAM FUELS HOLIDAY GIFT GIVING SPIRIT

By: **Nikki Young**,
Sr. Community Engagement Administrator



As Thanksgiving approaches, the spirit of giving is in the air, and Valero Energy Corporation along with the Valero Texas Open are leading the way with its “Champions *fore* Charity” program. Since 2003, Valero is joining hands with various charitable organizations, and this year, one notable beneficiary is the Edwards Aquifer Conservancy (EAC), a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization dedicated to supporting the initiatives of the Edwards Aquifer Authority. As we embark on this holiday season, it's heartwarming to see how the Valero Texas Open's “Champions *fore* Charity” program is making a significant impact, exemplifying the true essence of Thanksgiving.

The Edwards Aquifer Conservancy plays a crucial role in safeguarding one of Texas's most

vital resources: the Edwards Aquifer. With their efforts focused on conservation and preservation, they help ensure the aquifer remains a source of clean water for generations to come. By choosing EAC as one of their charity partners, the Valero Foundation reinforces its commitment to giving back to the communities it serves.

For those who wish to partake in this season of generosity, contributing to the Edwards Aquifer Conservancy is a noble way to do so. Donations can be made through the EAC's website (www.EAConservancy.org) where every contribution, no matter the size, will go a long way in supporting the mission. Every donation will not only help protect this vital natural resource, but also promote environmental sustainability.

Support doesn't just stop at encouraging individual donations. The “Champions *fore* Charity” program goes above and beyond by providing a 7% total match to all contributions collected during the campaign of up to \$10,000 funded through Valero Texas Open tournament proceeds. This magnanimous gesture demonstrates Valero's dedication to fostering a spirit of giving that aligns perfectly with the Thanksgiving season.

In a world where every gesture of goodwill counts, Valero Texas Open's “Champions *fore* Charity” program acts as a harbinger of hope and compassion striving to make a positive impact. Stephanie Sage, Director of Marketing & Community Relations for the Valero Texas Open explains, “by partnering with organizations like the Edwards Aquifer Conservancy, we can all come together to protect our environment and support the communities that rely on it.

So, this holiday season, as you gather around the table to give thanks, remember that there are ways to give back to the environment and those in need, and Valero Texas Open's fundraising program is one path to making a difference.”

The “Champions *fore* Charity” program runs through April 15, 2024. For more information, please visit: www.ValeroTexasOpen.com/ChampionsForeCharity



Edwards Aquifer Authority
900 E Quincy St • San Antonio, TX, 78215
www.edwardsaquifer.org

ABOUT US

The mission of the EAA is to Manage, Enhance and Protect the Edwards Aquifer. The Edwards Aquifer Authority is a regional water management agency that regulates with integrity, transparency, respect, and commitment to sustainability of the aquifer.

NewsDrop is a production of the EAA Communications and Development Department with helpful assistance from the following EAA Staff: Brent Doty, Earl Parker, Kyle Craig, Olivia Ybarra, and Shelly Hendrix.

