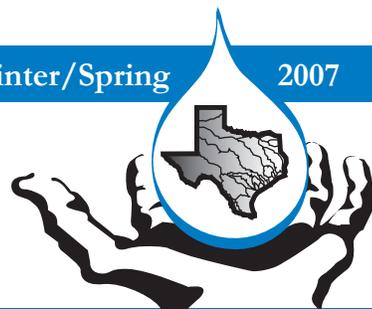


Texas Watch



River Systems Institute, Texas State University-San Marcos

EPA Region 6

TCEQ

Do You Know the Spanish Word for “Watershed”?

By Eric Mendelman, *Texas Watch*

I know that I’m not telling you anything new when I point out that the Hispanic culture has emerged in recent years as a significant force in politics, economics, and the environment. Two events held last October in San Antonio offer fresh insight into how our environmental outreach and education programs should respond to these cultural trends, as well as the challenges that we face in conveying a message of personal responsibility for water resource stewardship.

On October 17, 2006, twenty-five Hispanic students participated in a water quality demonstration at Wood-

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lawn Lake Park in San Antonio to learn about nonpoint source pollution and water quality monitoring. Not only did the event coincide with World Water Monitoring Day, but it was also held in conjunction with a symposium called “Beyond Translation: Cultivating Hispanic Community Involvement.” World Water Monitoring Day, held annually between September 18 and October 18, engages communities in monitoring the condition of local rivers, streams, estuaries, and other water bodies. This event is an international outreach program that builds public awareness and involvement in protecting water resources around the world.

The second event, “Beyond Translation,” was hosted by the Environmental Protection Agency (Region 6) to explore ways in which to better understand environmental issues of greatest concern to Hispanics, to improve EPA’s communication and involvement with the community, and to find additional ways to share information on such things as funding and employment opportunities, environmental regulations and conditions, and other assistance that EPA can provide to Hispanic communities.

EPA Region 6 requested that Texas Watch participate in the education event at Woodlawn Lake Park. When we heard that the target audience was Hispanic students, the question immediately followed: How are we going

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Water Quality...*en Español*

algae: *alga*

conductivity: *conductividad*

contact recreation: *recreación de contacto*

discharge: *descarga*

dissolved oxygen: *oxígeno disuelto*

effluent: *efluente*

eutrophication: *eutroficación*

ground water: *aguas subterráneas*

hydrological cycle: *ciclo hidrológico*

nonpoint source pollution: *contaminación de fuentes difusas*

point source pollution: *contaminación de fuentes puntuales*

runoff: *escorrentía*

storm water: *agua de tormenta*

stream: *arroyo*

surface water: *aguas superficiales*

temperature: *temperatura*

total dissolved solids: *total de sólidos disueltos*

turbidity: *turbiedad*

water quality: *calidad del agua*

watershed: *cuenca*

Reaching a Hispanic Audience

(continued)

to most effectively reach these students? Jason Pinchback, Texas Watch Volunteer Coordinator, used aerial photos of Woodlawn Lake, ranging from close range to high elevation shots, in order to drive home the relationship between conditions in the lake and potential impacts from the extensive urbanization surrounding the lake. Because of its visual impact, the presentation effectively went “Beyond Translation” to create an immediate awareness of the connection between water quality in the lake and pollution in its surroundings.

Presentations like these will always make a point better than words alone. But in the absence of these images, it is important that we are able to communicate key concepts in the language that is most familiar to people. Our watersheds are increasingly populated with Hispanic residents who are part of our watershed stewardship corps. Just looking at some census statistics drives home the point of how important it is and will be to communicate cross-culturally in our environmental work:

- **49.** The percentage of the Hispanic-origin population that lives in California or Texas. California is home to 12.4 million Hispanics. Texas is home to 7.8 million.

- **13.** The number of states with at least half a million Hispanic residents. These states are: Arizona, California, Colorado, Florida, Georgia, Illinois, Nevada, New Jersey, New Mexico, New York, North Carolina, Texas, and Washington.

- **41.3 million.** This is the estimated Hispanic population of the United States as of July 1, 2004, making people of Hispanic origin the nation’s largest racial or ethnic minority. Hispanics constituted 14 percent of the nation’s total population. (This estimate does not include the 3.9 million residents of Puerto Rico.)

(continued on page 11)

TEXAS WATCH

2007, Vol. 8, No. 2

The mission of Texas Watch is to facilitate environmental stewardship by empowering a statewide network of concerned volunteers, partners, and institutions in a collaborative effort to promote a healthy and safe environment through environmental education, data collection, and community action.

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Subscriptions:

The purpose of the Texas Watch newsletter is to disseminate information about nonpoint source pollution and to encourage and facilitate the exchange of ideas and monitoring data between environmental monitors and supporting partners throughout the state of Texas. The newsletter is published three times a year. For a free subscription, call toll free at (877)506-1401 or send your email request to texas_watch@geo.txstate.edu. To receive the newsletter by email, go to the Texas Watch website listed on the back cover and click on “Subscribe to Our Newsletter.”

Contributions:

Contributions to the newsletter are welcomed and encouraged. Please send any articles, letters, or questions to Texas Watch at the postal address listed on the back cover or submit them via email at texas_watch@geo.txstate.edu.

If you wish to reprint any material published in the Texas Watch newsletter, please notify the editor of your intentions and submit a copy of the final publication.

Petronila Creek – From Neglect to Recovery

By Kerry Niemann, Texas Commission on Environmental Quality

Much like the climate, fauna, and wildlife, the aesthetic qualities of water bodies vary a great deal from east to west and from north to south in Texas. What aids one interest doesn't necessarily benefit another. In fact, using water for one purpose can harm another use irreparably. The portion of Petronila Creek above tidal influence, Segment 2204 (Figure 1), was once a pristine coastal stream, abundant with aquatic life, that discharged to an estuary typical of the Central Texas Gulf Coast. Unfortunately, over the last fifty years, the former oil industry practice of discharging highly saline water produced by oil and gas exploration into drainage ditches, pits, and the creek itself has degraded surface water quality and negatively affected aquatic species.

In 1969, the Texas Legislature passed the Texas Railroad Commission's (RRC) "no-pit" order, a law prohibiting disposal of brine into open pits. Brine, a highly saline byproduct of oil and gas exploration, is also referred to as "produced water." Direct discharges of produced water continued until January of 1987, when it, too, was prohibited by the RRC. However, by that time, Petronila Creek had been reduced to little more than a slough.

Gathering Data and Setting Targets for Improvement

The State of Texas requires water in Segment 2204 to be suitable for aquatic life. Segment 2204 was added to the Texas 2000 Section 303(d) List of impaired water bodies because the chloride, sulfate, and total dissolved solids, or TDS, exceeded the segment-specific criteria (1,500 mg/L, 500 mg/L, and 4,000 mg/L, respectively). High salinity can cause adverse conditions for freshwater aquatic species. Federal law requires all states to identify each impaired water segment on the 303(d) list and develop a total maximum daily load (TMDL) for impaired water segments. A TMDL is like a budget that determines the amount of a particular pollutant that a water body can receive and still meet its applicable water quality standards. Knowing the maximum allowable load makes it possible to determine targets for pollutant reductions. The Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) initiated development of TMDLs for Segment 2204 in June of 2001 and adopted them on January 10, 2007.

During the modeling phase of the Petronila TMDL project, a joint study was initiated between the TCEQ and

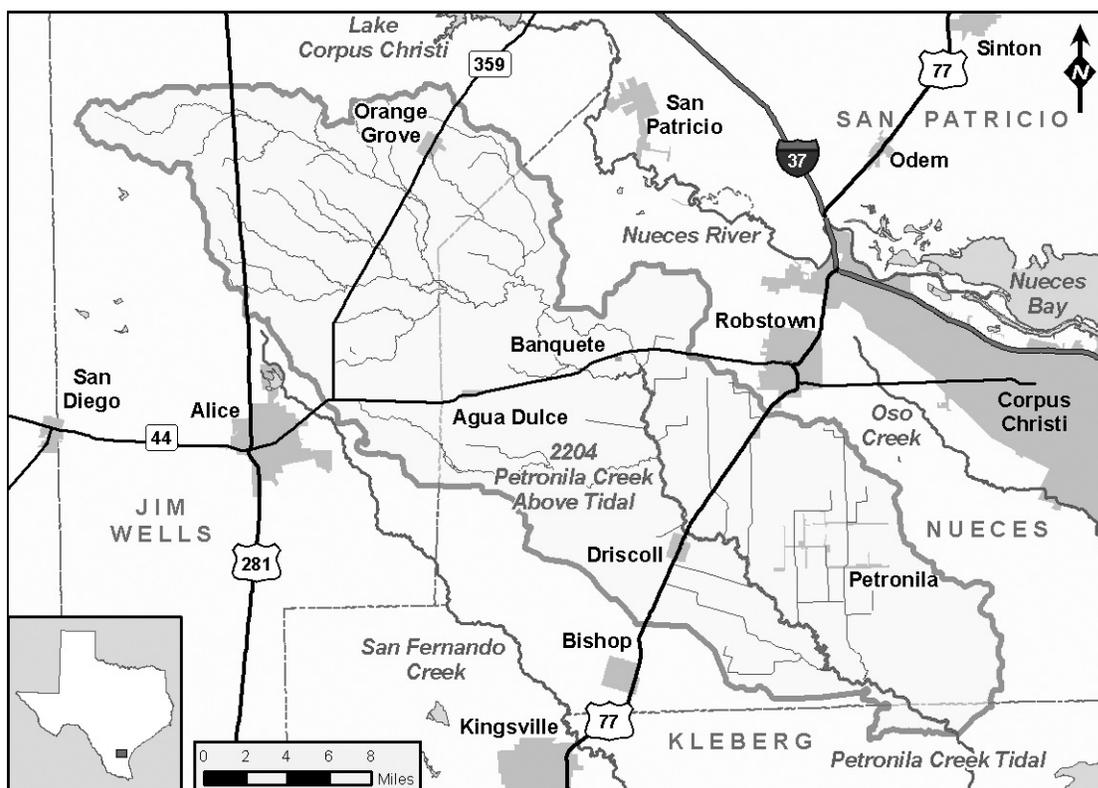


Fig. 1 - Petronila Creek Watershed

Petronila Creek TMDL

(continued)

University of Texas Bureau of Economic Geology to conduct aerial and ground electromagnetic conductivity surveys. These surveys identified hot spots where salinity was most severe, or areas where surface water quality was degraded and aquatic species were affected (Figure 2). The salinity of water is strongly correlated to conductivity.

The Road to Recovery

In response to the TMDL project, stakeholders took a pro-active approach to addressing the impairment and other issues, well ahead of adoption of the TMDLs. As a result, Segment 2204 is on the road to recovery. Three primary activities were initiated by the RRC, Nueces River Authority (NRA), Texas Watch, Coastal Bend Council of Governments (CBCOG), and other local watershed partners. These actions are now part of the TMDL Implementation Plan (I-Plan).

The first activity is to investigate the nature and extent of known salinity contamination associated with oil and gas production, develop remediation/abatement alternatives or best management practices (BMP), and implement the chosen BMPs to reduce water pollution.

The second activity is to deploy a real-time monitoring station at Petronila Creek and FM 70 to continuously monitor conductivity. The TCEQ and NRA are working jointly to deploy and maintain the station. Data will be shared with the RRC to assist it in monitoring compliance with its “no pit” order and its “no produced-water discharge to tidal streams” order.

The third activity, though not directly associated with salinity in the creek, is the CBCOG’s cooperative effort with local watershed partners to design and implement a public education and awareness project. The education activities will be carried out together with waste management initiatives. Such a campaign holds great promise for helping people understand their impact on the quality of the creek and has support from local community leaders.

The collaborative effort to organize and implement such measures ahead of schedule benefits residents and landowners, as well as the aquatic species and other organisms that live in and around the creek. Residents of the Petronila Creek watershed should be very proud of being proactive and supporting the work of local watershed partners and governmental agencies. The work done today will ensure a brighter tomorrow. Quite a recovery program, wouldn’t you agree?

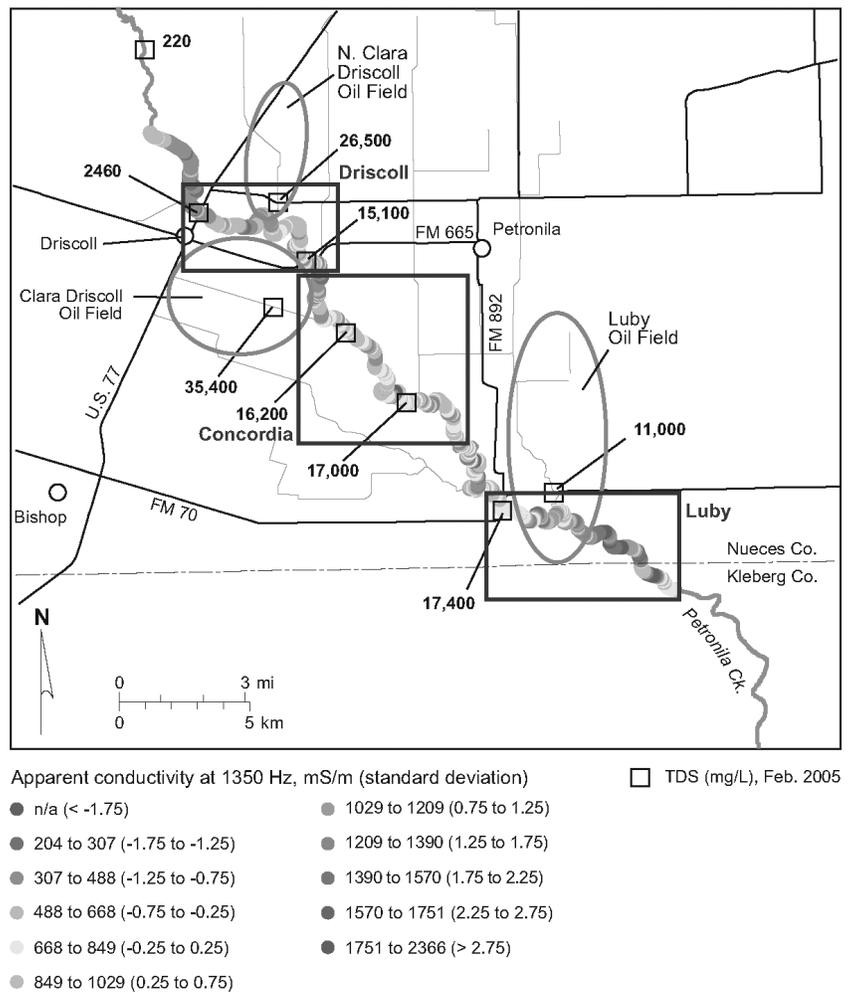


Fig. 2 - Areas of Elevated Conductivity Measured in Petronila Creek Impaired Reach (University of Texas Bureau of Economic Geology)

TMDLs are Making a Difference...and Texas Watch Can Help

by Arthur Talley, Texas Commission on Environmental Quality

Across Texas, total maximum daily load (TMDL) analyses and implementation plans are identifying and helping to eliminate sources of pollution that impair water quality and diminish our water resources. A few examples are highlighted here. In the Clear Creek watershed in Harris County south of Houston, the TMDL identified a discharge from a sand mining operation as responsible for elevated levels of salinity in the creek. The operator of the mine has since responded to an Order issued by the TCEQ and has discontinued the discharge.

In the Aquilla Reservoir watershed in Hill County near Hillsboro, the TMDL identified corn and sorghum production as the source of elevated levels of the herbicide atrazine found in the public water supply of area resi-

dents. Agricultural agencies worked with area producers to implement best management practices that have successfully reduced atrazine concentrations in the reservoir. In the watershed of the Lake O' the Pines in Marion County, the TMDL identified a need to reduce phosphorus loadings to the reservoir by 56%. Municipal and industrial wastewater discharge permit holders are considering an innovative permitting approach as a way to meet the environmental objective in an efficient and cost-effective manner.

More TMDLs are on the way. The TCEQ will adopt 30 new TMDLs during 2007 and at least that many again in 2008. These TMDLs will address water quality problems in diverse areas of the state, including the San Antonio River in San Antonio, the Guadalupe River in Kerrville, Upper Oyster Creek in Sugarland, and Cow and Adams Bayou in Orange County. These TMDLs are being developed with the participation of local stakeholders. Many of these projects will require significant resources to implement water quality monitoring, track program accomplishments, and conduct public education and outreach activities. The resources and expertise of Texas

Watch staff and volunteers can play a substantive role in helping to make these projects successful. Texas Watch volunteers and partners are encouraged to attend TMDL meetings and make local stakeholders aware of the resources that Texas Watch can bring to the table.

To find out about TMDL project meetings in your area, check the TCEQ website at: www.tceq.state.tx.us/implementation/water/tmdl/tmdlcalendar.html. You might also want to join the TMDL Email News list to receive notices of events, projects, and proposal requests of the TMDL Program, along with other water quality news. To join the list, send a blank email, with no subject or message, to: join-tmdl@listserv.tceq.state.tx.us.



Texas Watch volunteers can help to improve impaired water bodies, such as the Arroyo Colorado, through participation in local TMDL projects.

Texas Watch TMDL Update

by Eric Mendelman, Texas Watch

The Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) program has quickly become a household word at Texas Watch. Last year, Texas Watch responded to TCEQ's request to support the outreach and education activities in four TMDL project areas: (1) Adams and Cow Bayous in Orange County; (2) Petronila Creek in Nueces County, (3)



Learning to monitor the Arroyo Colorado at a training held in McAllen in May of last year.

Oso Bay/Oso Creek near Corpus Christi, and (4) the Arroyo Colorado in the Rio Grande Valley.

If you have not kept up with the latest jargon, a TMDL is a water resource management plan that targets the worst pollutants in a particular stream or body of water. Texas Watch will ratchet up its outreach to teachers and the general public with water quality monitoring certification sessions and watershed protection workshops. We welcome the opportunity to work alongside the TMDL project managers and the dedicated members of the TMDL steering committees so that the prospect for water quality improvement is enhanced.

Because this work is so important to TCEQ and the Environmental Protection Agency, we will feature up-

dates on the activities in each of these areas in this and upcoming issues of the newsletter.

Orange County

Texas Watch will host a water quality monitoring training session for teachers at the Shangri La Environmental Education Center in the near future. Teachers will complete three phases of training and attend a workshop. Information on this event can be obtained online at www.shangrilagardens.org. Texas Watch will also educate teachers about additional tools for teaching students about watersheds and nonpoint source pollution.

Oso Bay/Oso Creek

Texas Watch attended the Oso TMDL stakeholder group to introduce attendees to the Texas Watch program and to explore ways in which volunteer monitoring can support both the outreach and education objectives of the TMDL. The Oso, with its focus on bacteria impairments, is of special interest to Texas Watch since there is an opportunity to initiate bacteria sampling with the new Texas Watch bacteria protocol.

Petronila Creek

On February 1, the Coast Bend Council of Governments (CBCOG) hosted a planning session for a Clean Water Act Section 319 Nonpoint Source Pollution grant that it received in December 2006. This grant provides resources to clean up the worst sites on Petronila Creek (with possible support for the nearby Oso project as well). Texas Watch plans to conduct a regional meeting and nonpoint source pollution education in schools in coordination with the solid waste education efforts of CBCOG.

Arroyo Colorado

Having conducted several water quality monitor training sessions in the Arroyo Colorado basin, Texas Watch plans to work with cities in the Rio Grande Valley that participate in the Storm Water Task Force. The prospect of developing a partner network that supports volunteer monitoring and outreach are strong because one of the permit requirements of the Federal Storm Water Program is public involvement and public education. Texas Watch will offer services that support city officials in the development of effective outreach programs and, at the same time, direct these efforts toward meeting the objectives of the Arroyo Colorado TMDL.

Volunteer Spotlight –

Looking Out for Lake Palestine

by Carissa Belsky, Texas Watch

The Greater Lake Palestine Council (GLPC) is a group of homeowner coalitions, residents of the lake and surrounding area who keep watch over Lake Palestine, located southwest of Tyler, Texas. The main goal of the council is to improve the property conditions surrounding the lake, including water quality. Many of the GLPC members are avid fishermen and/or outdoor enthusiasts. So, it only seems appropriate that they take pride in the environment of Lake Palestine.

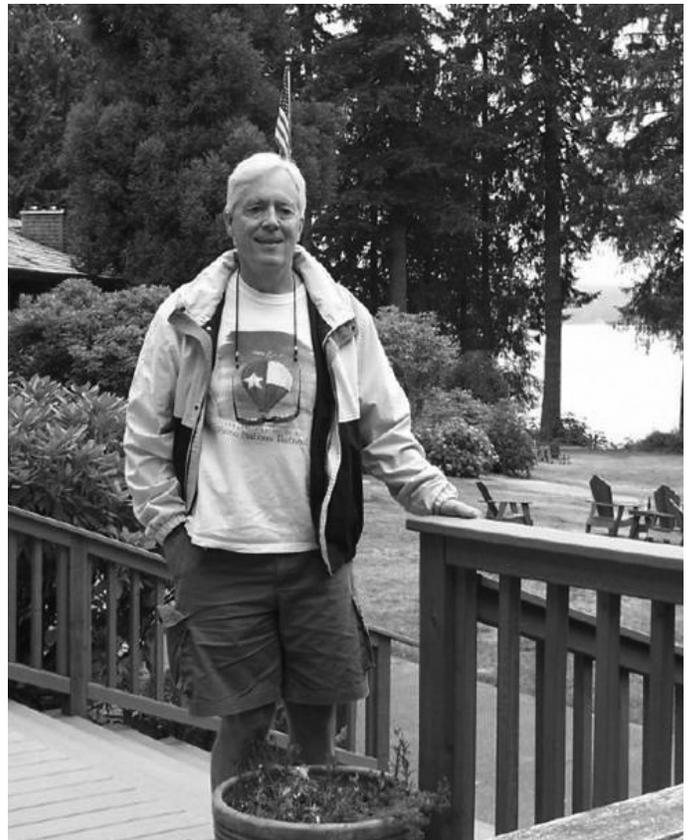
This group began monitoring sporadically around the beginning of 2000. Currently, four of the members are trained water quality monitors. These Texas Watch monitors have been testing water consistently since the beginning of 2003 at four locations around the lake. The main coordinator for this group is Larry Hoffman. Near the end of 2002, Larry was appointed by the GLPC Board of Directors to coordinate the monitoring efforts happening around Lake Palestine. Today, not only does he still keep up with the monitoring efforts on the lake, but he is the acting Secretary on the Board of Directors.

The lead partner with Texas Watch in that area is the Angelina and Neches River Authority (ANRA). As a program partner, they provide GLPC with equipment, supplies, and reagents for testing as well as training new monitors. Matt Romig, the Clean Rivers Program Coordinator for ANRA, is the area's newest water quality monitor trainer. He became a certified trainer on February 1 and held his first training session on February 23. Matt said that the purpose of this training session was "to establish new monitors to step in and take over for some of the GLPC monitors that are ready to turn in their kits." With Larry watching over the training session, Matt helped to augment the volunteer efforts of GLPC by training three new monitors.

Matt started working with the GLPC about three years ago as an environmental analyst for ANRA. The Clean Rivers Program supports public outreach, and Matt stated, "Texas Watch is ANRA's primary way to do this." Currently, Matt takes the Texas Watch data once a month and does a quality check on the numbers before giving them to us, here at Texas Watch headquarters. To-

day, there is growing concern about nutrient loading in Lake Palestine, and the importance of monitoring and collecting data has once again been reaffirmed. This reinforces the importance of training new monitors and continuing the search for any irregular data. As a result of concern for nutrients, a new station above the lake, on Kickapoo Creek, is being created in order to detect any nutrients entering Lake Palestine from this tributary.

Larry Hoffman continues to be a successful coordinator of the GLPC monitoring efforts. Matt maintains his commitment as a local partner. On the whole, Larry, Matt, and the Greater Lake Palestine Council have done very well. It is wonderful to have so many concerned and interested parties wanting to be stewards of their watersheds. We here at Texas Watch would like to send out a big "Thank You" to Larry and Matt for their commitment to our program.



GLPC's monitoring coordinator Larry Hoffman.

AQUARENA

EARTH DAY CELEBRATION

By Deborah Lane, Aquarena Center

Aquarena Center, the environmental education center of Texas State University-San Marcos, inaugurated the first annual Aquarena Earth Day Celebration at Spring Lake on April 22, 2007. This event evolved from an interest by Texas Watch to conduct the field component of their “Learning Urban Watersheds” project at Aquarena, showcasing Spring Lake and the San Marcos Springs. Discussions between Aquarena, Texas Watch, and Texas Parks & Wildlife Department led to the idea of creating an annual community event to celebrate Earth Day at Aquarena.

The First Earth Day: April 22, 1970

“We only have one earth, so we need to take care of her,” Senator Gaylord Nelson of Wisconsin believed. He was disturbed that an issue as important as our environment was not addressed in politics or by the media, so he organized the first Earth Day on April 22, 1970. An estimated 20 million people nationwide attended festivities that day. It was a truly astonishing grassroots explosion, leading eventually to national legislation such as the Clean Air Act and the Clean Water Act.

For the many people who care for the environment, Earth Day has become an opportunity to join in a nationwide event to send a big message to public officials, urging them to protect our planet. Both Arbor Day and Bird Day (established in the late 1800s) supported forestation, conservation, and the appreciation of nature, but on a smaller scale than Earth Day. While all three of these days have helped to educate the general public, some Americans already have long held a deep appreciation of nature. Native American peoples have long recognized and celebrated in story and song the interdependence of the earth and all its creatures. Earth Day this year came with a growing concern for the effects of global warming and climate change.



Earth Day, Aquarena Style

The Aquarena Earth Day Celebration included a Hyacinth Removal in the slough at Spring Lake, a nature hike through Recharge Park, environmental education stations, a Learning Urban Watersheds seminar, a nature awareness Native American workshop, a nature art and recycled art show, local earth-friendly vendors and food, live music and dance, a “Blessing of the Springs,” and an official proclamation by the City of San Marcos. As always, Glass Bottom Boat Tours of Spring Lake were featured, along with the Aquarium, the Texas Rivers Center’s exhibit on “Texas, A State of Water,” and guided walks of the Wetlands Boardwalk. This celebration was a collaboration of partners in the community including the San Marcos River Foundation, Ducks Unlimited, San Marcos Nature Center, Texas Cooperative Extension, and volunteers made up of local citizens. It was a joyous celebration of our precious Earth, the San Marcos River, and the hope of a cleaner tomorrow.

Make plans now to join us for next year’s Aquarena Earth Day celebration!

Water Monitoring Activities at Old Tunnel

By Nyta Hensley, Texas Parks and Wildlife Department

Old Tunnel Wildlife Management Area, located near Fredericksburg, is home to approximately three million Mexican free-tailed bats during the months of May through October. The abandoned railroad tunnel serves as a great roosting spot for both Mexican free-tailed and Cave myotis bats. A natural stream begins behind the tunnel walls and forms a small stream bed that flows through the management area.

The Natural Resources Specialist for the management area felt that it would be interesting to monitor the stream water conditions in relation to the wildlife that



Myrna Langford and Craig Hensley conduct water monitoring at Old Tunnel WMA.

live there. Texas Parks and Wildlife (TPWD) and the Guadalupe River Authority (GBRA), in coordination with Old Tunnel staff and volunteers, set up a water monitoring plan in February 2006. Five volunteers were certified as water quality monitors, and water monitoring efforts began in March of last year.

The stream at Old Tunnel has a low flow and is slow moving, and sometimes there is very little water to monitor. This has not deterred volunteer efforts as they were able to monitor on eight separate occasions during 2006. The results of these tests were sent to TPWD and GBRA officials who determined that the stream met acceptable water standards.

This year, an additional water monitoring certification class was held in April in order to recruit several more volunteers to help with Old Tunnel monitoring efforts. For more information, please visit us at www.tpwd.state.tx.us/huntwild/hunt/wma/find_a_wma/list/?id=17.

Elementary Students Join Plum Creek Water Monitoring Effort

By Guadalupe-Blanco River Authority Staff

Students from six elementary schools in the Plum Creek watershed (located in Hays and Caldwell counties) are playing an active role this year in an innovative water quality monitoring program. In October 2006, Guadalupe-Blanco River Authority (GBRA) Education Coordinator Cinde Thomas-Jimenez met with local curriculum directors and principals to propose that area students participate in the Plum Creek water quality monitoring effort for the 2006-2007 school year.

After receiving enthusiastic approval from the administrators, Thomas-Jimenez then met with and trained the participating science teachers. She also spent over a week in classrooms using a tabletop watershed model to illustrate and discuss watersheds, nonpoint source pollution (NPS), and the Plum Creek project directly with the students. Water monitoring test kits, all needed supplies, watershed map posters, and student workbooks were donated to the schools by GBRA.

A total of 760 fourth and fifth grade students, as well as eighteen teachers, have already conducted the first two of three rounds of water quality testing. Students are using the Texas Watch model for their monitoring and are testing water from Plum Creek for temperature, dissolved oxygen, pH, and turbidity, plus nitrates and phosphates. An additional testing round will be conducted in May 2007.

The Plum Creek watershed effort is in the early stages of developing a Watershed Protection Plan. The watershed, which is 52 miles long, covers 388 square miles and includes portions of the City of Buda and the Cities of Kyle, Lockhart, and Luling. It is the focus of a unique Multi-Agency Partnership that uses a proactive approach to encourage stakeholders to work together to protect and improve the water quality of impaired watersheds. The partnership/protection plan is being facilitated by the Texas Cooperative Extension (TCE) and funded by the Texas State Soil and Water Conservation Board (TSSWCB) through a grant from the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). The EPA, TSSWCB,

Area School Kids Monitor Plum Creek

(continued)

and the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) selected Plum Creek as a pilot watershed protection planning effort in Texas.

Land uses in the Plum Creek watershed vary widely. Rapid urban growth in the northern portion can contribute to NPS pollution. In addition, there are a number of wastewater treatment plants that use Plum Creek and its tributaries as their discharge point. In the middle to southern portions of the watershed, agricultural activities, along with petroleum and gas production activities, may also be causes of NPS pollution.

GBRA already conducts ongoing water quality monitoring funded by TCEQ's Clean Rivers Program. Current results indicate concerns about the bacterial and nutrient levels in Plum Creek. The combined uses of the land and the effects of these uses on water quality in Plum Creek make it an excellent candidate for a watershed-wide education effort.

The Texas Cooperative Extension has agreed to host a site on the Plum Creek Watershed Partnership website (<http://pcwp.tamu.edu/index.html>) for students to post their results. The website will also contain a discussion forum where the students can post questions and discussion topics to interact with the stakeholders, scientists, and agencies involved. Ideally, students will review and discuss their results with students in other parts of the watershed.

This project also provides opportunities for students to present their findings in a public setting, such as a PTA, school board, or city council meeting, a County Commissioners Court session, or even to the GBRA Board of Directors.

Later this spring, GBRA will have a model of the Guadalupe River Basin available to set up at schools or public meetings to promote an understanding of NPS. Students participating in this project could assist with presenting the model and promote discussion about NPS in the watershed where they live and go to school.

The Partner Schools include Negley Elementary (Hays CISD, cooperating teacher Meagan Maddux); Tobias Elementary (Hays CISD, cooperating teacher Tammy Garza); Hemphill Elementary (Hays CISD, cooperating teacher Julie Parsons); Science Hall Elementary (Hays CISD, cooperating teacher Elaine Hanson); Plum Creek Elementary (Lockhart, cooperating teacher Jennifer Lickert); and Luling Shanklin Elementary (Luling CISD, cooperating teacher Cris Chonka).

For more information about the project, please contact one of the following Partner Agencies:

- Guadalupe-Blanco River Authority, Cinde Thomas-Jimenez, Education Coordinator, (800) 413-5822, cthomas-jimenez@gbra.org

- Texas Cooperative Extension, Nikki Dictson, Extension Specialist – Program Coordinator, (979) 458-3478, n-dictson@tamu.edu

- Texas State Soil and Water Conservation Board, Brian Koch, Regional Watershed Coordinator, (979) 532-9496, bkoch@tsswcb.state.tx.us



Plum Creek project coordinator Cinde Thomas-Jimenez trains area school children in water quality monitoring techniques.

Did You See? That Man Just Threw a Cigarette Out the Car Window!

By Jason Pinchback, Texas Watch



If you've been to a Texas Watch event, you certainly heard a lot about nonpoint source pollution prevention. Back in the 1970s, the Clean Water Act helped

to bring about pollution reductions from end-of-pipe sources, such as what comes from industrial and wastewater treatment plant effluents. Now more than ever before, polluted stormwater runoff, or nonpoint source pollution, is being targeted for major reductions.

You are probably already using organic pest control methods and limiting usage of household toxic materials. Now, you too can be empowered to make a small difference in a new way. The successful "Don't Mess With Texas" campaign is stepping it up a notch with the "Report A Litterer" program.

The Report A Litterer program allows Texans to report people they observe tossing things out of their vehicle or accidentally littering from an uncovered load. All you need to do is write down a few things about the incident. You will need:

- The license plate number (Texas plates only)
- Make of the vehicle
- Time of day
- Location
- Date
- Who (driver, passenger or accidental) tossed the trash

- The item littered

After the vehicle owner is located, a letter is mailed to the litterer along with a "Don't Mess With Texas" litter-

bag to remind them to put their trash where it belongs.

There is a \$500 fine for littering in Texas, but the reported litterer will not receive a ticket...instead they will get something to think about the next time they want to take a short cut instead of heading to the trash can.

Visit www.dontmesswithtexas.org for more information on the Report A Litterer program. To learn more about ways to reduce polluted stormwater runoff, visit www.texaswatch.geo.txstate.edu or www.epa.gov/nps/.

Reaching a Hispanic Audience

(continued from page 2)

• **102.6 million.** This is the projected Hispanic population of the United States as of July 1, 2050. According to this projection, Hispanics will constitute 24 percent of the nation's total population on that date. In Texas, the projection is 1 in 3.

So, do you know what the Spanish word for watershed is? Do you know what environmental issues most concern your Spanish speaking neighbor? Maybe we can start by learning a few words that will help us communicate our concern for our environment and join with others in a life of stewardship.

Editor's note: The preceding population figures and projections can be found at www.census.gov/Press-Release/www/releases/archives/population/.



Monitors, Please Note...

Effective April 2006, Texas Watch moved out of the Geography Department and into the River Systems Institute. Many of you are still using our old Geography address when you send us your data sheets. Please make note of our new address, which is located on the back page of this newsletter. Thank you very much!

Congratulations to Our New Water Quality Monitors!

Derek Anderson
 Jacob Barrett
 Gary Bell
 Terry M. Berger
 Crystal D. Betts
 Brad Bixby
 Bryce Boddie
 David Boylar
 Annie Brittain
 Brennan Brosier
 Frank Budny
 Lizzy Chestnut
 Matthew Childers
 Tracy Childers
 Matthew Chonka
 Lindsey Clayton
 Karinda Cowan
 Justin Duke
 Brittney Elliott
 Angela Gallardo

Wally Gardwer
 Louren Gates
 Monica Gomez
 Steve Goodman
 Barbara Grahmann
 Megan Gunnells
 Clayton Hahn
 Grete Harding
 Mike Hemer
 Caitlin Higgins
 Miriam Hook
 Imran Jamal
 Wes Johnson
 James M. Johnson
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 Richard Klein
 Dorothy Knight
 Kelly Kyle
 Lankin Landron

Nathan Lang
 Charlie Lee
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 Chris Mowry
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Tara Noah
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