



Neighbor to Neighbor

www.hillcountryalliance.org

The Mission of the Hill Country Alliance is to bring together an ever-expanding alliance of groups throughout a multi-county region of Central Texas with the long-term objective of preserving open spaces, water supply, water quality and the unique character of the Texas Hill Country.

[About HCA](#) • [News](#) • [Issues](#) • [Events](#) • [Resources](#) • [Get Involved](#) • [Contact](#)

News

PEC Election Underway

Pedernales Electric Cooperative is conducting its second-ever open and competitive election for members of the Board of Directors. Be sure your voice is heard. Election details [here](#).

Texas drought information site launched

A new multi-agency, comprehensive Texas drought information website has been launched at <http://agrilife.tamu.edu/drought>. This site will serve as a central clearing house of drought-related public information.

Hearing set for Llano River sand and gravel application

The Texas Parks and Wildlife Department is being asked to permit the mining of sand and gravel along a nearly one-mile stretch of stream bed in the Llano River. Tyson Broad takes a look at the issue which impacts water quality, navigation, the Llano riverbed, fish and wildlife, recreational activity and area property values. Read full story [here](#).

Council Okays Sale Of Water -- For Now

Following a lengthy discussion, the Fredericksburg City Council agreed to supply local golf resort Boot Ranch with ground water for its golf course from a nearby well until an effluent line can be completed from the city's waste water treatment plant. The new plan, which comes at the request of Boot Ranch, calls for the city to sell a maximum 40.5 million gallons of water until an Aug. 1 cut-off date. Read full Fredericksburg Standard article [here](#).

2009 Texas Land Fragmentation Study

A new study conducted for American Farmland Trust by the Institute for Renewable Natural Resources at Texas A&M University reveals that Texas lost 2.1 million acres of farms, ranches and forest land between 1997 and 2007. Texas is home to over 142 million acres of private farms, ranches and forest lands, thus leading the nation in land area devoted to privately-owned working lands. Read full press release [here](#).

Bills are vital to protect aquifer

SA Express News Commentary by Camille White: We members of the San Geronimo Valley Alliance are puzzled about why the City of San Antonio and the San Antonio Water System are not yet supporting House Bill 595 and Senate Bill 822 that would prohibit discharge of treated sewage effluent into the contributing and recharge zones of the San Antonio and Barton Springs segments of the Edwards Aquifer. Read full commentary [here](#).

Only 4 more weeks to submit photos for the [HCA Photo Contest](#). See your photos in the 2010 Hill Country Calendar. Deadline May 31.

Events

May 2 in Bandera - Come out for barbecue and canoeing at the Ninth Annual Medina River Cleanup - [Details](#)

May 8 in Austin - 2009 Envision Central Texas Community Stewardship Awards Luncheon - [Details and Registration](#)

May 8 in San Antonio - "Implementing Water Quality Strategies in Central Texas" hosted by River Systems Institute - [Details](#)

May 15 in Bandera - Bandera County and Texas Agrilife Extension Service's rainwater harvesting series - Making Rain Barrels - Call for details 830-796-7755.

May 16 in Austin - Green By Design Workshop held by Austin Energy Green Building - Registration limited - [Details and Registration](#)

May 20-22 in San Antonio - Learn about new technology and issues at the National Water Quality Conference 2009 - [Details](#)

Check the **HCA Website** for continuous updates on all of the latest Hill Country [news](#) and [events](#)

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