



CENTRAL TEXAS SECTION OF THE WATER ENVIRONMENT ASSOCIATION OF TEXAS

September 2001 <http://www.weat.org/central/>

WELCOME BACK! The Central Texas Section hopes you had a great summer. We are looking forward to a great year with interesting topics that will be educational and entertaining.

Our first meeting this year will be **Tuesday, September 18, 2001, 6:00 p.m. in the Dining Room of the Joe C. Thompson Conference Center on the UT Austin Campus.** The meeting cost of **\$10 (\$5 for students)** includes dinner, short business meeting, and a presentation entitled **Edwards Aquifer Variable Flow Study Habitat Conservation Plan.** The presentation will be a joint effort by Mr. **Edmund L. Oborny**, Senior Fisheries Biologist / Texas Office Manager, BIO-WEST, Inc., **Robert Hall**, Research Coordinator, Edwards Aquifer Authority and **Andrew Labay**, Fisheries Biologist, PBS&J.

If you plan to attend this meeting, please contact Rose at 452-5905 by Thursday, September 13, 2001 for reservations, or e-mail her at rmurphy@apaienv.com

The southern portion of the Edwards Aquifer served more than 1.7 million people in 2000 as their sole source of water, and current water use has increased to the extent that during moderate to severe drought conditions, loss of springflow may be a threat to the aquatic ecosystems in the region. Within this central Texas region, San Marcos and Comal springs are fed by discharge from the Edwards Aquifer. They are the two largest spring systems in the western United States and contain unique fauna and flora including 1 threatened and 7 endangered species. In 1993, the Texas Legislature created the Edwards Aquifer Authority (EAA) with the charge of managing the Edwards Aquifer and to regulate groundwater withdrawals. To better manage the Edwards Aquifer, the Edwards Aquifer Authority has undertaken a comprehensive program involving hydrogeologic and biological research. The studies also play a key role in the development of a Habitat Conservation Plan being developed by the EAA in conjunction with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

UPCOMING MEETINGS:

The programs and speakers for these upcoming meetings are still to be determined.

Tuesday, Nov 13, 2001, 6:00 pm, Stagecoach Inn, Salado, Texas

Tuesday, Jan 15, 2002, 6:00 pm, Dining Room, UT Thompson Center

Tuesday, Mar 19, 2002, 6:00 pm, Dining Room, UT Thompson Center

Tuesday, May 21, 2002, 11:30 am, Room 3.120, UT Thompson Center, Election of Officers

Meeting Sponsor

The September meeting is sponsored by PBS&J. The firm provides a full range of water quality and wastewater services to the Central Texas area. These services include: stormwater management, wastewater collection and treatment, permit and regulatory support, hydrologic and water quality modeling, and special studies such as pretreatment requirements and TMDLs. PBS&J also provides a full range of ecological, planning, and engineering services. With 65 offices nationwide, the firm strives to be a leader in bringing world-class technology to help enrich the quality of everyday life.

The Central Texas Section normally meets at the Joe C. Thompson Conference Center at the University of Texas at Austin Campus. The meetings are usually the third Tuesday of odd numbered months.

This newsletter is sent to more than 350 water professionals in the Austin area. If you are interested in sponsoring a meeting/newsletter or if you have information for publication, contact Steve Coonan at scoonan@apaienv.com or 452-5905.

Central Texas Section Officers are listed below. If you are interested in volunteering, please contact any officer.

President – Paul Jensen
329-8342, pajensen@pbsj.com
President-Elect – Bruce Wiland
444-3188, wiland@worldnet.att.net
Vice-President – Raj Bhattarai
322-2808 raj.bhattarai@ci.austin.tx.us
Treasurer – David Briggs
894-3230, briggsdc@cdm.com
Secretary – Steve Coonan
452-5905, scoonan@apaienv.com
Section Rep. - Carol Batterton
239-6306, cbatterr@tnrcc.state.tx.us
Past Pres. – Richard Eason
261-6222, reason@lakewaymud.org

SUMMER FUN!

The second annual summer meeting of the Central Texas Chapter of WEAT and the Capital Area Council of AWWA was a great success. Our cruise on Lake Austin provided everyone with a unique perspective of this section of the Colorado River Basin. It was especially wonderful to be cruising on a full lake compared to the previous year's cruise on Lake Travis. Approximately 120 WEAT/AWWA members, spouses and friends departed on the Commodore II Riverboat at the LCRA dock and enjoyed the wonderful scenery on our way to Green Shores where we ate a great fajita dinner. Following dinner, Mr. Joe Beal, P.E., General Manager of the LCRA shared his thoughts concerning the water industry in Central Texas. It was particularly interesting to hear Joe's perspective concerning the relationship between the energy and water industries and how the projected growth in the area will keep all the "young" water professionals challenged for years to come. Thank you Joe for taking the time to visit with us. The summer meeting also represented a changing of the guard for your Central Texas WEAT officers. Your new officers are listed above. Thanks to our past officers for their service.



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ASSOCIATION OF TEXAS

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