

# Recharge: Your Groundwater Resource

Post Oak Savannah Groundwater Conservation District Newsletter

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## **Water Links**

Texas Alliance of Groundwater Districts - [www.texasgroundwater.org](http://www.texasgroundwater.org)

Texas Water Development Board - [www.twdb.state.tx.us](http://www.twdb.state.tx.us)

National Groundwater Association—[www.ngwa.org](http://www.ngwa.org)

Texas Ground Water Association - [www.tgwa.org](http://www.tgwa.org)



## **General Manager Updates**

### **District Welcomes Drew Gholson to Staff**



Congratulations to Drew Gholson as he comes to the District in a full time capacity as the District's Water Resource Management Specialist. Gholson served as a Field Technician Intern for the District before becoming full time. He graduated from Texas A&M University with a Master's in Water management & Hydrological Science and a Certificate in GIS in 2009. As Water Resource Management Specialist, Gholson's responsibilities will include development of a comprehensive well database that will be integrated into the District's GIS. A Geographic Information System (GIS) integrates hardware, software, and data for capturing, managing, analyzing, and displaying all forms of geographically referenced information. This allows the district to store information on wells that are also linked to the specific locations on a map.

See **Database**, page 3

### **"Water Wizards" Program in Local Schools**

The Post Oak Savannah Groundwater Conservation District presented its "Water Wizards" educational program to 518 students during the 2008/2009 school year. The educational program was offered to all sixth-grade science classes in every school in Burleson and Milam counties.

In conjunction with studies about the water cycle, students in each of these sixth-grade science classes received a presentation from Gary Westbrook, General Manager of the District, using a large sand aquifer model demonstrating how wells can affect groundwater movement. Students watched as red, blue and green dyes were pumped through the model. Westbrook also demonstrated a handheld Global Positioning System device used to determine the latitude and longitude of wells, and showed students how he measures the depth of water in wells.

See **Water Wizards**, page 2

#### **Inside This Issue**

- 2009 Grants
- Well Maintenance
- Water Wizards Update

## Water Conservation District Grant Awards

The Post Oak Savannah Groundwater Conservation District approved grant awards for 10 separate water entities in the Burleson and Milam counties. Grant awards for the 2009 year total over 755,000 dollars. These grand awards will be used for projects in the District to enhance water conservation. Below listed are the recipients of the grant awards for 2009.



*Post Oak Savannah GCD General Manager Gary Westbrook gives a Water Wizard presentation in Rockdale schools.*

<u>Applicant</u>	<u>Amount</u>	<u>Use</u>
Lyons WSC	\$76,038	Replace/improve obsolete and deteriorated lines
Milano WSC	\$93,679	Drill new well
City of Rockdale	\$53,085	Replace/improve obsolete and deteriorated lines
Cade Lakes WSC	\$40,594	Replace/improve obsolete and deteriorated lines
Deanville WSC	\$124,905	Replace/improve obsolete and deteriorated lines
Gause WSC	\$48,713	SCADA System monitor water leaks and loss
Clay WSC	\$148,754	Replace/improve obsolete and deteriorated lines
Marlow WSC	\$48,713	SCADA System monitor water leaks and loss
Minerva WSC	\$48,713	SCADA System monitor water leaks and loss
<u>Cooks Point WSC</u>	<u>\$78,066</u>	Replace/improve obsolete and deteriorated lines
Total Awarded	\$761,260	

## Water Wizards, continued from page 1

The Water Wizards program is an educational way for students to learn about aquifers and the importance of protecting and conserving our groundwater and surface water.

Water Wizards is also a great way for teachers to meet the TEKS (Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills) requirement that students identify relationships between groundwater and surface water in a watershed.

The students are able to see demonstrations and pictures of the water cycle and how it affects our local aquifer. The Water Wizard program includes maps and diagrams, clips from videos, and demonstrations about the water cycle, watersheds, and the movement of water through sand and gravel aquifers.

The unique characteristics of the local Carrizo-Wilcox Aquifer are also discussed. Students came away with the understanding that 80 percent of the people in Milam and Burleson counties get their drinking water from this aquifer. The program emphasizes Texas geography, historical references and stories, and a direct connection between water and the students on a local and personal level.

Each of the 518 Milam and Burleson county sixth-graders receive a Water Wizard bag with a shower timer, water facts, word puzzles, a water conservation wheel, and a book cover illustrating the groundwater cycle.

**Database**, Continued from page 1

Being able to have locations of wells along with pumping amount will allow for more accurate modeling of the groundwater and its tendencies. He will work to maintain and expand the monitoring network by working with landowners and the District's consultants to assess the adequacy of the District's Water Well Monitoring Network and provide methods for improving the network to support the District's objectives.

Drew will continue to develop and add to the existing well database for the District to assist in the monitoring and managing of the groundwater in the area. "Locations of the wells are one of the first things that need to be verified within the database. We are currently obtaining GPS coordinates for wells along with depths. The collection of depths, screen depths and locations will allow the District to determine which formation a particular well's screen is in," said Gholson. The database will also include pumping rates, permitted amounts, owner, date drilled, and the formation water is drawn from. The additions to the well database will allow the district to determine needed locations and depths of monitor well to add to the program to better allow monitoring of the water resources in the District.

Groundwater conservation districts are the state's preferred method of groundwater management through rules developed, adopted, and promulgated by a district.

Texas Water Code, Sec. 36.0015

## Managing Your Well

### Schedule Your Annual Water Well Checkup

The National Groundwater Association recommends well owners schedule a water well checkup at least once per year to ensure proper operation and to monitor the water quality.

#### Your checkup should include:

1. A flow test to check for output;
2. An examination of water level before and during pumping;
3. Pump motor operation;
4. Pressure tank and pressure switch contact;
5. General water quality (odor, cloudiness, etc.);
6. An inspection of well equipment to assure that it is sanitary and that it meets local codes; and
7. A test for coliform bacteria, nitrates, iron, manganese, and water sulfides.

Additional tests may be recommended, and a written report should be delivered to you following the checkup that

### Locating a Contractor

To arrange for checkup, contact a local well contractor. You can locate reputable contractors on the Web at: [www.wellowner.org](http://www.wellowner.org), in your local yellow pages, or by referrals from other well owners and other knowledgeable people.

Source: National Groundwater Association

**POSGCD Mission Statement**—Our mission is to strategically manage the groundwater resources of Burleson and Milam counties in order to protect against aquifer depletion and pollution and to ensure an adequate water supply for future generations. Through responsible management, we will accomplish this undertaking of preservation by collecting data, monitoring groundwater levels, regulating excessive production, permitting, educating the public and coordinating with neighboring districts for mutual benefit.

Calendar of Events

October

13 - Post Oak Savannah GCD Stakeholder/Board of Directors Meeting at the Milano Community Center in Milano, TX

GMA 12 meeting, TBA

November

10 - Post Oak Savannah GCD Board of Directors Meeting at POSGCD offices in Milano, TX

December

8 - Post Oak Savannah GCD Board of Directors Meeting at POSGCD offices in Milano, TX

ARE WE PROVIDING INFORMATION YOU NEED?

The District Staff would like to know what information you would like to see in this newsletter. Contact us at the District offices or email us at [posgcd@tconline.net](mailto:posgcd@tconline.net) with your suggestions.



POSGCD was created to conserve and regulate the use of groundwater through monitoring of aquifer levels and production and encourage conservation rules which limit pumping, thereby extending the quantity and quality of the water available in all of the aquifers in Milam and Burleson counties. POSGCD is a member of the Texas Alliance of Groundwater Districts (TAGD).

Look for our next issue in Spring 2010

MILANO, TEXAS 76556

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CONSERVATION DISTRICT

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