



POSGCD General Manager Gary Westbrook demonstrates aquifer hydraulics to junior high school students at a recent District education presentation at Buckholts Independent School District. One teacher recently stated that the Water Wizard program “fits perfectly into our curriculum, fulfilling state guidelines and providing students with information specific to the area in which we live.”

Announcements

Well Monitoring

Post Oak Savannah will conduct its annual well monitoring program in cooperation with the Texas Water Development Board in its effort to measure groundwater levels in January and February. If you would like your well to be apart of the program, please contact POSGCD at 512-455-9900.

Water Quality

If you have a question concerning the quality of your well water, you may bring by an 8 oz. water sample to the POSGCD Office. It will be tested free of charge for the mineral elements iron and manganese, which are common contaminants in our district’s water supply.

In addition, pH and conductivity will also be tested. The pH and conductivity are measures that assist in determining the quality of our water. Low or high pH can change how water tastes and looks. Conductivity measures the amount of dissolved ions determining water purity.



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).

POST OAK SAVANNAH GROUNDWATER
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Look for our next issue in Spring 2007!

Recharge: Your Groundwater Resource

Post Oak Savannah Groundwater Conservation District Quarterly News

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Water Links

Texas Alliance of
Groundwater Districts
www.texasgroundwater.org

Texas Water Development
Board
www.twdb.state.tx.us

National Groundwater
Association
www.ngwa.org

Texas Ground Water
Association
www.tgwa.org



General Manager Updates

Welcome

Post Oak Savannah Groundwater Conservation District (POSGCD) welcomes well owners to its first District Quarterly Newsletter. We hope that this publication brings you useful information concerning well maintenance, groundwater conservation, local and regional meetings and educational information for learning more about managing groundwater resources in Burleson and Milam Counties. This issue focuses on who we are, our purpose, and how you can maintain your water wells. Inside you will find a review of 2006 in the General Manager Updates, an excerpt from a 1956 editorial that discusses core principles that still hold true today on the responsibilities of groundwater districts, a technical use sheet on managing domestic wells and abandoned wells, and announcements of upcoming events.

Thank You

We would also like to thank you, the well owner, for registering your well without delay this year. Having your well registered is important for future District planning efforts, so that it helps ensure groundwater is managed efficiently and responsibly at the local level so that the citizens of our two counties benefit from having good water quality and quantity. Post Oak Savannah board members recently voted to extend the registration period to December 31, 2007. This will allow citizens of Burleson and Milam Counties who have not registered their well more time to do so. We appreciate your support in helping us in this effort.

Irrigation Well Flow Rates Measured

Because District rules require a metering device on all non-exempt wells, POSGCD purchased a portable flow meter to assist producers in this effort. Post Oak Savannah provides the metering device as a service to producers and prevents them from having to purchase one themselves.



During summer 2006, irrigation flow rates on irrigation wells were measured to help producers gather data and estimate the amount of water their wells produce. Metering water flow will also aid in identifying aquifer water levels. In cooperation with producers in the Brazos Bottom and in Milam County, flow rates were measured on sixty six irrigation wells. We hope to assist more producers in the coming year.

Inside This Issue

- General Manager Updates
- A 1956 Editorial
- Managing Your Well
- Plugging Abandoned Wells
- Announcements

Groundwater Conservation and Enhancement Grants

Non-profit water supply corporations as defined by section 5.5 of POSGCD Rules can apply for grants. Applications for 2007, will begin in early summer.

2006 Recipients

- Birch Creek Recreation
- City of Rockdale
- City of Somerville
- Lyons Water supply
- Milano Water Supply

Basic Districts Philosophies Outlined in 1956 Newsletter

Editorial *by Allan White*

Below is an excerpt from a 1956 editorial that appeared in Cross Section, a Newsletter of the High Plains Underground Water Conservation District No.1.

We hear a few of our people say, “ Why do we need a water district to tell us what to do? We can take care of our own water.”

That’s exactly what we are all doing –taking care of our own water without the state government or federal government doing it for us. The [High Plains] Water District was not created in an effort to do away with the rights of the individual, but rather it is a local organization designed to maintain those individual rights at the same time, provide for orderly development and wise use of our own water.

Why have the many towns in the Plains incorporated and established local self government? Was the purpose to take away the rights and privileges of the good of folks? No! It was to assist in orderly development of the community for the good of all. Certainly, local government is more practical than one central agency running the affairs of all cities.

Several years ago, Southern High Plains farmers and business men could see that certain other groups in Texas were making headway toward legislation declaring, by law, that ground water was the property of the state, thereby giving a central agency authority to administer and appropriate the ground water of Texas.

Had legislation of that nature been allowed to pass into law, the development of these Southern High Plains unquestionably would not have progressed to where it is today. We would no doubt have had a curtailment of well drilling many years ago.

Through the efforts of many High Plains people, bills that recognized State ownership or public ownership of water were killed and by compromise, bills that now constitute the ground water laws of Texas were passed by the state legislature.

One of the big features in the law is the portion that sets forth the recognition of the ownership and rights of the owner of the land in underground water.

An organization such as your water district is of great benefit in fulfilling the wishes of a majority of the people in orderly development of our ground water aquifer. It is invaluable as a means of gathering data pertaining to our underground water and the geological formations which contain this water. These data can be and are being used to formulate methods of better conserving, protecting, and recharging the underground water reservoir.

Your Water District has been quite active in recognizing other ways in which it can help you.

Every person living within the boundaries of the High Plains Water District should use his or her energies in working for and defending locally-controlled water districts.

Source: High Plains Underground Water Conservation District No. 1

2007 Upcoming Events

January

23-26: Texas Groundwater Association Convention and Trade Show, Waco, Texas

30-31: Texas Alliance of Groundwater Districts

February

1: Brazos Region G Meeting, Waco, Texas

8: GMA 8 Meeting, Stephenville, Texas

13: POSGCD Board Meeting, Milano, Texas

March

6-9: Texas Water Conservation Association 2007

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 Wells

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 explains the results and recommendations.

Locating a Contractor

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

Source: National Groundwater Association

Plugging Abandoned Wells

Abandoned wells present a safety hazard for aquifers, livestock and humans. Livestock and humans are susceptible to falling in old abandoned wells and drinking contaminated water. Contaminants can enter groundwater via unplugged abandoned wells from surface runoff, thus contaminating aquifers and other water wells of well users. If a well has not been used for six consecutive months, Texas State Law considers the well “abandoned.”

The following steps will assist you in filling your well.

1. Determine the size of the well—this will determine how much fill material to use
 - A. Measure well depth
 - B. Measure well diameter
 - C. Measure water level
2. Remove debris from well—Debris in water wells must be removed to avoid incomplete filling. Uneven fills will leave voids rendering the plugging process ineffective.
3. Disinfect the well—Add 1 gallon of bleach for every 500 gallons of water to eliminate disease causing organisms.
4. Remove as much casing as possible—this eliminates a conduit for possible contaminants
5. Fill the well with plugging material (use bentonite, native clay, or cement)

Plugged wells can be filled with bentonite, bentonite grout or neat Portland. Plugging abandon wells may cost \$200-300. POSGCD offers a cost sharing program to help mitigate financial expenses. To receive assistance for up to 75 percent of the cost in plugging your well, contact POSGCD at (512) 455-9900.

Source: Texas Cooperative Extension

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.