



GCGCD NEWS



Spring 2024 Newsletter

A brief history about Earth Day...

Earth Day originated in 1970 after Rachel Carson's influential book *Silent Spring* shed light on the consequences of industrial practices and focused on the importance of environmental protection. In 1970, Senator Gaylord Nelson called for a dedicated day to promote environmental education and advocacy. This vision gained massive support, culminating in the inaugural Earth Day on **April 22, 1970**. Millions of Americans participated in demonstrations and clean-up efforts, transcending political and socioeconomic divides. By the end of 1970, the United States had established the Environmental Protection Agency, and vital environmental laws were passed. Earth Day's inception marked a turning point, ushering in a new era of heightened environmental consciousness and regulatory measures to preserve and protect the planet. To learn how the GCGCD is celebrating and honoring 2024's Earth day, visit pages 4 & 5.

[Earth Day History](#)

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Notes from the G.M.

Spring is here! The weather has been gorgeous, and the wildflowers are everywhere.

I hope everyone takes a break and drives around our county to enjoy the beauty before the heat of summer is upon us!

We have a lot to share with you in this newsletter. We want to introduce to you our newest board member, Rebecca Clark. Welcome to our Groundwater Family Rebecca! We are so pleased to work with you!

Speaking of work – the District has finalized the Carrizo Aquifer water rights allocations for 2024. Now published on [our website](#), you can download this year’s Carrizo water rights by parcel ID # or by owner name (as listed by [GCAD](#)). To learn more about Professor Clark, my recent San Marcos river trip, GCGCD’s participation in the watershed clean-up, our booth at Seguin’s Earth Day event, and much more - keep reading!

Happy Spring Everyone! 🌸



New Board Member!

Meet our newest Board Member representing District 2, **Rebecca Clark**! Professor Clark is a longtime resident of Guadalupe County and a faculty member at Texas Lutheran University specializing in Mathematics. Mrs. Clark received the oaths of office at our Board Meeting held on March 14th, 2024.

Thank you to Professor Clark for joining our team!



Water Well Driller’s Luncheon

The Evergreen Underground Water Conservation District is hosting a Driller’s Luncheon on **May 22, 2024** from 11:00 AM-1:30 PM at the EUWCD Office, 110 Wyoming Blvd., Pleasanton, TX 78064

Items to be discussed:

- Water Well production, Drilling, & Exempt Well Permit Process
- EUWCD Rule Refresher
- Importance of State Well Reporting
- Guadalupe County GCD Overview
- Wintergarden GCD Overview

For more information, call **830-569-4186** or email : melissa.gonzales@evergreenuwcd.org

TEXAS WATER FOUNDATION

I recently joined my fellow Texas Water Leader alumni on a 6-mile kayak paddling trip along the San Marcos River near Luling. I was asked to discuss local groundwater issues, 3D modeling of the Carrizo, and the rapid development in our area as it relates to the supply of water. Virginia Parker of the San Marcos River Foundation reviewed the importance of natural springs and why we need to preserve them. Dr. Timothy Bonner offered a fish survey demonstration before we paddled the river. Pictured right. Visit the [Texas Water Foundation](#) website to learn more about the Texas Water Leaders Program!



Announcing the Texas Water Foundation’s 2024 **Rainmaker of the Year** recipient: Texas Comptroller, **Glenn Hegar**! This award recognizes exceptional leaders who make lasting impacts in Texas water. Congratulations, Comptroller Hegar!

Association & Agency Updates

4-H

The 4-H Texas Water Ambassador Program is open for applications. As an Advocate sponsor of the program, GCGCD is happy to support our youth by giving them an opportunity to gain advanced knowledge & develop leadership skills in science, technology, engineering, and the management of water in Texas.

If you know of any high school students interested in water, let them know about the Water Ambassador Program!

[Application](#)

TAGD

The Texas Alliance of Groundwater District's annual Texas Groundwater Summit will take place **August 20th-22nd, 2024** at the Hyatt Regency Hill Country Resort in San Antonio. The Texas Groundwater Summit is the premier groundwater event in the state, bringing together a diverse group of groundwater professionals over three days to discuss emerging trends and new research. To register for this event, visit this page:

[TGSummit](#)

GMA-13

The next GMA-13 Meeting will be held on:

June 14th, 2024 at 10:00 AM
at the Evergreen Underground Water Conservation District: 110 Wyoming Blvd, Pleasanton, TX 78064

TCEQ

TCEQ Groundwater Availability Certification Form

The TCEQ has published a revised form for groundwater availability certifications. As a reminder, this TCEQ certification is **unrelated** to GCGCD's permitting and registration requirements. To learn more about permitting and well registration with the District, visit our website at www.gcgcd.org

TWDB

The Texas Water Development Board announced the Texas Rain Catcher Award, a rainwater harvesting competition and recognition program to promote the technology, educate the public, and to recognize excellence in the application of rainwater harvesting systems in Texas. This competition is conducted annually, and is open to all individuals and organizations. The deadline to enter is June 30. To learn more about the competition judging, entry, and award, visit the [TWDB website](#).

The Texas Water Development Board has a new logo! Click on it to visit their website:



Region L

The Region L Planning Group Meeting on February 14th, 2024 addressed crucial water planning matters. Discussions focused on filling vacancies within the planning group and electing officers for the 2024 SCTRWPGE Executive Committee. Presentations by technical consultants provided updates on the 2026 Regional Water Planning Technical Memorandum, demonstrating progress towards long-term water management objectives. For the agenda, click here:

[Region L Agenda](#)

The next Planning Group Meeting will be held on **May 2, 2024 at 9:30 AM**



EARTH DAY



The Guadalupe County Groundwater Conservation District is grateful to be a part of Seguin’s annual Earth Day celebration! As a District that values conservation, preservation, and protection of one of Earth’s most valuable resources, we understand the importance of a day reserved for environmental awareness and advocacy. The District is passionate about educating the public about our water resources, and Earth Day is a wonderful opportunity to inform the public, but also to engage with our community and make meaningful connections with others who care for the environment.

Seguin’s 2024 Earth Day event was a great success for the District. We had more engagement from Earth Day attendees than ever before. Thank you to everyone who stopped by our booth and took time to participate in our activities!

Springs Hill WSC



GCGCD Earth Day Booth with District Staff and new Director, Professor Clark



Mr. Starcke, Board President



Pictured on the left is a small-scale model of a Rainwater Harvesting Barrel made by District staff designed to highlight all the necessary elements of a functioning rain barrel!

EARTH DAY ACTIVITIES

Geronimo-Alligator Creeks Cleanup

Shown below is our most interactive activity: "Test Your Groundwater Knowledge!" from which we gave out prizes.

Our prizes were chosen for their promotion of sustainability, with our ultimate prize bag containing: One GCGCD Earth Day sticker, One reusable metal straw, and one packet of bluebonnet seeds!

Our Earth Day activities and fliers will be linked to our website under the Education tab for everyone to view.

The Spring Geronimo-Alligator Creeks Cleanup event took place on Saturday, April 20th, 2024 and was organized by Program Specialist Annalee Epps.

GCGCD staff volunteered to help set up tables for the event, and participated with members of the community to help keep our local watershed clean and safe.

Test Your Groundwater Knowledge!



1-2 Correct: Sticker
3-4 Correct: Flower Seeds
5-6 Correct: Metal Straw
7-8 Correct: GCGCD Prize Bag



1. You can drill a well wherever you want on your property.
T/F

2. What aquifer(s) are beneath Seguin?
A) Carrizo-Wilcox B) Gulf Coast C) Ogallala

3. A permit is not required to drill a domestic well or livestock well, but all wells need to be registered.
T/F

4. Which room in the average house uses the most water?
A) Kitchen B) Bathroom C) Laundry room

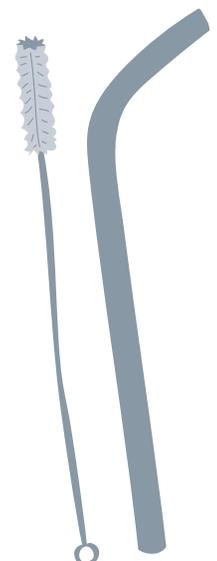
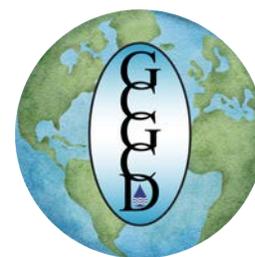
5. The GCGCD is 1 of 35 groundwater conservation districts in Texas.
T/F

6. The Guadalupe County Groundwater Conservation District manages lakes and rivers.
T/F

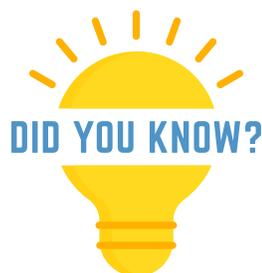
7. How many gallons of water are in one acre-foot?
A) 1,000 B) 49,779 C) 325,851

8. It is NOT ok to store chemicals like fertilizer or pesticides in your well house.
T/F

Answers on Page 8!



Did you Know?

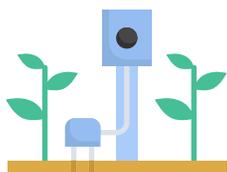


[Source](#)

Did you know that when it comes to recycling, some materials have a limited lifespan, while others can be reused indefinitely?

Paper, for instance, can be recycled up to six times before its fibers weaken too much to hold together, potentially saving up to 75,000 trees if the daily run of a popular magazine or newspaper were recycled. On the other hand, aluminum can be recycled infinitely, making it a truly sustainable material. This highlights the importance of recycling not just once, but multiple times, to maximize the environmental benefits and reduce our overall resource consumption. So, the next time you're thinking about tossing that empty can or newspaper, remember that by recycling, you're not only conserving valuable resources but also contributing to a greener, more sustainable future.

Conservation Tip



Measure your Soil's Moisture

Not sure when to water your plants? Investing in a soil moisture meter could help you learn the best time to saturate your soil. Soil Moisture Meters operate by measuring conductivity in the soil. Most meters have a 1-10 scale with 1= very dry and 10= very saturated. This tool helps save excess water by preventing users from overwatering when their soil is already saturated. Try one out this Summer to conserve water and keep your plants healthy!



La Niña

With El Niño fading, La Niña is expected to take effect this Summer. These twin weather patterns are brought forth by the changing temperatures in the Pacific ocean. El Niño is caused by warmer than average temperatures, while La Niña arrives after ocean temperatures have cooled off. We can thank El Niño for improving the drought conditions after the heavy rains we experienced this Winter, but with La Niña on it's way, we can expect a dry, hot Summer to arrive in the next few months.

[Source](#)

Eco-Friendly Tip!

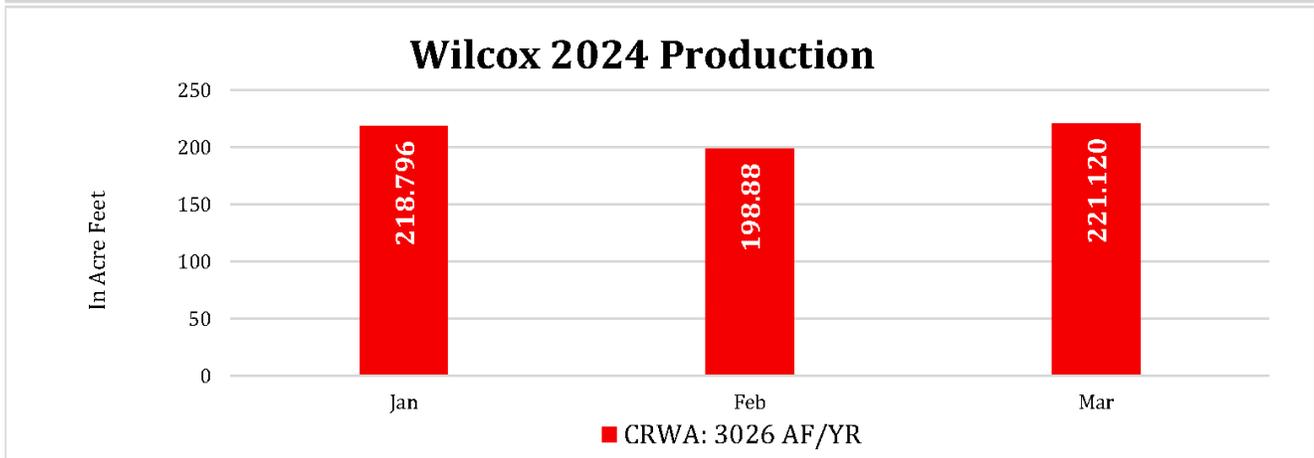
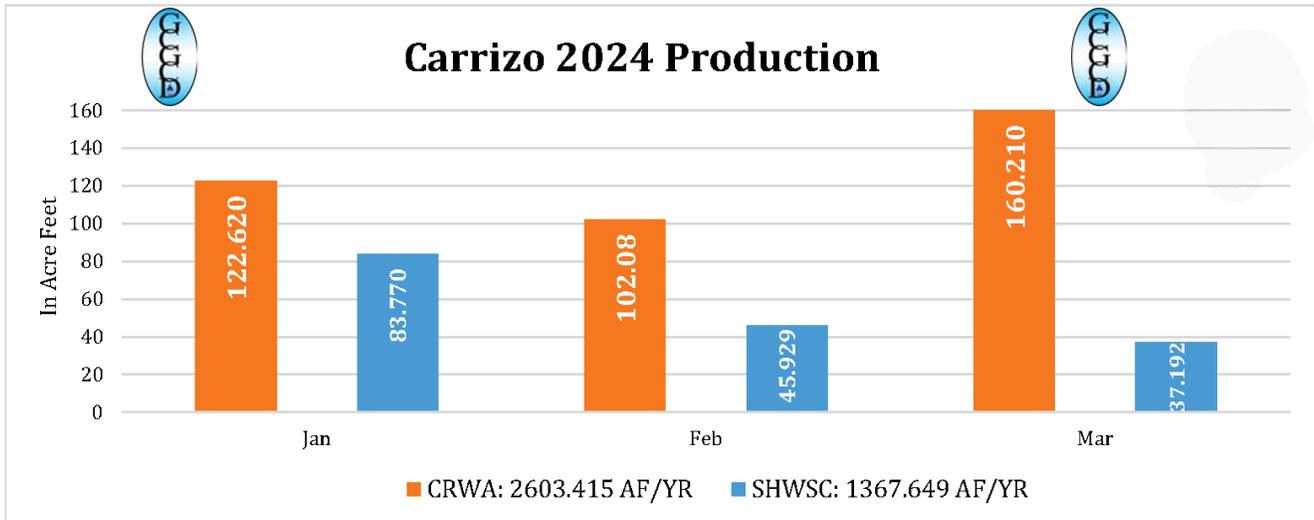


Transforming your home into a pollinator-friendly haven is both rewarding and achievable. Start by selecting a sunny spot for your garden, providing pollinators like butterflies with an inviting space to thrive. Opt for native plants, as they require less water, maintenance, and they attract local insects. When choosing plants, prioritize those untreated with pesticides or insecticides, ensuring a safe haven for pollinators. Planting a variety of perennials that bloom at different times throughout the year ensures a continuous nectar supply. Practice patience, as it may take time for butterflies and other pollinators to discover your garden. Regularly weed, water, and maintain your garden to keep it healthy and vibrant. By taking these steps, you play a crucial role in promoting pollinator gardens at the grassroots level, contributing to the conservation of essential pollinators, and fostering a sustainable environment right in your own backyard.

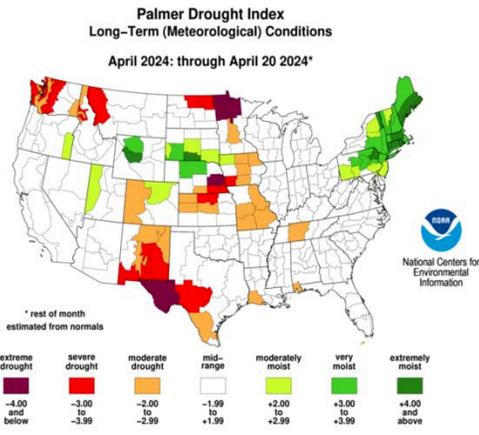
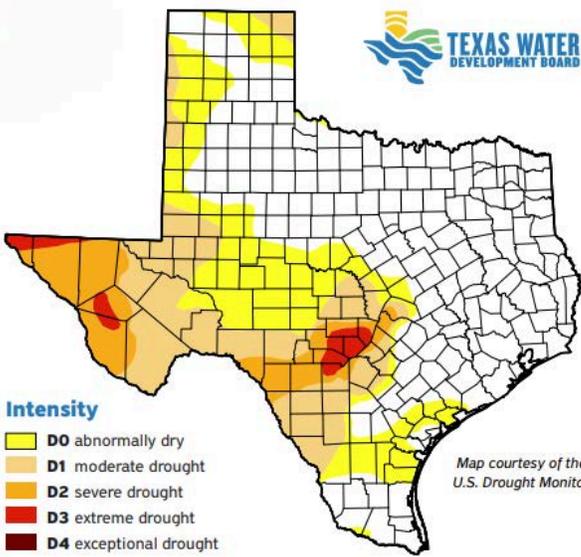
Rainfall & Production

GCGCD Average Monthly Rainfall (in.) for 2024													
TWDB TexMesonet Station	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec	Annual Total By Site
Baker Ranch	5.08	2.11	1.56										8.75
Diamond Half Ranch	6.40	2.55	3.06	★									12.01
Grones Ranch	6.86	1.40	2.24										10.50
Jones Ranch	6.86	1.62	2.42										10.90
Randolph Auxiliary*	4.00	1.81	0.49										6.30
SHWSC Office	4.14	2.33	1.62										8.09
SHWSC Plant	5.43	2.14	1.62										9.19
Strey Ranch	5.07	2.39	1.69										9.15
													Total Avg
Monthly Avg	5.48	2.04	1.84										9.36

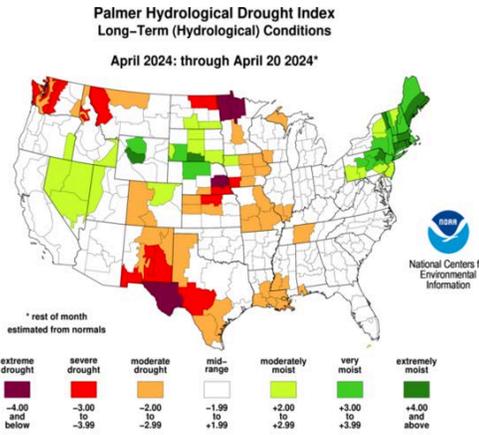
* Maintained by the NWS/FAA



Drought



PDI: Provides information about the meteorological drought, considering factors like temperature and precipitation.



PHDI: Considers factors related to water availability, such as soil moisture, streamflow, and groundwater levels. The PHDI accounts for the impact of drought on water resources and ecosystems.

Upcoming Events

The next GCGCD Board Meeting will be held on **May 9, 2024 @ 4:30 PM**

The next Region L Planning Group Meeting will be held on **May 2, 2024 at 9:30 AM** via Meeting Link or at the SAWS Customer Service Building Room CR-145, 2800 US Highway 281 North, San Antonio

The next GMA-13 Meeting will be held on **June 14th, 2024 at 10:00 AM** at the Evergreen Underground Water Conservation District Address: 110 Wyoming Blvd, Pleasanton, TX 78064

Test Your Groundwater Knowledge Answers:

- 1: F 2: A
- 3: T 4: B
- 5: F 6: F
- 7: C 8: T



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