



Guadalupe-Blanco River Authority
933 E. Court Street, Seguin TX 78155
www.gbra.org

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April 16, 2013

Volunteers Collect nearly 3,000 Pounds of Trash during Creek Cleanup

For more information

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SEGUIN-The first annual Geronimo and Alligator Creeks Cleanup event was a huge success and made a real impact by removing trash and debris from the creeks. The event held Saturday, April 6, was coordinated by the Geronimo and Alligator Creeks Partnership, Texas AgriLife Extension and the Guadalupe-Blanco River Authority, as part of implementation efforts for the area's watershed protection plan.

Almost 100 participants met at the Navarro High School parking lot and the New Braunfels Airport parking lot at 9 a.m. for a light breakfast, safety briefing and event instructions. Event t-shirts, trash bags, certificates, gloves, and pick-up tools were available to those who came out to help clean up the creeks. "The response from the community was unbelievable. We had support from the City of New Braunfels and the City of Seguin, Guadalupe County Commissioner Greg Seidenberger, Thrivent Financial for Lutherans, Geronimo Creek Resort, and many citizens—all wanting to give their time and resources to make a visible difference," said Debbie Magin, GBRA's director of Water Quality Services. "It was exciting to see students from the Navarro High School Interact Club and the Seguin High School National Honor Society, as well as students from Texas Lutheran University professor Mark Gustafson's environmental science class participating in the cleanup." Employees and their families from both Continental Corporation and Alamo Group spent their Saturday morning cleaning up assigned areas in the watershed. The City of New Braunfels donated the use of three large disposal containers to collect the trash and tires, and provided disposal free of charge for the event.

Cleanup efforts were focused at seven locations where roadways crossed Geronimo and Alligator creeks and their contributing streams, and the large storm water detention pond behind the Town Center at Creekside. "Volunteers collected 2,960 pounds of trash, 26 tires, and large items such as a stove, air conditioner, car battery, and a toilet," said Ward Ling, AgriLife Extension Program Specialist. The City of New Braunfels will recycle the tires and the metal materials collected were sent to recycling centers, as well. "We are so grateful for the overwhelming support from the community for this first event—we plan to make next year's cleanup even better!" said Ling.

Geronimo Creek, and its tributary Alligator Creek, flows through Comal and Guadalupe counties. Both were identified for watershed protection plan development due to elevated levels of bacteria and concerns about high levels of nitrogen, as reported in the Texas Water Quality Inventory published by the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality.

The Geronimo and Alligator Creeks Watershed Protection Plan was developed by local stakeholders and outlines strategies to restore and protect water quality. Quarterly meetings are held to discuss progress and plan activities, and all citizens are encouraged to attend and get involved in the effort. For more information, visit www.geronimocreek.org/.

A Clean Water Act grant was provided to the GBRA by the Texas State Soil and Water Conservation Board and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency to enable development of the watershed protection plan.

For more information on the project, contact Ling at 979-845-6980 or wling@ag.tamu.edu or Magin at 830-379-5822 or dmagin@gbra.org.

The GBRA was established by the Texas Legislature in 1933 as a water conservation and reclamation district. GBRA provides stewardship for the water resources in its 10-county statutory district, which begins near the headwaters of the Guadalupe and Blanco rivers, goes on to San Antonio Bay, and includes Kendall, Comal, Hays, Caldwell, Guadalupe, Gonzales, DeWitt, Victoria, Calhoun, and Refugio counties.



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