



PRESS RELEASE

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Contact: Upper Guadalupe River Authority
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UGRA Recognizes Summer Study Volunteers

UGRA hosted an appreciation luncheon on September 26th to recognize the 2019 Volunteer Summer Study participants. This summer, UGRA was assisted by 30 volunteers who collected 374 samples at 34 locations throughout Kerr County during June - August. UGRA staff provided a summary presentation including *E. coli* bacteria test results for each of the sampling locations and an overview of the laboratory testing procedure. Overall, the test results from summer 2019 showed low *E. coli* bacteria concentrations under dry weather conditions. Waterbodies highly influenced by urban runoff during rain events like Town, Quinlan, and Camp Meeting Creeks exhibited the highest bacteria levels.



Pictured L to R standing: Travis Linscomb (UGRA), Susan Clark, Joe Braly, Judy Anderson, Chuck Smith, Larry Hesketh, Sherry Wilson, Craig Abbott, Debbie Thompson, David Thompson, Lisa Cotner, Dee Elliott, Katy Kappel, Bake Foster, Karen Taylor, Bob Taylor, Tara Bushnoe (UGRA), and Clinton Morse. Kneeling L to R: Marguerite Belec, Joni Jones, Peni Foster, and Andonijah Lovett.

E. coli bacteria is an indicator of water contamination and is used to assess the risk of contracting a waterborne illness while swimming. Therefore, each summer, UGRA tests *E. coli* bacteria levels at twenty-one popular swimming holes throughout Kerr County. UGRA began the Volunteer Summer Study in 2004 to expand the number of sites that are monitored routinely and to supplement water quality data collected by UGRA staff. The sites monitored by volunteers also help identify areas that may need further investigation.

“The volunteers do more than just collect a water sample and bring it to the UGRA lab. They become stewards of the river by adopting a location and giving it extra attention. Some volunteers pick up trash each week at their site while others record their observations regarding recent rainfall, presence of wildlife, or other factors that might influence water quality. They provide a valuable perspective by becoming familiar with their specific creek or stretch of river,” said Tara Bushnoe, Natural Resources Coordinator.

If you are interested in becoming a Volunteer Summer Study participant, please send your contact information to UGRA (tbushnoe@ugra.org). For more information about the program, visit www.ugra.org/major-initiatives/volunteer-summer-study

Let's Keep *Our* River Clean