



## **PRESS RELEASE**

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### **Schreiner University Interns and UGRA – a Winning Combo**

Schreiner University (SU) interns and the Upper Guadalupe River Authority (UGRA) prove to be a winning combination once again. Two SU interns, Tyler Stefek (Cellular Biology) and Josh Medovich (Environmental Biology), helped launch another arm of UGRA's educational program this past month. They mapped locations and placed the initial markers for UGRA's storm drain marker program.

The storm drain marker program was an idea originated by UGRA past-president, Mike Allen. The concept is to raise awareness for protecting the Guadalupe River from storm water runoff. Buildings, streets, parking lots and other impervious surfaces don't allow rainfall to infiltrate the soil. Instead, the impervious surfaces are often designed to channel runoff into storm drains which dump directly into the creeks and river. Anything spilled, dropped, or otherwise deposited on the impervious surfaces ends up in the river. Some of the problems with high bacteria levels in the river are directly attributable to storm water runoff.



The drain markers are inscribed with the cautionary statement, 'No dumping, drains to the river.'



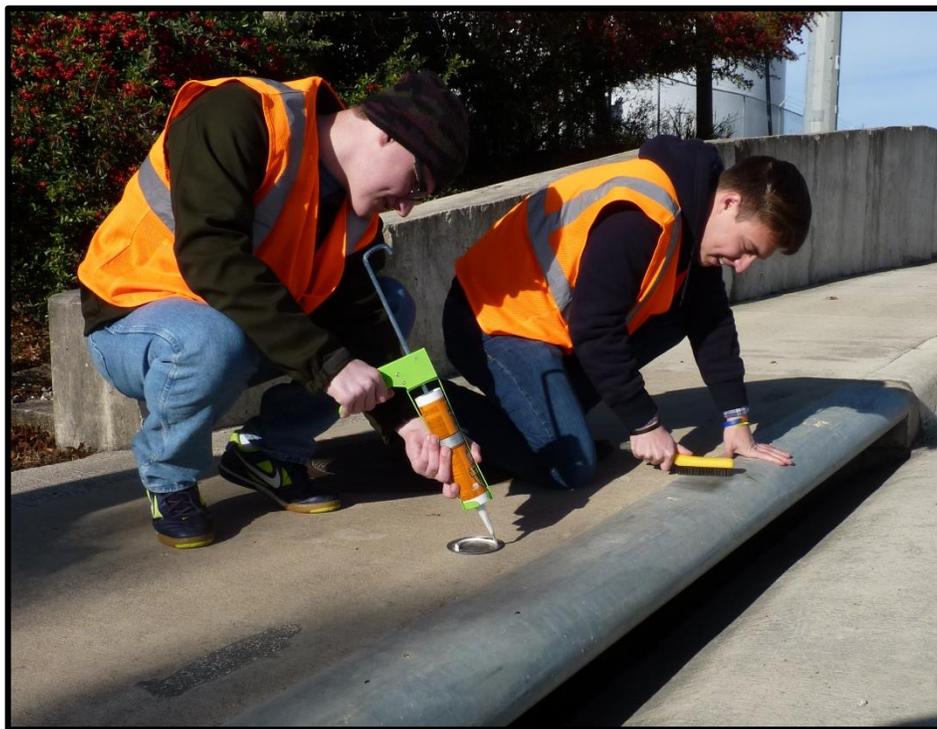
Storm drain outfall next to the Guadalupe River.

UGRA is placing markers on curbs adjacent to storm drains throughout Kerrville. The interns provided much needed manpower to initiate the program. They captured GPS coordinates for about 160 storm drains throughout Kerrville. The coordinates were then mapped, the storm drains were prioritized for marking, and the proposed locations were presented to the City of Kerrville and TXDOT for approval. Additionally, prior to completing their internships, Tyler and Josh helped install about 25 of the storm drain markers.

“Tyler and Josh’s efforts helped us jumpstart the program and hopefully people will notice the markers as they walk down the street and be reminded that we must all be stewards of the river,” said Tara Bushnoe, UGRA Natural Resources Coordinator.

UGRA has provided intern opportunities for a number of SU students over the years. The interns have gained valuable hands-on experience in surface water quality data collection, maintenance of field equipment, laboratory analysis, data entry, and conducting environmental education programs. UGRA’s current Environmental Laboratory Manager is a SU graduate and served as an intern in UGRA’s lab prior to graduating.

"For nearly 20 years Schreiner University students have benefitted from our partnership with the Upper Guadalupe River Authority. Whether through a job shadow experience, as interns, or eventual employees, our students have gained valuable, practical experience in the application of various sciences. This win-win partnership provides the students with real-world, hands-on knowledge in their chosen career fields, and provides the UGRA with additional human resources to accomplish their goals. We appreciate the willingness of the UGRA to host and train our students, and look forward to our continued collaboration," said David Reast, Coordinator of Meaningful Work for Schreiner University.



Josh Medovich (l) and Tyler Stefek (r) install a storm drain marker on Holdsworth Drive.

**Let’s Keep *Our* River Clean**