



## “Currents” May 2018

### UGRA Summer Programs

With only a few days of school left on the calendar and temperatures well into the 90s, there is no doubt that summer is here! It won't be long before locals and summer vacationers are splashing around in the Guadalupe River. Although, monitoring the water quality of the river is a year round job, UGRA implements additional programs in the summer that focus on the increased recreational use of the river.

The Summer Swimability Study is a longstanding UGRA program that runs from Memorial Day to Labor Day to monitor bacteria levels at popular swimming holes. We collect samples from twenty-one sites throughout Kerr County during fifteen consecutive weeks. The water samples are analyzed at the UGRA Environmental Laboratory for *E. coli* bacteria and the results are compared to guidelines for contact recreation. This year, we will kick off our Swimability Study on May 29th and test results will be posted weekly on UGRA's website ([www.ugra.org](http://www.ugra.org)).

In 2004, UGRA began the Volunteer Summer Study Program to supplement data collected during the Swimability Study. Interested members of the community volunteer to collect water samples for bacteria analysis at a location of their choice. The program not only encourages the participation of local citizens in water quality testing, but the information collected by the volunteers helps identify areas in need of further investigation. In 2017, UGRA was assisted by 25 volunteers who collected 301 samples at 29 locations throughout Kerr County. We hope to expand the program this summer, so please contact me if you would like to participate in the Volunteer Summer Study.

Each summer, UGRA hosts a River Clean Up to remove trash from the Guadalupe River and remind us that keeping our river clean is a year round responsibility. This year, the 15th Annual River Clean Up will be held on July 28th and it will be staged at Flat Rock Park in Kerrville. Participants will be encouraged to spread out from the central location and pick up trash at other swimming areas, parks, and water crossings throughout Kerr County. Refreshments will be provided to volunteers and awards will be handed out for the most unusual item and the biggest item. Prizes will be raffled off and the first 200 volunteers will receive a free 2018 River Clean Up t-shirt. Last year, the River Clean Up was a great success thanks to many generous sponsors and the 550 participants who collected over 12,000 pounds of trash.

We are very excited to kick off this summer's programs and we need your help to make them a success. Please feel free to contact me if you would like more information.

### **Let's Keep Our River Clean**

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