

**Press Release**  
**May 17, 2023**



**EDWARDS AQUIFER  
CONSERVANCY**  
SUPPORTING THE EDWARDS AQUIFER AUTHORITY



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## **Edwards Aquifer Conservancy Hosts Inaugural Gala A Night of a Thousand Drops Delights Hundreds**

**San Antonio, TX** – Saturday, May 13, 2023, saw the Edwards Aquifer Conservancy (EAC) hosting its first-ever gala, *A Night of a Thousand Drops*, celebrating the magic of water and highlighting partnerships that champion inclusion, imagination, and innovation. Nearly 200 people attended to support the nonprofit's mission of raising funds to support the work of the Edwards Aquifer Authority (EAA), a regional water management agency whose mission is to manage, enhance and protect the Edwards Aquifer for two-and-a-half million South Central Texans.

The 2023 inaugural Edwards Aquifer Champion (EAC) Awards were presented by EAA General Manager Roland Ruiz, and Board Chair of the Edwards Aquifer Conservancy Board of Directors Carol Patterson. Gordon Hartman was the recipient of the Inclusion award. Mr. Hartman is the driving force behind Morgan's Wonderland, and the programs and facilities associated with it, including Morgan's Wonderland Camp, where the Education Outreach Center is located. Hartman partnered with the EAA to make the center a reality by constructing the building in which the EAA Education Outreach Center is housed.

The City of San Antonio was the recipient of the Imagination award, which contributed two tracts of land to the Edwards Aquifer Conservancy. Totaling 150 acres, and valued at \$5.5 million, the land now referred to as the Field Research Park provides a hands-on opportunity for the scientists of the EAA and their associates to practice and measure the efficacy of land management techniques designed to increase both the yield and quality of water entering into the Edwards Aquifer.

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The EAC award for Innovation was presented to the Microsoft Corporation for funding the EAC's efforts to identify and acquire a conservation easement for the protection of Edwards Aquifer recharge in Comal County, which will protect, at a minimum, over 154 acre-feet of Edwards Aquifer recharge. Additionally, Microsoft provided funding for the EAC's acquisition of 400 acre-feet of groundwater withdrawal rights representing 1.3 billion gallons of water, to be held in a groundwater trust for 10 years, which equates to over 1.3 billion gallons of water and will help bolster aquifer levels and subsequent springflow.

The night began with a welcome reception for guests followed by welcome remarks from San Antonio Mayor Ron Nirenberg, and the night was hosted by KSAT-12 meteorologists Justin Horne and Sarah Spivey. The national anthem was sung by Rayne Fernandez and the UTSA Army ROTC with the invocation led by Director of Indigenous Ministries & Tribal Relations at Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, Vance Blackfox. World-renowned Water Sommelier, Dr. Michael Mascha, led a fine water tasting for guests that featured bottled waters from around the world. The finale featured a magic show with a special performance by America's Tech Wizard, Trigg Watson.

The Edwards Aquifer Conservancy (EAC) is a 501(c)3 nonprofit organization set up exclusively for the benefit of the Edwards Aquifer Authority, a regional water management agency whose mission is to manage, enhance and protect the Edwards Aquifer. Funds raised by the EAC enhance the resources available for programs and initiatives, such as public education and information outreach, the pursuit of critical scientific field research, ongoing conservation efforts, and hazardous materials training in the Edwards Aquifer region, to name a few.

The EAA is a groundwater conservation district that manages, enhances and protects the Edwards Aquifer, a major groundwater system serving approximately two-and-one-half million South Central Texans. The EAA jurisdiction spans across 8 counties including Uvalde, Medina, Bexar, and parts of Atascosa, Caldwell, Guadalupe, Comal and Hays counties.

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