

Dear GEAA Members and Friends,

I recently returned from a wonderful working vacation in the Moravian Karst region (more on that later), and am pleased to relay this message received today from Bat Conservation International about progress on negotiating for the purchase of the Crescent Hills property.

#### BRACKEN CAVE PRESERVE UPDATE: Talks Begin on a Possible Solution

Our efforts to protect the bats of Bracken Cave from a proposed housing development are showing early hints of progress. Since the successful City Hall meeting in San Antonio on May 29th, Bat Conservation International and representatives of Galo Properties have begun discussing options for the proposed Crescent Hills subdivision. Both parties are eager to find win-win solutions, and the possibility of purchasing and protecting the 1,550-acre tract is high on the list.

Acquiring this property would not only protect the flight path of millions of bats at Bracken and minimize the potential for human-bat interactions, it would also conserve a habitat of the endangered Golden Cheeked Warbler and add to the Edwards Aquifer recharge zone. Combining Galo's property with the Bracken Cave Preserve and other protected lands in the area would create nearly 5,000 acres of contiguous park and preserve land.

But we still have a long way to go. One major challenge: a combination of public and private investment will be required to raise sufficient funds for the purchase. What can you do? Donate to BCI and urge City, County and State officials to help us protect this important landscape.

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Also, check out our website, Facebook page, and Twitter (@Batconintl) for updates on how you can help. And don't forget to share, share, share!

Thank you for your continued support in protecting the Bracken Cave bats.

Sincerely,  
Andrew Walker  
Executive Director

In reviewing the coverage from GEAA's press conference on July 2nd, I surmise that SAWS is not amenable to our request to amend their service area. The SAWS Board will have their monthly [Policy and Planning](#) meeting at 12:30 on Monday, August 26th at their 2nd Tower Building at Hwy. 281 and Hildebrand. I will be attending to reiterate our request that SAWS amend their service area so that we can better protect the Edwards Aquifer Recharge Zone. We will continue to press SAWS and the City of San Antonio to [protect the Bracken Bat Cave](#), the Edwards Aquifer Recharge Zone, and Comal and Hueco springs from encroaching high density development. Your support on this issue has been overwhelming and very much appreciated.

Thank you!

Annalisa Peace  
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