

note

Edwards Aquifer Monitoring Well at Austin Community College

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Austin Community College has teamed up with seven partners in the private sector and in government to establish a monitoring well in the Edwards aquifer. This well is located in a new 200-square foot educational building at Austin Community College's Northridge Campus and will be linked to a Web site in the coming year.

The well, State Well Number 58-35-811, was donated to the College by Alcoa's Sandow Mine and by Tyler-based MHC X-Ploration Corporation. Located northwest of Braker Lane and Metric Boulevard in Austin, the 610-foot-deep well is in the transition zone of the Edwards Aquifer. The college now has over two years of measurements taken from the well.

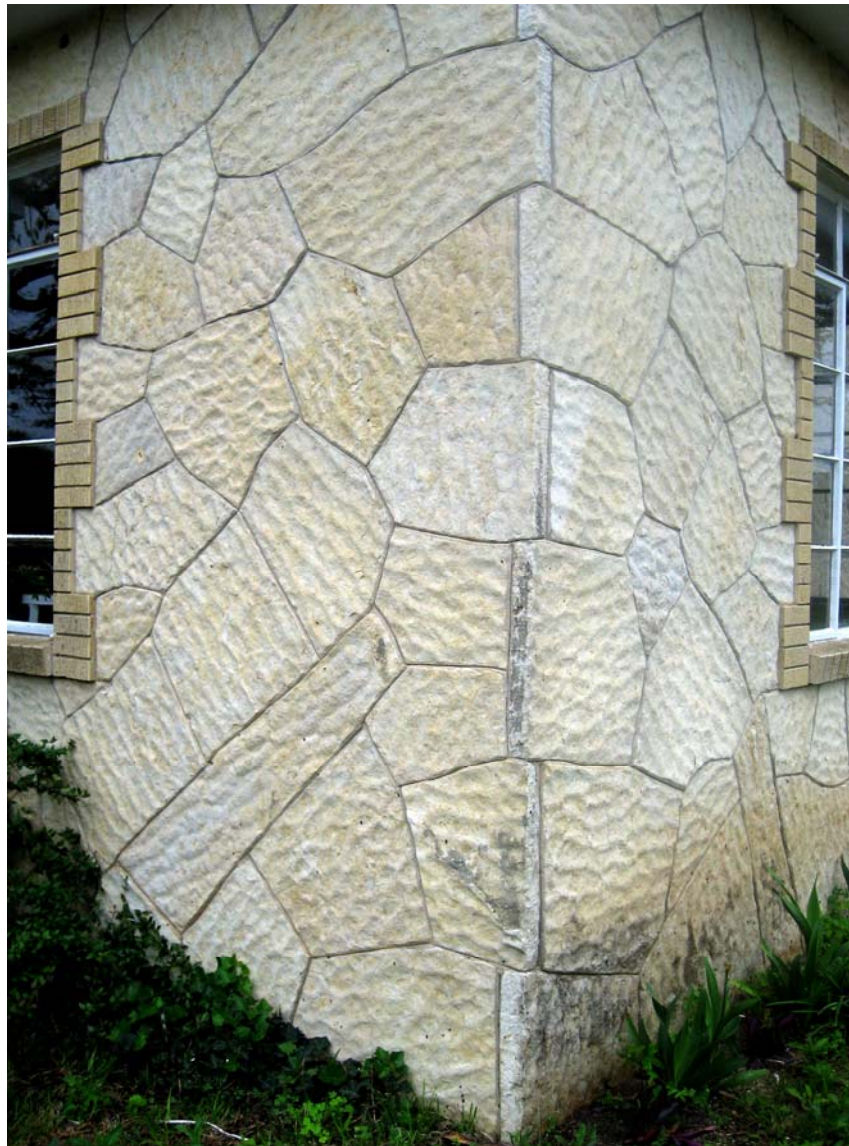
In addition to its monitoring function, the college was able to film construction of the well with a grant from the Texas Mining and Reclamation Association. During well construction, drillers from MHC X-Ploration took core from the Atco, Eagle Ford, Buda, and Edwards formations. Preparation of this core was donated to the college by the Bureau of Economic Geology and half of the core is archived in the bureau's Core Library. Austin Community College students describe and interpret the core in a historical geology class project. In addition to the core, the college also has a geophysical log and downhole video for the well that were donated by San Antonio-based GeoCam, Inc. A video clip of the porosity in the Edwards Aquifer will appear on the college's Web site.



What makes the Austin Community College monitoring well especially valuable is that it collects both water level and water quality information. Water level and water temperature data are collected with an In Situ MiniTroll probe permanently installed in the well. Hydrolab, a division of the Hach Company, donated a Datasonde 4a water quality probe to the college. This probe is used to make weekly analyses of pH, specific conductance, and dissolved oxygen.

The college has recently added a Texas Weather Instruments weather station to the wellhouse. This station records precipitation, air temperature, barometric pressure, humidity, wind speed, and wind direction data which will be included on the college's Web page.

Faculty and staff of the Austin Community College Geology Program would like to thank the business and government partners who donated time and services for the construction and installation of the well and express appreciation to hydrogeologists Ted Harriger, Nico Hauwert, David Johns, and John Mikels for advising the college on the well project.



Ripple marked building stone in Hye, Texas. Photo by Brian Hunt.