



Keeping the Hill Country in Blanco County™

Education Instead of Regulation

P. O. Box 1355, Johnson City, TX 78636

bccitx.org

[BCCI Facebook Page](#)

BCCI is an IRS 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization

You can help us at [DONATE | BCCI](#)

Stage 3 Drought Declaration in Effect

See drought conditions map of [Blanco County, TX](#) | [U.S. Drought Monitor](#)

Burn Ban Status

Check [Blanco County Burn Ban Page](#) for current status. Call (830)868-7104 prior to burning.

Water Leak Hotlines

Save that precious water!

City of Blanco
(830)554-0716

Johnson City
(830)868-7111 Extension 2

Flood Decision Toolbox

Check current conditions at: [Texas Water Development Board](#)



In Remembrance of J. David Bamberger

With a heavy heart we share the sad news of the passing of J. David Bamberger, founder of Bamberger Ranch Preserve and legendary Texas conservationist. He passed away peacefully surrounded by his family on January 17, 2026. He was 97 years old.

J. David lived a long life and he lived it well. His was a life characterized by generosity and the belief that one individual can work hard to make the world a better place. J. David often said that the key to a long life is spending time in the outdoors and making time for a good laugh. True to himself, he was giggling and telling jokes until his last days. We're forever grateful for his legacy, his strong spirit, and his good humor. And of course, for his dedication to his vision of a landscape protected and restored in a way that provides a shining example for people across the globe.



Board Members

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 Contact any of your Board members listed below for information and to give support. They want to hear from you!

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J. David lived a vibrant life full of many accomplishments. He founded Church's Fried Chicken along with Bill Church and was instrumental in protecting Bracken Cave in perpetuity. He helped protect land in West Texas and in Kendall and Comal Counties. These are just highlights of a long and impactful life.

Even after all this, the grand accomplishment of which J. David was most proud was Selah, Bamberger Ranch Preserve. Nestled in beautiful Blanco County, Texas, Selah serves as a beacon of hope for land managers across the nation and beyond. Deeply involved in the management of the preserve and its activities until his last days, his profound influence on conservation in Texas will extend far beyond his long and generous life of almost 100 years.

He was 92 years old at the time of this photo taken on a day hiking along the Arboretum Trail, chatting about plans for the ranch preserve and the next group of visitors on their way to learn about stewardship and conservation. At some point on the hike J. David said, "If I ever had the chance to live life again, I'd come right back here to Selah."

[adapted from wording by and photo courtesy of April Sansom, Executive Director of Selah, Bamberger Ranch Preserve]

The Selah Family will host a Celebration of Life for J. David Bamberger at 2 PM on Saturday, March 14, 2026 at Bamberger Ranch Preserve. RSVP at [Celebration of Life](#)

Save That Rainwater

In Texas, rain water is like liquid gold and yet we let it run away instead of using it. The BCCI Community Educational Gathering, **Basics of Rainwater Harvesting by Dr. Larry Sunn, EdD of [Rain Bees](#)**, originally scheduled for January 27th at Gem Of The Hills was cancelled at the last minute due to the speaker's transportation issues. The evening was salvaged with a lively sharing discussion on experiences, learnings, and suggestions from attendees. With the high interest in this topic, we are working on a new date for the presentation. Until then, Hill Country Alliance has updated their issue paper on [Rainwater Harvesting in Central Texas](#) which outlines its many benefits, provides guidance on how to size your system, and gives practical tips on getting started.

What Else Has BCCI Been Working On?

Here is some of the other stuff we had going on in the last month:

- The transfer of duties from Bob Heinonen to other Board members is well underway. Bob has been instrumental to the BCCI startup and organization but is retiring this coming March 2nd. Bob’s energy, enthusiasm, and sage advice will be greatly missed.
- The **BCCI Blanco County Landowner Outreach** project is working with a few landowners who are considering turning their property into a conservation easement. Data on land ownership in Blanco County has now been accumulated through research and next steps strategy is in progress.
- BCCI Board Member Susan Armstrong Fisher will be presenting *Conservation Easements 101* at the upcoming Texas Land Conservation Conference in Austin on February 25th. Several other BCCI Board Members will also be attending this conference. [Texas Land Conservation Conference](#)

BCCI is Seeking Clerical Help

Just like any organization, we have office clerical duties that need attention. We do not have an office so all of the clerical duties are done at home by volunteers with a personal computer, an internet connection and a printer. Estimated commitment is a modest 2-3 hours of volunteer time per week. If you would like to **volunteer to help us by doing some clerical work** like sending letters and entering data, please contact april@bccitx.org

Thank You, Texas Regional Bank

BCCI continues to have its monthly and special Board meetings at Texas Regional Bank in Blanco. **Thank you, [Texas Regional Bank in Blanco](#) for letting us use your great Community Room!**

Become A Member Today!

- BCCI Friend - Annual gift of \$25 or greater
- BCCI Champion - Annual gift of \$250 or greater
- BCCI Lifetime Member - Single gift of \$1,000 or greater
- BCCI Charter Member - Single gift of \$2,000 or greater
- BCCI Business Supporter - Annual gift of \$500 or greater

Learn more at the [BCCI Membership](#) page

BCCI welcomes the
**JOHNSON CITY
 LIONS CLUB**
 as our newest BCCI
 Business Supporter!



If you do not wish to continue receiving BCCI emails, please Reply “No thank you” to this email and we will remove you from our list....no questions asked....we understand.