



Photo: Mariana Krueger, Medina River



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Water, essential for life, is our most precious and valuable natural resource. But water supply is limited and under increasing pressure from a growing population. How will we protect this resource and plan for a sustainable future? There is a great need for a water-literate public; decisions being made today have far reaching and long lasting effects for our children and future generations.

The Texas Water Symposium Series provides perspectives from policy makers, scientists, water resource experts and regional leaders. Join us as we explore the complex issues and challenges in providing water for Texans in this century. Each session is free and open to the public. The hour-long program begins at 7:00 pm, followed by discussion time with Q&A. The events are recorded and aired on Texas Public Radio one week later.

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Oct. 24, 2013

### Schreiner University in Kerrville

#### A Conversation about Private Property Rights and Water

Moderator: Weir Labatt

Panelists: Joseph B.C. Fitzsimons, Sharlene Leurig and Garry Merritt

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As we struggle to meet water resource challenges, what is the proper role that government should play regarding land development and other traditionally unregulated issues, in order to protect stream flows and the private property rights of landowners? All are potentially impacted by water marketing and increased withdrawals from aquifers.

**Weir Labatt** currently serves as Secretary of the Board of Trustees of Schreiner University and Chairman of the Investment Committee of the San Antonio Area Foundation. Weir is a former member of the Texas Water Development Board and the Edwards Aquifer Authority Board of Directors.

**Joseph B.C. Fitzsimons** has been involved in Texas wildlife conservation for over 30 years, most recently serving as Chairman of the Texas Parks and Wildlife Commission. He has served as Vice-President of the Texas Wildlife Association and is a Director of the Texas and Southwestern Cattle Raisers Association.

**Sharlene Leurig** runs the Sustainable Water Infrastructure Program at Ceres, a national nonprofit helping institutional investors to integrate sustainability into the capital markets. Recently Sharlene has been travelling Texas documenting what's happening to springs for her project and blog, "Hell's Oasis."

**Garry Merritt** has been serving the citizens of Real County as County Judge since 2011. Gary is also a founder and director of Pioneers Youth Leadership, Inc., a nonprofit corporation that provides leadership and community development for high school students.

When and how can the State of Texas decide what constitutes the "reasonable regulation" of water usage contemplated by the Texas Supreme Court? When does such regulation constitute a "taking" deserving of compensation? Who should pay?