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The Pedernales: Challenges and Opportunities Facing an Iconic Hill Country River Basin

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

provides perspectives from land-owners, 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 conversation will run from 7:00 – 8:30pm, and will be recorded for Texas Public Radio.

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More information at: www.schreiner.edu/water

*Photo: Pedernales River
Photographer: Rusty Ray*

Thursday, March 20, 2014

Hill Country University Center in Fredericksburg | 2818 Highway 290 East, Fredericksburg, TX 78624

Doors open at 6:30

Program 7:00 – 8:30 pm

Moderator: [Dr. Andrew Sansom](#), Director, Meadows Center for Water and the Environment, Texas State University

Panelists:

[Tim Birdsong](#), Ecosystem/Habitat Assessment Chief, Texas Parks and Wildlife Department

[Mark Steinbach](#), Executive Director, Texas Land Conservancy

[Clinton Bailey](#), Director of Public Works and Utilities, City of Fredericksburg

[Pam Mabry Bergman](#), Landowner and Hill Country Land Trust Board Member, Pedernales Basin

[Howard Hicks](#), Landowner and Vice President of Public Affairs, Holt Cat

The Pedernales River runs 106 miles through Hill Country before eventually joining the Colorado River at Lake Travis. Its catchment area—the land that drains into the river—touches 8 counties and covers more than 800,000 acres.

The basin provides habitat for numerous fish and wildlife, supports agricultural, ranching and hunting pursuits, and contributes 23% of the flow into Lake Travis, providing a critical source of drinking water for downstream users such as the City of Austin.

How can we understand the economic, social and ecological value of such a diverse river, and how does the health of the river reflect land management decisions made in the far corners of its basin? What are the major threats to the water quality and quantity as the region sees steady population growth, land fragmentation and changing land uses?

Our panelists will discuss the challenges and opportunities facing this Hill Country resource and the work that is being done to protect it. Please join us!