



2018 SPEAKER BIOS

Craig Bowen

Plateau Land Group

Craig grew up in a farming and ranching environment in northwest Texas. He holds a B.S. in Wildlife Ecology and an M.S. in Agricultural Economics, both from Texas A&M University. He has been directly involved in private wealth management, mineral and wind lease negotiations, condemnation proceedings, commercial hunting operations, and commercial ranching and farming operations. He is a licensed Broker, a Registered Property Tax Consultant, and an experienced wildlife biologist, holding the Associate Wildlife Biologist accreditation with the National Wildlife Society. Craig serves as an Official Measurer for the Boone & Crockett Club, on the steering committee for Texas Outdoor Partners, and on advisory boards for the Texas Youth Hunting Program and the Texas Big Game Awards. As Managing Partner of Plateau Land Group, Craig won the title of *2016 Western Region High Producer* for the entire Keller Williams Farm & Ranch division.



Cindy Luongo Cassidy

International Dark Sky Association

Cindy Luongo Cassidy is a leader within the International Dark-Sky Association, a founding member of the Hill Country Alliance Night Sky Team, and a member of the Hays County Chapter of Texas Master Naturalist. She was a key player in positioning the City of Dripping Springs to receive the prestigious International Dark Sky Community designation. Cassidy lives in Driftwood, Texas and volunteers to help run the hugely successful Texas Night Sky Festival®.



Chris Maxwell-Gaines

Innovative Water Solutions

Chris Maxwell-Gaines is a professional engineer and owner of Innovative Water Solutions LLC. IWS is a full-service design/build company passionately committed to providing comprehensive, sustainable, and absolute water management and conservation solutions, utilizing alternative water sources and stormwater management for residential and commercial projects. IWS focuses on systems such as rainwater collection, graywater reuse, stormwater management, and green infrastructure. To date, IWS has installed more than seven million gallons of rainwater storage capacity across the state of Texas.



Tim Milligan

Plateau Land and Wildlife

Born in Lubbock and raised in Austin, Tim Milligan has lived just over the hill in Dripping Springs for right at 20 years. Tim enjoys spending time with his wife of 25 years, Melissa, and their kids Aidan and Abby. His hobbies include running quail hunts with his bird dogs that he says make him look like he knows what he's doing, and fishing on the Texas Coast. Tim grew up in the city but was reared on a working family farm in Garfield, Texas. It was on this farm that he learned, while working the land with his father and brother, that what you do on the land makes a difference. In fact you get what you put into it. This understanding is what led him to Plateau and what drives his desire to see other landowners realize the same. That owning land doesn't have to be difficult, it does take work, but it can and should be rewarding. What you learn and experience on the land will be passed on from generation to generation. Tim has been a part of the Plateau family for 10 years, starting as a wildlife technician in the field to his current position as sales manager.



Jeannie Ralston

NextTribe.com

Jeannie Ralston is the editor and co-founder of NextTribe.com, a web magazine for smart, engaged women 45 plus, and was named the Digital Influencer of the Year in 2018 by Austin Woman magazine. Jeannie has written for the New York Times, National Geographic, Life Magazine, Conde Nast Traveler and most women's magazines. She's been a contributing editor at Allure, Parenting, and Ladies Home Journal. Her memoir, [The Unlikely Lavender Queen](#), tells of her journey from Manhattan journalist to rural Texas lavender farmer. Her e-book, [The Mother of All Field Trips](#), follows her family during a three-year stint of homeschooling and traveling. Jeannie and her husband live outside of Austin and both her sons attend Texas A&M University.



Chuck Reburn

Bee Friendly Austin

Chuck has seven years of beekeeping experience managing hundreds of hives in dozens of locations for the Bee Friendly Austin operation, their Agricultural Exemption clients and urban customers. What started as a hobby and an idea to build and sell a little extra equipment to recoup expenses quickly grew from a past-time into a full-time job where a good portion of most weeks are spent working in hives. Involved in every aspect of the business (honey bottling and marketing, nucs and queen production, equipment manufacturing and sales, speaking and publishing), Chuck enjoys taking on several special projects each year most recently producing foundation-less comb honey and making several award winning meads.



Alan W. Rossing

Lakota Water Company

Alan Rossing is the CEO and co-founder of Lakota Water Company, which specializes in rainwater collection and water treatment. A descendant of the Lakota Sioux tribe, he was born in South Dakota, adopted at an early age and raised in East Texas. Alan has more than 30 years of water treatment experience including industrial- and commercial- grade water production, as well as installation, design and treatment of large-scale water systems. These systems include nuclear power plants, refineries, semiconductors, bottled water plants, dialysis sites, universities and mining companies. Alan has been published in the *Ultrapure Water* magazine and co-authored *On-line Biocide Injection For Microbiological Control In Reverse Osmosis Systems*.

Since 2002, Alan has overseen the design, installation, and ongoing maintenance of more than 700 water systems for both rainwater collection and well or city water treatment. These systems include both residential and commercial customers nationwide. In addition, he offers water treatment consultation and rainwater system inspection services. Alan is a regular presenter and sponsor at rainwater collection events both locally and nationally.



Gene Stalzer

Native American Seed

Gene grew up in Conroe, TX, then moved to Alpine TX and earned a degree in Conservation Biology. From Alpine, Gene made the move to nearby Ft. Davis and worked at the historic Prude Ranch. In 2016, Gene joined the passionate team at Native American Seed Farm on the upper Llano River. His work there covers the gamut of hoeing weeds to harvesting and cleaning crops to habitat restoration and customer care. Gene, like others at Native American Seed, is helping people restore the earth. In his spare time he works on restoring his property and collecting cactus.



Matthew Sturich, RA

Miró Rivera Architects

Matthew obtained both his Master's and Bachelor's degrees in Architecture from Kansas State University, where he was awarded the Heintzelman Prize for design excellence. Upon graduation in 2005, he moved to Austin, TX to join Miró Rivera Architects. In 2011, Matthew was named an Associate at MRA. He has been the project architect for various projects including Hill Country House, Vista Residence and Residence 1446. The Hill Country House he is presenting at the FESTIVAL received the 2018 AIA Austin's Award of Merit with Sustainability Commendation and the 2017 Austin Green Award. Matthew was also the Associate responsible for the Grand Plaza, Amphitheater and Observation Tower at the Circuit of the Americas, the first Formula One purpose-built track in North America.

