

Hill Country Alliance presents the 8th annual

# LEADERSHIP SUMMIT

## CONSERVATION IN THE HEART OF TEXAS

8:30am	<b>Registration and Breakfast</b>
9:00am	<b>Welcome and Introduction</b> Vanessa Puig Williams, Hill Country Alliance Board Vice President
9:05-9:30am	<b>The Future of Water in The Texas Hill Country</b> Sharlene Leurig, Texas Water Trade
9:30-10:30am	<b>Community Leadership: A Conversation with Regional Elected Officials</b> <i>Moderator: Sarah Schlessinger, Texas Water Foundation</i> Representative Erin Zwiener, TX - 45 Representative Terry Wilson, TX - 20 Commissioner Don Durden, Kendall County Commissioner Lon Shell, Hays County
10:30-10:45am	<b>BREAK</b>
10:45-11:15am	<b>Lightning Talks: Emergent Hill Country Issues and Opportunities</b> <i>The State Flood Plan: Investing in Green Solutions</i> Jennifer Walker, National Wildlife Federation <i>Proposition 5: The Future of Funding for Texas Parks and Wildlife Department</i> Ernest Cook, Land/Water Associates <i>Permian Highway Pipeline: An Update for the Hill Country</i> David Braun, TREAD Coalition and Braun & Gresham
11:20-11:45am	<b>Heart of the Hill Country Award</b>
11:45-1:00pm	<b>LUNCH</b>
1:00-1:45pm	<b>A Story to Tell</b> <i>Keynote Address: Chet Garner, Host &amp; Executive Producer - The Daytripper</i>
1:45-2:15pm	<b>Total Solar Eclipse 2024: Community Preparation for a Natural Phenomenon</b> Dr. Angela Speck, University of Texas - San Antonio
2:15-2:30pm	<b>HCA Highlights and the Year Ahead</b> Katherine Romans, Hill Country Alliance
2:30-2:45pm	<b>BREAK</b>
2:45-3:15pm	<b>Land Restoration for Improving Water Quality &amp; Infiltration</b> Pete Van Dyck, Van Dyck Earthworks & Design LLC
3:15-4:00pm	<b>The Story of the Hill Country: The Role of News Media in our Region</b> Bob Rivard, The Rivard Report Ken Cooke, Fredericksburg Standard Radio-Post Louie Bond, Texas Parks and Wildlife Magazine
4:00-6:00pm	<b>Final Wrap Up &amp; Networking Reception</b>



hillcountryalliance.org

September 26, 2019



### **Vanessa Puig-Williams**

**Hill Country Alliance Board Vice President**

Vanessa Puig-Williams is an attorney in Austin, Texas whose law practice and life are focused on land and water conservation in Texas. Williams is the Executive Director and General Counsel for the Trinity Edwards Springs Protection Association and a board member of the Wimberley Valley Watershed Association. She received her J.D. from The University of Texas School of Law in 2006.



### **Sharlene Leurig**

**Chief Executive Officer, Texas Water Trade**

Sharlene Leurig serves as Chief Executive Officer of Texas Water Trade, a nonprofit with the mission of unleashing the power of markets and technological innovation to provide a future of clean, flowing water for all Texans. Leurig is a sustainable water finance expert with a specialization in distributed water infrastructure finance and environmental water transactions. She serves as Chair of Austin's City Council-appointed Water Forward Task Force.



### **Sarah Schlessinger**

**Executive Director, Texas Water Foundation**

Sarah Rountree Schlessinger is the Executive Director of the Texas Water Foundation. She previously worked in Texas groundwater policy, and has experience with international non-profits with interest in water policy. Schlessinger currently serves as an appointed member of the Water Conservation Advisory Council, and holds an MSc in Water Science, Policy and Management.



### **Erin Zwiener**

**Texas House of Representative, District 45**

Erin Zwiener is an author, educator, and conservationist who is serving her first term in the Texas House of Representatives. A fifth-generation Texan, Representative Zwiener is committed to fighting for Texas values including healthy communities, inclusivity, and common sense government. Representative Zwiener holds a Bachelor of Science in Natural Resource Conservation and a Master of Fine Arts in Creative Writing.



### **Terry Wilson**

**Texas House of Representatives, District 20**

Colonel Terry Wilson is a lifelong conservative Republican, committed husband and father, and a decorated combat veteran. Representative Wilson recently retired from the Army after serving over 30 years and was elected as State Representative for House District 20. He holds a BS in Business Administration from Texas A&M University and an MS in Strategic Logistics Plans and Management from the Air War University.



### **Don Durden**

**Kendall County Commissioner, Precinct 4**

Don Durden earned a Bachelor of Science in Civil Engineering from Texas A&M and founded Civil Engineering Consultants (CEC). While at CEC, he served as the lead planner for the Historic San Antonio Mission Trails Projects and led the design team for the rehabilitation of the San Antonio River Walk between Houston Street and Lexington Avenue. In 2014, he retired from CEC, and is currently the County Commissioner for Precinct 4 in Kendall County.



## Lon Shell

### Hays County Commissioner - Precinct 3

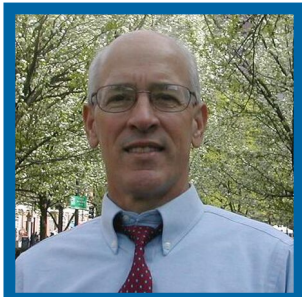
Lon Shell was appointed Hays County Commissioner for Precinct Three in October 2017. Prior to his appointment, Shell served as Hays County's Chief of Staff for seven years and worked closely with previous Commissioner Will Conley to coordinate major county projects. He serves on the Vision 2020 Steering Committee for the Greater San Marcos Partnership, an initiative to improve the County's economy through job growth and successful small businesses.



## Jennifer Walker

### Senior Program Manager, National Wildlife Federation

Jennifer Walker is the Senior Program Manager for Water Programs at the National Wildlife Federation and has over 15 years experience focusing on statewide water policy issues. She is Vice-Chair of Austin's Water Forward Task Force and also serves on the Board of Directors of the Alliance for Water Efficiency. Walker has a BS in Ecology, Evolution and Conservation Biology from the University of Texas at Austin.



## Ernest Cook

### Land/Water Associates

Ernest Cook is a consultant in land conservation and parks, specializing in planning, conservation finance and grant-making. In his more than 20 years as conservation director of the Trust for Public Land, Cook established a public finance program and the Trust supported the dedication of over \$70 billion in state and local government funds to parks and conservation. Cook is a graduate of Harvard College and New York University's Wagner School of Public Service.



## Chet Garner - Keynote Speaker

Chet Garner is the creator, host, and executive producer of The Daytripper, an 8-time Emmy-award-winning Texas travel show airing on PBS stations across the country. After earning a degree in Radio-Television-Film from the University of Texas at Austin, graduating first in his class from Baylor Law School, and spending 3 years practicing law, Garner followed his passions into the television world.



## Dr. Angela Speck

### Chair of Physics and Astronomy, University of Texas San Antonio

Angela Speck is a Professor and Chair of Physics & Astronomy at the University of Texas at San Antonio. She is also Co-Chair of the National Total Solar Eclipse Task Force, which works to prepare the nation for the total solar eclipse that will occur in 2024. Dr. Speck's academic career exemplifies the need for synergy between research, teaching, and service. She has a doctorate in Astronomy from University College London.



## Katherine Romans

### Executive Director, Hill Country Alliance

Katherine Romans brings a decade of nonprofit and legislative experience to the Hill Country Alliance, where she manages the implementation of strategic and collaborative conservation across 17 counties. Romans worked on national and international natural resource issues as a legislative aide for the Committee on Natural Resources within the U.S. House of Representatives. Romans holds a B.A. from the University of Virginia and a Master of Environmental Management from the Yale School of Forestry & Environmental Studies.



### **Pete Van Dyck**

Owner, Van Dyck Earthworks and Design LLC

Since his time in the Navy, Pete Van Dyck has pursued a lifestyle of land restoration after realizing the connectedness of the health of land, water, and humans. Van Dyck Earthworks and Design specializes in soil and water conservation with experience in over 100 sites around Texas since 2015. Van Dyck often volunteers his services with the non-profit Earth Repair Corps to farmers and homesteaders all over Central Texas.



### **Bob Rivard**

Editor and Publisher of The Rivard Report

With his wife, longtime journalist Robert Rivard founded the member supported Rivard Report in February 2012. It is San Antonio's leading local online news source, serves as a community platform and has published more than 1,000 commentaries and stories submitted by readers from all walks of life in San Antonio.



### **Ken Cooke**

Editor and Publisher, Fredericksburg Standard-Radio Post

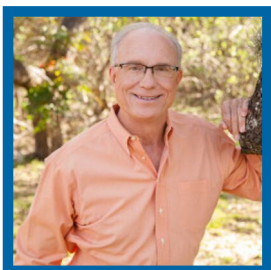
Ken Esten Cooke is a fourth-generation publisher who has run the Fredericksburg Standard-Radio Post since 2012. His family has worked in the newspaper industry since the 1800s. He is married to writer Christine Granados and has two teen sons, Esten and Will.



### **Louie Bond**

Editor, Texas Parks and Wildlife Magazine

Native Texan Louie Bond is the longtime editor of Texas Parks & Wildlife magazine, a statewide publication aimed at inspiring folks to discover that Life's Better Outside. Born in Dallas, with a childhood spent reading voraciously in the arms of a backyard tree and bicycling through the suburban countryside, Bond cut her teeth on journalism (and music) at Texas A&M University in the 1970s. After moving to the Wimberley Valley, Bond found her passion and purpose in preserving the incredible natural beauty and resources of the region for all to enjoy.



### **David Braun**

Legal Counsel, TREAD Coalition and Partner, Braun & Gresham

David's clients are landowners interested in conserving the rural character of their land. In addition to launching Braun & Gresham, David is also co-founder, Chairman and CEO of Plateau Land & Wildlife Management, which provides ecological services and property tax consulting and works hand-in-hand with Braun & Gresham to meet client goals for their land. David serves as Legal Counsel for the TREAD Coalition, a bi-partisan, volunteer non-profit that advocates for and defends Texas landowner rights on the state and local levels.

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