



2021 HILL COUNTRY LEADERSHIP SUMMIT

A HILL COUNTRY CONSERVATION REUNION

THURSDAY, SEPT. 30 | 8 AM - 6 PM | THE HALL @ JESTER KING

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| 8:45 – 9:00 | Welcome to the 2021 Hill Country Leadership Summit |
| 9:00 – 9:30 | The State of the Hill Country: Eight Key Metrics for a Region at a Crossroads <i>This session will focus on a new report showing the current state of the Hill Country through eight key metrics that will be tracked over time to monitor the impact that conservationists are having in protecting what makes the region so special.</i> Jonathan Ogren, Siglo Group |
| 9:30 – 10:00 | Lights Out Texas: Collaborative Conservation for Migratory Birds <i>Lights Out Texas is a statewide campaign of education, awareness, and action that focuses on turning out lights at night during the spring and fall migrations to help protect the billions of migratory birds that fly over Texas annually.</i> Joni Carswell, Texan by Nature |
| 10:00 – 10:30 | BREAK |
| 10:30 – 11:00 | Implementing One Water in the Hill Country: Connecting Communities with Projects and Professionals <i>One Water is the consideration of all water resources - rainwater, stormwater, onsite wastewater reuse and so on - with the project goal of building resilience and reliability in our water systems. This panel will explore three innovative One Water community projects operating in the Hill Country from the people involved in their development.</i> Moderator: Sarah Faust, Faust Law PLLC Panelists: Robin Gary, Wimberley Valley Watershed Association Troy Dorman, Ph.D, P.E., CFM, Halff Associates Stephanie Moore, P.G., Intera Inc. |
| 11:00 – 11:30 | Leading the Rural Hill Country: Young Leaders' Perspectives <i>This panel will feature younger folks from across the region who are striving to take their rural communities in new directions. We will learn about their visions for their communities and the joys and challenges of leading from the next generation.</i> Moderator: Dana Williams, H. E. Butt Foundation Panelists: Candace Morrison, Kimble County Farmers Market Jeremy Walther, Pint and Plow Annabell McNew, Texas Hill Country River Region |
| 11:30 – 12:00 | Heart of the Hill Country Award <i>The Heart of The Hill Country Award is an award created by HCA in 2019 to recognize and thank our region's greatest natural resource champions. Previous recipients of the award, Christy Muse and Sky Lewey, will present the 2021 awards. This year's honorees are Karen Ford, Principal of Water PR and Annalisa Peace, Executive Director of the Greater Edwards Aquifer Alliance - two individuals who have spent decades championing and stewarding the natural resources of our region.</i> Presented by Past Recipients: Sky Lewey and Christy Muse Honoring: Annalisa Peace and Karen Ford |

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| 12:00 – 1:00 | LUNCH BREAK |
| 1:00 – 2:00 | <p>Building Community Resilience by Investing in Local Leaders</p> <p><i>Over the past 5 years, the Hill Country has faced a perfect storm of pressures. Flooding events, a historic winter storm, record-breaking development rates and soaring housing prices. How do we protect the health, economic prosperity, and environmental resilience of our current communities, while planning for the future residents of this region? Carmen Llanes Pulido will discuss the important work of GAVA in Austin's Eastern Crescent, and then lead a panel discussion about community building in towns big and small across the region.</i></p> <p>Keynote + Moderator: Carmen Llanes Pulido, Go Austin/Vamos Austin!</p> <p>Panelists: Donna Klaeger, Community Resource Centers of Texas Connie Barron, Blanco City Council</p> |
| 2:00 – 2:25 | BREAK |
| 2:25 – 2:35 | <p>Wanted Dead or Alive: Mountain Cedar – a Conversation with Author Elizabeth McGreevy</p> <p><i>This short, prerecorded video dispels some of the myths around Ashe juniper and provides important considerations for Hill Country land stewards. HCA's Daniel Oppenheimer talks with author, Elizabeth McGreevy, about her new book as they explore and share observations in the field.</i></p> |
| 2:35 – 3:15 | <p>Lightning Round: Emergent Stories of the Hill Country – 5 minutes each</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hill Country Runs on Water - Sarah Schlessinger, Texas Water Foundation • Camp Bullis Sentinel Landscape: A New Frontier in Public-Private Land Conservation and Stewardship - Daniel Oppenheimer, Hill Country Alliance • Water and Equity in the Texas Hill Country - Angelica Lopez, Texas A&M Natural Resources Institute • Creative Funding for Land and Water Conservation – Bill Moriarty, Funding Engineer • Hill Country Night Sky Month and the Friends of the Night Sky - Dawn Davies, Hill Country Alliance • Comal County Conservation Alliance Presentation - Elizabeth Bowerman, Comal County Conservation Alliance |
| 3:15 – 4:00 | <p>Texas Land Trends: Tracking Change and Tackling Challenges</p> <p><i>Rates of growth and fragmentation in the Hill Country are among the fastest in the country, and those trends have only accelerated during the global pandemic. Local cities and counties must work creatively and proactively to ensure the fabric of their communities—from healthy waterways, working farmlands, rural charm and sense of place—are maintained in the face of change. This session will illuminate how data and information can inform that work.</i></p> <p>Moderator: Roel Lopez, Director, Texas A&M Natural Resources Institute</p> <p>Panelists: Commissioner Kevin Webb, Comal County Mayor Tim Handren, Boerne</p> |
| 4:00 – 6:00 | HAPPY HOUR NETWORKING RECEPTION |