



2021 HILL COUNTRY LEADERSHIP SUMMIT

HEART OF THE HILL COUNTRY

HONORING HILL COUNTRY CONSERVATION CHAMPIONS

The Heart of The Hill Country Award was 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 Annalisa Peace and Karen Ford – two individuals who have spent decades championing and stewarding the natural resources of our region.

Karen and Annalisa will be presented with a beautiful award, designed and crafted by Hill Country artist J.J. Priour using Cordova limestone and glass. Much like the limestone used in his art, Priour has deep ties to the Hill Country and his late father Damian was instrumental to the formation of the Hill Country Alliance.

Annalisa Peace, Executive Director – Greater Edwards Aquifer Alliance

Annalisa has over thirty years' experience working with government and non-profit organizations. Since 2004, Annalisa has been the Executive Director of the Greater Edwards Aquifer Alliance, which unites 55 organizations behind a plan to protect the Edwards and Trinity aquifers.

She currently serves on the Texas Water Development Board's Regional Flood Planning Group for the Guadalupe watershed, San Antonio River Authority's Environmental Advisory Committee, Texas Hill Country Conservation Network, UTSA Urban Planning Advisory Committee, OLLU Political Science Advisory Council, Advisory Board for the Comal County Conservation Alliance, and participates in many other efforts to maintain the environmental integrity of our region.

Karen Ford, Principal – Water PR

Karen began her work life at Austin advertising agencies focused on environmental and public health issues—clean water, green energy, healthy children. Eventually launching out on her own with White Hat Creative, Karen discovered many places to make advertising strategies and creative approaches work for nonprofits and government entities needing to communicate important things to many audiences.

The opportunity for public service arose in Hays County during its early years of hair-on-fire growth. Four years as a County Commissioner was akin to a master's degree in conservation and communication (and conflict resolution). As a founding board member for the Hill Country Alliance in 2004-2005, the mission became a calling, and the colleagues of conservation became family. WaterPR is now the vehicle for Karen and her team to work within the conservation community to raise awareness, tell stories, elevate issues, support and work with other like-minded spirits to help protect water, land, clean air, night sky—and share a common love for the natural world.



Support the Hill Country Alliance!

Inspired by the stories, the people, and the information you gathered today? Please join us by scanning the QR code at left and donating to support this important work. Every dollar you give goes directly to the conservation of the lands, waters, communities, and night skies of our special part of Texas.