

2022 Texas Hill Country Calendar

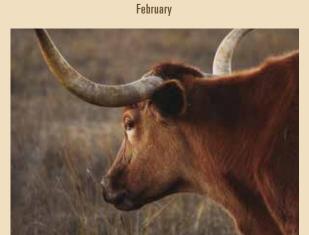
The outstanding collection of photographs featured in this calendar were chosen from over 400 entries in the 2021 HCA Photo Contest for their ability to capture the irreplaceable Texas Hill Country.











June















Thank you to our sponsors!









Location: Camp Wood, Real County

5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31

Title: Coming Down

JANUARY

Photographer: Albert Garcia

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28

SUN	MON
	- Livery
2.	3

Photographer: Mike Zarella WED Photographer: Roland Jimenez



New Year's Day Kwanzaa ends

10

TUES

12

13

14

15

16

17°

18

19

20

Martin Luther King, Jr. Day

23

25°

26

27

28

29



"I want the family farm—the backbone of our country's heritage—to thrive and survive for future generations."

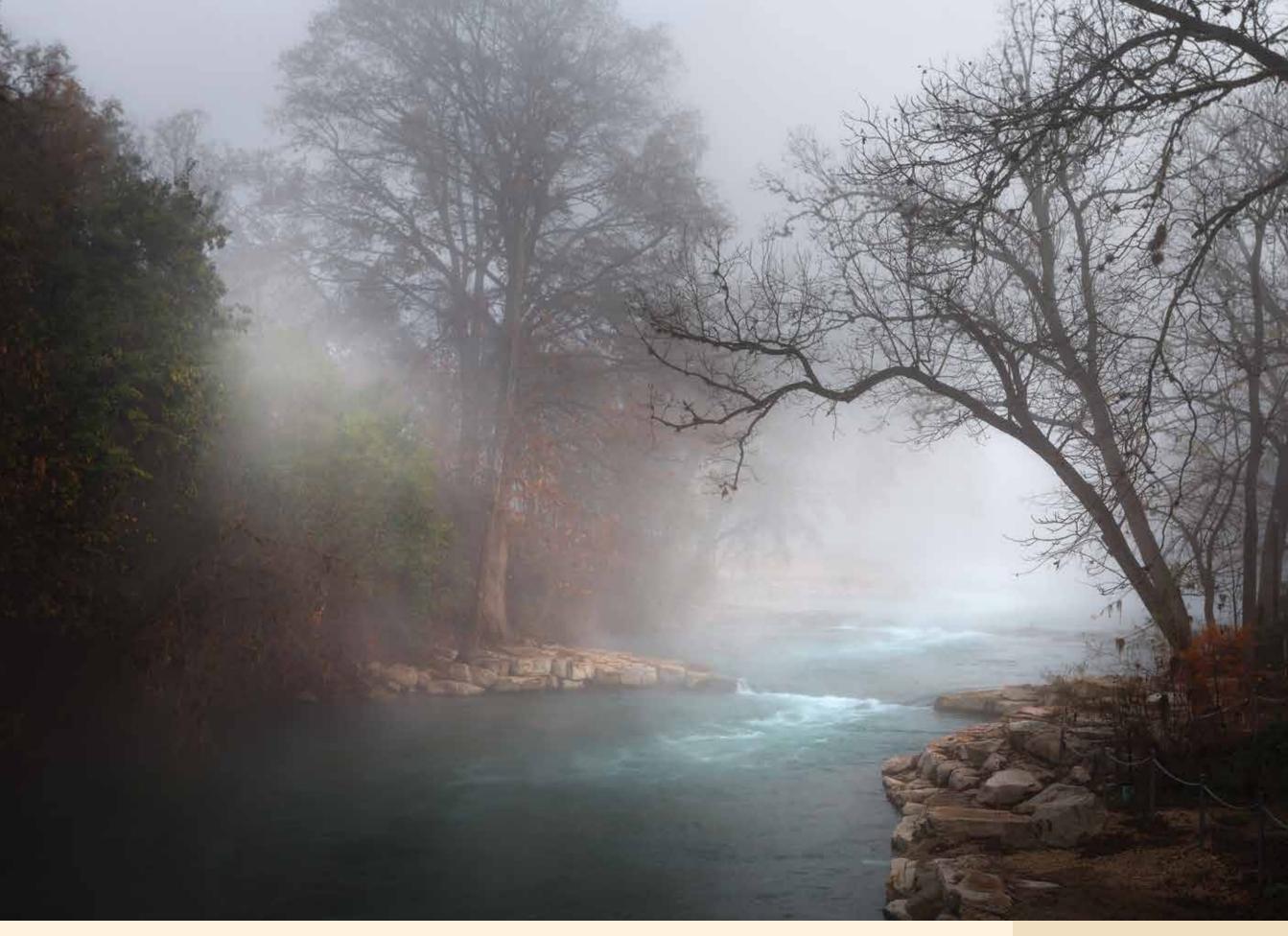


Conservation Easements: The Hill Country is blessed with a rich natural heritage and deep agricultural and ranching roots. For many landowners, land is much more than a financial asset; it is their legacy and their family history Unfortunately, passing on the family farm or ranch, once a time-honored Texas tradition, is becoming more difficult in the face of the rising cost of land and the pressures of encroaching development. Conservation easements are among the most flexible and effective means available to protect private property while providing tax benefits to private landowners. A conservation easement is a voluntary legal agreement ensuring that private property will be managed in perpetuity according to the landowner's wishes, while also protecting the land's unique conservation values. Each individual easement agreement is unique to the special qualities of the land and to the conservation goals of the landowner. Legislation passed and signed into law in 2015 provides expanded tax benefits for donated conservation easements.

Learn about conserving family lands at HillCountry Alliance.org

Photographer: Karl Ulrich





Location: San Marcos, Hays County

JANUARY

2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31

Title: Winter Soul

FEBRUARY

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31

MON

Photographer: Alysa Joaquin TUES

WED

Groundhog Day

World Wetlands Day

THUR

FRI

SAT

Photographer: Andy Heatwole

SUN

14

15

Chinese New Year

First Day of Black History Month

National Freedom Day

16°

18

19

Lincoln's Birthday

Valentine's Day

24

25

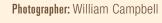
26

Presidents' Day

28

Washington's Birthday







Photographer: Jerry Sargent

"In spite of the durability of rock-walled canyons and the surging powers of cataracting water, the wild river is a fragile thing - the most fragile portion of wilderness country."





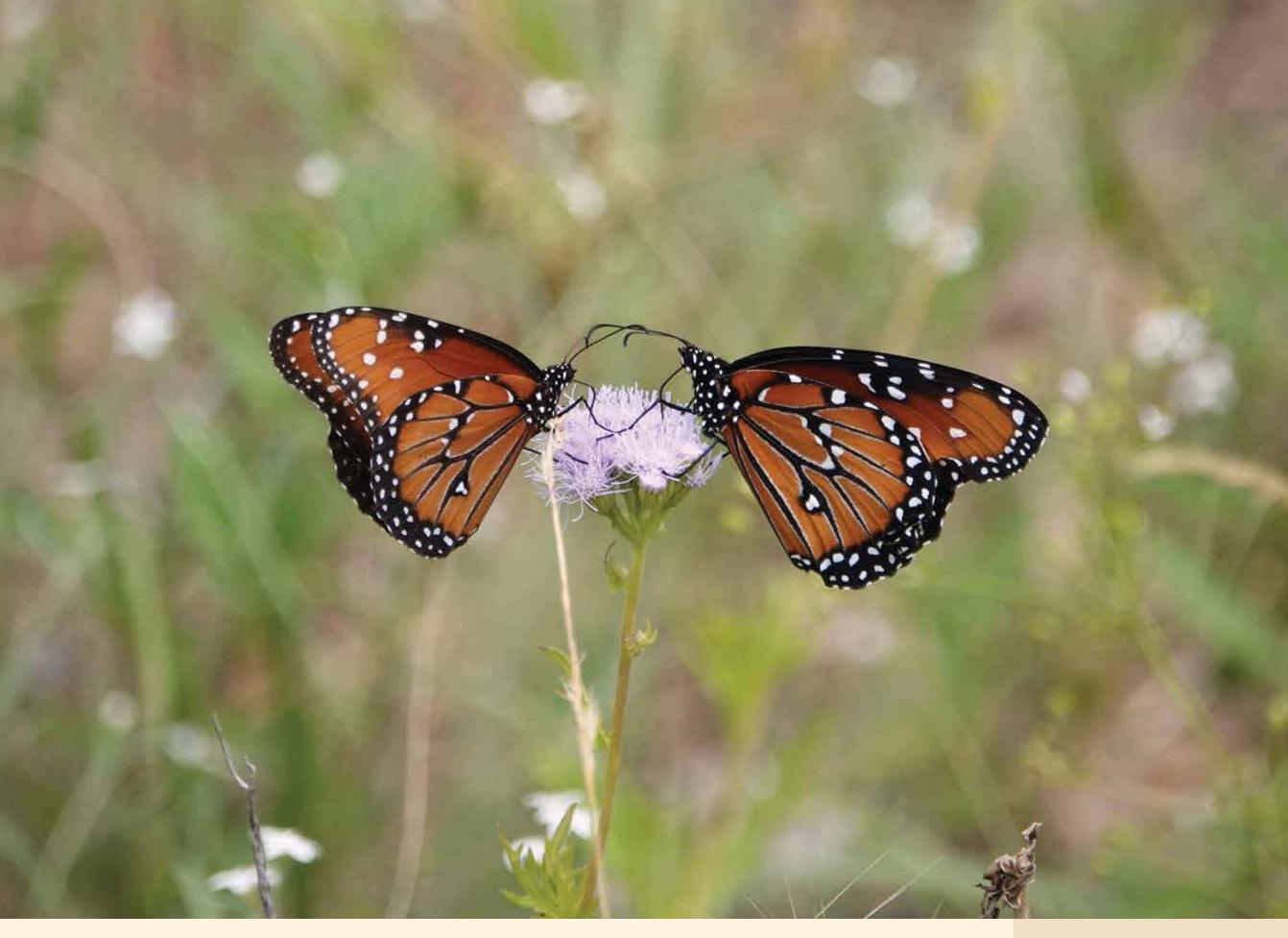
Our Natural Water Systems: The Hill Country is home to thousands of natural springs. As groundwater emerges from these springs and feeds our Hill Country creeks and rivers, we can clearly see how groundwater and surface water are interconnected as one system—two parts of the same resource. However, in Texas, surface water (owned by the state) and groundwater (owned by private landowners) are governed and managed as two separate resources. The effects of groundwater consumption on surface water, and vice versa, are not properly accounted for in water planning and management. One of the biggest hurdles we face in Texas is the political will to integrate groundwater and surface water policy, which many believe is essential to ensure an adequate water supply for future generations.

Learn more about groundwater planning tools at HillCountry Alliance.org

Photographer: Frank Farese







Location: Blanco County

FEBRUARY

1 2 3 4 5
6 7 8 9 10 11 12
13 14 15 16 17 18 19
20 21 22 23 24 25 26
27 28

MON

Title: Queen Butterflies on Gregg's Mist Flower

MARCH

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30

TUES WED THUR FRI SAT

First Day of Women's History Month TX Independence Day Photographer: Mardi Gras/Fat Tuesday Ash Wednesday World Wildlife Day Karrie King

International Women's Day 16 14 15 19

HCA Photo Contest begins St. Patrick's Day **Daylight Saving Time begins** 24 26

World Water Day First Day of Spring 30 31 28 29

César Chávez Day



Photographer: Brad Fields

Photographer: Jorge Lane



"What is our personal responsibility to the natural world? All living things - plants, animals and insects - make up a system that allows humans to live rich, full lives Take the time to pause and reflect on this. Selah."

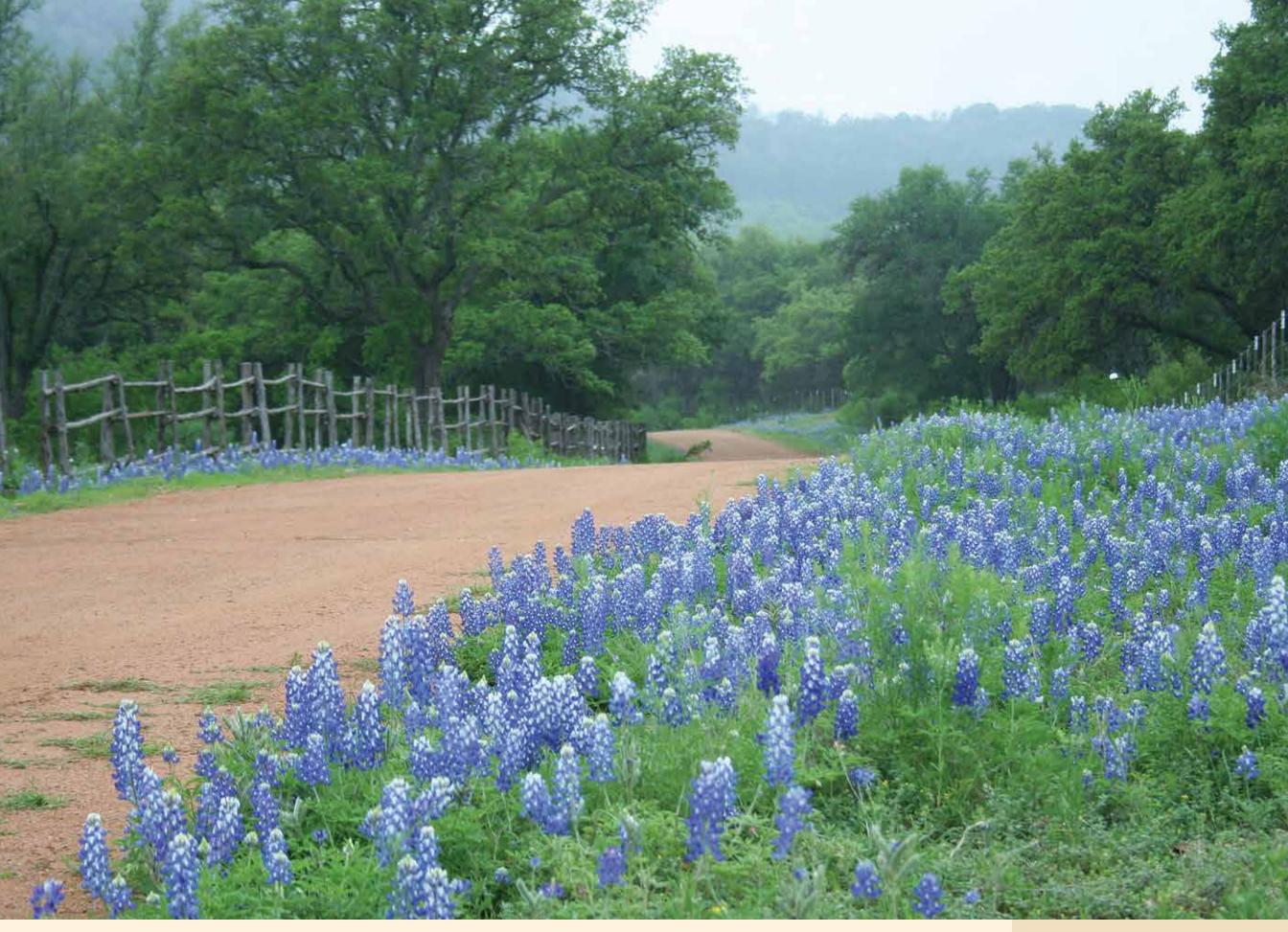


Pollinators in Peril... It's up to you: Sometimes we tend to forget about the smaller things in life that really do make the world go 'round. Just as wildlife in the Hill Country has suffered from increased fragmentation of land through urbanization, so have bees, beetles, & butterflies. Not long ago, beekeepers would ask farmers to set beehives near croplands in exchange for some honey. Now farmers are paying to have native bees brought in to pollinate their crops. A third of the U.S. food supply depends on pollinators. What's caused the decline in pollinators? It could be the increased use of pesticides, the loss of dark night skies, or both. Whatever the reasons, many organizations are offering helpful information and incentives for people to plant pollinator habitats. Pollinators like plants that produce pollen, nectar, shelter and safety from predators. Pollinators need nectar and habitat throughout the year, not just in spring. Planting diverse native wildflowers helps ensure that pollinators will have what they need in all seasons.

For more information on native wildlife, visit HillCountry Alliance.org

Photographer: Airon Mothershed





Location: Llano County

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31

Title: Bluebonnet Back Road

APRIL

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31

MON TUES

Photographer:

THUR WED Photographer: Allen Li

FRI SAT

> Ramadan begins April Fools' Day

12

13

6

14

15

000

16°

Photographer: William Shelton

Good Friday Passover begins Income Tax Due

Palm Sunday

18

19

20

Easter 24

25

26

27

28

San Jacinto Day

29

Passover ends

Administrative Professionals Day

Arbor Day-Plant a Tree!

Earth Day



"There is a growing feeling abroad in this land today that ugliness has been allowed too long, that it is time to say 'enough' and to act."

- Lady Bird Johnson, regarding the Highway Beautification Act of 1965



Wildflowers and native landscaping: The natural beauty of seasonal blooms and native grasses is a large part of the unique character and heritage of the Hill Country, but wildflowers do so much more than add beauty to the landscape. They help conserve water, provide wildlife habitat, protect soil, and reduce the need for fertilizers and pesticides. Native wildflowers provide nectar for native pollinators. Native landscapes are easy to maintain and use significantly less water than traditional landscapes, which not only saves money, but more importantly conserves water supply for future generations. As suburbs continue to be developed in the Hill Country, natural landscapes are being replaced with manicured landscapes and turf grasses. Happily, many home builders and homeowners are choosing to leave at least a portion of the land in a natural state. Slowly the market is gaining appreciation for the simple beauty of nature and rejecting endless mowing and watering. However, the loss of native plant communities and wildlife habitats is a real and growing problem locally and nationally.

Learn more about native landscaping at HillCountry Alliance.org

Photographer: Frank Farese





Location: Hunt, Kerr County

30.

hillcountryalliance.org

Memorial Day

31

HCA Photo Contest ends

Title: Painted Bunting Singing at Sunset

Photographer: Frank Farese

	APRIL 3 4 5 6 7 8 10 11 12 13 14 15 1 17 18 19 20 21 22 2 24 25 26 27 28 29 3	9 6 3	MAY		JUNE 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 1 12 13 14 15 16 17 11 19 20 21 22 23 24 21 26 27 28 29 30	1 8
SUN	MON	TUES	WED	THUR	FRI	SAT
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
May Day	_	Eid Al Fitr begins	_	Cinco de Mayo		
8°	9	10	11	12	13	14
Mother's Day	16	17	18	19	20	21
					National Bike to Work Day	Armed Forces Day
22°	23	24	25	26	27	28



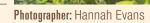
A place to call home: The Texas Hill Country is located squarely on one of the major flyways for birds, insects, and bats that migrate from northern summer breeding grounds to southern winter homes. Well-known Hill Country guests include the picture Painted Bunting, along with the Golden Cheeked Warbler, Black Capped Vireo, Monarch Butterfly, and Mexican Free-tailed bat. Many critters make Texas home for a season, while others just pass through on their journeys to farther locales. Even though many of these species don't stay with us for long, their survival depends on the availability of our natural rural lands. Healthy streams and broad open spaces with diverse native plant communities are the best places for our annual visitors to rest, raise their young, or escape the chilly winters elsewhere.

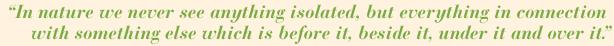
Learn more about the wildlife of the Hill Country at HillCountryAlliance.org

Photographer: Jorge Lane

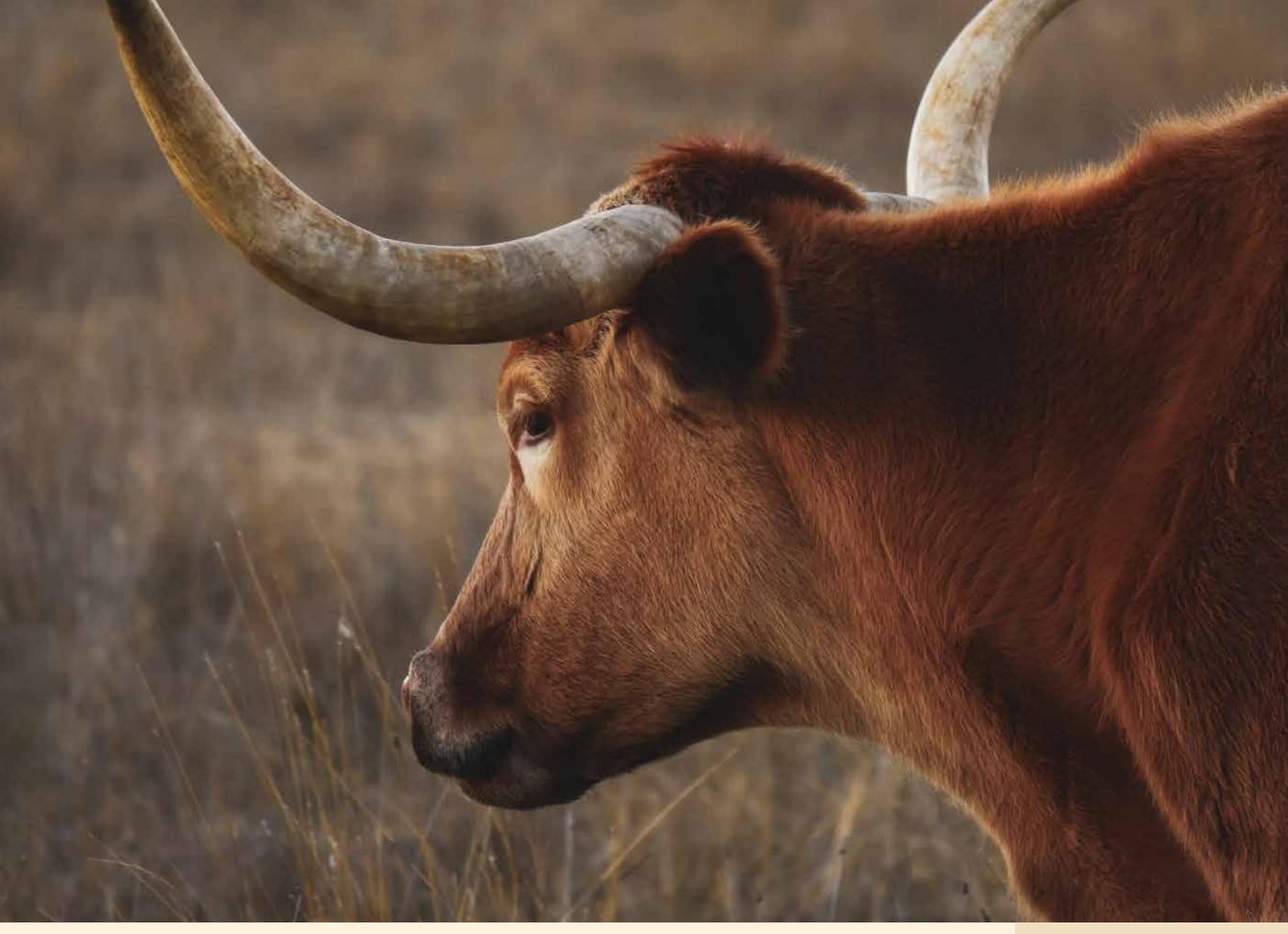








Photographer: Madelyn Cimaglia



Location: Blanco County

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31

TUES Photographer: Airon Mothershed

World Environment Day

Juneteenth Father's Day

19

26 27

hillcountryalliance.org

Shavuot ends

14°

First Day of Summer

Flag Day

29

15

22

Title: Red Longhorn

JUNE

WED THUR

16

23

30

24

3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31

FRI

3

18

25

Photographer: Rey Coronado

Photographer: Alicia R. Paparo

Shavuot begins

SAT

"We abuse land because we regard it as a commodity belonging to us. When we see land as a community to which we belong, we may begin to use it with love and respect." - Aldo Leopold, in A Sand County Almanac



Tread Lightly: Ranchers and farmers have long understood the meaning of carrying capacity of the land as it refers to the number of livestock or crops the land can accommodate before it becomes depleted. In the Hill Country it is the precious supply of open space, water, wildlife and dark skies that draw people to live and recreate here. When Hill Country people tread lightly, limit their impact on the land, water and air, and understand the limits of the region's natural carrying capacity, only then can we sustain these resources for future generations. Learn more at HillCountryAlliance.org

For more information on land stewardship and conservation, visit
HillCountryAlliance.org

Photographer: Northern Hendricks





Lucation. Dexai County

 JUNE

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JULY

AUGUST

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21 22 23 24 25 26 27

28 29 30 31

SUN MON TUES

Photo:
David

Photographer:
David Archer

WED THUR FRI

2

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6

Photographer:

Lucy Spade

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SAT

Independence Day

13°

14

15

16

Eid al-Adha

18

19

20°

71

22

23

24

25

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26

27

28°

29

30

Photographer: Alan Yuhang Zhou

HillCountry Alliance.org

good land stewardship.



"The scenic beauty of the Texas Hill Country is a public treasure—we have a responsibility to grow and develop in a way that honors and protects that treasure. Beauty is good for tourism and business, and it acts as the soul of the Hill Country community."



The Soil Beneath Our Feet: Our Hill Country Rivers

are beautiful, alluring landscape features that help draw tourists, new residents, and businesses to our region, contributing to the Hill Country economy. Our rivers also define an important

ecological unit — a river basin — that performs ecological functions critical to our quality of life. The health of our river basins impacts air quality, water quantity and quality, the quality of our wildlife habitat, and our ability to grow food. Whether or not our river basins function optimally depends on how we treat our soils. If you live here,

you have a role to play in our soil's health. Help ensure that our soils are retaining moisture and

supporting a diversity of plant life by practicing

Learn about groundwater and soil resources at



Location: Roosevelt, Kimble County

3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31

TUES

AUGUST

WED

10

Title: Trough Visitor

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30

FRI

12

Photographer:

Patricia Lucas

15

Friendship Day

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28

29

23

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16

24

31

25

18°

THUR

26

19

27°

Lyndon Baines Johnson Day

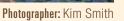
Photographer: Jeffrey Gladden

SAT

13

20







Did you know that August 15 marks the start of the fall bird migration and nearly I billion birds will migrate through Texas by the end of November? You can help out migrating birds by participating in Lights Out Texas



Stewards of the land: The vibrant waterways, diverse wildlife, and stunning scenic vistas of the Hill Country are what define our region for many. Healthy land management is one of the best ways we can ensure the protection of these natural resources. As 95% of the land in Texas is privately owned, each landowner plays a vital part in ensuring the availability of our clean water supply, the quality of our wildlife habitat, the retention of our soils, and the management of invasive species. There are many tools available to help support private land stewards from a number of nonprofits state agencies and local support staff based in communities across the Hill Country. Tools such as wildlife management plans, conservation easements, landowner incentive programs and wildlife and agricultural valuations can provide landowners with resources to better steward their land both now and into the future.

Learn more about land stewardship at HillCountry Alliance.org

Photographer: Katherine Carvajal





Location: Comal County

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31

Labor Day

TUES

Title: Calleta Silkworm Caterpillar

SEPTEMBER

OCTOBER 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31

Photographer: David Winchester

Photographer: David Satterwhite

WED THUR FRI SAT Photographer:

National Wildlife Day

International Day of Charity 13 15 16 14

Grandparents Day Patriot Day 20 23 24 18 19

International Day of Peace First Day of Autumn National Public Lands Day 25°

26 30 27 28 **World Rivers Day** Rosh Hashanah ends Rosh Hashanah begins

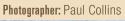


Fun fact: The Texas rain sage, or cenizo, is a common native host plant of the calleta silkmoth and get its name from the plants habit of blooming after heavy rains regardless of the time of year.



Shared living spaces: The calleta silkmoth is just one of nearly 30,000 insect species found in the state of Texas. This silkmoth caterpillar can be found on native plants such as the Texas rain sage and several species of ash trees. Not only does this caterpillar turn into a stunning moth when it becomes an adult, but Texas also has two broods from September to November and then again from March to April. During these broods, adult silkmoths will only live for a week after leaving the cocoon when they lay their eggs and the life cycle repeats. Without healthy land stewardship, silkmoths cannot make a home in the Hill Country, nor can most of the region's special creatures that rely on native plant species. When we protect our land and native flora, we do so on behalf of the Hill Country itself, alive with countless wondrous creatures, each with its own story.

Learn more at HillCountryAlliance.org









Location: Blanco County

4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30

Title: Orion over the Hill Country

OCTOBER

NOVEMBER

2 3 4 5 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30

TUES

WED Photographer: Kim Clendenen



SAT

First day of Hill Country Night Sky Month

Photographer: Mike Lundy

10

Yom Kippur* begins

13

14

15

Columbus Day Indigenous People's Day 16

18

19

20

Boss's Day

23

United Nations Day

25°

26

27

28

29



"The stars are the jewels of the night and perchance surpass anything which day has to show."

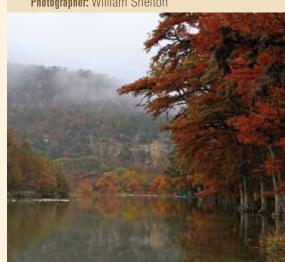
- Henry David Thoreau

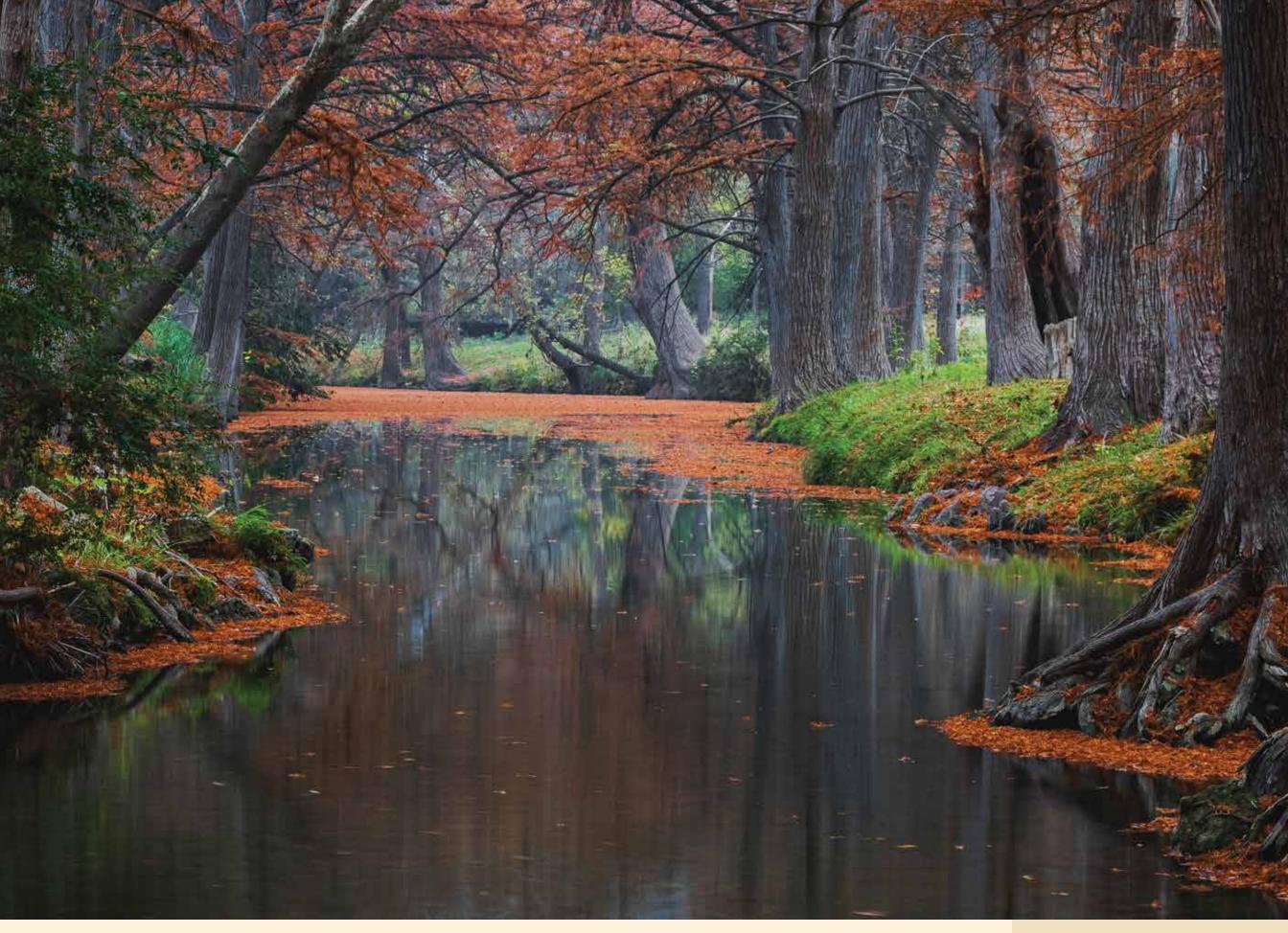


Hill Country Night Sky Month: October marks the month-long celebration of our region's most dazzling night-time feature — the star-twinkling, planet-glowing, comet-crossing night sky where beauty and wonder abound. As our region's cities and towns grow, our view of the starry sky is at risk of being replaced by the dull glow of artificial light. For more than 10 years, the Hill Country Alliance and our Night Skies Team of volunteers and partners have been working to minimize the impact of light pollution. Hill Country Night Sky Month is an opportunity to elevate regional effort to ensure star-filled skies for future generations across the Hill Country. Night Sky Month is a great time for communities to update local ordinances, for utilities to revise street lighting policies, and for the community to rally around lighting improvements in town — whether along main street or out on the high school football field. By doing so, we can lower our utility bills and increase the safety of our communities, all while protecting "the stars at night...deep in the heart of Texas."

Learn more at NightSkyMonth.org

Photographer: William Shelton





Location: Wimberley, Hays County

OCTOBER

2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31

Title: Cypress Creek

NOVEMBER

4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31

MON

TUES Photographer: David Satterwhite

THURS

FRI

SAT

Photographer: Jerry Sargent

WED

Daylight Saving Time Ends

14

Election Day 15

16°

Veterans Day

19

24

25

26

Thanksgiving Day

28

29

30°

Giving Tuesday



Photographer: Carolyn Whiteside

"I can think of no finer gift that we can leave our children than clean water, open spaces to wander, a safe haven for native plants and wildlife, and a lasting connection to our rural heritage."



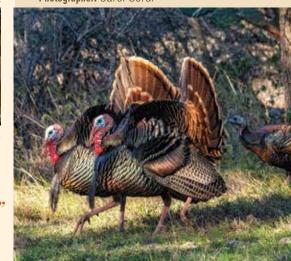


The Rivers, Creeks, and Lakes of our Special Region:

Spring-fed creeks of the Texas Hill Country merge into the rivers and lakes that sustain us all. These waters quench our thirst, provide habitat for rare and endemic fish and wildlife species, and support agricultural and recreation-based economies. Increasing growth and development has impacted the health of several of these waterways in a variety of ways, including polluting rivers with increased storm water runoff, drying up springs and creeks due to the overuse of groundwater, and spreading non-native, invasive plants that degrade aquatic habitat. Maintaining healthy river basins in the Hill Country is critical for ensuring the quantity and quality of waters that make this place so special to us all. Whether you rent an apartment in the city or own a 500-acre heritage ranch in the country, your decisions matter. The creeks and rivers of the Hill Country are the heartbeat of Texas.

Learn more about healthy creeks and rivers at HillCountry Alliance.org

Photographer: Carol Serur







Location: San Antonio, Bexar County

TUES

NOVEMBER

1 2 3 4 5
6 7 8 9 10 11 12
13 14 15 16 17 18 19
20 21 22 23 24 25 26
27 28 29 30

Title: Snow in San Antonio

DECEMBER

WED

JANUARY 2023

1 2 3 4 5 6 7

8 9 10 11 12 13 14

15 16 17 18 19 20 21

22 23 24 25 26 27 28

29 30 31

Photographer: David Archer

THURS FRI SAT

70

Human Rights Day Pearl Harbor Remembrance Day 13 15

18 19 20 24

Hanukkah begins First Day of Winter Christmas Eve 25 26 28 30 27

Kwanzaa begins Christmas Day Hanukkah ends New Year's Eve



Photographer: Gary Sertich



I'M FOR #

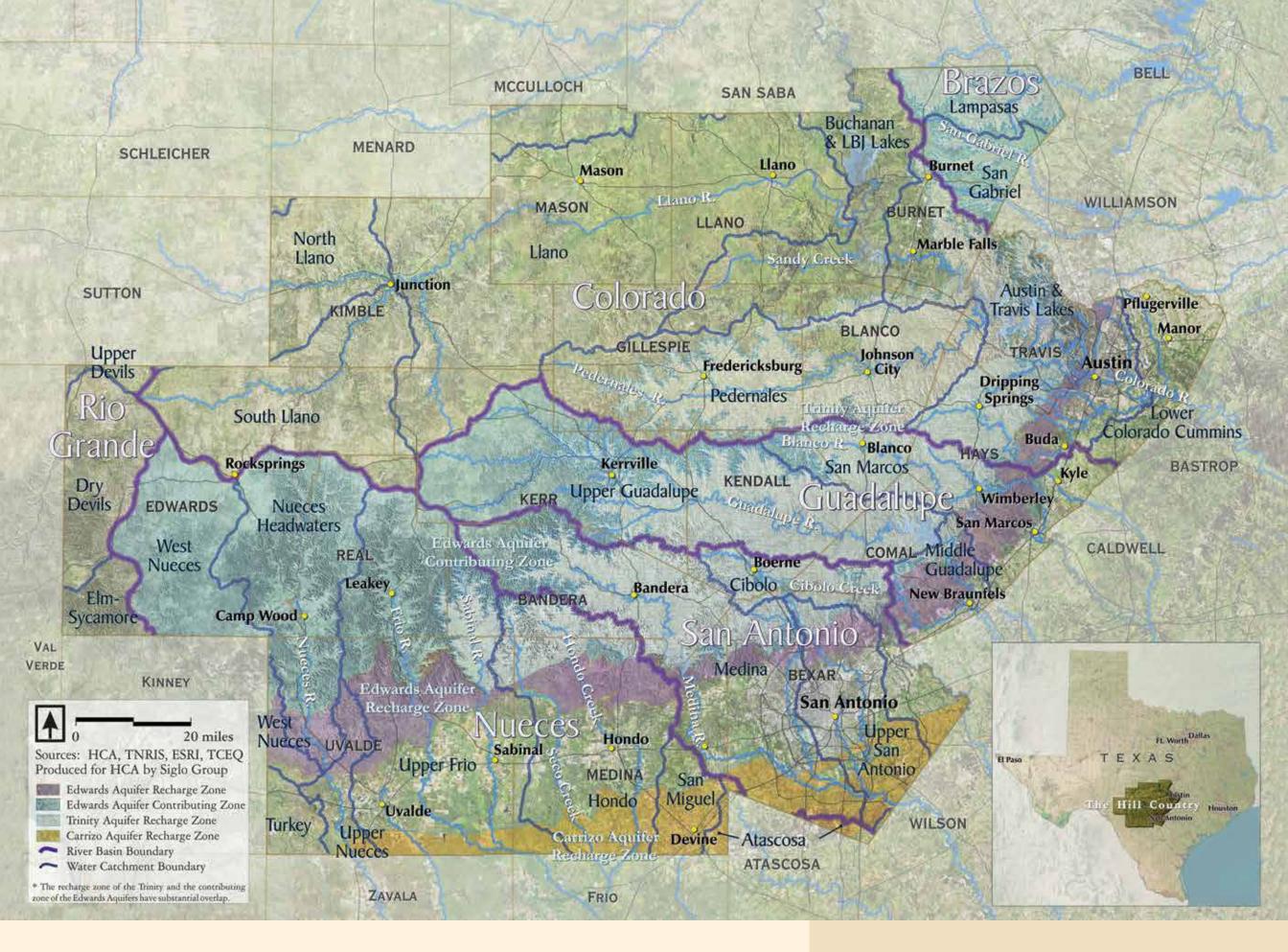
Hill Country

Participation: Every day, decisions are being made that will forever affect this precious region. The next water line, the next billboard, the next wastewater discharge, development permit, cedar clearing, transmission line or groundwater pump – each decision deserves our full attention and awareness. An informed,

active citizenry is essential if we intend to protect these assets for future generations.

Subscribe to receive HCA news at HillCountry Alliance.org

"Never doubt that a small group of dedicated citizens can change the world. Indeed, it's the only thing that ever does."



Clear-eyed and Visionary: Leadership for a Changing Region

Hill Country Neighbors,

As I preview the pages of yet another amazing edition of the Hill Country calendar, I'm reminded of both the tangibles, and intangibles, that draw us all to this special region. Despite the surprises and hardships the past year delivered, there is clarity that comes with time and reminds us just how important the quiet canyons, sweeping vistas, charming downtowns and starry night skies are to our health, wellness and quality of life.

What stood out most to me in 2021 were the many people who accomplished amazing things and responded to big challenges with guiet acts of kindness for fellow Hill County neighbors. It is in times of struggle that the true heroes of our communities are often revealed—the connectors, the comforters, the change makers, the bridge builders, the new leaders who saw need and stepped forward.

In 2021 I witnessed neighbors trudge through knee-deep snow to deliver fresh drinking water to those in need. New places for human connections were imagined and then realized, including a long dreamed of farmers market in downtown Junction. An unprecedented number of residents raised voices of concern for the future of our groundwater resources by participating, many for the first time, in the convoluted process we call our Desired Future Condition. And some brave elected officials became vocal champions for protecting pristine waters and planning the future of our region.



Two Black-bellied Whistling Ducks trod through unexpected snow during the February freeze of 2021. Photographer: Carol Serur

Perhaps you were one of those community leaders in 2021. Maybe you will step in to lead in the months and years ahead. Please consider HCA an ally in your efforts. What we need now, more than ever, are strong voices willing to champion a future that balances human and environmental needs; that puts the long-term health of our region at the center of decisions we make today; and that ensures a way for ALL Central Texans and visitors passing through to enjoy the rare and delicate place we call the Hill Country.

Looking ahead, I am steadfastly optimistic our alliance of Hill Country champions will continue to grow in deed and word and passion. I feel our roots deepening and strengthening. Our successes are being amplified and multiplied. The family of neighbors standing "For the Hill Country" is growing in both measurable and immeasurable ways. I do hope you will join us.

I'm for the Hill Country,

Katherine Romans

Hill Country Alliance 2022

Teams make things happen

Water Team – Water science and policy experts and enthusiasts who represent a wide array of organizations guide the HCA water program.

Night Sky Team – Landowners, astronomers, business owners and experts create educational resources, make night sky policy recommendations, and work closely with Friends of the Night Sky groups around the region.

Land Conservation Team - Regional land trusts coordinate to educate landowners about conservation easements, track conservation metrics, and consider conservation priorities.

Rainwater Harvesting Team – RWH experts create educational programs and produce the annual Rainwater Revival event.



River Basin set common goals and coordinate educational efforts, research projects, water quality monitoring, and landowner outreach programs.

Technical Advisory Team - Engineers, hydrologists, geologists and other experts provide ongoing technical review of HCA's programs.

Land Practices Team – Land restoration specialists, ecologists, wildlife biologists, volunteers and professionals share experiences and vet HCA programs related to vegetative management and land stewardship.

Hill Country Alliance 2021/2022 Board of Directors

Vanessa Puig-Williams Board Presiden

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Kathleen Tobin Krueger Michelle Whitwell Pokorny

Bill Neiman

The Hill Country Alliance (HCA) is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization created in 2005 to bring organizations and people together to address Hill Country challenges and build consensus towards a better way forward.

2021 HCA Photo Contest Judges

Romelia Favrot Master Naturalist, Landowner

Eric Pohl

Professional Photographer, Hill Country Champion

Vera Avres Bowen

Vice-President Shield Ranch and Shield Ranch Foundation, Jackrabbit Advocate

Contest Winners

Grand Prize Winner: February Winter Soul

Photographer: Andy Heatwole

Location: Hays County, TX

People's Choice Honoree: Bluebonnet Back Road Trough Visitor Photographer: William Shelton Location: Llano County, TX

1st Place: June Red Lonahorn Photographer: Alicia R. Paparo

Location: Blanco County, TX

Calleta Silkmoth Caterpillar Photographer: David Winchester Location: Comal County, TX

3rd Place: September

2nd Place: August Cool Clarity Photographer: Jeffrey Gladden Photographer: Karrie King Location: Kimble County, TX Location: Llano County, TX

Cover Shot:

HCA Staff

Katherine Romans, Executive Director Cliff Kaplan, Program Director Daniel Oppenheimer, Land Program Manager Sydney Beckner, Water Programs Manager Dawn Davies, Night Sky Program Coordinator Leah Cuddeback, Storytelling and Public Engagement Manager Amy Crowell. Development Manager John Rooney, Texas Hill Country Conservation Network Manager Sheila Holt, Office Manager

Marisa Bruno. Water Program Fellow

Rvan Ament, Education and Outreach Intern

Chanee Carlson, Director of Philanthropy



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