

For Immediate Release

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Texas Springs Symposium March 8th

Hosted by Texas Tech University, Junction

Making Connections between Groundwater, Surface Water, Science and Stewardship

(February 25th, 2013) – The 6th Annual Texas Water Symposium series continues this month at Junction with a personal conversation between Hill Country landowners and water experts about springs - the connection between groundwater and surface water. As Texans grapple with water shortages and the expensive challenges ahead to provide water supply for growing populations, it is essential to understand the nature and value of spring flow.

The Symposium series brings together policymakers, scientists, water resource experts, landowners and regional leaders to explore the challenges and complexities of managing water in Texas. The sessions are free and open to the public, and are recorded and aired on Texas Public Radio one week later. The Symposium is a partnership project of Schreiner University, Texas Tech University, Texas Public Radio and the Hill Country Alliance.

Program:

- Rural Land Steward Panel: David Langford, Tom Vandivier and Ruthie Russell
- Groundwater and Science: Dr. Robert Mace, Deputy Executive Administrator Water Science and Conservation, Texas Water Development Board
- Springs, Surface Water and Science: Dr. Tom Arsuffi, Director, Texas Tech University Llano River Field Station
- Moderator: Edwards County Judge Souli Shanklin

When: Friday, March 8, 2013, 7 – 8:30 pm

Where: Texas Tech University Center at Junction, Dining Hall

Sadly it has been documented that at least 63 historically significant Texas springs have completely ceased flowing. (Gunnar Brune's *Springs of Texas* 1973)

Spring flow is a barometer of underground water supply. Springs provide what hydrologists call base flows, the water that feeds streams and rivers after runoff from rainfall ceases. In order to protect these springs, it is essential that we care for land on a large landscape scale.

Conserved rural lands ensure healthy springs, rivers and aquifer systems which provide long-term drinking water supply for cities and towns downstream. This is a unique opportunity to listen to Hill Country landowners' stories and understand the connection between their stewardship efforts and our water supply.

For more information about the Texas Water Symposium Series, visit www.schreiner.edu/water.

To stay informed about future programs subscribe at www.hillcountryalliance.org.

The Hill Country Alliance is a nonprofit organization whose purpose is to raise public awareness and build community support around the need to preserve the natural resources and heritage of the Central Texas Hill Country. Visit us at www.hillcountryalliance.org.

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