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## How Micro-Flora & Fauna Contribute to Water Quality

*Water, essential for life, is our most precious and valuable natural resource. But water supply is limited and under increasing pressure from a growing population. How will we protect this resource and plan for a sustainable future? There is a great need for a water-literate public; decisions being made today have far reaching and long lasting effects for our children and future generations.*

### The Texas Water Symposium

provides perspectives from land-owners, policy makers, scientists, water resource experts and regional leaders.

Join us as we explore the complex issues and challenges in providing water for Texans in this century.

Each session is free and open to the public. The conversation will run from 7:00 – 8:30pm, and will be recorded for Texas Public Radio.

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Photo: San Marcos River  
Photographer: Mike Brown

### Thursday, September 1, 2016

Schreiner University: Cailloux Campus Activity Center Ballroom  
Doors open at 6:30, Program 7:00 – 8:30 pm

#### Moderator:

**Mary Ellen Summerlin:** Former Director, Headwaters Groundwater Conservation District

#### Panelists:

**Bob Howells:** Retired TPWD, Author of *Freshwater Mussels of Texas*

**Tara Bushnoe:** Natural Resources Coordinator, Upper Guadalupe River Authority

**Ryan Caesar:** Professor of Invertebrate Biology, Schreiner University

**Mateo Scoggins:** Ecological Service Restoration Practitioner

Most people judge the health of their favorite waterways by the clarity of the water, or by the quality of the day's fishing haul. Few of us are aware that there is an entire life-cycle of invisible aquatic plants and animals that determine the health of that stream or river.

Healthy populations of these naturally occurring plants and animals are the foundation of the aquatic ecological systems that maintain good water quality and healthy fish and wildlife stocks.

As our creeks and rivers come under increasing pressure from human-introduced biological or chemical pollutants, aquatic scientists are learning more about the services that these invisible plants and animals provide. And they are learning that these ecological services are even more widespread and important than previously known.

Join Schreiner University, Texas Public Radio, and the Hill Country Alliance for an exploration of the invisible plants and animals that populate our healthy creeks and rivers, the benefits that they provide every day free of charge, and how we can restore the ecological services that these micro-flora and fauna provide to our damaged waterways.