

2022 HILL COUNTRY LEADERSHIP SUMMIT

OUR SHARED STORIES: PAST, PRESENT, AND FUTURE

THURSDAY, SEPT. 29 | 8 AM - 6 PM | THE HALL @ JESTER KING

8:45 – 9:00

Welcome to the 2022 Hill Country Leadership Summit

9:00 – 10:00

The Power of Storytelling

Storytelling - a deep-rooted, innately human practice that goes beyond education, outreach, or communication. We all have a story to tell - shaped by our own individual experiences, perspectives, and passions - and we can accomplish much more for conservation in the Texas Hill Country when it all comes together. This panel will discuss the various ways that storytelling can be used to connect across dividing lines, inspire beyond education, and drive change through meaningful calls to action.

Moderator: Leah Cuddeback – Hill Country Alliance

Panelists: Maria Rocha – Indigenous Cultures Institute | Vanessa Torres – LBJ National Historical Park | Katy Baldock, Fin & Fur Films | Juan Martinez-Pineda – The Aspen Institute

10:00 – 10:30

Real Perspective from the Rural Hill Country

The Hill Country is a varied landscape and although there are important commonalities, there are also important differences in the types of challenges and opportunities Hill Country communities face. Judge Rubio will share perspective from Real County. What issues are emerging in the most rural areas of our region and how do her constituents tend to feel about them? What should those of us in more urban and suburban areas know to effectively work with our western neighbors on the issues that affect us all?

Judge Bella Rubio, Real County

10:30 – 11:00

BREAK

11:00 – 11:45

KEYNOTE: Different Shades of Green

Perhaps your family heritage includes a long history of ranching, or maybe attempting to get outside during the pandemic is what first introduced you to Texas' wide-open spaces. Regardless, we all have an intrinsic attachment and appreciation for the natural world. Our ability to access and enjoy these resources is key to sustaining a legacy of outdoor engagement and crucial to our region's future success. David Buggs will remind us how we all are connected to our outdoor spaces, why the challenge of stewarding those spaces belongs to everyone, and what your role is in creating a more welcoming environment for all.

Keynote Speaker: David Buggs – Texas Parks and Wildlife Department

11:45 – 12:05

Heart of the Hill Country Award

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, Annalisa Peace and Karen Ford, will present the 2022 awards. This year's honorees are Carolyn Chipman Evans, CEO of the Cibolo Center for Conservation and David Baker, Founder & Executive Director of Watershed Association and Art4Water - two individuals who have spent decades championing and stewarding the natural resources of our region.

Presented by Past Recipients: Annalisa Peace and Karen Ford
Honoring: Carolyn Chipman Evans and David Baker

12:05 – 1:00

LUNCH BREAK

1:00 – 1:15

Water and Equity – A Hill Country Study

The recently released Water and Equity in the Texas Hill Country Report helps to shine a spotlight on the communities most impacted by water challenges in the region. Learn about these findings and a newly released interactive web tool that will help conservation organizations target their efforts to the communities that need them most.

Angelica Lopez, Texas A&M Natural Resources Institute

1:15 – 2:00

What to Do When Springs Run Dry: Solutions to Tackle Drought and Growth

2022 saw one of the most severe, acute droughts the Hill Country has ever faced and we're not out of the woods yet! With increasing population, greater demands on groundwater resources, and higher stress on our creeks and rivers, landowners are looking for answers to the question – what do I do when my water runs dry?

Moderator: Vanessa Puig-Williams, Environmental Defense Fund and HCA Board

Panelists: Dr. Robert Mace – The Meadows Center for Water and the Environment and Mitchell Sodek – Central Texas Groundwater Conservation District

2:00 – 2:30

BREAK

2:30 – 3:00

Lightning Round: Learning from the Past, Looking to the Future – 5 minutes each

- Edwards Aquifer Protection Program: Past, Present, and Future – *David Bezanson, The Nature Conservancy*
- TPWD's Guadalupe Bass Restoration Initiative: Reflecting on Thirty Years of Stewardship - *Melissa Parker, Texas Parks and Wildlife Department*
- Nueces River Authority: Twenty Years of Engagement to Save a River – *Julie Lewey, Nueces River Authority*
- Friends of the Night Skies - *Soll Sussman, Hays County Friends of the Night Sky*
- Selah, Bamberger Ranch Preserve: Fifty-three Years (and Counting) of Restoration and Stewardship – *April Sansom, Selah, Bamberger Ranch Preserve*
- Prop 5 and Texas Parks: The Next 100 Years – *Zach Spector, Texas Parks and Wildlife Foundation*

3:00 – 4:00

A Conversation with Regional Elected Officials

Elected officials can have an outsized impact on influencing some of our region's most vexing challenges. From the local to the statewide level, these community leaders can be visionary, creative, and inspiring in their quest to bring community representation to all aspects of life in the Hill Country. Learn more about how best to connect with and influence leaders in your community.

Moderator: David Yeates, HCA Board

Panelists: Representative Erin Zwiener, Kendall County Commissioner Don Durden, Kimble County Judge-elect Hal Rose

Length: 60 minutes

4:00 – 6:00

HAPPY HOUR NETWORKING RECEPTION