



Neighbor to Neighbor

www.hillcountryalliance.org

The Mission of the Hill Country Alliance is to bring together an ever-expanding alliance of groups throughout a multi-county region of Central Texas with the long-term objective of preserving open spaces, water supply, water quality and the unique character of the Texas Hill Country.

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Hill Country News

Texas Water Symposium March 25 in Kerrville

Join us this Thursday for the third in the 2009-2010 series of discussions and forums about Texas water issues. The symposium's topic will be "Kids, Water and Science", with State Representative Doug Miller as emcee - [Details](#).

Attorney General says Hill Country cities have power to regulate development on their fringes

Small cities in the Hill Country have the power to regulate development in areas just outside their limits, state Attorney General Greg Abbott said in an opinion Monday. Abbott issued the opinion in response to a question by the City of Wimberley on whether it had the authority to enact construction rules in its extraterritorial jurisdiction. Read full Statesman.com article [here](#).

CREZ project Environmental Impact public meetings

Friday, March 19th The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service announced it will hold five public meetings in Texas as it begins work on a draft environmental impact statement (EIS) related to the building of new transmission lines in parts of central and west Texas. The meetings will take place in San Angelo, Junction, Comfort, Lampasas and Fredericksburg. Dates and locations will be posted on this page. [More here](#)

NM governor signs bill for conservation easements

New Mexico governor signs a new bill into law allowing the state to acquire conservation easements from farmers, ranchers and other landowners to ensure that the property is not developed. Read full Business Week article [here](#).

Transportation Plan - What's your say on sprawl?

CAMPO has scheduled a series of public meetings, inviting review and comment on its draft 2035 transportation plan, currently dubbed "People, Planning and Preparing for the Future: Your 25 Year Transportation Plan." The core question: Are you happy with road-based sprawl, or do you expect your regional planning organization to lead the region toward more sustainable development patterns? Get the details from Austin Chronicle [here](#).

A small step for protecting land

Wimberley is on the verge of becoming just a bit too idyllic. It's grown from a hamlet into a small town because its Hill Country charm is a temptation to many. Maybe it has lured too many, given the inability of local government to regulate land use. Read full Statesman.com article [here](#).

Langford: Conscientious land stewardship protects Texas' water resources, too

A recent survey found that only 28 percent of Texans could correctly identify the source of their drinking water. Regardless of whether your water comes from a well, a river or a reservoir, there is one answer that is always correct: Virtually all of our water comes from rainfall. Read full Statesman.com article [here](#).

State seeks to ease water quality rules

In a move that it says will save money and is a practical strategy for monitoring the state's waterways, the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality has proposed loosening its water quality standards. Read full Statesman.com article [here](#).

Sierra Club Criticizes TCEQ for Proposals to Weaken Clean Water Standards

The Sierra Club today strongly criticized the state's environmental regulatory agency for a proposed weakening of water quality standards protecting recreational use in Texas lakes and streams. [Read more...](#)

Texas Water Matters

Texas Water Matters is an outstanding resource on all things related to water planning in Texas. The site is full of current information on all water planning processes. Recently the project added new features to their website illustrating the "interconnectivity" of surface and ground water supplies. Check out the [Living Waters Project](#) and specifically the latest material on interconnectivity [here](#).

Upcoming Events

March

March 25 - Water Issue Symposium “Kids, Water and Science: Perspectives from Our Future” - [Details](#)

March 25 in Boerne - Free Texas Watershed Steward Training Program - [Details](#)

March 27 - Lyndon B. Johnson Historical Park announces the 3rd annual LBJ 100 Bicycle Tour - [Details](#)

March 25-26 in Hunt - Rio Grande Wild Turkey Symposium - Hosted by AgriLife Extension and Texas Wildlife Association - [Details and Registration](#)

March 31 in Austin - 2010 Envision Central Texas Regional Forum Series - Bringing together regional leaders to examine the critical infrastructure needs and resource constraints facing Central Texas and how to translate these challenges into opportunities - [Details](#)

April

April 6 in Canyon Lake - Annual Research Update on Geology in the Canyon Lake Gorge, Presentation by Southwest Research Institute - [Visit Website](#)

April 8-9 in Alpine - Trans-Pecos Prescribed Fire Symposium - Hosted by AgriLife Extension, Texas Wildlife Association, Texas Parks & Wildlife, Sull Ross State University and Borderlands Research Institute - [Details](#)

April 12-13 in Kerrville - Rainwater Harvesting Workshop - From the Texas AgriLife Extension Service, an introductory course for those interested in learning the basics of rainwater harvesting for outdoor and indoor applications. - [Details](#)

April 13 in Kerrville - “The Geology of the Hill Country” - Hosted by Riverside Nature Center - [Details](#)

April 17 in Kerrville - Earth Day Celebration - Sponsored by Riverside Nature Center and the Kerrville Chapter of the Native Plant Society of Texas - [Details](#)

April 24 in San Marcos - Aquarena Earth Day Celebration - Aquarena Center's 4th annual Earth Day Celebration - [Details](#)

April 24 in New Braunfels - 4th Annual New Braunfels Earth Day Celebration - [Details](#)

April 28-30 in Austin - 2010 Statewide Land Conservation Conference - [Details and Registration](#)

May

May 31 - Last day of 2010 Hill Country Alliance Photo Contest.

Check the **HCA Website** for continuous updates on all of the latest Hill Country [news](#) and [events](#)

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