



2026 HILL COUNTRY LEADERSHIP SUMMIT

—Small Choices, Big Changes—

THURSDAY, SEPT. 24 | CAMP LUCY · DRIPPING SPRINGS, TEXAS

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| 8:00-8:45 | Breakfast and Networking |
| 8:45-9:00 | Welcome and Opening Remarks |
| 9:00-9:45 | Mediating Scales in Landscape Planning
Gullivar Shepard – Michael Van Valkenburgh Associates |
| 9:45-10:30 | Flood Recovery in the Hill Country
Moderator: Daniel Oppenheimer - Hill Country Alliance
Panelists: Austin Dickson- Community Foundation of the Texas Hill Country Northern Hendricks – Landowner and Volunteer Commissioner Ann Howard – Travis County |
| 10:30-10:50 | MINI-NETWORKING BREAK |
| 10:50-11:55 | KEYNOTE: Re-hydrating and Re-enlivening Our Communities
Brad Lancaster, Author and Permaculture Designer – Harvesting Rainwater |
| 11:55-1:00 | LUNCH BREAK |
| 1:00-1:30 | Heart of the Hill Country Award honoring Ira Yates and Wayne Gosnell |
| 1:30-2:15 | Neighbor to Neighbor: Mobilizing Toward Collective Action
Moderator: Lauro Martinez – Hill Country Alliance
Panelists: Roger Wallace – Friends of the Little Blanco River Valley David Zambrano – The Eyes of the San Marcos River Jada Jo Smith – Hill Country Preservation Coalition |
| 2:15-2:45 | NETWORKING BREAK |
| 2:45-3:15 | A Tale of Two Cities: Night Sky Edition
Leah Jenkins – Williamson County Friends of the Night Sky & Kathleen Brinkman – Kerr County Friends of the Night Sky |
| 3:15-3:45 | Community Programs for Grassroots to Grasstops
Cliff Kaplan, Grace Gilker, Rebeca Gibson, and Leah Cuddeback |
| 3:45-4:15 | Lightning Round: Small Choices, Big Changes – 5 minutes each <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Data Centers: What we Know and What We Don't – <i>Adrian Shelley, Public Citizen</i>• Fungi, Lightning, and the Electric Web Beneath Our Feet – <i>Angel Schatz, Central Texas Mycological Society</i>• Texas Tribal Buffalo Project – <i>Lucille Contreras*</i>• Preserving Night Skies at Camp Bullis Sentinel Landscape – <i>Tonda Sallee, US Air Force*</i> |
| 4:15-4:30 | Impact and Intention – The Work of Our Alliance
Katherine Romans, Hill Country Alliance |
| 4:30-6:30 | HAPPY HOUR NETWORKING RECEPTION |

* Title subject to change