

Bringing the Brazos Together

A workshop for all who depend on the river

Speaker Profiles

Alan Day has served as the General Manager for the Brazos Valley GCD for five years. Day served as the County Extension Agent for over 7 years before becoming a Ranch Manager in Bosque County for 27 years. He served on the Middle Trinity GCD Board of Directors for 3 years before moving to the Brazos Valley. “The Summit will be an excellent opportunity to ask questions of the GMA 12 panelists about aquifer management and why management methods vary so widely,” Day said. “There is a method to the madness.”



Dr. Barney Austin is an engineer by training and the former director of the surface water division at the Texas Water Development Board. He is now the CEO of Aqua Strategies, a small water resources engineering firm based in Austin, TX. Aqua Strategies is known for taking on challenging water resources projects, mostly involving on hydrology, hydraulics and water quality modeling. Dr. Austin is the project manager for the TWDB-funded study on investigating the possibilities of using remote sensing for identifying the existence of, and quantifying the extent of, groundwater-surface water interaction using remote sensing techniques. This project is using the Brazos River near College Station as a pilot study.



Amy Bush, PG, is a hydrologist with RMBJ Geo, Inc with over 20 years of experience working with and for groundwater conservation districts and landowners in a variety of roles. She has a B.S. in Hydrology and Water Resources Engineering from Tarleton State University. Her professional passions are data management, GIS analysis, and coffee. After spending most of her life in the Texas panhandle, she currently her chasing her kids or dogs, unless she has convinced them to chase each other so she can plan the next camping trip. Life is too short to be bored!



Joe C. Yelderman Jr., PhD, PG, is a hydrogeology professor and Director of the Institute of Ecological, Earth and Environmental sciences at Baylor University. Since receiving his Ph.D. from the University of Wisconsin in 1983 he has taught hydrogeology and water management in the Geosciences Department. His current research concentrates on the Washita Prairie and Northern segments of the Edwards Balcones Fault Zone Aquifer, the Northern Trinity Aquifer, and Brazos River Alluvium Aquifer.



Jordan Furnans leads LRE Water, LLC in Round Rock, Texas. His 24 years of professional experience encompasses both field hydrologic data collection and analysis of data through the development and application of numerical models. He specializes in groundwater & surface water analyses, and has been studying the Brazos River system since 2003. Dr. Furnans has worked as a surface water engineer for the Texas Water Development Board and as a professional consultant for INTERA and LRE Water. He also teaches hydraulic engineering at the University of Texas at

Austin.



Vanessa Puig-Williams is a Senior Director on the Climate Resilient Water Systems Team at EDF, where she leads efforts to advance sustainable groundwater management across the Southwest. Before joining EDF, Vanessa served as executive director and general counsel of the Trinity Edwards Springs Protection Association, a nonprofit focused on legal and policy initiatives to protect groundwater resources in the Hill Country. Vanessa is a Board Director on the Barton Springs Edwards Aquifer Conservation District. She serves on the Region L Water Planning Group and is a member of the City of Austin's Water Forward Task Force. Vanessa received her J.D.

from the University of Texas Law School.



Brad Brunett joined the Brazos River Authority (BRA) as a Hydrologist/Planner in 1997. In his 27 years with the BRA, Brad has served in a number of positions including Regional Business Development Manager, Hydrologist, Senior Hydrologist, Water Services Department Manager, and Regional Manager of the Brazos River central and lower basin areas. He was named Chief Operations Officer in October 2024. He and his wife, Angie, live in Whitney. They have three grown children (Kaley, Cole, & Brock), son-in-law (AJ), daughter-in-law (Sarah), and 2 granddaughters (Layke & Livvy).



Myron J. Hess is a consultant and attorney in private practice in Austin working primarily on issues related to water. Myron has a long history of working on water-related issues in Texas on behalf of the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department and the National Wildlife Federation, as well as various individual clients. His current involvement in water issues focuses primarily on protecting spring flows and environmental flows in Texas rivers and into Texas bays and estuaries. He serves as

the vice-chair of the Colorado and Lavaca Rivers and Matagorda and Lavaca Bays Area Stakeholder Committee and of the Edwards Aquifer Habitat Conservation Plan Stakeholder

Committee. Myron obtained an undergraduate degree in Wildlife and Fisheries Sciences from Texas A&M University in 1977 and, after working as an educator, a law degree from the University of Texas in 1986.



Gary Westbrook has served as the General Manager of Post Oak Savannah GCD for more than 15 years, and is a past President of the Texas Alliance of Groundwater Districts. Gary graduated with honors from Sam Houston State University in 1981 with a BS in Agriculture Education. He is a native of Milano, TX, where he raised his family of four children with his wife of 38 years, Glenda, and where he still owns Westbrook Angus Farms, established by Gary and his late father, W.G. Westbrook, almost 50 years ago on family owned land. He currently represents POSGCD as its voting representative on both Groundwater Management Area (GMA) 12 and GMA 8, and also serves as voting representative for GMA 12 on the Brazos G Regional Water Planning Group. Gary also serves as a pastor in the Methodist Church since 1999.



Carlos Rubinstein is the Principal member of RSAH2O, LLC – an environmental consulting firm with strong emphasis on water issues. Rubinstein has served as an expert witness on various environmental cases and has published several peer-reviewed articles on Texas water policy matters. Rubinstein is also a Special Adviser to Anser Advisory on Texas Water Policy, Regulatory and Funding matters. Rubinstein, appointed by Governor Ricky Perry, served as chairman of the Texas Water Development Board (TWDB) from 2013-2015. During his tenure, he oversaw the implementation of the \$2 billion State Water Infrastructure Fund for Texas. He also served as the Texas representative to the Western States Water Council, and the Border Governors' Conference Sustainable Development worktable. Rubinstein served as a commissioner of the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) from 2009–2013.



Billy Howe is the Associate Director of Government Affairs for Texas Farm Bureau. He began his career with Texas Farm Bureau in September 1999. Before coming to Texas Farm Bureau, he worked in the Texas House of Representatives for six years. In total, Billy has over 20 years of legislative experience. Billy assists in coordinating political activities and advocating on priority issues at the federal and state level. He leads the Austin lobby team and has the individual responsibility of advocating on water issues in Austin for Texas Farm Bureau. Billy grew up in the farming community of Itasca on the Blackland Prairie of North Central Texas. He spent two years at Hill College in Hillsboro, Texas, and then, earned his Bachelor's degree in Political Science from Louisiana State University.



Jake Hollingsworth serves as Deputy General Manager and COO of the Gulf Coast Water Authority, overseeing operations, strategic planning, and infrastructure improvements for water treatment and delivery systems. With over 15 years of leadership in utility management, Jake has managed large-scale water and wastewater systems, developed award-winning utilities, and implemented initiatives such as GIS-based asset management programs. He has earned multiple accolades for operational excellence and water quality and is a strong advocate for sustainable and collaborative water management solutions.



Tim Finley is a Senior Manufacturing and Engineering Fellow at Dow Inc. He provides technical leadership and internal consulting support as part of Dow's Environmental Technology Center. He has bachelor's degree in civil engineering and master's degree in environmental engineering from the University of Michigan. Tim has spent the past 34 years working on many of Dow's most challenging water, wastewater and process cooling problems and projects around the globe. Tim has a true passion for water, technology, and improving water management practice and sustainability. Outside of work, he enjoys time with his family, outdoor activities, and supporting a local Boy Scout Troop and his church.



Scott Morehead is the Chief Executive Officer at Texas Water Trade and brings extensive experience in the private and NGO sectors. He served as Director of Policy for Audubon Texas, where he focused on energy and water policy at the local, state, and federal levels. Mr. Moorhead also spent more than a decade in private consulting, most notably at the Ben Barnes Group, an Austin- and D.C.-based strategic affairs firm founded by former Lieutenant Governor Ben Barnes of Texas.



Zach Holland has been with Bluebonnet Groundwater Conservation District since October 2009 beginning as a permitting assistant prior to his selection as General Manager in January 2011. He serves in varying capacities and represents the District in GMA 14, Regional Water Planning Groups G & H, TAGD, TGWA, and TWA in an effort to work through meaningful, logical solutions for planning, management, and policy of groundwater resources. Zach's passion and dedication to water conservation and management was fostered through growing up and working with his Dad at Irion County WCD and Sterling County UWCD. This passion led him to Texas A&M University, where he earned a B.S. in Animal Science and Master of Water Management & Hydrological Sciences building a core to facilitate dialogue and discussion to enhance and advance groundwater planning, management, and policy. Zach also completed the Texas Water Leadership Program through the Texas Water Foundation in its inaugural class.

