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**A WORD FROM OUR TRUSTEE CHAIRMAN
BILL BLACKWELL**

The response to COVID-19 has brought change to our lives, but not all change is bad. Life is full of opportunities to learn from one another, and from events and situations. Since this pandemic began disrupting our lives as we know it, our staff have been thinking about how to do things differently to keep everyone in our communities safe, but also how to continue supporting the responsibilities and mission of the GBRT.

For many of us, we have had to become more flexible and innovative to overcome the obstacles or speed bumps that get in our way. However, that does not mean that we aren't finding new ways to inform, enlighten, and inspire. There is a lot of good that can come from this. We are doing it. We are making it through. People are coming together, as well as communities coming together. And we have all learned something through this unprecedented pandemic; we are more resilient and capable of change than we realize.

On behalf of all of us here at the Guadalupe-Blanco River Trust, we pray that you stay healthy and maintain a positive attitude.

Bill Blackwell, GBRT Chairman

**President Trump Signs the Great
American Outdoors Act Into Law on
August 4, 2020**

This legislation signed today is not just about outdoor recreation. In signing the Great American Outdoors Act, we are protecting and enhancing the economies of numerous gateway communities that surround our national parks and wildlife reserves. By bringing more visitors to our parks, the Great American Outdoors Act will stimulate local businesses across the country. To learn more, [click here](#).

**Please welcome our new
GBRT Fall Intern
Justin Wallace.**



Justin is a senior and joins us from Texas State University.

He will graduate in December 2020 with a Bachelor's Degree in Applied Sociology. We are excited to have Justin on our team!



The Guadalupe-Blanco River Trust is seeking volunteers for our 2020 Plum Creek Wetlands Preserve Reforestation Project to help restore the 265-acres back to its native vegetation. The date is Saturday, November 14, 2020. Check-in is at 8 AM. Planting begins at 9 AM. Lunch will be provided to volunteers who sign up prior to the deadline, November 9, 2020. Volunteer hours are flexible. For more information, please visit www.GBRTX.org or call 830-560-3981. You can also sign up on our Facebook page at <http://www.Facebook.com/GuadalupeBlancoRiverTrust>. Click on events and look for the PCWP Reforestation Project on the calendar!



**EARTHSHARE IS A NATIONAL
NETWORK DEDICATED TO OUR PLANET**
(512) 472-5518 | (800) GREEN-TX
estx@earthshare-texas.org



**A WORD FROM OUR EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
TYLER SANDERSON**

It is September, and what can we say? Much of our daily lives are still not back to how they were in February, and may never return. I am sure, like me, you have adjusted to new methods of carrying on.

Summer is still in full effect in central Texas. As a Kentucky boy transplanted in Texas, I am still having a hard time getting used to the overwhelming amount of 100°+ days and seemingly never-ending dearth's in precipitation. Nevertheless, it doesn't stop Texans (even honorary like me) from getting out of the comforts of our air conditioned homes and offices to enjoy that blistering heat. My appreciation for our ancestors and settlers grows each summer, and my anticipation for autumn days is constant.

The limited summer rainfall has not translated to scarcity of land conservation victories, support and activity though.

- Nationally, the Land and Water Conservation Fund was permanently fully funded at \$900 million every year. Since 1964, this fund has protected national parks, rivers and lakes, national forests, wildlife refuges, and provides State and local land conservation and recreation projects. Until 2020, much of that funding was diverted for other uses.
- Locally, Hays County voted to move forward with a parks and open space bond set for November. If successful, the bond will support new parks, trails, open spaces and natural areas in Hays County.
- And within GBRT, thanks to generous support from the Land Trust Alliance, the Burdine Johnson Foundation, and the Guadalupe-Blanco River Authority, we are able to move the ball forward at our Plum Creek Wetlands Preserve. We are in the beginning stages of creating a master plan and will be hosting our first annual volunteer reforestation event on site November 14th. Additionally, we have gained interest from many like-minded entities to support both of these activities.

Looking ahead to the fall and winter months, GBRT is excited to continue working on several new conservation easement projects. We are also proud to be working on new and innovative ways to support our mission of land conservation. I want to thank those who support the work we do and make it possible to have such a rewarding career.



DEVELOPMENT DIRECTOR AWARDED A SCHOLARSHIP FROM AFP AUSTIN

Lisa Adams, Development Director for the Guadalupe-Blanco River Trust, has been awarded a scholarship from the Association of Fundraising Professionals Austin Chapter's Scholarship Committee. This scholarship will be applied towards a renewal membership for the Professional Membership category.



Stay updated by visiting our website for news and announcements. Donations are easily accepted online at www.GBRTX.org or by calling 830-560-3981. GBRT is grateful to know there are supporters like YOU who help to make a difference every day by contributing towards our programs and services. Thank you!



The State Employee Charitable Campaign will begin on September 1, and will run through October 31.

Want to donate to the Guadalupe-Blanco River Trust? Please use our organization's SECC charity code.

GBRT SECC Code: 035601

For more information, visit www.SECCTexas.org.



McCoy College of Business

Guadalupe-Blanco River Trust (GBRT) is proud to announce their new partnership with Texas State University's McCoy College of Business Graduate Program.

McCoy College graduate programs integrate academics and real-world experience through study abroad programs, internships, networking events and field projects.

GBRT staff will be collaborating with these graduate students on research, planning, and identifying the most efficient and effective avenues of community outreach and education.

GBRT looks forward to working with the following MBA students from Texas State University's McCoy College of Business: Elysia Smith, Daniel Vanek, Sean Syring and Andrew Wylie.

Special thanks to Michelle Redepenning, Graduate Career Specialist at the McCoy College of Business, for reaching out to the GBRT. Thank you Dr. David Cameron, Faculty Advisor, for supporting our mission and including GBRT into your curriculum.

Shop for Good Online!

Enter code

GIVEBACK8929

in your cart or at checkout on **KENDRASCOTT.COM**,
and 20% of your purchase will benefit

Guadalupe-Blanco River Trust

Not combinable with other offers.

Kendra Scott

Kendra Scott supports the GBRT. Thanks to Kendra Gives Back, this community-giving program allows community members to host in-store and online events for causes and organizations who support their communities. When you make a purchase on September 28th or 29th, 20% of your purchase will be donated back to the GBRT. These funds will be used towards GBRT programs and services. To order online, please visit www.KendraScott.com. Upon checking out, use promotional code: GIVEBACK8929. This code is good for in-person purchases, too.

Sale begins at 12:00 AM on 9/28/20.

Sale ends at 11:59 PM on 9/29/20.





Not only do our wildlife need to drink, so do our landscapes.



Pictures courtesy of Carlos Fiol Photography



The Guadalupe-Blanco River Trust is grateful to receive a grant from The Burdine Johnson Foundation in the amount of \$15,000 to help support the Plum Creek Wetlands Preserve Reforestation Project. These funds will help to offset the cost of the project to help restore the 265-acres back to its native vegetation. Volunteers will help with planting 1000+ bare-root seedlings in certain areas on the property. The tree species chosen are native to the Blackland Prairie ecoregion for both wetlands and non-wetlands. The property includes diverse habitat types including a mile of riparian woodlands along plum creek, and emergent, forested wetlands. The 29 constructed wetlands on site are very inviting to wildlife including the White-Tailed Deer, many species of raptors, waterfowl, amphibians, reptiles and pollinators. This is a great volunteering opportunity for Master Naturalists, Master Gardeners, members of clubs and organizations, students, local community members, families, or anyone seeking educational hours towards a project.

Special thanks to Lisa Giberson and the Board of Directors at the Burdine Johnson Foundation. Your continued support and trust in our mission is truly appreciated.

Thank you to these organizations for their letters of support: Plum Creek Watershed Partnership, TXST Meadows Center for Water and the Environment, Guadalupe-Blanco River Authority, City of Lockhart, Caldwell County Judge Hoppy Haden, the John Bunker Sands Wetland Center, and Carrie Kasnicka at the Trust for Public Land.



The Guadalupe-Blanco River Trust has been awarded the Land Trust Alliance 2020 Advancement Initiative Grant in the amount of \$7500. This grant program has been designed to deliver tailored organizational and leadership development assistance to select land trusts and land trust state associations that are committed to growing their capacity and advancing their conservation impact. GBRT plans to use these funds for a Master Development Plan for the Plum Creek Wetlands Preserve.



DID YOU KNOW?

Guadalupe-Blanco River Trust has a new website. Please visit www.GBRTX.org to check out our new look!

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EMAIL: INFO@GBRTX.ORG

Want to help make a difference? There are so many ways you can help the Guadalupe-Blanco River Trust. For more information, click on the donations button.



To subscribe to this newsletter, please email Info@GBRTX.org or call our office at 830-560-3981. To learn more about the Guadalupe-Blanco River Trust, please visit www.GBRTX.org.