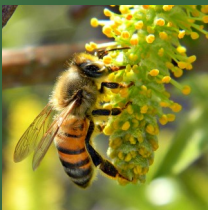


## Guadalupe Blanco River Trust Newsletter | November 2019, Issue 15

### DID YOU KNOW?

After hearing a passionate debate among a panel of international scientists over which endangered species is the most important, the audience voted *Bees* because 70 percent of crop species eaten by humans depend on pollination by bees.

[Click here](#) to read more about why Bees are so important.



### A WORD FROM OUR TRUSTEE CHAIRMAN W.A. "BILL" BLACKWELL

We are very pleased to welcome the new Guadalupe-Blanco River Trust Management team of Tyler Sanderson, Executive Director and Lisa Adams, Development Director. They both bring a number of years' experience in non-profit management that the Trust Board feels will help lead the Trust to a new level.

I would like to personally thank Carrie Kasnicka for her leadership as past Executive Director of the Trust. Carrie left the Trust in May to join her husband in Colorado. She continues to help the Trust through the transition and remains a valuable resource for our new team. Thanks to Jack Jones for his years on the Board and his leadership as past Chairman. The Trust Board sends our best wishes to both Carrie and Jack. I would also like to recognize our new 2019 Board members Dr. Steve Wilson, Ronnie Luster and Diana McMahon, who represents Upper Guadalupe River Authority on the Trust and replaces our good friend Wayne Musgrove.

The Trust's goal has always been to protect the natural resources, water and land within the Guadalupe River Watershed. As Texas continues to grow and places more pressure on two of our most precious resources, water and land, it is imperative that we work with all involved for future generations to enjoy natural wonders.

With the recent announcement of dam closures on the Guadalupe River, now more than ever, people realize the value and importance of the river. With the impending threat of loss of property values, revenues from recreational and tourism activities, the stakeholders are willing to fight and in some cases pay additional taxes to preserve property assets. The Trust, being a non-profit, is able to secure grants and other forms of financial assistance where the Guadalupe-Blanco River Authority cannot. This might present an opportunity for the Trust to pursue future fundraising endeavors to assist property owner's efforts. The Trust could work as a conduit for government, corporate, foundation or individual grants.

At this point, I am not sure what role the Trust might play in helping preserve or replace the existing dams on the Guadalupe River, but I believe the Trust Board would enthusiastically support any ideas and efforts that we or any of the stakeholders on the river might present.

## GUADALUPE BLANCO RIVER TRUST PROJECTS UPDATES

- **Protecting Hill Country Heritage**—The GBRT continues to work with private landowners and partner organizations in hopes to conserving the best parts of the Hill Country.
- **Wetland and Coastal Habitat Conservation and Restoration**—The GBRT is working with a variety of partner agencies, including Ducks Unlimited and the San Antonio Bay Foundation, to protect the highest quality wetland sites and to restore degraded habitat along the coast.
- **Farm and Ranch Land Conservation**— Some of the fastest growing areas in the nation are found in the Guadalupe River watershed and working with the local farmers and ranchers, the GBR Trust hopes to protect some of these historic farms and ranches to ensure that they will remain in private ownership and available for agricultural production in the future.



2019 GUADALUPE BLANCO RIVER TRUST  
**BOARD OF TRUSTEES**

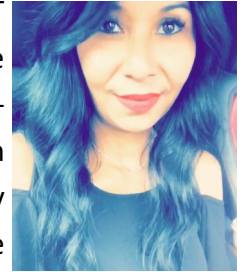
Click on the picture to read their [bios!](#)

- ◆ [W.A. "Bill" Blackwell—President](#)
- ◆ [Todd Merendino—Vice President](#)
- ◆ [Denis R. Mueller—Treasurer](#)
- ◆ [Oscar Fogle—Trustee](#)
- ◆ [Wilfred Korth—Trustee](#)
- ◆ [Ronnie Luster - Trustee](#)
- ◆ [Tommy Mathews—Trustee](#)
- ◆ [Diane McMahon—Trustee](#)
- ◆ [John P. Schneider—Trustee](#)
- ◆ [Dr. Stephen Wilson—Trustee](#)
- ◆ [Tyler Sanderson—Executive Director](#)
- ◆ [Lisa Adams — Development Director](#)

## Meet the new GBRT Development Director

# LISA ADAMS

Lisa Adams has been hired as the new GBRT Development Director to help oversee the development of the Trust. She is a proud native Texan born in Fort Hood, Texas. As an Army Brat, she lived for 18 years on military bases in Korea, Japan and Germany where she graduated from the International School of Dusseldorf. Lisa earned a degree in Mass Communication with a minor in Family and Child Development from Southwest Texas State University, now known as Texas State. Lisa's strengths include business development, community outreach, grant writing, public relations and fundraising. She looks forward to utilizing her special skills and helping GBRT to fulfill its mission. When she is not working, Lisa enjoys spending time with her husband, Chris, their daughters Caitlyn and Summer, and their dog Schatzi. Her hobbies include running, cooking, gardening, live music and volunteering with her local VFW and Auxiliary. You can reach Lisa at [LAdams@GBRTrust.org](mailto:LAdams@GBRTrust.org) or by calling 830-560-3944.



## Meet the new GBRT Executive Director

# TYLER SANDERSON

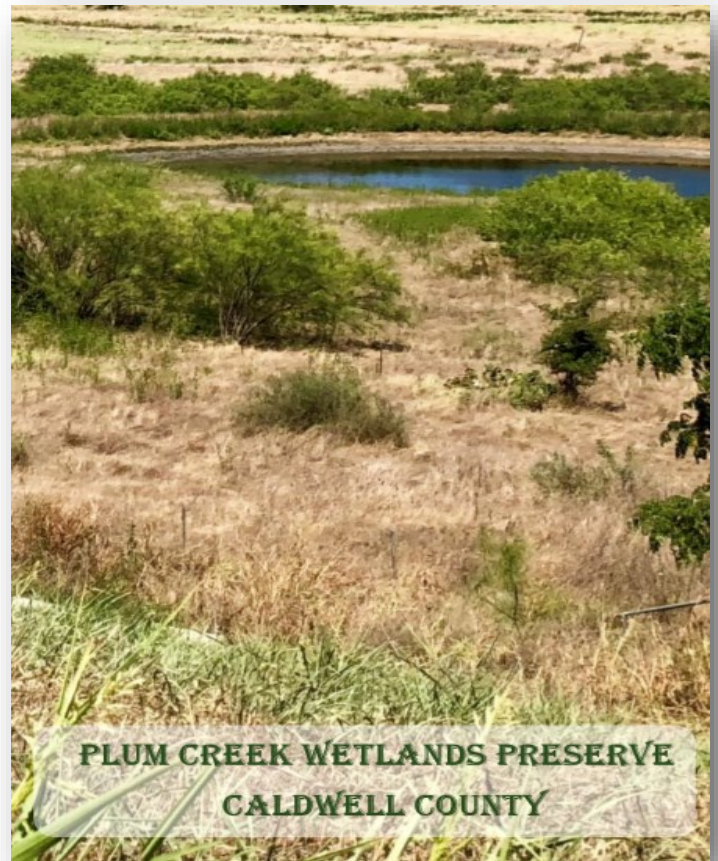


Tyler Sanderson received a B.S in Agricultural Economics, a Master of Science in Forest Hydrology, and a Graduate Certificate in Stream and Watershed Science from the University of Kentucky. During his time away from school, Tyler developed strong interest in conservation and natural resource management as an AmeriCorps Volunteer and university research assistant. He understands the importance of protecting land and water resources, and is passionate about educating others about their significance. He believes the most important

avenue of change is through effective public education, and the best way to do that is community involvement. Tyler comes to GBRT after 3+ years as the Land Conservation Manager at Green Spaces Alliance of South Texas in San Antonio. Over 1 year of his time at Green Spaces Alliance Tyler served as the interim executive director. The majority of his work there was facilitating the purchase of conservation easements for the protection of the Edwards Aquifer, and protecting encroachment around Joint Base San Antonio military installations. Tyler has served on the board of directors of the Texas Master Naturalist Alamo Area chapter, and the Land Heritage Institute.

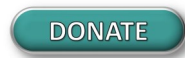
## SMILE AMAZON GIVES BACK TO GBRT

[AmazonSmile](#) is a simple and automatic way for you to support GBRT every time you shop at no cost to you. When you shop at [smile.amazon.com](#), you will find the exact same low prices, vast selection and convenient shopping experience as Amazon.com, with the added bonus that Amazon will donate a portion of the purchase price to GBRT. To learn more about Smile Amazon and giving back to GBRT, [click here](#).



### PLUM CREEK WETLANDS PRESERVE

The purpose and mission of the Plum Creek Wetlands Preserve is to conserve water quality with responsible management of wetlands, to protect wildlife habitat and to promote an appreciation of the natural world through meaningful educational, recreational, and research opportunities. We fully expect the PCWP to be an asset to the school districts, local clubs, and the general public. Our plans are to use this property to advance the mission of the PCWP by providing a space that can be utilized as an outdoor classroom, recreation site, and natural habitat for all to enjoy. Our hope is to have a fully staffed education center where all can come and learn about nature and the value of preserving and conserving land. Trails will be used for walking, hiking, birding, and other low-impact activities. Your contribution to support the PCWP is appreciated! Click on the donate button make a contribution today.



### WANT TO DONATE TO GBRT?

The Guadalupe Blanco River Trust is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit land trust organization that was developed to conserve land in the Guadalupe River Watershed for its natural, recreational, scenic, historic and productive value. Click the donate button to help support GBRT's mission.



**TYLER SANDERSON**

The work and mission of GBRT has reminded me these first few weeks of a Kentucky tale about a boy, Jack, who set out on his canoe one day to fish the small creek in his back yard. Jack's journey begins by catching minnows for bait and finds himself also catching and releasing frogs, insects and snakes as many kids who grew up playing in creeks do. Eventually, he catches enough minnows and pushes off down the creek. He makes his way to the Elkhorn Creek, then the Kentucky River, next, the Ohio, on into the Mississippi River. All the while, Jack passes huge stands of forest giants, tall steep bluffs, marshy bogs, and open floodplain grasslands. The natural world surrounding Jack made him completely overlook all the cities, monster barges and other development that he passed along the way. Eventually, Jack makes his way to the Gulf of Mexico before he even realizes he has left his back yard. He fears what his mom will think if he is not home by supper, but knows he won't make it in time for her to cook up the fish he caught.



The thing I love about this old tale is that it tells the story of a watershed without the listener even knowing it. Jack starts in a creek as a trickle of water, flowing from creeks, to rivers, to larger rivers, to the ocean. The storytellers may not have thought about the science, but they knew the story of water on the landscape as far back as time can remember. The connection of water to land is what makes these lands and even the simple experiences in nature so impactful. My father's family settled in the Jackson Purchase area of Kentucky in the mid-1800s and has continued to farm that area for generations. I grew up visiting these bottom lands in the Mississippi river valley – catching frogs, skipping rocks, hiking creeks and getting lost in the world around me. I moved to Texas from Kentucky in 2016. It was immediately clear to me how well connected Texans are to their water. Shoot, they have to be if they are going to survive and thrive in this landscape. That is a major reason why I love Texas and the people it supports. That is why I am excited to work for the land, for the water, and for the people of Texas to conserve the unique and diverse natural heritage in the Guadalupe River watershed all the way from Kerrville, to the Gulf. This watershed is incredibly diverse, both in landscape and people, and it offers so many opportunities for us to come together as keepers of the land so the "Jacks" of world can still go fishing. Jack got so immersed in the nature around him that he lost track of what he was doing and where he was going. Nature has a way of doing that to you. There is so much excitement to be found in the smallest details of nature that one forgets the bustling world around them.

On another note, thank you to Carrie Kasnicka for all your support and the work you did with the GBRT. We appreciate it and wish you well on your new endeavors!

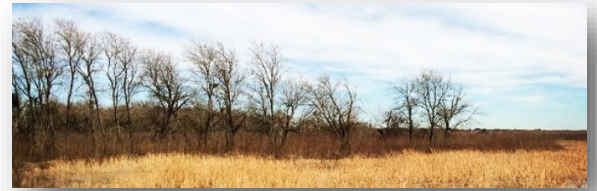
— Tyler Sanderson



Thank you for allowing me to work for you and with you as the Executive Director of GBRT. My spouse accepted a position out of state and although these decisions are never easy, it is a good fit for our family. It has been a privilege conserving land in Texas and I am grateful for the Board of Trustees, mentors, landowners and partners. I am now a part of the Trust for Public Land team, wish you well, and hope our paths continue to cross. Please feel free to stay in touch with me. My email address is: [Carrie.Kasnicka@tpl.org](mailto:Carrie.Kasnicka@tpl.org).

*Happy holidays from snowy Colorado and gig 'em!*





The Guadalupe Blanco River Trust is in an exciting pivotal time. We have gone through many changes over this past year. We now have two staff positions. Our new Executive and Development Directors started their tenure with GBRT the first week of October. We have been scurrying to learn as much about the organization as we can, so that we can begin a terrific and long-lasting relationship in the region. Both staff members just returned from the Land Trust Alliance National Land Conservation Conference in Raleigh with a fresh take on the work ahead of us. We are eager to put together and carry out a conservation plan to continue the 18+ years of success already demonstrated by the GBRT.

## Look for GBRT on Social Media.

Facebook | Twitter | Instagram



@GBRiverTrust



@GuadalupeBlancoRiverTrust



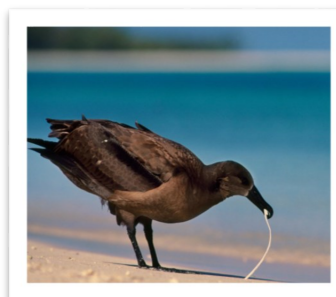
@GBRTrust

## November 15, 2019 was National Recycling Day

Litter is more than just a blight on our landscape. Litter is costly to clean up, impacts our quality of life, and eventually ends up in our waterways and oceans.

GBRT is committed as ever to helping to protect our Texas landscapes, watersheds and wildlife.

By educating and engaging individuals to recycle more — we can help make recycling more economically viable, while continuing to reap greater environmental and community benefits. Please do your part to help keep America beautiful, so that future generations can continue to enjoy this planet that we call home.



This black-footed albatross was caught dining on plastic garbage in the Hawaiian Leeward Islands.