

Meet the TRA Board



Kevin Anderson – President

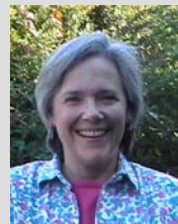
Kevin can truthfully say that he was born into an interest in riparian ecology since his life literally began at a riverside: Riverside, New Jersey. He grew up on the banks of the Susquehanna River in Pennsylvania, and as a teenager lived on a farm and raised purebred Angus. University took him into teaching and a Master's degree in philosophy. He served in the Peace Corps from 1990-92 in Hungary.

His professional work with riparian systems began in Hungary where he helped create the Upper Tisza Foundation, a Hungarian organization working to support ecological research and to protect the Tisza River in northeastern Hungary. Work on his doctorate in Geography at the University of Texas brought him to Hornsby Bend on the Colorado River. It is here that he runs the Center for Environmental Research for the City of Austin Water and Wastewater Utility, with the mission of research and education about urban sustainability and ecology. He also serves on the board of the Texas Society for Ecological Restoration. Kevin chairs the Administration Committee.



Heather Venhaus – Vice President

Heather graduated from Texas A&M University with a Bachelors of Landscape Architecture in 1998. Wanting to become more involved in ecological design, Heather joined Applied Ecological Services, an environmental consulting firm in Southern Wisconsin, where she worked with a team of scientists, designers, and educational advisors on projects emphasizing sustainable design, landscape restoration and environmental education. In 2000, Heather accepted a job with the Landscape Restoration Program at the Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center, where she works on projects concerning ecological design, restoration and education. She also chairs the Membership Committee.



Nancy Charbeneau – Secretary

Nancy is a self-avowed generalist. She holds degrees in Education, Biology and Landscape Architecture and has worked as a Teacher, Seamstress, Lab Tech, Biochemist, School Programs and Volunteer Coordinator, Day Camp Director, Instructor of Landscape Design and Gardening, Supervisor in Land and Watershed Management, Watershed Planner and, most recently, Landscape Designer, Watercolorist, and Home Renovator. Nancy has two children in college. She also serves as Outreach Committee Chair.

Sari Moyer – Treasurer

Sari's life has taken many paths. She has worked as a human resource director, a comptroller for a large law firm, and a contract manager for federal, state and local contracts. She is now in graduate school pursuing a Masters degree in Environmental Evaluation (to culminate in a Ph.D.).

In addition to owning property on the Llano River, Sari is an avid kayaker and swimmer and has had a lifelong interest in restoration and preservation. She is a member of the Austin Paddling Club, the South Austin Greenway Alliance, and several environmental associations. She has more than 20 years experience serving on boards, including the St. George's Episcopal School Board, the Child Care Management Advisory Board for the State of Texas, and the Wilshire Wood Neighborhood Association. At the moment, Sari is starting a project to win support for the protection of Williamson Creek in South Austin and has been utilizing Geographical Information Systems (GIS) in this effort.

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Sixmile Creek, continued from page 1...

In October, the restored stream received its first flows in the form of more than 5 inches of rainfall. Even though little vegetation had established at the time, the stream experienced only minor erosion. Photos 2 and 3 show the restored stream after the first flows.

One of the major risks associated with this kind of project is that it is most susceptible to erosion immediately following construction. While traditional engineering structures, such as concrete and rock riprap-lined channels, are strongest at the time of construction and then weaken with time, natural stream systems become stronger over time as vegetation becomes established.

The design for this project is more environmentally sensitive than traditional engineering methods, choosing to work with nature instead of trying to control it with hardened structures. Although these techniques have been used in other parts of the country, they are new to Texas and had to be adapted to conditions in this region. The Sixmile Creek project will be continually evaluated by the NRCS and will provide important experience and insight for future stream restoration projects in Texas.

This project was designed and constructed under the supervision of Kenneth Mayben, an engineer with the NRCS, who provided this summary for "Stream Lines."

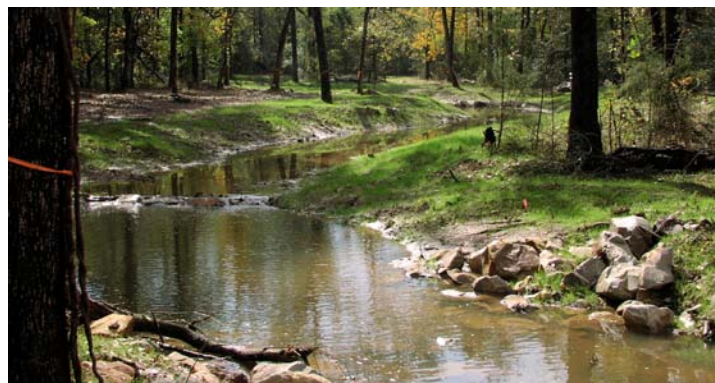


Photo 2. A temporary seed mix of rye grass was installed to reduce erosion until the native seed mix can be planted.



Photo 3. Sixmile Creek in the same area as Photo 1, after restoration and first flow.

A Listserv Primer

The Riparian Listserv is a service of the University of Texas, created to encourage the exchange of information on riparian issues among the citizens of Texas. You do not need to be a member of TRA to subscribe. Notices about recent riparian research, conferences, training, and activities are posted daily. The listserv also provides a forum for finding, sharing, and discussing riparian-related information and issues. Although TRA member business is generally conducted through a membership email list and snail mail, TRA-related information and notices are occasionally posted on the listserv.

To subscribe to the Riparian Listserv, send an email to: listproc@lists.cc.utexas.edu. Leave the subject line blank. In the body of the email, type: SUBSCRIBE RIPARIAN your first name your last name (for example: SUBSCRIBE RIPARIAN JOHN DOE). Soon afterwards, you should receive an email response confirming your request and providing general listserv information.

To receive listserv postings in a daily digest instead of receiving individual emails for each posting, send an email to the address above, leaving the subject line blank. In the body of the email, type: set RIPARIAN mail digest. After you receive confirmation of the request, you will receive only one daily email from the listserv with the sender and subject of each posting listed and the body of each email as an attachment. This makes it easy to view only selected messages.

To remove yourself from the Riparian listserv, follow the instructions for subscribing, except in the body of the email, type: UNSUBSCRIBE RIPARIAN. Again, a confirmation email will be sent when your request has been processed.

To post messages to the listserv, direct your email to riparian@lists.cc.utexas.edu.

Please remember: When using the listserv, please be courteous to other users by not pushing the "Reply" button after viewing a message unless you want your reply sent to everyone that subscribes to the service.

That's about it! We suggest saving this primer for future reference. If you have questions, or encounter problems using the Riparian listserv, email Kevin Anderson at: kmattoo@hotmail.com. Happy riparian reading!

Newsletter Basics

Welcome to the TRA's first newsletter! It is our hope that this newsletter will become a means of orienting new members and updating existing members to the developments and activities within our organization. I am sure that "Stream Lines" will evolve with the TRA, and I welcome your comments and suggestions for improvement, topics, and features (as long as you're nice). I also hope that you will contribute ideas, articles, and calendar entries for future issues.

We plan to publish this newsletter biannually, in January and July; the deadlines for submittals will be November 1st and May 1st, respectively. I will always edit articles for clarity and space constraints. Please send submittals (text as .doc files and images as .jpg files) and comments to Emily Schieffer at 214-741-7777 or eschieffer@lopezgarciagroup.com. Thanks!

Calendar of Riparian Events

January. Colorado Bend SP: "Gorman Falls Tour" and "Walking Wild Cave Tour" every Saturday and Sunday, weather permitting. (915) 628-3240

January. Pedernales Falls SP: Bird Watching daily (except when closed for hunting). (830) 868-7304

January 16-18. Workshop on Rangeland Restoration
January 23-25. Workshop on Rangeland Burning
Academy for Ranch Management at the Texas Agricultural Experiment Station, Sonora. (979) 845-5580 or <http://rangeweb.tamu.edu/arm>

January 24. New Mexico Riparian Council (NMRC) Board Meeting, in Albuquerque. (505) 252-5211

January 27-29. Texas Chapter American Fisheries Association Meeting, in Galveston. www.sdafs.org/tcafs

February 2-6. 56th Annual International Society for Range Management Meeting, in Casper, Wyoming. www.rangelands.org

February 10-14. Texas Prescribed Burn School at Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center in Austin. www.wildflower.org

February 13-15. Texas Chapter of the Wildlife Society Annual Meeting, "Rangelands: Diversity Through Time" in Waco. www.tctws.org

May 12-14. American Water Resources Association (AWRA) 2003 Spring Specialty Conference. www.awra.org

May 16. Spring NMRC Board Meeting, preceded by a field trip. www.ripariancouncil.org or (505) 438-7708

May 21. Texas Amphibian Watch Workshop held at Wild Basin Wilderness, in Austin. marsha.reimer@tpwd.state.tx.us or (512) 912-7062

May 28-29. Texas Parks and Wildlife Commission Meeting, in Austin. (800) 792-1112

June 1-2. NMRC workshop (tentative dates): "Return to Largo Creek" at Jim Williams' Ranch. (505) 820-2544 or www.quiviracoalition.org

June 29-July 2. AWRA 2003 International Water Congress, in New York, New York. www.awra.org



For more information, contact Kevin Anderson at 512-972-1960 or kevin.anderson@ci.austin.tx.us
Or check us out on the web at our soon-to-come website.

Flood Pulsing: A Book Review

I found this book to be a fine introduction to the issue of riparian and wetland restoration without the common burdens of an introductory textbook. As a seven-chapter, multiple author compilation of restoration case studies, this book should be both interesting to lay readers from water or landscape related fields and useful for riparian and wetland restoration specialists. The case studies cover the US landscape, from the desert Southwest to the Upper Missouri River in Montana, from the Illinois River to the Kissimmee River in Florida.

As a non-specialist, I found that my reading was encumbered by the constant use of Latin names for vegetation. While it may be technically preferable to use the specific species names, the book neither consistently uses common names along with the Latin names, nor provides an appendix of nomenclature. Both of these additions would have been helpful for the lay reader to develop an understanding of the types of vegetative landscapes described in the case studies.

A strength of this work is its emphasis on the premise that restoration of the natural flood pulse, or use of artificial flood pulsing, is key to riparian and wetland conservation, a concept which the authors explain well. In many settings the flood pulse provides mechanisms for seed dispersal, sediment mobilization and redistribution, and morphological changes to stream channels and proximate areas. Many vegetation species exhibit "germination windows" that are dependent on the flood pulse; without a flood pulse, the natural ecological function of riparian and wetland settings is broken. An ecological system might not be identified as being in a state of failure for decades. The book notes that restoration efforts are often doomed to failure without the flood pulse needed to achieve sustainability.

While the conflicting needs of society and nature regarding the feasibility of restoring flood pulses to some systems is addressed, a weakness of this work is that it presents little statistically-based analysis regarding the changes in flood peak and flood volume associated with regulation. It seems that changes in the variance of these phenomena should be explored so that disrupted systems could be more easily identified from basic statistics when streamflow data are available. Such an exploration could serve as a valuable guide to other analysts.

Flood Pulsing in Wetlands: Restoring the Natural Hydrological Balance © 2002. Edited by Beth A. Middleton. Published by John Wiley and Sons, Inc. It was reviewed for "Stream Lines" by William Asquith

Stream Lines

The Official Newsletter of the Texas Riparian Association

Volume 1, Issue 1

January 2003

A Word from Our President

The purpose of the Texas Riparian Association is to encourage healthy riparian systems and educate Texans about their ecological and economic importance. The TRA has grown out of the efforts of many people. I would like to take this opportunity to recount our brief but productive history and to tell you about what we want the TRA to be in the future.

We grew out of an urban stream restoration workshop sponsored by the City of Austin during the summer of 2000 during which the idea of a "Texas riparian organization" was suggested. That Fall, a steering committee was formed and, with the help of the NPS Rivers and Trails Conservation Assistance Program staff, the committee of volunteers worked through the winter and spring to define the mission and goals of the TRA. By November 2001, we elected a board and approved our bylaws, officially launching the TRA. Since that time, we have been working on the many tasks of establishing a new organization nonprofit status, bank accounts, committee formation, and more.

Like a precocious child, the TRA began offering workshops and running the riparian listserv a year before we officially formed the organization! During June of 2001, we invited the National Riparian Service Team down to Texas for workshops in San Antonio and Houston. Tropical Storm Alison hit Houston the day after our workshop, and the hard lessons of neglecting riparian ecosystem health were illustrated with staggering cost. We have gone on to sponsor several conferences and workshops during 2002, including a riparian workshop at the Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center in February attended by 150 people. This year we have also joined forces with the Texas Floodplain Management Association, the Texas Society for Ecological Restoration, and the Texas Society for Rangeland Management to cosponsor their annual conferences and offer talks on riparian ecosystems and restoration. As well, we have participated in the TPWD Taskforce on motorized vehicles in streambeds which has proposed legislative options for addressing this problem. Another statewide initiative that we are involved in is a new Texas Invasive Species Task Force formed to develop a holistic response to the problem of invasive species.

Now we need your help in creating a sustainable organization that will continue to do the work of protecting Texas riparian habitats. During this year we are starting our newsletter, creating a website, and beginning to develop a riparian research and demonstration project database for Texas. I ask you to join one of our committees and help us with the many tasks required for starting a new organization. Please share your ideas for the organization and for protecting the riparian systems of Texas either by contacting me directly or through our Riparian listserv. Together we can make a difference for the health of Texas riparian systems.

Kevin M. Anderson, Texas Riparian Association President
The Center for Environmental Research
2210 South FM 973 Austin, Texas 78725
512-972-1960

Work in Progress: Sixmile Creek

In August 2002, the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) completed construction on the Sixmile Creek stream restoration project. Sixmile Creek, located in the City of Reno (Lamar County), was eroding severely, downcutting and widening, and endangering the City's sewer pipeline in three locations (see Photo 1). To prevent a raw sewage spill, the NRCS undertook the stream restoration project, under the Emergency Watershed Protection Program which the agency administers. The 1,500-foot project is the first designed and installed by the NRCS in Texas.

The restoration design called for raising the creek to the original floodplain and restoring its natural meanders, in order to restore the water table and maintain the stream's riparian vegetation. It would also move the stream's erosion potential away from the sewer pipeline and reduce the number of stream-pipeline crossings to two.

Rock structures called cross-vanes and J-hooks were installed to control the grade and the erosion potential along the stream's banks. As an additional benefit, these structures also re-create the varied aquatic habitat that was lost as the stream degraded. This spring, a native seed mix will be planted on the site to stabilize the banks and provide food for wildlife. Rye grass was planted after construction to serve as a temporary cover crop over the winter months. Woody vegetation is expected to re-establish itself from the soil's existing seed bank and from seed washed through the site from the 0.9 square mile drainage area.



Photo 1. Sixmile Creek erosion was endangering the raw sewer pipeline seen on the left of the photo.

Sixmile Creek continued on page 2.

TRA Volunteer of the Year 2002

Originally from El Paso, Tami Tolbert graduated with a Journalism degree from Texas A&M University. She has worked for Dell Computers as a Marketing Communications Specialist for the last seven years, but was recently laid off and is now seeking employment within the environmental field, hoping "to make a difference in something (she) believes in." Tami also enjoys photography and completed the Danskin Triathlon last June, which she marks as her greatest feat last year! She is a member of the Outreach Committee.

At the Fall 2002 TRA board meeting, Tami was named "Volunteer of the Year" for her tireless work on two versions of the TRA brochure. She worked with the Outreach Committee and board members to design, edit, lay out, and produce the brochure with some very short deadlines. She also collected quotes for printing the brochures and worked with vendors to obtain a price break for TRA and ensure that we did not pay taxes on the order, even though we did not yet have our tax ID number. The TRA owes her a huge debt of gratitude for her loyal and professional work.

Congratulations Tami!



Tami Tolbert
Volunteer of the Year - 2002

Updates from your Committees

This has been a busy year for the **Administration Committee**, since we have been occupied with the many tasks of setting up the TRA. Some of those tasks included: filing non-profit forms, setting up our bank account, getting a mailing address, organizing board meetings, managing the listserv, and communicating, communicating, communicating. The interesting thing about these tasks is that they don't end – now we must administer! Financially, the TRA is in good shape for a new organization, although we need to develop a Finance Committee of people interested in helping assure the financial stability of the TRA. Beyond the finances, we need help with building an administrative structure for the TRA and helping with the many details of creating a sustainable organization. Join us! For more information, contact Kevin Anderson at 512-972-1960 or kmatoo@hotmail.com.

The **Outreach Committee** has had a very productive year! The group has eight active members who have worked very hard to produce the current TRA brochure, the display boards that travel to various meetings and conferences, and this newsletter. Our priorities for this year include producing a newsletter on a regular basis, getting a website up and running, and developing a logo. If you are product-oriented and like to work on projects like these that will challenge your mind and creativity, join us by contacting Nancy Charbeneau at ncharbeneau@aggienetwork.com or 512-795-0203.

The **Membership Committee** is a relatively new committee, established at the Fall 2002 board meeting. Now that the organizational structure, non-profit status and general direction of TRA are becoming more secure, it is time to concentrate on adding more members to TRA. The primary responsibility of this committee is to handle the membership roster and aid the Outreach Committee in corresponding with TRA members and other interested parties. Currently, we have approximately 45 members, ranging from student members to life

members. Membership dues cycle on an annual basis, based on when the member joined; invitations to rejoin will be sent out monthly, as renewals are needed. If anyone you know is interested in joining TRA please have them contact Heather Venhaus at 512-292-4200 or hvenhaus@wildflower.org.

The **Research and Demonstration Committee** is in the process of developing a bibliography of fluvial geomorphology and riparian technical references. We have also been monitoring several restoration projects, including the South Llano River Restoration in Junction (Kimble County) and the Sixmile Creek Restoration in Reno (Lamar County). With assistance from the North Texas Stream Team, we are in the planning and development stages of two potential stream restoration projects in the City of Sachse in northeast Dallas County. If you know of any additional references that should be included in the bibliography, or of any potential demonstration projects TRA could follow, please let us know! For more information, contact Ken Mayben at ken.mayben@tx.usda.gov or 817-596-2865.

The goal of the **Program Committee** for 2002 was to reach out to like-minded organizations and build partnerships for the future. To this end, we began the year by co-sponsoring, with American Society of Landscape Architects (Austin chapter), Texas Section of the American Society of Civil Engineers, and the Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center, the Collaborative Design for Riparian Restoration workshop. TRA has also joined forces with the Texas Floodplain Management Association, the Texas Society for Ecological Restoration, and the Texas Society for Rangeland Management to co-sponsor their annual conferences and to offer talks on riparian ecosystems and restoration. Through these events, TRA was able to participate in many presentations and discussions on improving the health and integrity of riparian systems in Texas. For more information on the Program Committee, please contact Mike Mecke at 915-336-8585 or mmecke@west-tex.net.

Meet the Board, continued from page 2...



Mike Mecke – Past President

A San Antonio native, Mike received a B.S. from Texas A&M University and a M.S. from the University of Wyoming in Rangeland Ecology & Watershed Management. He has worked for the “feds” for 15 years, with the Natural Resources

Conservation Service (USDA), the Bureau of Indian Affairs, the US Department of the Interior (in both New Mexico and Arizona), and finally as a Soil and Water Conservation Manager in Wyoming. After serving for ten years as a Water Resources Planner and as Coordinator of Agricultural Conservation Programs for the San Antonio Water System he retired this August (2002). Putting his retirement on hold, he accepted a position with the Texas Cooperative Extension in Fort Stockton a month later. Mike also serves as the Chair of the Program Committee.



Susan Watts – President-Elect

Sue is a native of West Texas, who earned her doctorate in Ecology and Evolution from Rutgers by studying nitrogen cycling in different types of wetland ecosystems. Currently, she is helping to develop research programs within the Pathology and Emergency Medicine programs at the Texas Tech University Health

Sciences Center in El Paso. She has previously worked as an instructor and visiting research scientist at UT El Paso and the Center for Environmental Resource Management. She is participating in several projects that will lead to the enhancement or re-establishment of lost and damaged riparian communities along the Rio Grande. She is on the board of the Paso del Norte Watershed Council and a member of the International Boundary and Water Commission's Rio Grande Citizens' Forum. She played a primary role in the development of a Biological Management Plan for the Rio Bosque Wetlands Park in El Paso.



Lindi Clayton – Member-at-Large (3 years)

Lindi graduated from Texas A&M University with a B.S. and a M.S. in Rangeland Ecology and Management (1999, 2002). While completing her graduate work, she worked with Texas Cooperative Extension as an Extension Assistant with the

Rangeland Ecology and Management Program Unit. While there, Lindi served as coordinator for “Water for Texas”, an educational program designed to demonstrate water conservation associated with various rangeland management practices. In June 2002, she accepted a position as a Wetland Biologist with Geo-Marine, Incorporated, and now works with various natural resources projects, including wetland identification and management, riparian area assessment, and invasive plant species management.



Kenneth Mayben – Member-at-Large (2 years)

A 1975 graduate of Texas A&M University with a B.S. in Agricultural Engineering, Ken has worked for the Natural Resources Conservation Service for 27 years. After serving in various engineering positions from the Lower Rio Grande Valley to North Texas, he

is currently the Zone Engineer for the Weatherford Zone, serving 51 counties in North and Central Texas. In addition to his responsibilities at NRCS, Ken is part of the State Emergency Watershed Protection Team and the multi-disciplinary inter-agency North Texas Stream Team. Ken is also co-chairman of the Research and Demonstration Committee.



William Asquith – Member-at-Large (1 year)

William graduated from the University of Texas at Austin with a B.S. in Civil Engineering in 1992 and a M.S. in Civil Engineering in 1994. In January 1998, he entered UT Austin in pursuit of a Ph.D. in Geosciences. He has worked as a hydrologist at

the US Geological Survey in Austin since 1992 and has over 20 publications on surface water and precipitation hydrology in Texas. He currently lives in Austin with his wife D'Anne and two young children, Nathan and Caroline. He is also co-chairman of the Research and Demonstration Committee.

In order to develop a logo that will identify our organization to the public, the TRA is holding a...

LOGO DESIGN CONTEST

The winner will receive

- a Lifetime Membership to TRA (\$300 value);
- the very first official TRA polo shirt with the logo design embroidered on the front; and
- a plaque or paperweight acknowledging your contribution.

The design should clearly show “TRA” or “Texas Riparian Association” and will reflect the fact that the entire state of Texas is the geographical focus of the organization. The design may be either graphic or type and must be presented in both color and black and white.

Send your entries in .jpg format to Nancy Charbeneau by May 15th. She can be reached at ncharbeneau@aggienetwork.com or 8409 Mesa Doble Lane, Austin, Texas 78759.

The winner will be announced by June 15, 2003 and will appear in the summer newsletter!

TRA retains all rights to the design once it is submitted and has the option of using all, part, or none of the winning design concept in the final logo design.