



P. O. Box 1355, Johnson City, TX 78636

[info@bccitx.org](mailto:info@bccitx.org)

Newsletter: Issue 15 August 15, 2024

*Keeping the Hill Country in Blanco County™*

## TABLE OF CONTENTS

- Current Blanco County Conditions
- Next Gathering
- Best Practices
- Committees
- Manager of IT
- BCCI Status

### **Current Blanco County Conditions**

#### **Stage 4 drought declaration is in effect**

See declaration at: [Drought Declaration](#)

See drought conditions at [Drought Map](#)

#### **No Blanco County burn ban in effect**

Call (830)868-7104 prior to burning

#### **City of Blanco Stage 4 drought declaration is in effect**

#### **Water Leak Hotlines**

City of Blanco (830)554-0716

Johnson City (830)868-7111 Extension 2

### **Next Gathering**

**October 22, 2024**

#### **Agricultural Conservation Easements**

**Chad Ellis**, CEO of Texas Agricultural Land Trust (TALT)

Gem Of The Hills

Program starts at 7:00PM

Doors open at 6:30PM for food, refreshments and conversation

Chad will:

- Discuss conservation easements and the misconception that a landowner loses control of their land
- Tell how the landowner retains decision-making power over the land, even after donating or selling the development rights, and how TALT focuses on protecting agricultural lands
- Show how conservation easements can serve as a useful tool for landowners in protecting their land for generations to come
- Discuss the ways in which families can work with a land trust to negotiate the terms of a conservation easement such that it provides peace of mind for the landowners and their family
- Tell how a landowner can determine which land trust might provide the proper fit for the long-term relationship between the landowner, their family, and the land trust that will hold the easement

After Chad's presentation, there will be a question and answer session where you can ask for additional information that will be helpful in determining whether a conservation easement might be a tool that landowners in Blanco County wish to explore for their land and their family.

**NOTE: Do you live in Johnson City or Blanco or a HOA?** Think about how conservation easements can help the land...the county...around you. How can you promote keeping the Hill Country in Blanco County? This session is not just for big land owners....it is for anyone wanting to conserve and preserve Blanco County.

Texas Agricultural Land Trust website: [Texas Agricultural Land Trust \(txaglandtrust.org\)](http://txaglandtrust.org)

## **Best Practices**

The amount of support for **Best Practices** is amazing and growing. Check **Best Practices** out on our website at [BEST PRACTICES | BCCI \(bccitx.org\)](http://BEST PRACTICES | BCCI (bccitx.org)). This evolving document will change as our knowledge, current technology and our community culture changes over time. We want your input into this evolving document. Email Bill Sisak at [bill@bccitx.org](mailto:bill@bccitx.org)

## **Manager of IT**

The Board has named volunteer Robert Tysdal, who is responsible for creating and maintaining our incredible website, as **Manager of Information Technology**. When you look at our website and see something that you would like to suggest, please email [bob@bccitx.org](mailto:bob@bccitx.org) with your suggestion.

## **Committees**

Do you want to improve the future of Blanco County? How would you like to help us? Just email any of the committee chairpersons and ask how you can help.

### **BEST PRACTICES**

Chairperson: Bill Sisak [bill@bccitx.org](mailto:bill@bccitx.org)

Current volunteers: April Sansom, Bob Heinonen, Robert Tysdal

Mission:

- Maintenance of Best Practices
- Promotion of Best Practices
- Education on Best Practices

### **COMMUNICATION COMMITTEE**

Chairperson: Bob Heinonen [bob@bccitx.org](mailto:bob@bccitx.org)

Mission:

- Website maintenance and enhancement – Robert Tysdal, Bill Sisak, Bob Heinonen
- Social media creation and maintenance – Bob Heinonen
- Database management – Bob Heinonen
- Newsletter – April Sansom, Bob Heinonen
- BCCI FYI emails – Bob Heinonen
- Exhibit Table - April Sansom, Bill Sisak, Lisa Atckison, Bob Heinonen

### **ENGAGEMENT COMMITTEE**

Chairperson: Bob Heinonen [bob@bccitx.org](mailto:bob@bccitx.org)

Current volunteers: Susan Armstrong-Fisher, April Sansom, Mark Zuzanek

### **PROGRAM COMMITTEE**

Chairperson: Lisa Atckison [lisa@bccitx.org](mailto:lisa@bccitx.org)

Current volunteers: April Sansom, Bob Heinonen

Mission:

- Plan and execute quarterly Community Educational & Social Gatherings
- Field Trips
- Special Events

## **BCCI Status**

Here is some of the stuff we had going on in the last month:

- BCCI is now covered by Directors & Officers Liability Insurance, General Liability Insurance and Accident Insurance
- BCCI was a sponsor of and attended the **Blanco County Texas A&M AgriLife** workshop "Fields to Fences: Navigating Ranch Real Estate". April Sansom, Bill Sisak and Bob Heinonen attended. BCCI had an exhibit table
- BCCI attended the **Blanco County Commissioner's** public meeting on creating the City of Hobbes in Blanco County. April Sansom, Bill Sisak and Bob Heinonen attended.
- Worked with **Texas Runs On Water** and **Hill Country Alliance** on a **Blanco County Runs On Water** art contest. Approved \$250 for sponsorship.
- The BCCI website is now in maintenance and enhancement mode with Manager of IT Robert Tysdal in charge

- A BCCI Facebook page has been created and currently has 259 people signed up as Friends
- 289 people get the BCCI monthly newsletter plus forwards of relevant emails and FYI's
- Planning continues for Community Educational & Social Gatherings in 2025 held at Gem Of The Hills. Our next available program slot is on April 22, 2025. **What are your suggestions for a topic?**
- BCCI continues to have its monthly and special Board meetings at Texas Regional Bank in Blanco. **Thank you, Texas Regional Bank for letting us use your great Community Room!**

## Gathering Schedule

All Community Educational and Social Gatherings are held at Gem Of The Hills. Doors open at 6:30PM and program begins at 7:00PM

- |                  |   |
|------------------|---|
| October 22, 2024 | <b>Agricultural Conservation Easements</b><br><b>Chad Ellis</b> , CEO of Texas Agricultural Land Trust<br>We are looking for a Sponsor  |
| January 28, 2025 | <b>Xeriscaping Hill Country Style</b><br><b>Carley Howell</b> , Blanco County Agent for Texas A&M Agrilife Extension Service<br><b>Kathryn Brady</b> , Blanco County Agent for Natural Resources Conservation Service<br>We are looking for a Sponsor |
| April 22, 2025   | <b>What would you like to hear about?</b>   |

~~~~~THE END~~~~~

Contact any of our Board members listed below for information and to give support. They want to hear from you.

## Your Board Of Directors

- April Sansom, President [april@bccitx.org](mailto:april@bccitx.org)  
 Bill Sisak, Vice President [bill@bccitx.org](mailto:bill@bccitx.org)  
 Lisa Atckison, Secretary [lisa@bccitx.org](mailto:lisa@bccitx.org)  
 Mark Zuzanek, Treasurer [mark@bccitx.org](mailto:mark@bccitx.org)  
 Bob Heinonen, Member [bob@bccitx.org](mailto:bob@bccitx.org)

*If you do not wish to continue receiving BCCI emails, please Reply "No thank you" to this email and we will remove you from our list....no questions asked....we understand.*