



## ***RIPARIAN RECOVERY NETWORK NEWS***

**Riparian: wetlands adjacent to rivers or streams**



**No.1, February 14, 2018**

### **Who Are We?**

The Riparian Recovery Network is about creating a shared vision for our recovering riparian land that balances our own individual needs with what is required to keep the Wimberley Valley's waterways clean, healthy, and beautiful. The network is about connections - connections with:

EXPERTS providing learning through seminars, field trips, personal contact, and more ...,  
PLANT RESOURCES including plant identification, recommendations, seeds, and more...,  
EACH OTHER as we learn together as we develop the best plan for our individual properties.

This is the first edition of the Riparian Recovery Network News. Our plan is to provide information covering topics of interest to our community on a regular basis (about every 4-6 weeks). We'd love to hear from you regarding ideas for topics you would like to see covered in future editions. And please pass this information on to your friends and neighbors who might enjoy receiving our newsletter. If they want to continue receiving this newsletter tell them to contact us at [riparian@haysmn.org](mailto:riparian@haysmn.org).

### **TreeFolks Update**



We were all saddened by the devastation associated with three historic floods especially the loss of so many of our beloved trees. We are grateful to TreeFolks who have jumpstarted recovery by planting seedlings that will quickly repopulate riparian “grow zones” along the Blanco. TreeFolks recently completed the third year of their “Trees for the Blanco” program with one more year to go. The picture above is from the last planting of this season. All of the pink flags represent seedlings planted by an delightful bunch, mostly students bused in from Texas A&M. For more information visit <https://www.treefolks.org/trees-for-the-Blanco/>.

## Landscaping Ideas

Winter has taken its toll and our landscapes are beginning to look a bit scraggly. That’s true not just in riparian grow zones, but everywhere even well-manicured gardens. But old gardeners know a trick - basically have something within the landscape that attracts your eye and distracts from plants that look shaggy during that particular season. In winter that often means specimens that stay green, turn a delightful shade of brown, have bright berries, or in some other way distinguish themselves when all else is looking ragged.

Thinking about what to plant this spring. Remember to consider things that will look good during the winter. Look around. What looks good to your eye right now. If you don’t know what it is, send us a picture, We’ll do our best to identify it and help you find seeds or seedlings. If you simply want to verify it is what you think it is, try the Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center’s plant database which you will find at <https://www.wildflower.org/plants/>. There you’ll find pictures of plants we’ve seen growing in our area at various times during the year.

Still stumped about what you might want to plant? Here are just a few suggestions:

### Lindheimer Muhly



Many native grasses turn brown in winter, but continue to look attractive. An outstanding example is Lindheimer muhly (*Muhlenbergia lindheimeri*) whose attractive plumes make it desirable. Thus this species is readily available at local nurseries selling native ornamental grasses. During the growing season this bunch grass turns a beautiful greygreen. And both cattle and deer don’t really like the taste. That means Lindheimer is an excellent choice for defining the path to your river access point.

### Texas Mountain Laurel



One of the specimens TreeFolks is planting along the Blanco is Texas Mountain Laurel (*Sophora secundiflora*). Most of us enjoy its profusion of purple flowers that appear in the early spring. But an additional asset is that this small tree retains its dark glossy green leaves all year round. And the deer don’t like it either. Because Texas Mountain Laurel is equally at home in the uplands and the upper reaches of riparian areas, it too can be readily obtained from local nurseries in a variety of sizes.



## Dwarf Palmetto



A little harder to find is Dwarf Palmetto (*Sabal minor*). But if you want to see what it looks like, a good place to go is Aquarena Springs in San Marcos. That's where this picture was taken - across the river from the Meadows Center. As its name implies Dwarf Palmetto is a small species of palm that never grows a trunk. We've definitely seen it at the Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center sale. This year's Spring sale is scheduled for April 13 (members only) and April 14th. For more information go to <https://www.wildflower.org/event/spring-sale-public>.

## Upcoming Events

One of the functions of this newsletter is to keep you informed of opportunities to learn more. We have been told there is another Riparian Landowners workshop being scheduled for this coming May and will provide details as soon as they are available. In the meantime, you might want to take advantage of one of the four Cypress Creek Watershed walks. The walk focuses on the geology, stream characters and groundwater flow along Cypress Creek at Jacob's Well Natural Area. Advance reservations are recommended and can be made by contacting Tom Jones via text (281-380-2802) or email: [wimberleytom@gmail.com](mailto:wimberleytom@gmail.com). The dates are:

Friday, February 16, 10:00-11:30am  
Saturday, March 17, 10:00-11:30am  
Saturday, April 28, 10:00-11:30am  
Saturday, May 19, 10:00-11:30am



### The Riparian

Recovery Network News is a periodic Hays County Master Naturalist publication covering topics of interest to the Riparian Recovery Network community. Please share this newsletter with friends and neighbors who would enjoy information on restoring and enjoying their riparian zone. Send any questions you might have or ideas for future topics to [riparian@haysmn.org](mailto:riparian@haysmn.org). And, if you are not currently on

