

# Austin Water – Center for Environmental Research



Austin Water – The University of Texas – Texas A&M University  
A Partnership for Urban Ecology and Sustainability: Community, Education, Research  
located at the Hornsby Bend Biosolids Management Plant  
2210 South FM 973, Austin, Texas 78725  
Website: [www.austintexas.gov/cer](http://www.austintexas.gov/cer)



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## 2015 Austin Water - CER Lunchtime Lectures by Dr. Kevin M. Anderson

Twice a month from NOON to 1pm Free and Open to the Public – bring a lunch and learn

**Waller Center Room 104**  
**625 East 10<sup>th</sup> Street**

**Dougherty Arts Center**  
**1110 Barton Springs Road**

### ***The Geography of Rivers: The Nature and Culture of Flowing Water***

The 2015 CER Lunchtime Lectures will explore the geography of rivers. The metaphor of the “round river” which flows back into itself provides the structure of the lectures. We begin with the mythical, metaphorical river which runs so deeply in human culture and specifically in American culture. We next explore the physical geography and ecology of rivers as fluvial systems and ecosystems. The last part of the year returns us to culture as we look at human impacts on American rivers, which have transformed American rivers into cultural landscapes shaped both by humans and nature. And so, join us for a river journey in 2015 as we explore the Geography of Rivers.

**Dr. Kevin M. Anderson** has been the coordinator of the Austin Water Center for Environmental Research at Hornsby Bend since 2000. He completed his Ph.D. in Geography from the University of Texas at Austin with a dissertation entitled: *Marginal Nature: Urban Wastelands and the Geography of Nature*. He is a co-founder of the Texas Riparian Association and former board member for the Texas Society for Ecological Restoration.  
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#### **The Culture of Flowing Water – January to April**

Humans have ancient and complex cultural relationships to rivers revealing the deep significance rivers have for the human psyche. The river as a symbol of Being can be found throughout mythology, and, from the Pre-Socratic philosopher Heraclitus, we supposedly learned that one cannot step in the same river twice. Moreover, the visual arts, music, and literature of rivers reveal the rich imaginative engagement of human culture with the meaning of rivers.

**January 7 at Waller Center** - The Round River: Myth, Meaning, and Flowing Water

**January 21 at Dougherty Arts Center** – The Round River: Myth, Meaning, and Flowing Water

**February 3 at Waller Center** – Riverrun: Language, Art, and Flowing Water

**February 11 at Dougherty Arts Center** – Riverrun: Language, Art, and Flowing Water

**March 3 at Waller Center** – Riversong: American Rivers and Music

**March 4 at Dougherty Arts Center** – Riversong: American Rivers and Music

**April 7 at Waller Center** – Strong Brown God: the Poetry of Rivers

**April 8 at Dougherty Arts Center** – Strong Brown God: the Poetry of Rivers

## **The Science of Fluvial Systems – May to August**

Rivers write their way across the surface of the Earth, inscribing deeply or shallowly depending on how resistant the surface is to the flow of water and sediment carried by the river. This morphology of the physical geography of the Earth is the starting point for geography, but a geographer must go beyond the physical shapes and shaping of rivers in order to fully understand them. The living river begins with the geochemistry of flowing water which merges with the biochemistry of aquatic organisms and then further merges with the terrestrial ecology of organisms living along the river's riparian and bottomland zones.

**May 5 at Waller Center** - River Process: the Fluvial System and Hydrology

**May 13 at Dougherty Arts Center** – River Process: the Fluvial System and Hydrology

**June 2 at Waller Center** - River Life: the Ecology of Flowing Water

**June 17 at Dougherty Arts Center** – River Life: the Ecology of Flowing Water

**July 1 at Dougherty Arts Center** – Riparia: Life at the River's Edge

**July 7 at Waller Center** - Riparia: Life at the River's Edge

**August 4 at Waller Center** - Bottomland: Floodplain Habitats and the River Tisza

**August 12 at Dougherty Arts Center** – Bottomland: Floodplain Habitats and the River Tisza

## **Waterways: Rivers of Culture – September to December**

The keystone organisms that impact all aspects of river systems are humans, who settle along rivers and transform hydrology and ecology as we turn natural landscapes into cultural landscapes.

**September 1 at Waller Center** - Rivers of Empire: American Rivers

**September 9 at Dougherty Arts Center** – Rivers of Empire: American Rivers

**October 6 at Waller Center** - Waters the Land: Texas Rivers

**October 14 at Dougherty Arts Center** – Waters the Land: Texas Rivers

**November 3 at Waller Center** - Another Colorado: Rivertown Austin

**November 18 at Dougherty Arts Center** – Another Colorado: Rivertown Austin

**December 1 at Waller Center** - Goodbye to the River: A Summary

**December 9 at Dougherty Arts Center** – Goodbye to the River: A Summary