

# The 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)



## 2013 Austin Water - CER Lunchtime Lectures move to Wednesdays!

Twice a month from NOON to 1pm

*Second Wednesday of the Month - Dougherty Arts Center  
1110 Barton Springs Road*

*Same Lecture Repeated on another Wednesday Each Month - City Hall  
Boards and Commissions Room 1101*

Free and Open to the Public – bring a lunch and learn

### ***2013 The Geography of Rivers: Morphology, Ecology, and Culture***

2013 is the tenth year of CER Lunchtime Lectures, and, as I did last year with natural history, the 2013 lectures will all focus on one topic and unfold like a course. The 2013 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 terrestrial habitats. The last part of the year returns us to culture as we look at human impacts on American rivers which have transformed the landscapes of American rivers into cultural landscapes shaped both by humans and nature.

And so, join me for a river journey in 2013 as we explore the Geography of Rivers.

#### **The Culture of Rivers – 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 9 at Dougherty Arts Center** – The Round River: Myth, Meaning, and Rivers

**January 30 at City Hall** - The Round River: Myth, Meaning, and Rivers

**February 13 at Dougherty Arts Center** – Riverrun: Language, Art, and Rivers

**February 20 at City Hall** – Riverrun: Language, Art, and Rivers

**March 13 at Dougherty Arts Center** – Riversong: American Rivers and Music

**March 20 at City Hall** – Riversong: American Rivers and Music

**April 10 at Dougherty Arts Center** – Strong Brown God: the Poetry of Rivers

**April 17 at City Hall** – Strong Brown God: the Poetry of Rivers

## **River 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 8 at Dougherty Arts Center** – River Process: the Fluvial System and River Hydrology

**May 15 at City Hall** - River Process: the Fluvial System and River Hydrology

**June 12 at Dougherty Arts Center** – River Life: the Ecology of Flowing Water

**June 19 at City Hall** - River Life: the Ecology of Flowing Water

**July 10 at Dougherty Arts Center** – Riparia: Life at the River's Edge

**July 17 at City Hall** - Riparia: Life at the River's Edge

**August 14 at Dougherty Arts Center** – Bottomland: Floodplain Habitats

**August 21 at City Hall** - Bottomland: Floodplain Habitats

## **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 11 at Dougherty Arts Center** – Rivers of Empire: American Rivers

**September 18 at City Hall** - Rivers of Empire: American Rivers

**October 9 at Dougherty Arts Center** – Waters the Land: Texas Rivers

**October 16 at City Hall** - Waters the Land: Texas Rivers

**November 13 at Dougherty Arts Center** – Another Colorado: Rivertown Austin

**November 20 at City Hall** - Another Colorado: Rivertown Austin

**December 11 at Dougherty Arts Center** – Goodbye to the River: A Summary

**December 18 at City Hall** - Goodbye to the River: A Summary

**Austin Water-CER Coordinator - Kevin M. Anderson** is a geographer and philosopher who is the coordinator of the Austin Water - Center for Environmental Research. Kevin has studied at Allegheny College in Pennsylvania [BA], Durham University, England, Ohio University [MA] where he taught philosophy and symbolic logic for several years. He received 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*. His research interests include soil ecology and sustainable agriculture, urban ecology and sustainability, riparian ecology, environmental philosophy and literature. He is a co-founder of the Texas Riparian Association. [Email: [Kevin.Anderson@austintexas.gov](mailto:Kevin.Anderson@austintexas.gov)]