

Where the Water Trough Overflows

Creative writing & photo by Camille M. Rich, Rio Grande Valley Chapter

Where the water trough overflows, a dirt border is built to contain and hold precious drops of water as it spills out over the top and out onto the South Texas Sand Sheet.

Where the water trough overflows, a young Brasil tree's roots are like anchors, providing excellent erosion control as they dig and cut deep down into the loose, red, sandy soil.



Where the water trough overflows, after a fashion, green, native plant material begins to spring up next to sturdier shrubs that have been by the water trough's side from years before.

Where the water trough overflows, Cowpen daisies, Tiny Tim, and Three Lobed Florestina grow, thrive, and feed a plethora of pollinators, including an American bumble bee.

Where the water trough overflows, Pipevine Swallow tails float on warm, breezy currents as they dart in and around mature Wild Olive trees sporting fresh, crisp, white blooms and bright green, soft leaves.

Where the water trough overflows, Hummingbirds, Green Jays, Northern Cardinals, Long-billed Thrashers, Pyrrhuloxias, Groove-billed Anis, Northern Bobwhite, Great Kiskadees, and White-winged Doves take refuge in the arms of Lotebush and Colima.

Where the water trough overflows, native plant material provides shade and cover for insects, birds, lizards, and all manner of creeping, crawling, slithering, living things.

Where the water trough overflows, an unexpected, wonderful microecosystem will spring up and sustain life when significant amounts of native habitat have all but dried out to mere sticks and twigs due to lack of precipitation.

Where the water trough overflows, flora will grow and all manner of fauna will be attracted to it.