

NEWS RELEASE: January 7, 2011

**BEE CAVE PUBLIC LIBRARY, Bee Cave, Texas
LAKE TRAVIS COMMUNITY LIBRARY, Lakeway, Texas
SPICEWOOD COMMUNITY LIBRARY, Spicewood, Texas**

Local Readers Eagerly Anticipate Author's Visit

A nationally recognized author known for his offbeat Blanco County mysteries has been selected for the 2011 **Lake Travis Reads** program. "Ben Rehder has agreed to be our featured author this year, and we're very excited," said Barbara Hathaway, Director of the Bee Cave Public Library. "His comic crime novels set in the Hill Country are a riot to read, and we can't wait to hear him in person."

Rehder will make an appearance at the Bee Cave library on Wednesday, February 9, 2011 where he will discuss his work, share some experiences, and answer questions. According to his website, Rehder grew up wanting to become a writer, longing "to craft the type of soul-stirring prose that would touch people's lives and help them explore new emotional horizons. But he went to work at an ad agency instead." After a career in the ad business where he was known to write "such imaginative and compelling phrases as 'Act now!,' 'Limited-time offer,' and 'Compatible with today's rapidly changing network environment,'" Ben eventually knew it was time to write a novel. "After many grueling minutes in front of a computer, Ben was proud to present *Buck Fever*. Like many best-selling classics, *Buck Fever* has lots and lots of verbs, prepositions, adjectives, and the occasional gerund. It was even nominated for the Edgar Award for Best First Novel!"

Rehder's Blanco County mystery series also includes *Bone Dry*, *Flat Crazy*, *Guilt Trip*, *Gun Shy*, and *Holy Moly*, which features "a televangelist who knows a thing or two about marketing Jesus, a fossil collector with a rather unusual fetish, and a backhoe operator who's dug his last ditch," as Ben describes it. Lake Travis reader Helen Kott, said, "Who knew there were once dinosaurs in the Hill Country? *Holy Moly* is fun and educational!" Bee Cave reader Debbie Opdahl enjoyed Rehder's hilarious characters, saying that, "His game warden good guy is competent and intelligent, and even his dumb and dumber redneck bad guys have an endearing good-old-boy charm. These books are outrageously fun!" Spicewood resident Virginia Ray said, "I am on my fourth Ben Rehder book, and I love the Blanco County setting. I live in the hill country, and the towns and back-roads he writes about are all places I have been. I like reading a mystery that can make you laugh out loud. I find his combination of reality and poking fun at his cast of characters makes a very entertaining read."

Lake Travis Reads is a “One Book, One Community” program designed to bring the community together to read and discuss a single book or author. This year’s version, featuring the works of Central Texas mystery writer Ben Rehder is the 4th annual version of the program co-sponsored by the libraries and Friends groups of Bee Cave, Lake Travis and Spicewood. Previous years featured *This Voice in My Heart: A Runner’s Memoir of Genocide, Faith and Forgiveness*, by Austin resident Gilbert Tuhabonye; *Three Cups of Tea: One Man’s Mission to Promote Peace...One School at a Time*, by Greg Mortenson. Last year the program featured the novels of Sarah Bird.

Multiple copies of Ben Rehder’s books are available at the Bee Cave, Lake Travis, and Spicewood libraries. The “Evening with the Author” on February 9 will be at 7 p.m. in the City Council Chambers at Bee Cave City Hall, and is open to the public and free of charge. For more information, visit www.laketravisreads.org or contact any of the participating libraries.

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For more information, please contact Barbara Hathaway at Bee Cave Public Library at (512) 767-6620; Morgan McMillian at Lake Travis Community Library at (512) 263-2885; or Spicewood Community Library at (830) 693-7892.