

N O V E M B E R 7 , 2 0 1 5

Watershed Week in Review

Llano River Watershed Alliance



Photo courtesy of Taylor Ranch

Feral Hogs at the Feeder

There are an estimated 40,000 feral hogs in the North and South Llano River watersheds alone. These hogs cause considerable damage to agriculture, wildlife, and riparian areas. They are also a major source of bacteria in our rivers.

Hogs eat 3-5% of their body weight daily. Although it takes about \$200 to build a feeder enclosure, consider how long it takes this sounder to go through a 50-pound bag of corn?

Castor Bean- A New Invasive

Castor Bean is a new invasive species to the watershed. This one was recently spotted along the Llano River in Kimble County.

Stands of castor bean displace native vegetation. Yes, it is also where castor oil comes from.



Photo George Cates

Some Guadalupe Bass find a new home

Last May, the newsletter carried a story about the release of 113,000 genetically pure Guadalupe Bass to the South Llano. These fingerlings come from broodstock originally taken from the South Llano and reared at the State Fish Hatchery in San Marcos.



Photo: Preston Bean

This past week, representatives from Texas Parks and Wildlife, Llano River Field Station, Texas Tech University and US Geological Survey added about 50 additional Guadalupe Bass from the South Llano to the broodstock population in order to maintain genetic diversity. Electroshocking techniques are used to temporarily stun the fish so they can be netted and loaded onto a hatchery truck back to San Marcos.

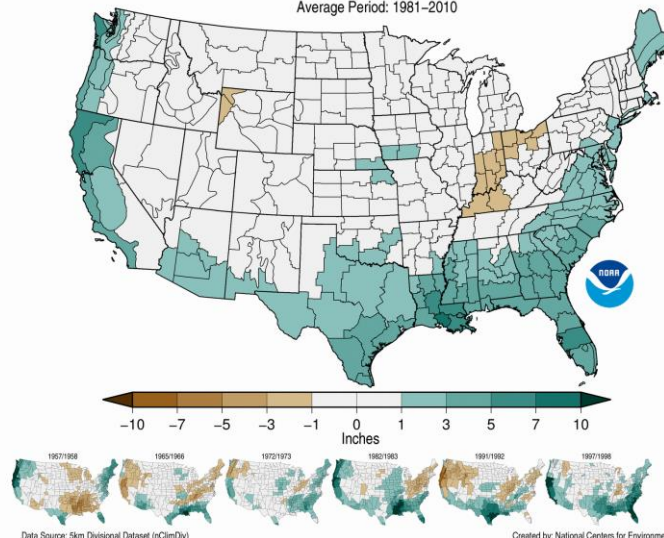
We can look forward to seeing thousands of their offspring back on the Llano next spring.

El Niño-A Historical Perspective

The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) has created a [web-based resource](#) to help us understand the potential impacts of an El Niño, based on past events.

Now that it appears El Niño has finally arrived, here's a chance to take a closer look at possible impacts. Previous strong events have historically brought above average rainfall to our region December-February.

Strong El Niño Precipitation Departure from Average
Composite: December-February 1957/1958, 1965/1966, 1972/1973, 1982/1983, 1991/1992, 1997/1998
Average Period: 1981-2010



Data Source: 5km Divisional Dataset (v2ClimDiv)

Created by National Centers for Environmental Information

Want some help learning about what's growing on your land?



The Land Management Assistance Program is a special program of the Hill Country Chapter of the Texas Master Naturalist.

Through the program, the chapter offers free assistance to all property owners in Bandera, Edwards, Gillespie, Kendall, Kerr, Kimble, Mason, Menard, Real and San Saba Counties.

The chapter provides trained Master Naturalist volunteers who visit your property and help you identify trees, shrubs, wildflowers, and grasses.

After visiting a property, a written report along with a list of experts who can provide additional information and assistance is provided.

[How to request a visit?](#)

Are you a landowner along the Llano?

You may be able to earn some extra money through the Leased Fishing Access Program. In 2012, TPWD initiated a new leased access program designed to build partnerships with willing landowners to offer river access across private property. These temporary agreements with property owners, which offer generous monthly payments, are funded through Texas Parks and Wildlife Foundation and the US Department of Agriculture's Voluntary Public Access and Habitat Incentive Program.

For a limited period of time, TPWD is taking applications from interested landowners along the Llano, North Llano and South Llano Rivers as well as the James River. If you are interested, contact Megan.Bean@tpwd.texas.gov

