

WATERSHED WEEK IN REVIEW



Energetic Volunteers Help Restore

Despite some threatening weather, an intrepid group of volunteers, primarily from Austin and San Marcos, help restore riparian and aquatic habitats along the Llano River last Saturday.

Restoration activities included trail building and seeding and replanting of riparian habitat at the new Llano River RACA sites. Tree planting at these sites will occur this fall.

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Memorial Day Celebrated on the Llano



Thanks to Scott Zesch for sharing this photo of a Llano River Memorial Day celebration at Hedwig's Hill in 1887.

Today, the US 87 bridge between Mason and Fredericksburg is located near this location. There appears to be a healthy riparian zone in the background.

Two years later, the 4th largest flood in recorded history (218,000 cfs) was measured here. Last year's flood peak was 201,000 cfs.

Come Learn about Landowner Incentive Programs



Save the Date!
 Join us Thursday, May 30, from 2:00-3:30PM
 at the Eckert Civic Center in Mason

CALLING ALL LANDOWNERS! Join us on May 30 for an overview of programs that provide funding or assistance for conservation and habitat management projects on your land, with a focus on the Landowner Incentive Program (LIP) and Pastures for Upland Birds (PUB). This is a comprehensive look at incentive programs available, who they are for, what to know about them and how to apply!

Hear from special guests and sponsors at Hill Country Alliance and Llano River Watershed Alliance about additional educational and financial resources to support your land stewardship efforts. Family, friends and neighbors welcome! Enjoy snacks and beverages while learning how to protect your land's natural resources.



Plateau Land & Wildlife Management is partnering with Hill Country Alliance and LRWA to offer a free overview of programs that provide funding or assistance for conservation and habitat management projects. The program will be held on May 30th - 2 pm - at the Eckert Civic Center - 1024 McKinley Ave in Mason.

[Click here to reserve a spot!](#)

For folks in Kimble County and points west, this Seminar will be presented Junction on July 25th, from 2-3:30pm at the Kimble County Library.

Volunteers Help Restore Llano



Volunteers plant grasses and sedges along stream banks stripped of vegetation from the October floods.



A new sign explaining the RACA program was installed.

Photos : Texas Parks and Wildlife and Jim Lincoln.

Volunteers from Texas Master Naturalists, Texas River Protection Association (TRPA), International Fly Fishers, Texas Parks and Wildlife, Texas Stream Team, and LRWA helped install signage and access trails, plant grasses and sedges, and spread riparian seed mix at two new River Access and Conservation Area (RACA) sites along the Llano. Thank to all who helped and to TRPA for financing the restoration materials.

Nutrients in Hill Country Rivers

EDITOR'S NOTE: Although the focus of the article is Bulverde, many of the same concerns discussed apply to the Llano

*By Brendan Gibbons
Rivard Report*

BULVERDE – When Michelle Molina heard about plans for a sewage treatment plant to start discharging wastewater into Indian Creek, she organized her neighbors and started raising money to hire a lawyer to fight the developers behind the plan.

They called their group Bulverde Neighborhoods for Clean Water, and they planned to fight the discharge of up to 300,000 gallons per day that would flow through the often-dry creekbed that winds through ranches and properties on large lots, eventually snaking through Bulverde Community Park...[read article](#)



...“The receiving water conditions make a lot of difference. In the Hill Country, streams’ flows change dramatically throughout the year, generally from floods in late spring and early summer to running dry in late summer and early fall. Because of their rocky bottoms and the crystal-clear water that feeds them from underground springs, streams are extremely vulnerable to nutrients. When you add nutrients to them, you have the perfect environment to grow algae in. You’ve basically added a lot of fertilizer to these streams that aren’t used to it.”

—Chris Herrington, City of Austin

Full Slate of Activities at South Llano River State Park this Week

South Llano River State Park Programs for May 2019

River Bugs! - Come explore the river and see who lives in the water. Meet at **Main Day Use parking lot** (the big lot) and be prepared to get wet. **Saturday, May 25, 1:30pm**

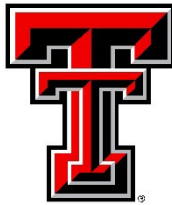
Night Hike-Come experience the park after the sun sets! Meet at the **Acorn Blind** (down the path from the restrooms, between campsites 39 and 41). Trail will be about a mile and half round-trip. Bring: flashlight or headlamp (red if you got one), good walking shoes, bug spray, and water. **Saturday, May 25, 9:00pm**

Frog Watch -Look and listen for frogs with a ranger. Learn all about what they are talking about. We will learn about the local amphibians and hear their story of survival. Meet at the **Acorn Blind**. **No pets, please**. Bring: water, flashlight (red light one if got it), and bug spray. **Thursday, May 31, 9:00pm**

Llano Aerial Footage-Pt 5

In December of last year, the Alliance had the opportunity to help Texas Parks and Wildlife (TPWD) analyze the impacts of the Fall Floods on the Llano and South Llano rivers from a TPWD helicopter. The flight was recorded using a GoPro camera mounted on the skid of the helicopter. Part 5 of this footage, from the Castell upstream to US 87 Bridge, is now available for viewing on the Alliance YouTube Channel. Additional footage will be uploaded in the coming weeks. [View!](#)





**Texas Tech University
Junction Outdoor School
Presents
“Science In The Sun”
June 10-13, 2019
(2nd – 5th Grade Students)**



Texas Tech University Junction Outdoor School (TTUJOS) will once again be hosting “Science In The Sun”, a fun, hands-on learning Science Enrichment Camp.

Students who have completed **2nd through 5th grade** are invited to register and join us at the **Texas Tech University Llano River Field Station, June 10 – 13, 2019, from 8am – 12noon.**

To top off the week, we will hold a Family Cookout Thursday evening, June 13, 2019. Cost: \$50 / student.

To register or find out more information, email us at outdoorschool.junction@ttu.edu or call 806-834-8935 / 806-834-8027.



The Land Ethic

“The land ethic simply enlarges the boundaries of the community to include soils, waters, plants, and animals, or collectively: the land.” - Aldo Leopold



Fostering a Land Ethic Workshop for Informal and Formal Educators

June 16-19, 2019

**Texas Tech University - Llano River Field Station
Junction, TX**

What is it? –An interdisciplinary outdoor educational experience taught by education professionals and natural resource specialists. This workshop will include the skills and teaching methods to engage students in the art and science of nature and will emphasize stewardship of Texas’ natural resources and development of a personal land ethic. Participants will explore human connections to the natural world through hands-on experiences in conservation topics related to Soils, Water quality, Land Ethics and Health, Biodiversity, Plant ID, Habitat and Management. Activities will include Fishing, Tubing, Birding, Nature Crafts, Nature Journaling, Hiking, and Plant Pressing.

Who Should Attend? – Anyone who is interested in learning more about fostering a relationship between our youth and the natural world– teachers, scout leaders, parents, naturalists, park rangers, zoo educators, youth group leaders, and private citizens

Sponsored by:

 **State Soil and Water Conservation Board**

 **McCulloch County SWCD**

 **Upper Llanos SWCD**

 **Menard County SWCD**

 **Texas Tech University - Junction**

Cost: \$250.00

Includes:

**3 nights lodging and
9 meals**

**25 Hours of
Professional
Continuing
Education Units**

**Certification in
Leopold Education
Project curriculum**

**LEP Curriculum
Guide**

**Copy of Sand County
Almanac**

**Lessons correlated
to the TEKS.**

For information about the workshop, contact Christine Moseley at Christine.moseley@utsa.edu

[Full or Partial Scholarships available from local Soil and Water Conservation District](#)