

Watershed Week

in Review

February 10, 2017



700 Springs Tour

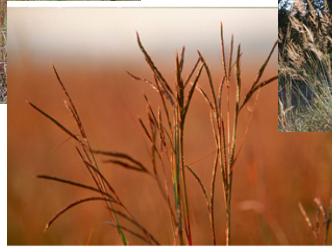


The Kimble County Historical Commission announced that Mr. Lee Pfluger has once again graciously invited the general public to 700 Springs Ranch on Saturday, April 29st, 2017.

Seven Hundred Springs are one of the headwater springs of the South Llano River. Last year's event was cancelled due to weather. Be sure to bring the entire family for an unforgettable experience.

Details forthcoming in future newsletters.

The Big Four Grasses

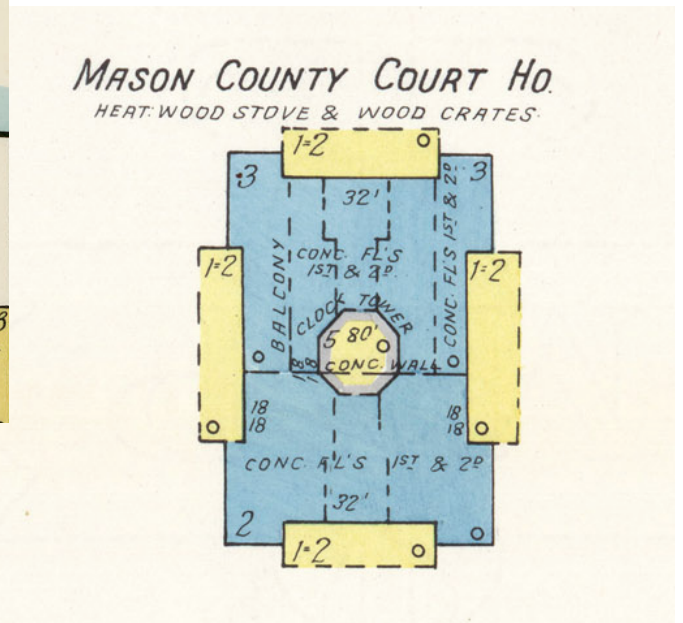
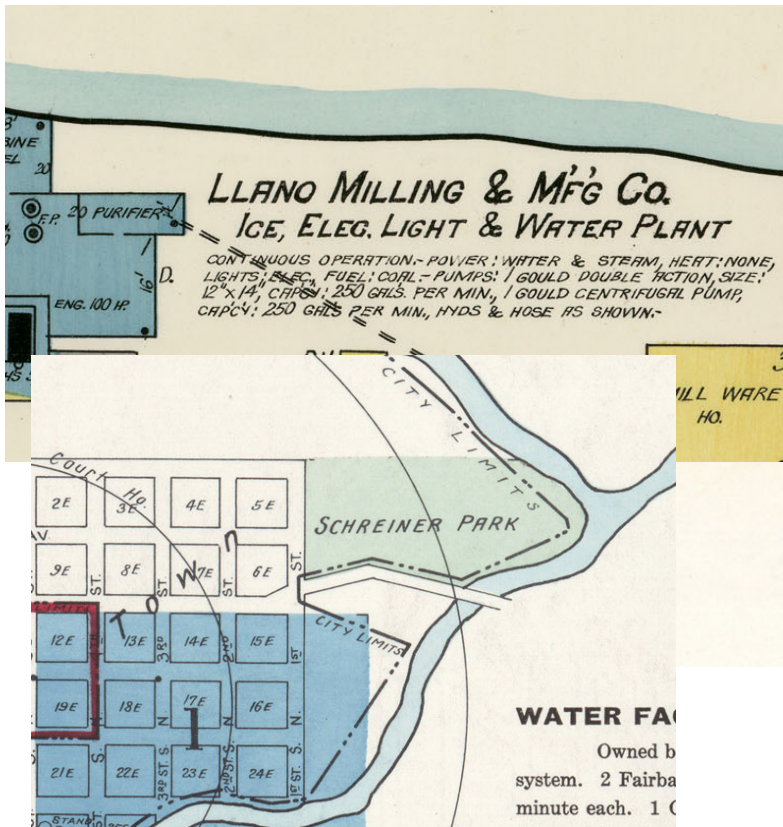


Photos left to right: Little Bluestem-Sam Strickland; Big Bluestem-Carolyn Fannin; Yellow Indiangrass- Nan Hampton; Switchgrass- Sally and Andy Wasowski. From [Image Gallery](#) [Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center](#)

Two hundred plus years ago there were somewhat fewer woodlands, fewer trees scattered on the savannas, and more grasses in the Hill Country than we see today. Back then the prairies that stretched from Canada to Texas (the southern end of which was in the Hill Country) supported huge herds of migrating buffalo, as well as grazing elk and antelope. This area was called the "Tall Grass Prairie", and the reason for that name was that the dominant grasses that grew back then were indeed "tall". There are many reports of early explorers referring to the grass as "as high as a saddle horn".

The four grasses that made up a large part of that grass community were little bluestem (*Schizachyrium scoparium*), big bluestem (*Andropogon gerardii*), yellow indiangrass (*Sorghastrum nutans*), and switchgrass (*Panicum virgatum*). [...read more from Jim Stanley](#)

Historic Maps of Llano River Communities



Sanborn Fire Insurance maps from 1910-1930 can be found online for Junction, Mason, and Llano...[click here and enjoy](#)

Llano Earth Art Fest returns March 10-13

LLANO EARTH ART FEST

March 10-13, 2017

Grenwelge Park, Llano, TX

TICKETS \$5 ADVANCE/\$10 GATE

[Click here for more info](#)



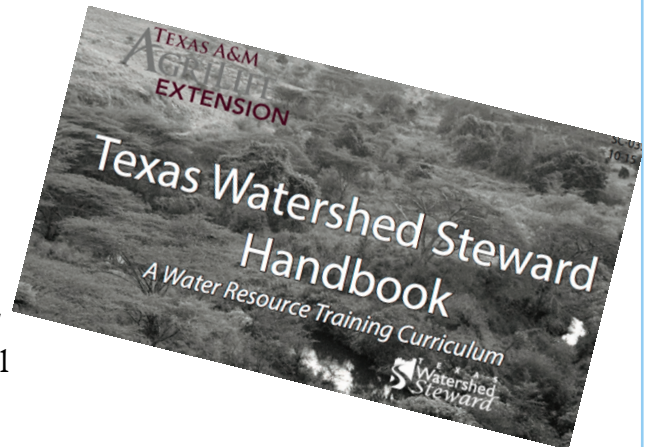
Watershed Steward Program

May 6th - Junction

The Texas Watershed Steward Program will be returning to Junction on May 6th from 8:30 to 12:30 at the Llano River Field Station.

The Watershed Steward program is a statewide educational program designed to improve the quality of Texas' water resources by educating and informing local stakeholders about their watershed.

The program is sponsored by Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service, Texas State Soil and Water Conservation Board, and the Llano River Field Station in conjunction with the recently approved Upper Llano River Watershed Protection Plan.



[For more information and to register...](#)



South Llano River State Park Naturalist Holly Platz explains riparian function to a future land steward. Holly is also a LRWA Board member.

Photo: South Llano River State Park

Family Fun Events this weekend at South Llano River State Park



Life's better outside.™



Like us on Facebook!
Facebook.com/SouthLlanoRiver

Family Park Programs
South Llano River State Park
Phone: (325) 446-3994



Building Mini Habitats

Saturday, February 11th, 11:00 am - 12 noon
Meet at the Acorn Blind

(down the path from the restrooms, between campsites 39 and 41)

Practice your creative building skills by using branches, rocks, leaves, and other natural materials to build your own mini animal habitat!

All ages welcome. Children must be accompanied by an adult.



Geocaching 101

Saturday, February 11th, 3:00 pm - 4:00 pm
Meet at the Walk-in Campground parking lot

Experience the fun of geocaching, a high-tech treasure hunt you can do anywhere in the world using a hand-held GPS unit or your smartphone! Loaner GPS units will be provided for this activity. Wear good walking shoes and bring drinking water, and dress for the weather!

All ages and skill levels welcome.

Bird Walk

Sunday, February 12th, 9:00 am - 10:30 am
Meet at the Fawn Trail parking lot
(behind Park Headquarters)



Birding is terrific at South Llano River State Park. Join us as we walk an easy trail, sit in the blind, and see what we can spot! Good walking shoes and drinking water are recommended, and dress for the weather!

Binoculars provided, or bring your own. All ages and skill levels welcome.

Park programs are open to the public and free with park entrance fee