

AUGUST 5, 2017

Watershed Week in Review

Llano River Watershed Alliance
and
Llano River Field Station

Is it a Bird?



Photo : Megan Bean, TPWD

Perhaps you have paddled along the Llano and seen signs of what appears to be quite a number of birds.

Actually, these are egg pouches for hellgrammites. Once hatched, this fisherman's friend drops into the water and floats until reaching a suitable place for development. The larva live in the water for several years before they pupate and turn into adult dobsonflies.

[More pictures from TPWD-Texas River & Streams](#)

Public Service Announcement

Passing along some info that while not directly related to the watershed, certainly is worth sharing with readers.



Kissing Bugs are nocturnal, blood-feeding insects that are members of the Reduviidae family. Traditionally, they are found in more humid portions of the state, but have been identified in the Hill Country.

Kissing bugs are known to transmit the Chagas parasite that can cause Chagas disease. The chronic phase of the disease can result in cardiac complications.

While the disease can affect humans, dogs appear to have the greatest risk.

[More](#)

Chinaberries targeted in Mason



Mason residents Tony Plutino and Chris Keating tag chinaberries along Fort Mason Park Nature Trail

If you have walked along the nature trail at Fort Mason City Park recently, you may have noticed something new. Something pink. Last week, volunteers from the Texas Master Naturalist Program joined staff from Fort Mason City Park and the Hill Country Alliance to discuss the adverse impacts of non-native, invasive plants to the local ecology, economy, and public



NRCS and Soil District host Local Work Group meeting Wednesday

The USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) and local Soil and Water Conservation Districts (SWCDs) cordially invite the public, other USDA agencies, other federal, state and local agencies with an interest in natural resources conservation and related issues and concerns to attend and participate in a Local Working Group (LWG) meeting that will be held at the Kimble County Courtroom on August 9, 2017 from 10 am – 12 pm.

The meeting's purpose is to collect input from farmers, ranchers, federal, state and local agencies, agricultural leaders, organizations, businesses and other individuals who have an interest in natural resource conservation. Input allows a LWG to identify and prioritize a county's resource concerns that need to be addressed through eligible 2014 Farm Bill conservation practices and also aids in establishing ranking criteria for county based funding.

Meeting recommendations are provided to and reviewed by the State Technical Advisory Committee (STAC) which advises the State Conservationist on the conservation programs offered by NRCS. Through stakeholder meetings like LWGs, the public has an opportunity to help local conservation leaders prioritize and set natural resource concerns in their counties.

Hill Country Volunteers tackle trash and invasives



Today, folks from the Alliance, Hill Country Alliance, Texas Master Naturalist, and Texas Parks and Wildlife joined forces to clean up trash along the Boone's Crossing (Kimble County Rd 150) as well as both crossings of US 377.

After accomplishing that task, it was on to South Llano River State Park to dig up [Mexican Needlegrass/Mexican Ricegrass](#).

This invasive perennial grass is rapidly becoming a problem in the watershed. Fortunately, it is relatively easy to dig up. **WARNING:** Mowing and burning only make it MAD!



South Llano River State Park Programs this Weekend



Life's better outside.®



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Facebook.com/SouthLlanoRiver

Family Park Programs

South Llano River State Park

Phone: (325) 446-3994

River Seining

Saturday, August 5th, 10:00 am - 11:00 am

Meet at the River Crossing parking lot
(next to the bridge)



What kind of fish live in the river? Come seining with us and find out! Water shoes, sun protection, and drinking water are recommended – and be prepared to get wet! Because this activity takes place in the river, adults age 17 and older must possess a valid fishing license to use the sein net.

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



Skins, Skulls, and Tracks!

Saturday, August 5th, drop in between 2:00 pm - 3:00 pm

Held at the Acorn Blind

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

Drop by the Acorn Blind between 2:00 and 3:00 to see and touch animal furs and skulls, and make animal tracks with clay! All ages welcome.

Children must be accompanied by an adult.

Geocaching 101

Sunday, August 6th, 9:00 am - 10:00 am

Meet at the Acorn Blind

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



Join us for Geocaching, a high-tech treasure hunt you can do anywhere in the world using a GPS unit or your smartphone! Loaner GPS units will be provided for this activity. Good walking shoes, sun protection, insect repellent, and drinking water are recommended. All ages welcome.

Children must be accompanied by an adult.

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