



South Llano
Watershed Alliance

Watershed Week
in Review

May 9, 2015



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South Llano Watershed Alliance

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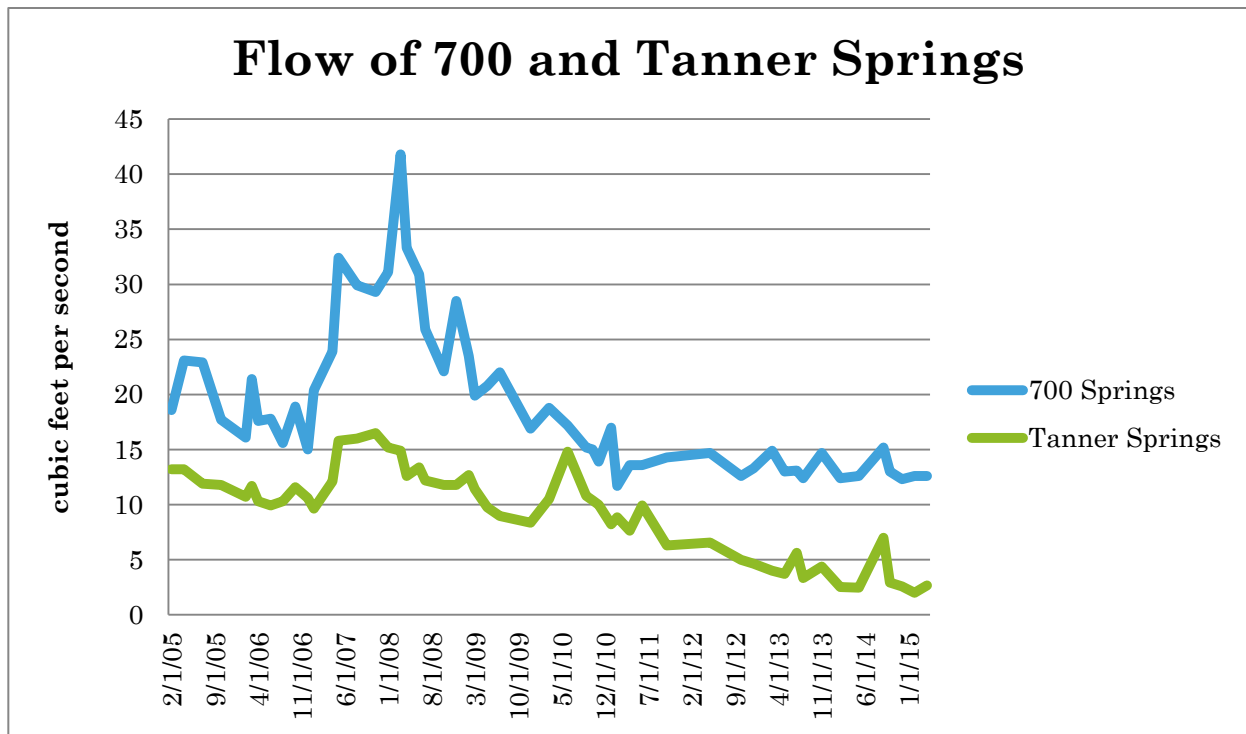
SLWA Board Meeting

Due to meeting
conflicts with several
members, the Board
meeting originally
scheduled for May 14th
has been postponed
and will be
rescheduled.

More than 113,000 genetically pure Guadalupe Bass fingerlings were released into the South Llano River last Tuesday as part of the [Guadalupe Bass Restoration Initiative](#). These 40-day-old juveniles were released at the South Llano River State Park, the Llano River Field Station, Flatrock Crossing (south of Junction), and below the Junction City Dam. Underwater [video of the release is here.](#)

Since 2012, more than half a million fingerlings have been released in the watershed. The broodstock (parents) for these fingerlings come from the South Llano but are kept and bred at the A.E. Wood Hatchery in San Marcos. These restocking efforts have increased the percentage of genetically pure bass to 99%.

This initiative isn't just about restocking bass. It is also about working with local landowners to restore and preserve habitat through bank stabilization, control of invasive species, and restoration of grasslands and riparian habitat. Learn more about this project from a recently released [article in the American Fisheries Society Symposium](#). This article also discusses other programs and studies going on in the watershed and gives the Alliance some recognition as well.



Flows at the Springs

An estimated 170 people visited 700 Springs last month. The flow from those springs that day was about 12 cubic feet per second. We know this because the US Geological Survey periodically takes discharge measurement of 700 Springs as well as Tanner Springs, about 0.8 miles upstream. The most recent measurements were taken April 2, 2015

The graph above shows measured discharge from both springs since 2005. (Realistically, the graph would show columns rather than lines, since the measurements are not continuous. However, such a graph is difficult to read for these data).

[Tanner Springs measured only 2.7 cubic feet per second on April 2nd](#), the second lowest reading since regular measurements began in 1987. The lowest reading was taken February 10, 2015.

What this tells us is that neither of these springs has recovered since 2011. Despite the recent rains in the watershed, the rains have not fallen over areas that recharge the springs. Imagine what the flows would be if not for the large rainfall volumes in 2007.

You can access this spring discharge information from the SLWA website.

Texas Tech-Junction Mesonet Station: a Wealth of Data

Finding the current temperature or rainfall amount for a site near your home is pretty easy these days.

But what about average wind speed for the day? Potential Evapotranspiration? Or soil water content at 30 inches?

Look no further than the [Texas Tech Mesonet Stations](#). The Station on the campus of the Llano River Field Station in Junction (right) has been recording this type of information since 2012.

[Click here to access data.](#)



Texas Supreme Court punts twice

Last week, the Texas Supreme Court considered two important cases related to groundwater law. In both cases, it punted.

Justices on Friday were petitioned to re-examine a case where a farmer sued a waste-disposal company for trespass because the waste from the injection well polluted the groundwater beneath the farm. [Justices rejected the petition.](#)

Justices also refused to [review the appeals court's](#) decision in the highly controversial *Bragg v Edwards Aquifer Authority* case. This case deals with the delicate balance of groundwater regulation and taking of property rights

**REMINDER:
\$10 WELL
SCREENINGS
AVAILABLE IN
LLANO AND
GOLDTHWAITE**

The [Texas Well Owner Network](#) will offer water well screenings in May for Llano and Mills counties to give residents the opportunity to have their well water tested.

[Details](#)

2015 Lone Star Land Stewards Awards Banquet



Award recipients past and present were honored May 6th at a banquet at the Four Seasons Hotel in Austin. In attendance were Bill and Jan Neiman, Ruthie Russell, Megan Bean, Emily Neiman and Znobbia Wootan.

Photo by Arlene Kalmbach

Well Tests also available for Kimble, Edwards, and Real landowners

Local well owners will have the opportunity to have their [wells tested on May 19th in Junction](#) thanks to our local Conservation Districts.

Sample bags must be picked up from the Kimble County GW Conservation District (2nd floor Courthouse) and returned on the 19th before 10am.

Instructions for collecting and submitting the samples are [available here](#).

Don't assume that your well is OK. In June of 2013, at a [Texas Well Owner Network](#) workshop in Junction, **63% of the 43 local wells tested positive for coliform bacteria, with 13% testing positive for *e-coli***



On April 28th, the City of Junction implemented Stage 2 of its Drought Contingency Plan

[What does this mean?](#)



Guadalupe Bass fingerlings acclimate to the South Llano before being released.

Photo by Robert Stubblefield