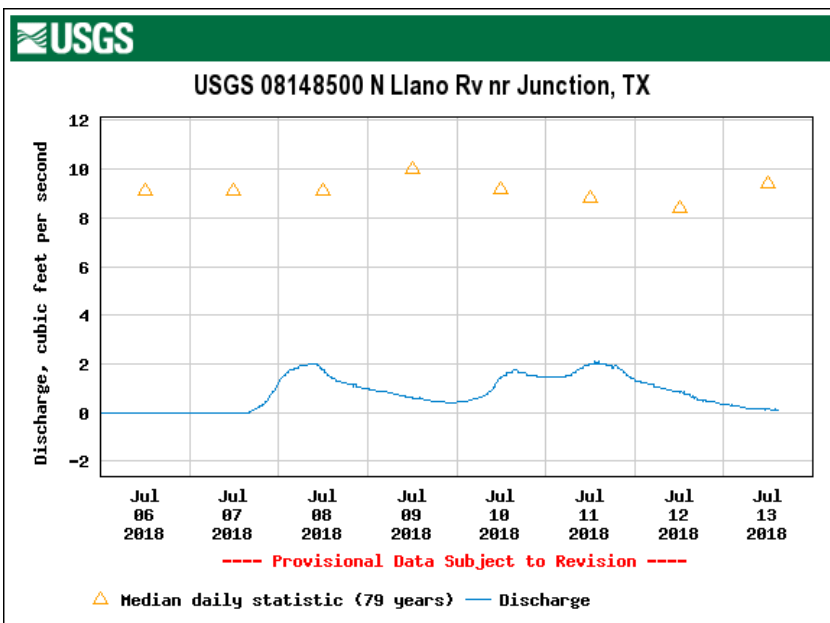


J U L Y 1 3 , 2 0 1 8

# Watershed Week in Review

A Publication of  
Llano River Watershed Alliance and  
Llano River Field Station

## North Llano Gets a Little Water



Last week we reported that the North Llano flow went to zero cfs. The area did see a little rain last week with Junction getting 1.27 inches and areas south of London receiving over 2 inches. As a result there was a slight increase in flows in our rivers, but not much. The North Llano 'jumped' to 2 cfs, but is currently at 0.1 cfs. The Llano at Junction gage rose to 40 cfs and is now at 27 cfs. The Llano at Llano had been at 5 cfs and is now at 12 cfs.

That being said, these flows will not be sustainable without some additional precipitation. [Info on all Llano gages can be found here.](#)

## Opportunity to Tour LRFS Enclosures

The public is invited to join members of the Upper Llano River Watershed Protection Plan Coordination Committee to tour the wildlife enclosures at the Llano River Field Station on Wednesday, July 25<sup>th</sup>.



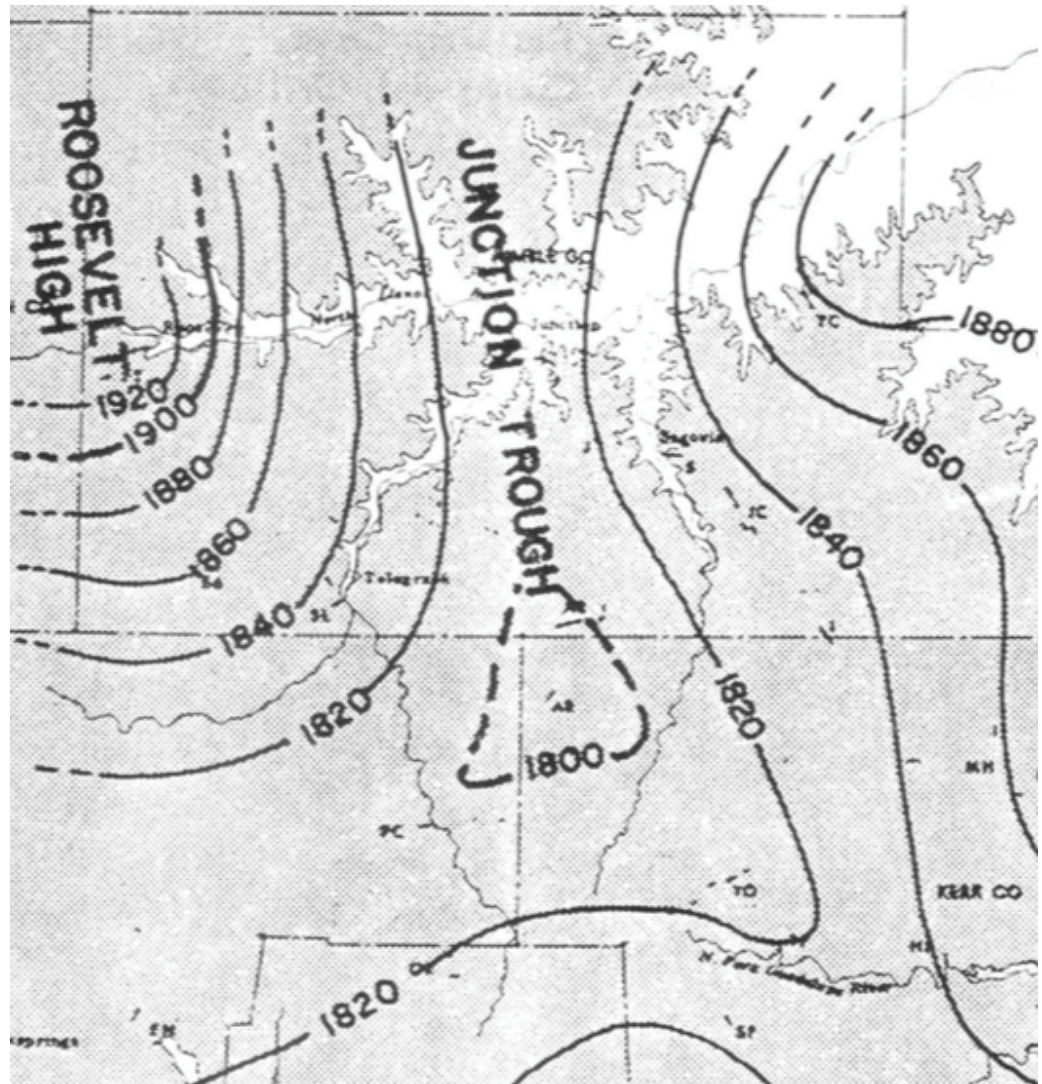
The tour will begin at the Pavilion across from Packard Hall at 5:30pm. Members of the Field Station and Texas Parks and Wildlife will be available to answer questions. The walking tour will last about 45 minutes and conclude with refreshments at the Pavilion.

## North Llano Aquifer

As part of our discussion on the flows of the North Llano last week, we noted that the portion of the Edwards-Trinity Aquifer that feeds the springs of the North Llano is not as thick as the portion of the Aquifer that feeds the South Llano.

Consequently, the amount of water that is available for the North Llano is less than the amount available for the South Llano.

The figure (right) shows the elevation above sea level for the base of the Edwards-Trinity Aquifer in Kimble County- in other words, how the landscape would appear if we stripped away the limestone that contains the Aquifer.



Note that the South Llano generally follows the Junction Trough, while the beginning of the North Llano originates over the Roosevelt High. As a result, the thickness of the limestone and resulting available aquifer storage is about 120 feet less for the North Llano than for the South Llano.

This figure comes from a 1971 report on the [Caves of Kimble County](#) by the Texas Speleological Survey. Although the report notes the general location of these caves, please remember that all of these caves are on Private Property and were explored and recorded by experienced spelunkers.

## City of Llano Discusses Drought Plan

*John Verser*  
*Llano News*

The Llano City Council on Monday looked at changes to the city's drought plan.

After an almost hour-long discussion on potential changes to the city's drought plan, the city council asked for additional changes before a vote on the measure. It is on the agenda for a special-called meeting at 5:30 p.m. Monday.

The council is set to meet weekly during the time water flow into the lakes is slower, in order to more closely monitor the situation.

The city was in Stage 2 of its five-stage drought plan as of Monday's meeting. Josh Becker, utility director, said the city would likely move to Stage 3 of its drought plan on Thursday.

Becker said an issue occurred two Fridays ago with problems at the "Mason gauge" on the Llano River. Lower Colorado River Authority officials told him they have had problems with that gauge, and that it is not accurate or reliable. At that time, after LCRA adjusted its numbers, the river flow went from 64 to 30 cfs. The city's current drought plan calls for it to move to Stage 2 at 40 cfs...[continue reading](#)



## James River Bat Cave Closure

*From The Nature Conservancy of Texas*

Many of you have expressed concern about the recent closure of the Eckert James River Bat Cave Preserve (EJRBC). While we understand that visiting the cave has become a long-honored tradition, we have decided to temporarily close the preserve for the safety of our visitors.

On June 29, a neighboring landowner treated their property with a fog pesticide while guests were gathering to view the nightly bat emergence at EJRBC. We had no knowledge that this would occur as we were not notified that a neighbor would be treating their property. At this time, we have not observed any impacts to the bats and will continue to monitor all wildlife on the preserve closely.

TNC owns preserves across Texas and strives to maintain good relationships with neighboring landowners to understand their land management and use practices, and the EJRBC is no exception. The bat cave will remain closed to visitors while we work to determine the exact nature of the pesticide, its potential impacts to people and wildlife and to ensure this does not happen again. We apologize for any inconvenience this causes and encourage the public to keep checking our website, [nature.org/Texas](http://nature.org/Texas) and the Bat Cave hotline, (325) 347-5970 for updates on the reopening of the preserve.

TNC's foremost priorities are the safety of our visitors and of the plants and wildlife we protect. We appreciate the Mason community's longstanding support of the Eckert James River Bat Cave Preserve and the millions of bats who migrate there each summer. EDITOR'S NOTE: [Per TNC webpage](#), the Bat Cave has reopened to visitors.





Life's better outside.

Like us on Facebook!  
Facebook.com/SouthLlanoRiver

## Family Park Programs, July 13 – July 22

### South Llano River State Park

Phone: (325) 446-3994

#### Under the Microscope – Friday, July 13th, Drop by 1:30 pm to 2:30 pm

Held at the Park Headquarters porch

Stop by park headquarters between 1:30 pm and 2:30 pm to see what's under the microscope. Whether it's Buck Lake water, a butterfly wing, a feather, or something quite different, it will be exciting!



#### River Seining – Saturday, July 14th, 10:00 am - 11:00 am

Meet at the river crossing parking lot.

(Head toward the park exit. Parking lot is on the right before 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!

#### Skins, Skulls, and More! - Saturday, July 14th

##### Drop by between 1:30 pm and 2:30 pm

Held at the Park Headquarters porch.

Stop by park headquarters between 1:30 pm and 2:30 pm to see and touch animal furs and skulls, and find out what a skull can tell us about how an animal lives! All ages welcome.



#### Japanese Fish Printing – Sunday, July 15th, 10:00 am - 11:00 am

Meet at the Acorn Bird Blind (down the path from the restrooms, between campsites 39 and 41)



By J.G.

Try your hand at the ancient art of Gyotaku, a method that Japanese fishermen used to record their catch! All materials are provided. All ages welcome! Children must be accompanied by an adult.

#### River Bugs! - Saturday, July 21st, 10:00 am - 11:00 pm

Meet at the 2nd Day Use parking lot (Take the road across from Headquarters, follow to the end. Look for the water bug pole)

Come find out what kinds of insects live in the river! We will show you how to use a dip net and a magnifying glass to discover cool aquatic insects! Sun protection and drinking water recommended. Wear clothes you can get wet! Children must be accompanied by an adult.



#### Under the Microscope – Saturday, July 21st, Drop by 1:30 pm to 2:30 pm

Held at the Park Headquarters porch



Stop by park headquarters between 1:30 pm and 2:30 pm to see what's under the microscope. Whether it's Buck Lake water, a butterfly wing, a feather, or something quite different, it will be exciting!

#### The Park After Dark – Saturday, July 21st, 8:30 pm - 9:30 pm

Meet at the Acorn Blind (down the path from the restrooms, between campsites 39 and 41)

Experience the park after dark! We'll learn how animals use their senses and we will walk an easy trail as we look for fireflies, bats, deer, spiders, and more! Good walking shoes, bug spray, drinking water, and a flashlight are recommended. All ages welcome! No pets, please.



#### Buck Lake Scavenger Hunt – Sunday, July 22nd, 10:00 am - 11:00 am

Meet at the Acorn Blind (Down the path from the restrooms, between campsites 39 and 41)



On this easy morning stroll, we'll walk past beautiful Buck Lake as we use magnifiers, binoculars, and sharp eyes to find our scavenger hunt targets. There is one steep but short hill. The rest of the dirt path is fairly level. Good walking shoes and drinking water are recommended, and dress for the weather! All ages welcome.

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