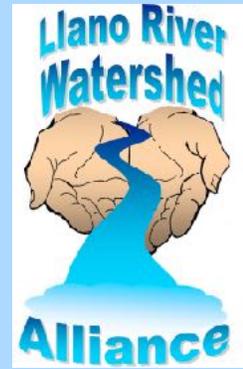


# WATERSHED WEEK IN REVIEW



*(Courtesy: Mason County Judge Jerry Bearden)*

We are deeply saddened by the destruction of the Mason County Courthouse last night. Whether it's the Llano River, one of its truss bridges, or a 110 - year old courthouse, they are all part of the mosaic of experiences that provide us a sense of place in our community and in our history.

## Trout Stocking - James River Crossing



Thanks to Winterfisch and all its sponsors, TPWD released another 1,000 rainbow trout into the Llano River at James River Crossing on Wednesday.

It appears one angler took our suggestion to get there early to claim a spot.

A few fish are tagged with red or yellow tags. If you catch a tagged fish, take a picture of yourself with the tagged fish, keep the tag, and contact Tony Plutino. Tony's contact information may be found here.

Good Luck!

# Best Management Practices Website Returns

## Best Management Practices

For the Conservation of Texas Aquatic Ecosystems

Home

BMPs Index

LRWA Home



Several years ago, our friends at Texas Parks and Wildlife created a Best Management Practices website to assist landowners with identifying and implementing good stewardship practices on their landscape. Whether it was ways to improve and maintain riparian zones or manage invasive species, this website was a treasure trove of information.

And then one day, it didn't function anymore. (It's a long story).

Thanks to some assistance from Texas Parks and Wildlife and from Tim McGrath at Wanderfeast, this great resource is back online and living on the [Alliance website](#).

*If you can't find this link in the future, go to our Home Page and tap on Resources, right under the Donate Button.*

The Best Management Practices website can connect you to hundreds of how-to publications from agencies, universities, NGO's. There is a handy index of practices by conservation objective and by land use. There is also a general search application to help you find what you need.

## Get Paid to Watch Your Grass Grow

### Daphne Prairie and other Texas grasslands can store carbon and help fight climate change

But there are few pieces of pristine land left like Daphne Prairie, untouched by plow or urban sprawl.

BY MARY BETH GAHAN, THE WASHINGTON POST AUG. 20, 2020 10 AM

DAPHNE PRAIRIE, TEX. — B.F. Hicks is doing 70 mph down a two-lane road in Franklin County, Texas. He pulls up in his truck to a gated property that's closer to Arkansas than Dallas. Waist-high bluestem grass sways in the wind across 922 acres that stretch out before him. The air is filled with “dick-dick-see-see-see,” the song that gives the dickcissel prairie bird its name.

Welcome to Daphne Prairie, a mostly flat grassland that has been in the Hicks family since 1839 and is one of the last unplowed prairies in Northeast Texas. Laying at the edge of prairie as it transitions into eastern forests, the land looks today as it did when settlers arrived in Texas — before cotton was king and concrete was poured across the region.

And Hicks, a 75-year-old lawyer who visits his property weekly in a bucket hat and jeans, is trying to keep it that way, hopeful that untouched grasslands in Texas and across the country can help mitigate climate change.

Scientists say the world needs to cut greenhouse gas emissions nearly in half by mid-century to avert catastrophic effects from global warming. Carbon dioxide is the most prevalent greenhouse gas; the amount in the atmosphere has been rising as humans burn fossil fuels. Not only must the world stop releasing more carbon, some CO<sub>2</sub> already in the air also must be removed, experts say.

[...continue reading](#)

# The Alliance Has Donated Prizes.

How About You?

**SEEKING 2021 DONORS FOR PRIZE  
DRAWING**

## **AXIS DEER CONTROL PROJECT**

**DONORS CONTRIBUTING AT LEAST \$25 IN  
PRIZES WILL BE RECOGNIZED IN A  
SERIES OF LOCAL NEWSPAPER ARTICLES**



**CONTACT DANIEL OPPENHEIMER AT  
HILL COUNTRY ALLIANCE (210-287-0478) WITH  
ANY QUESTIONS**

The goal of the Axis Deer Control Project is to raise awareness about the impacts of free-ranging Axis deer, recognize land stewards for their efforts to control this exotic species, and support research that will inform control efforts.

[www.hillcountryalliance.org/wildlife](http://www.hillcountryalliance.org/wildlife)

# How you can Help Researchers Learn More- and be eligible for prizes!

The Llano River Watershed Alliance is partnering with Hill Country Alliance and other conservation organizations across the Hill Country in the 2021 Axis Deer Control Project. [Learn more!](#)



## ***For Immediate Release***

**January 27, 2021**

### **Partners Launch Axis Deer Control Project in Texas Hill Country**

**Junction, Texas** – The Hill Country Alliance, Texas Tech University’s Department of Natural Resources Management, Llano River Watershed Alliance, and partners have launched the 2021 Axis Deer Control Project and are encouraging landowners and hunters to participate.

Axis deer are an exotic species that were introduced from India to the Texas Hill Country in the 1930s. Since their introduction, this species has proliferated in several portions of the Hill Country, adversely impacting agricultural production, native wildlife, and riparian, or creek-side, habitat.

The goals of the Axis Deer Control Project are to raise awareness about the impacts of free-ranging Axis deer, recognize land stewards for their efforts to control this exotic species, and support research that will improve control efforts.

“There are certainly landowners that are managing Axis and other exotic species on their properties in a thoughtful, sustainable manner that doesn’t impact their neighbors, which is great. This project is intended to spark conversations about another scenario, where landowners with low-fences are seeing large herds of free-ranging Axis deer hinder their agricultural and stewardship goals,” notes Daniel Oppenheimer, Hill Country Alliance Land Program Manager.

Participants will be entered into a drawing for prizes from local businesses. In order to participate, hunters and trappers are encouraged to bring a frozen, complete lower jawbone from each harvested Axis deer to one of the scheduled drop-off points. The first set of drop-off dates is as follows:

- February 9<sup>th</sup> at Stonewall Smokehouse in Stonewall from 5 pm – 6:30 pm
- February 10<sup>th</sup> at Gillespie County AgriLife Extension Office in Fredericksburg from 8 am – 12 pm and 1 pm – 5 pm
- February 12<sup>th</sup> at Bandera County River Authority in Bandera from 1 pm – 3 pm
- February 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> at Blanco County AgriLife Extension Office in Johnson City from 9 am – 5 pm
- February 19<sup>th</sup> at Bandera County River Authority in Bandera from 1 pm – 3 pm
- February 22<sup>nd</sup> and 23<sup>rd</sup> at the Texas Tech University Llano River Field Station – Admin Building in Junction from 9 am – 12 pm