

AUGUST 3, 2018

Watershed Week in Review

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

City of Llano Moves to Stage 4



With the flow of the Llano River at Llano at 0.88 cfs (about 400 gallons per minute-the capacity of a good Hickory Well), the City of Llano has enacted STAGE 4 of their water restrictions.

Residents shall be allowed to hand water trees, gardens, shrubs, potted plants and foundations twice per week on designated water days by hand held hose only. **No Sprinkler Irrigation is Allowed.**

Due to potential biological growth due to low flow conditions, swimming in the Llano River at Robinson Lake and Town Lake in Badu Park is strongly advised against.

For more info...

Save the Date Mason and Llano Co Landowners

The Llano River Watershed Alliance is partnering with Texas Parks and Wildlife Department (TPWD) to host an informational program about the new [River Access and Conservation Area \(RACA\) program](#). The program offers generous monthly payments to landowners who lease a portion of their land to TPWD for fishing and boating access.

Join us at **6:30pm- Thursday, August 23rd** -at Castell General Store for an informational meeting about the program. TPWD personnel will be on hand to answer landowner questions. Dinner and door prizes

More details to follow.

Alliance and Field Station part of 19 Organizations Bringing \$5.5M to Hill Country

Excerpted from Hill Country Conservancy Press Release

July 31, 2018 – AUSTIN, TEXAS – The Hill Country Conservancy (HCC) and 19 of its partners, including a new collaborative called the Texas Hill Country Conservation Network (the Network), today announced a \$5.15 million pledge from the Regional Conservation Partnership Program, part of the USDA's Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS). The award will support the Hill Country Headwaters Conservation Initiative, which will provide funding to private landowners performing land stewardship best practices and ensuring long-term conservation of sensitive agricultural lands across the Blanco and Middle Colorado River basins.



Photo : Hill Country Conservancy

Nineteen members of the Hill Country Conservation Network join US Representative and Chairman of the Committee on Agriculture Mike Conaway (sixth from left) to celebrate the award of \$5.15 million from the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service to the Texas Hill Country to support funding to private landowners performing long-term land stewardship conservation of sensitive agricultural lands across the Blanco and Llano River basins.

“This award will allow HCC, the Network and our partners to protect drinking water supplies and iconic Texas wildlife while addressing flooding risks and drought impacts through a variety of programs designed to engage private landowners, including environmental quality incentives and agricultural conservation easements,” said Frank Davis, Director of Land Conservation for Hill Country Conservancy. “Our ultimate goal for the initiative is to support private landowners who are daily caring for our precious natural resources, often without recognition or reward for doing so. By supporting private landowners, we also ensure the economic future of the Hill Country, where millions of people travel and live in large part because of its natural beauty, crystal clear streams and recreational opportunities.” The Hill Country region is characterized by both extreme drought and flooding, both occurring with increasing intensity and frequency. Compounded by climate change, development pressures and ecological vulnerability, the region’s rich natural resources is privately owned, making it critical to incentivize private landowners.

As one of its first major collaborative efforts, the Network crafted the Hill Country Headwaters Conservation Initiative project to channel resources to Hill Country landowners to address these natural resource challenges. Using the collective power of its members, the proposal was submitted in the fall of 2017 by HCC, the Texas Hill Country Conservation Network, the Hill Country Alliance, The Meadows Center for Water and the Environment, Wimberley Valley Watershed Alliance, **Llano River Watershed Alliance**, Texas Water Resources Institute, Holistic Management International, The Nature Conservancy of Texas, United States Fish and Wildlife Service’s Partners Program, Texas Agricultural Land Trust, Texas Forest Service, Texas Parks & Wildlife Department’s Farm and Ranch Lands Conservation Program and Department of Inland Fisheries, Texas Wildlife Association, Travis County, Hill Country Land Trust, Texas Land Conservancy, the City of Austin’s Watershed Protection Department and **Texas Tech Llano River Field Station**.



Frank Davis, Hill Country Conservancy, and U.S. Representative Mike Conaway share a laugh during the Press Event at Thurman Mansion in Driftwood.
Photo: Hill Country Conservancy

“We are pleased to present this grant to the Texas Hill Country Conservation Network as they have demonstrated an innovative approach and proposed lasting solutions to the state’s conservation and agricultural needs,” said Claude Ross, Natural Resources Specialist of the Natural Resources Conservation Service. “The diverse array of stakeholders from the 19 partner organizations made for a very compelling application, and we’re honored to be a part of this critical investment in the protection of Central Texas’ working lands and natural resources.”

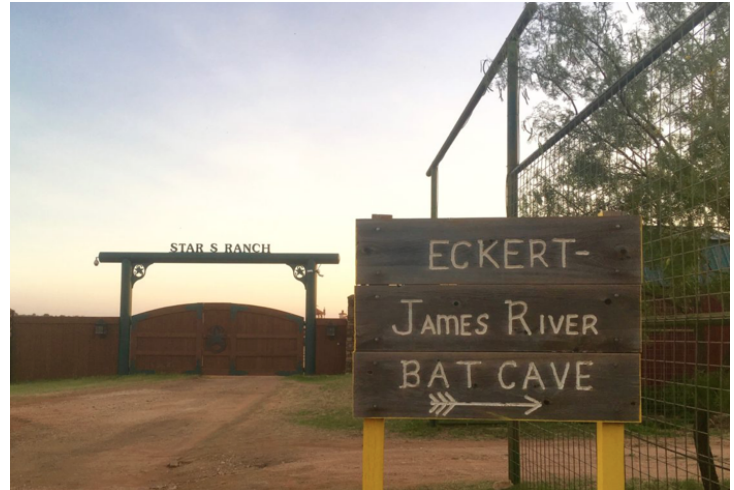
“A successful, thriving agriculture industry is crucial to clothe and feed many families in our nation,” said Congressman Mike Conaway, 11th District of Texas. “As Chairman of the House Agriculture Committee, I’m committed to working with groups like HCC and the Network to ensure our farmers and ranchers have the private stewardship resources they need to conserve their land. The Hill Country Headwaters Conservation Initiative is set to positively influence more than 4.5 million acres of our hardworking ranchers’ private land.”

Update: James River Bat Cave

*By Monica Maeckle
Rivard Report*

A State investigation is underway at a bat cave near Mason, Texas, after the spraying of pesticides by the neighboring exotic game ranch wafted onto the nature preserve, threatening harm to visitors and the 1.6 million Mexican free-tailed bats that visit there each summer.

While the game ranch's manager has acknowledged and pledged to correct what he called "a mistake," larger implications about the pesticide's effect on the bats remain unclear.



On Saturday, June 29, as often happens on summer weekend nights in the Texas Hill Country, a small crowd of 20 nature lovers gathered at the [Eckert James River Bat Cave](#). Cave Steward Vicky Ritter had opened the gates around 7 p.m. for visitors, who navigated the trail to the intimate natural amphitheater that serves as a showcase and seasonal home to the bats every summer.

[Continue reading...](#)

THANKS JUNCTION EAGLE FOR A GREAT DESCRIPTION OF HEALTHY RIPARIAN BENEFITS!



From *Junction Eagle*... Members of the Upper Llano River WPP Coordination Committee, field experts, local landowners, and other interested persons gathered at the Field Station to tour the wildlife exclosures on July 25th. Seven exclosures have been constructed along the riparian zone in order to restore vegetation along the river. The restored riparian vegetation will filter runoff, increase bank storage, reduce the impact of flooding, reduce stream bank erosion and provide shade for aquatic species.



Life's better outside.

Like us on Facebook!
Facebook.com/SouthLlanoRiver**Family Park Programs, July 27 – August 5**

South Llano River State Park

Phone: (325) 446-3994

Under the Microscope – Friday, July 27th, 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 28th, 10:00 am - 11:00 am**

Meet at the river crossing parking lot.



(Head toward 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 28th**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. Find out what a skull can tell us about how an animal lives!

All ages welcome.



By J.G.

Japanese Fish Printing – Sunday, July 29th, 10:00 am - 11:00 am

Meet at the Acorn Bird Blind

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

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.

Birding 101 - Saturday, August 4th, 8:30 am - 9:30 am

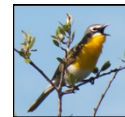
Meet at the Acorn Bird Blind

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

How do you tell all those colorful birds apart? Join us to learn binocular and bird ID tips, then we'll practice our newfound skills at the bird blind!

If time permits, we may also take a short bird walk. Good walking shoes and drinking water are recommended. Binoculars provided, or bring your own.

All ages and skill levels welcome!

**Bark Rubbing and Leaf Art – Sunday, August 5, 10:00 – 11:00 am**

Held at the Acorn Blind



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

Join us for this nature-inspired craft! We'll make bark rubbings from different types of trees, and we'll also make leaf art for you to take home!

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

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