



South Llano
Watershed Alliance

Watershed Week
in Review



May 2, 2015

Outdoor School



The **Texas Water Development Board** learned about the Llano River Field Station (LRFS) and its efforts with the Alliance at WaterU this last week.

Texas universities had the opportunity to discuss their water-related research efforts to the Board. LRFS Director and Alliance Board member Dr. Tom Arsuffi offered the Board some water-conserving opportunities through the control of invasive species.

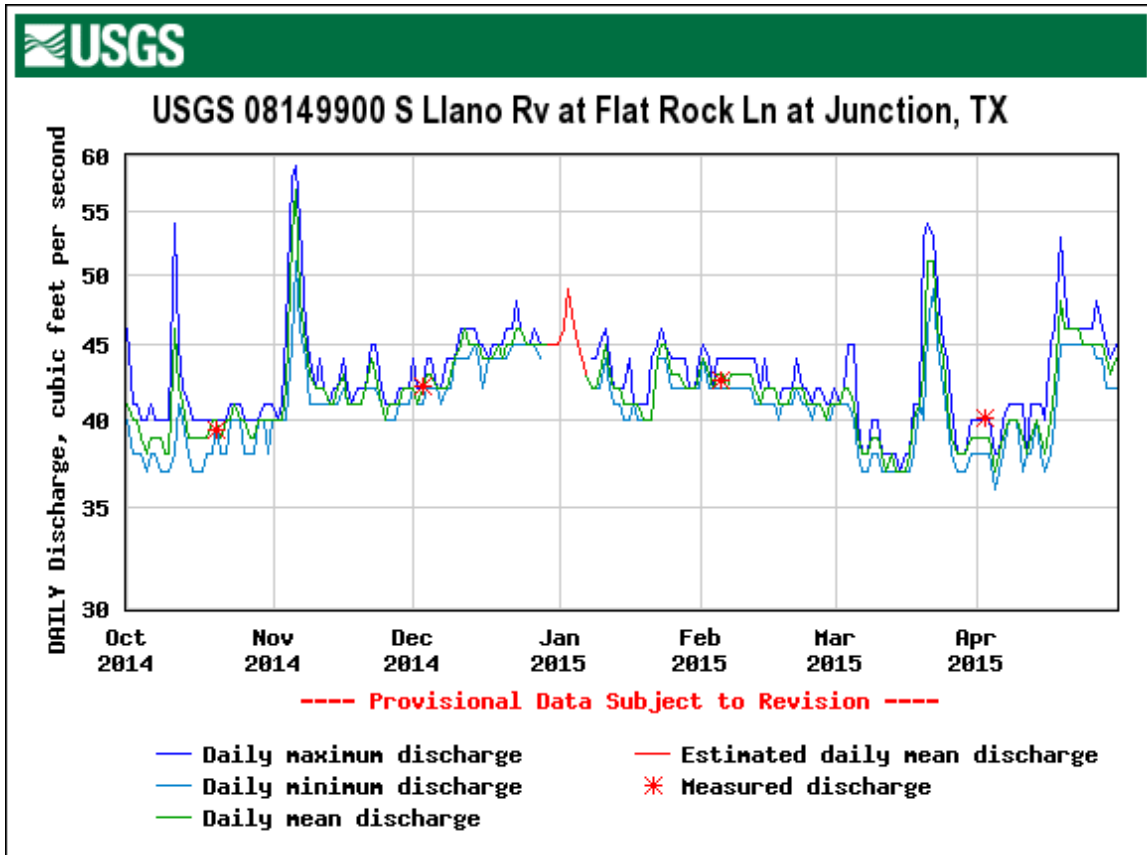
[Watch Video](#)

Freshmen from Eden and Winters High Schools recently learned about aquatic biology on the South Llano through the [Outdoor School](#) at Texas Tech Center at Junction.

In addition to aquatic biology, students learn about soils, marvel at astronomical objects through the school's telescope, and observe and analyze clues to identify perpetrators of quail nest depredation in *Quail CSI*.

Students also learn to understand watersheds and why they are important to a variety of life forms. In this class they also learn about the water cycle, what can happen to rain water when it hits the ground, and the importance of riparian zones.

On the kayak trip from South Llano State Park to TTU-Junction, students also learned about teamwork in their tandem kayaks - teamwork that is required to go in a straight line and teamwork to empty water out of the kayak when you don't.



\$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](#)

Flows of the South Llano

The US Geological Survey (USGS) has started reporting discharge data (in cubic feet per second) from the gage on the South Llano River at Flatrock, near Junction. The gage was installed in 2012 as part of the [Upper Llano River Watershed Protection Plan](#).

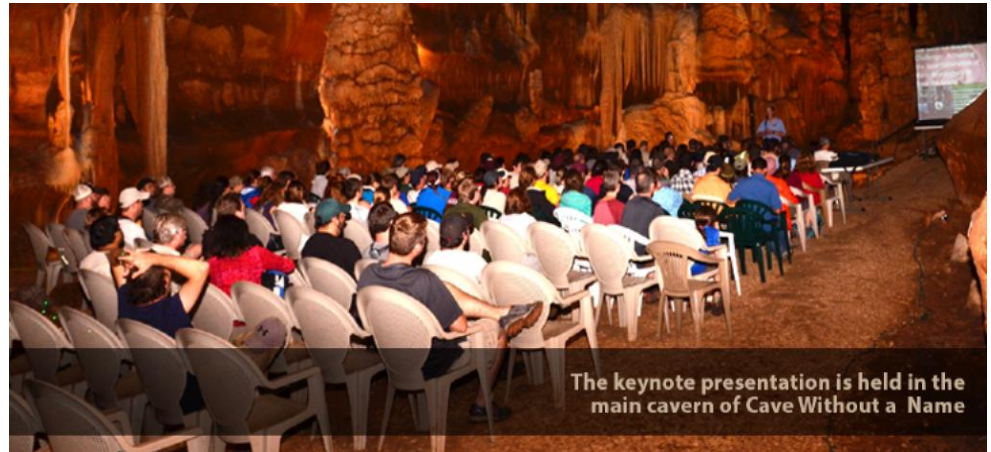
Stream gages record the level of the water at 15-minute intervals. Over time, USGS technicians make stream measurements (note the star on the graph) so that water levels can be equated with stream discharge. Here are all [the measurements made at Flat Rock](#). Based on these measurements, USGS now knows that when the gage reads 2.70 feet, the flow is 40 cubic feet per second (cfs).

Due to the drought however, they don't know what the flows will be when the gage reads more than 3.20 feet. Hopefully, that opportunity will happen one day.

You can access this information from the SLWA website.

Now that you know how stream gages work (see pg 2), perhaps you would like to learn how to take a stream discharge measurement. Or perhaps, you would like to learn how tracer testing is done...or do geophysical surveys.

[HERE'S YOUR CHANCE](#)



2014 Farm Bill Guide to Fish & Wildlife Conservation

This guide from the North American Bird Conservation Initiative is a tool to assist wildlife agencies, NGOs, and other conservation partners in implementing Farm Bill conservation programs.

[MORE INFO](#)

Happy Soil and Water Stewardship Week

The Texas Water Resources Institute (TWRI) and Texas A&M Institute of Renewable Natural Resources (IRNR) have partnered with the Association of Texas Soil and Water Conservation Districts, Texas Wildlife Association, Texas State Soil and Water Conservation Board and 13 other organizations to highlight the important connection between voluntary land stewardship and sustaining water availability as part of [Soil and Water Stewardship Week](#),

2015 Lone Star Land Stewards Announced

Each year, Texas Parks and Wildlife (TPWD) honors the conservation efforts of private landowners with the Lone Star Land Steward Awards.

[This year's winner](#) from the Edwards Plateau is the Carpe Diem Ranch in Menard County.

The South Llano Watershed Alliance [received this award in 2013](#).

Award recipients past and present will be honored May 6th at a banquet at the Four Seasons Hotel in Austin. SLWA Board President Znobias Wootan and SLWA Secretary Emily Neiman will be representing the Alliance.



From our Friends at the Hickory

During this past winter, the technician for the Hickory Underground Water Conservation District No. 1 measured water levels in 77 wells in the Hickory District that includes parts of San Saba, McCulloch, and Mason Counties. Since last summer, wells averaged an increase of 0.09 feet. The greatest drop in wells in the Hickory Aquifer was 8.7 feet and the greatest increase was 13.8 feet. Wells in the Marble Falls Aquifer decreased by an average of 1.75 feet, and Ellenburger wells were down an average of 0.63 feet.

[Click here](#) to view maps of these wells