

# Watershed Week in Review

A publication of the  
Llano River Watershed Alliance  
and  
Llano River Field Station

January 19, 2018

## Dredging in Llano

## We have work to do



Photo : Llano News

We have received several inquiries about the City of Llano's dredging of the two water supply reservoirs on the Llano. Here are the laws pertaining to disturbance or removal of sand and gravel in a navigable waterway of the State.

A permit from the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department is required to 'disturb or take' streambed materials from a streambed claimed by the State, ie navigable. However, projects to restore or maintain the capacity of existing public water supplies are exempt from the permit process.

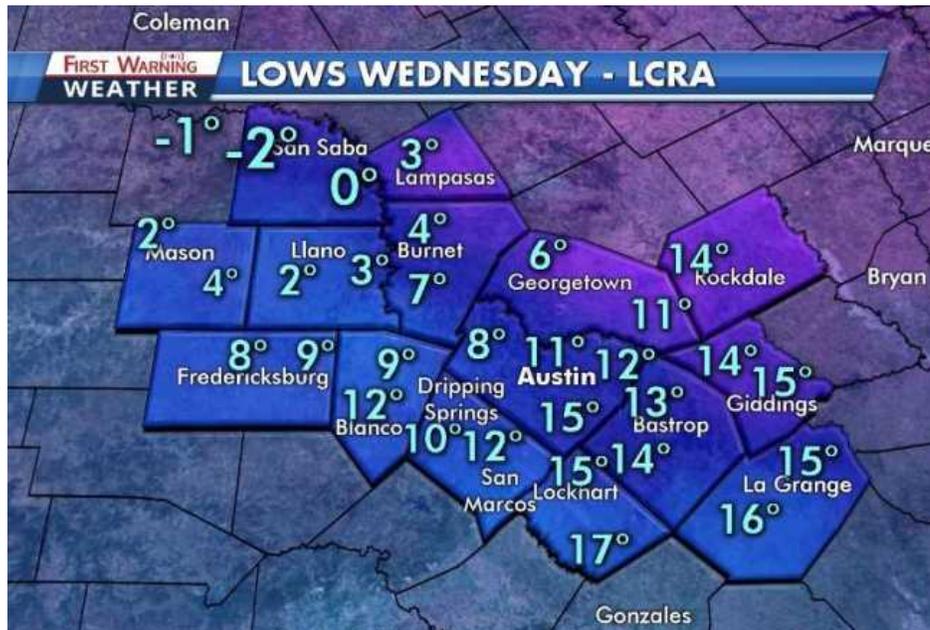
[Read more in Llano News](#)



The Llano River Field Station and Llano River Watershed Alliance spend a lot of effort educating landowners about the importance of maintaining a healthy riparian environment to filter pollutants, prevent erosion, reduce flood impact, and improve aquatic habitat.

This is an example of what is not recommended.

## Cold Snap



Parts of the watershed saw temperatures in the single digits on Wednesday morning. Below zero temperatures were recorded in San Saba and McCulloch counties.

These are not the lowest temperatures ever recorded, but close. Mason recorded 4 degrees; the recorded record is 3 degrees in both 1983 and 1985. Llano recorded 2 degrees; the record is minus 7, recorded in 1929.

On the other hand, Junction was a balmy 23 due to overnight cloud cover.



Photo : Dennis Taylor CBS News

## Radium and Hill Country Water Supplies

A recent [national news report](#) focused on Brady, Texas and the problems it has with radium – a naturally occurring chemical element – and its water supply.

The Llano River Watershed community of Mason has also faced challenges with radium and the wells that supply the City. In his *Mason News* weekly column, “City Corner”, Mason Mayor Brent Hinckley discusses the City’s efforts to address this challenge and how they differ from the problems mentioned in Brady...

I was rather surprised last week to see a news story from CBS News highlighting the issues regarding Radium in the Public Drinking Water systems throughout our country. This is an issue, as was reported, for a majority of the municipal and private public water systems nationwide, however the article highlighted the fact that Texas leads the nation in this problem. In addition, it quoted the Mayor and citizens of Brady, just up the road, about their high levels of radium and the cost and complexity of correcting the contamination. Since I was not in any way contacted for this article, and our City Administrator has commented to only a few regional news sources since the original article, I would like to assure our residents that the situation in Mason is considerably different than what is currently reported as a problem in some of our neighboring communities. We all are impacted by the naturally occurring radionuclides that are in our soil, subsurface rocks and in our groundwater but there are distinct differences in how it affects our water and how we are each moving towards treating that problem.

[more from Mayor Hinckley...](#)

## TTU Outdoor School Volunteer Workshop

**Texas Tech University Outdoor School**  
**\*\* Volunteer Workshop \*\***  
**February 3, 2018**  
**10am - 1pm**

**Texas Tech University Outdoor School (OS) is holding a \*\* Volunteer Workshop, Saturday, February 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2018... 10a- 1pm.\*\*** We'll tour the campus, discuss classes offered at the Outdoor School, share various ways Volunteers assist with programs, go over the upcoming Calendar Of Events, then have lunch (on us).

As an **OS Volunteer**, you will assist the OS Instructors with educational activities based on STEM curricula. This includes indoor and outside classrooms, field trips, workshops, community outreach, and summer camps. This also includes helping restore and maintaining trails, as well as working in the Native Prairie Garden. By doing this you will be helping hundreds of students learn about plants, birds, trees, wildlife, soil, recycling, geology, energy, rivers, streams, riparian areas, the dark sky, plus much more.

It is going to be a GREAT Spring and Summer at the OS. If you *and/or* your friends are interested in making sure our next generation of kids get to enjoy and respect the Great Outdoors like we do, come on out and help us teach them while having fun! ☺

**Location:** **Texas Tech University Outdoor School** / 254 Red Raider Lane / Junction, TX. 76849

**Date/Time/Room:** **February 3, 2018** (Saturday) / **10am - 1pm** / **Academic Bldg.**

**RSVP:** So that we can prepare correctly, please let us know by February 1, 2018, that you will be joining us. Send an e-mail to [outdoorschool.junction@ttu.edu](mailto:outdoorschool.junction@ttu.edu).

**Project Code:** KM-01-B



### Finding Common Ground and Advancing Positive Conservation Outcomes in Environmental Issues: Part

As Master Naturalists, the Code of Conduct and Code of Ethics insure the ultimate trust, dignity and integrity of the TMN Program and its members. But do these codes limit or enhance a member's ability to be effective ambassadors for environmental concerns? Craig contends that adherence to those Codes enhance the ability to be effective communicators, and provide an alternative to the toxic nature of political discourse in our society. [Learn more](#)



**Monthly Meeting**  
**>> Monday, 22**  
**January**

## Weekend Programs at South Llano River State Park



Life's better outside.®



Like us on Facebook!  
Facebook.com/SouthLlanoRiver

**Family Park Programs**  
South Llano River State Park  
Phone: (325) 446-3994



### Bird Walk

Sunday, January 21st, 9:00 am - 10:00 am  
Meet at the Fawn Trail parking lot  
(behind Park Headquarters)

South Llano River State Park is a great place to go birdwatching. Join us and see what you can spot! We will walk to the bird blind and see what birds come in to bathe, drink, or feed. Good walking shoes and drinking water are recommended, and dress for the weather! Binoculars provided, or bring your own. All ages and skill levels welcome!

Native Plant Society of  
Texas – Fredericksburg  
January 23, 2018

### Fredericksburg Chapter

Native Plant Society of Texas



#### *Fredericksburg NPSOT Chapter January Meeting Notice*

**Date:** January 23, 6:30p Social – 7pm Presentation

**Where:** Fellowship Hall, Presbyterian Memorial Church, 601 North Milam Ave, FBG

**Speaker:** Dr. Hans Landel , Invasive Species Program Coordinator  
Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center

**Topic: Combating Invasive Species Affecting Your Native Habitats**

Program is free and open to the Public.