

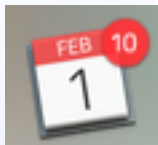
# Watershed Week in Review

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

February 2, 2018

## Restoration Underway

### Get Out Your Calendars



Spring is just around the corner and you know what that means for the Texas Hill Country.

### LOTS OF EVENTS!

In this Week's Newsletter, you can learn about a volunteer opportunity this weekend at the Field Station as well as a Star Party and Bird Walk at South Llano River State Park. Coming up, Keep Texas Waterways Clean – Llano event, the Llano Earth Art Festival, and the South Llano River State Park Birding Festival.



The Llano River Field Station and Llano River Watershed Alliance are partnering on a riparian restoration demonstration project at the Field Station. Several enclosures (similar to the existing one across the South Llano-see inset) of different sizes will be constructed in the riparian zone to study vegetative recruitment without browsing pressure from deer and axis. This enclosure, the largest, is to be 500 x 500 feet. Stay tuned for progress.

## Mason High School Earns Rainwater Grant



*From Hill Country Alliance*

Members of the Pioneers Youth Leadership class at Mason High School recently received a \$3,000 Rainwater Revival Grant from Hill Country Alliance to install a 40,000 gallon rainwater catchment system developed by the students to irrigate the school's practice fields. It is estimated that the project will reduce demand on the community's potable water system by 1 million gallons per year.

[Read more from HCA](#)

## Texas Landowner's Guide to the Endangered Species Act



Do you have questions about exactly what the Endangered Species Act is and how it applies to you as a private landowner? Well, Texas A&M AgriLife Extension has a Fact Sheet for you.

Listing an animal or plant as "threatened" or "endangered" under federal law can impact the lives of landowners, ranchers, and farmers. Unlike states where much of the land is publicly owned, Texas is roughly 97 percent privately owned. For this reason, successful conservation efforts in Texas require private landowners and government agencies to work together.

The preservation of plants and animals in peril of disappearing is a concept many Texans support. The Endangered Species Act (hereafter ESA), however, can lead to worry among landowners affected by its provisions. Most agricultural producers are dedicated stewards of the land, but some do not fully understand the ESA and its potential effect on them. This can lead to animosity, suspicion, and a failure to achieve conservation goals.

The increasing number of species protected under ESA has been cause for concern among Texas landowners and agricultural producers. Early on, the ESA provided few options for protecting traditional land use practices. Today, however, options exist that allow landowners to continue the same land management practices that have made their property a haven for these imperiled animals...[continue reading](#)



## 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



## 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



### Star Party

Saturday, February 3rd, 6:00 pm - 8:00 pm  
Held at the Walk-in Campground parking lot  
(park at overflow lot across from campsites 18 and 20)

Join Mason Stargazers, volunteers, and park staff for a special evening! We'll discover how different people have seen stories in the stars for thousands of years, we'll find our own way around the night sky, and we'll look through telescopes at celestial objects. We'll also find out what the park is doing to protect its dark skies for people and wildlife. Bring a lawn chair and a red light flashlight if you have one. All ages welcome!



### Buck Lake Trail Nature Walk

Sunday, February 4th, 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, named for the family who donated the land for the state park, and the lesser-known Green Lake as well. We'll keep an eye out for all kinds of wildlife and nature!

Bring binoculars if you like. Loaner binoculars will also be available. This easy trail is approximately 1.25 miles round-trip. There is one steep but short hill, and the rest of the dirt path is fairly level. Good walking shoes and drinking water are recommended. All ages welcome!

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

MAR  
3**Keep Texas Waterways Clean-Llano**

Public • Hosted by Keep Llano Beautiful and Llano, Tx Chamber of Commerce

🕒 Saturday, March 3 at 8 AM - 11 AM

📍 300 Legion Drive Llano, TX 78643

The Keep Texas Waterways Clean program provides support and supplies for waterway cleanups across Texas. This program is open to ALL affiliate and non-affiliate communities located within 30 miles of an H-E-B or Central Market store location.



*Held on the banks of the Llano River- one block from Llano's historic downtown- the Llano Earth Art Fest (LEAF) is an interactive experience for young and old alike. Watch internationally renowned artists defy gravity with amazingly balanced rock sculptures. Listen to great musicians fill the park with song. Try your hand at rock balancing or see if you've got what it takes to compete in the 2018 World Rock Stacking Championship. For kids there are plenty of activities, including a climbing wall, face painting, and more. Adults can enjoy a cold beer while taking part in workshops, viewing and creating art, or just relaxing in the sun.*



## Something New in the Watershed

JUNCTION – South Llano River State Park is excited to announce its First Annual Birding Festival, sponsored by the Friends of South Llano River State Park, to be held Friday, April 27 through Sunday, April 29<sup>th</sup>, 2018.

The Festival will feature guided bird walks, including Golden-cheeked Warbler walks and Birding the Riparian, and will also offer guided photography sessions in the park's four popular bird blinds. On Saturday afternoon, the festival will offer a live birds of prey presentation by Last Chance Forever, a Bird Call presentation by a young birder, a Beginners' Bird Walk, and vendor and information tables. Sunday morning will include more bird walks, and a Big Sit! as part of the Great Texas Birding Classic.

More than 250 species of birds have been observed at the park, including sought-after species such as the Golden-cheeked Warbler and Black-capped Vireo, both federally endangered birds which nest in the park. "We are so excited to showcase the terrific birding at our park and its beautiful bird blinds during one of the busiest bird migration weekends of the year," says Park Interpreter Holly Platz. "The park is very unique for birding, because it offers such varied habitat."

During the Festival, guided walks will offer participants a chance at spotting new bird species for their lists, and ample "free time" between walks and presentations will provide visitors with a chance to enjoy the park's popular bird blinds, each meticulously cared for by park volunteers and staff. "We hope that bringing a festival like this to the park and the city of Junction will highlight the area's biodiversity," says Park Superintendent Scott Whitener. "Birding along the South Llano River is top notch and attracts visitors from all over the world."

Festival registration is \$65 per person, with a maximum of 80 participants. Registration fees will go towards supporting future birdwatching events at the park. For more information about this event and how to register, please see the Festival's Facebook page at

<http://www.facebook.com/slrspbirdingfestival>, or email [southllanoriverbirdingfestival@gmail.com](mailto:southllanoriverbirdingfestival@gmail.com) for a registration packet.



## Junction, Texas