

OCTOBER 4, 2015

Watershed Week in Review

Llano River Watershed Alliance



Riparian Conditions and the Blanco River Flood

An excellent video from Hill Country Alliance demonstrating how important it is to maintain our riparian habitats, especially when floods occur.

“It is typically best to just leave it natural, cause the natural trees and vegetation are there and have been created by millions of years of evolution of floods and droughts along that stream”

Click here for [5 min video](#)

[15 min video](#)

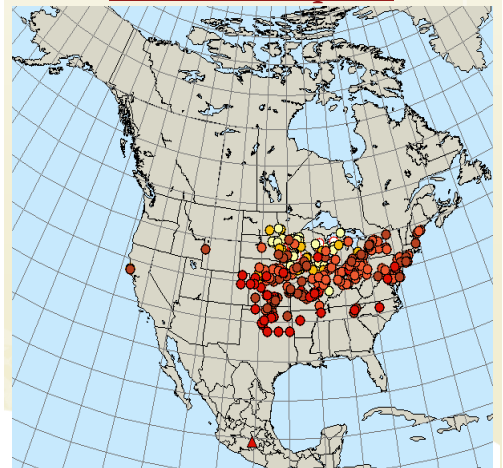
They're almost here!

Last week they were in Oklahoma.

This week they are in North Texas.

We are starting to see a few more monarch butterflies in the area. Quite a few have been spotted at South Llano River State Park. The peak migration, however, is still to our north.

[Follow their path.](#)



More on the Mason Windfarm

MASON, Texas – Adding a wind farm to its Lone Star energy portfolio in the scenic Texas Hill Country is proving to be much tougher than setting up shop on the high Texas plains for **Enel Green Power North America**. Folks in Mason, where construction of the wind project is proposed, believe that wind turbines just don't belong here.



The Italian energy giant has plans for development of the Mason Mountain Wind Project (MMWP) not far from the historic **community of 2,077** that bills itself as “The Gem of the Texas Hill Country.”

[Read more](#)

Octoberfisch returns to Junction for the 12th year October 16-18

The Fredericksburg Fly Fishers Club and TPWD Angler Education hosts their 12th Annual fly fishing festival along the banks of the South Llano River at Junction, October 16-18th at Morgan Shady Park.

The 3 day event includes fly fishing and kayak clinics, seminars and demonstrations, and fishing shuttles. This event is ideal for adults and families with older children.

The Llano River Watershed Alliance will be hosting a booth at the event. Stop by and say hello.

[More info](#)





Alliance Fall Outing on the South Llano River a great success

More than 30 people joined the Llano River Watershed Alliance on their inaugural Fall Outing last Sunday. The trip, on [the South Llano Paddling Trail](#), went from the South Llano River State Park to Flat Rock Crossing in Junction.

Trip participants were joined by researchers from Texas Parks and Wildlife, Llano River Field Station-Texas Tech Junction and the University of Texas and learned, among other things, how bridge design can affect

sedimentation and fish passage (see below).

Participants, who came from Dripping Springs, San Marcos, Llano, Mason, Junction, and Rocksprings, also got to see the ruins of the old 4 mile dam and learn about ways to protect riparian habitat, prevent bank erosion and control invasive species.

A special thank you to our friends at [South Llano River State Park](#) for providing an entrance fee waiver for trip participants.



A Tale of Two Bridges

Two bridges across the South Llano River, two different impacts.

The one above was built in 1985 at the South Llano River State Park; the bridge below was built in 2011 at Flatrock Crossing near Junction.

The bridge above not only impedes fish passage, it impedes the velocity of the river, reducing its ability to carry sediment, resulting in a significant changes to the channel. The one at right allows for both fish and sediment to pass freely. It also, according to last Sunday's outing participants, makes for a great echo.

The bridge above is scheduled for replacement in 2017.

Llano River Watershed Alliance Fall Outing



One of our Mason Participants

Winners of our "Fullest Trash Bag" Prize went to Griffin and Aaralyn Julian of San Marcos and Wendell Epperson of Rocksprings. They each received a packet of Seed Mix, courtesy of Native American Seed.



Leave it in place.
Large Woody Debris is an important component of streambank protection



Thanks to Edwards Co. Commissioner William Epperson for joining us.



The Takeout
Photo courtesy of Tony Plutino