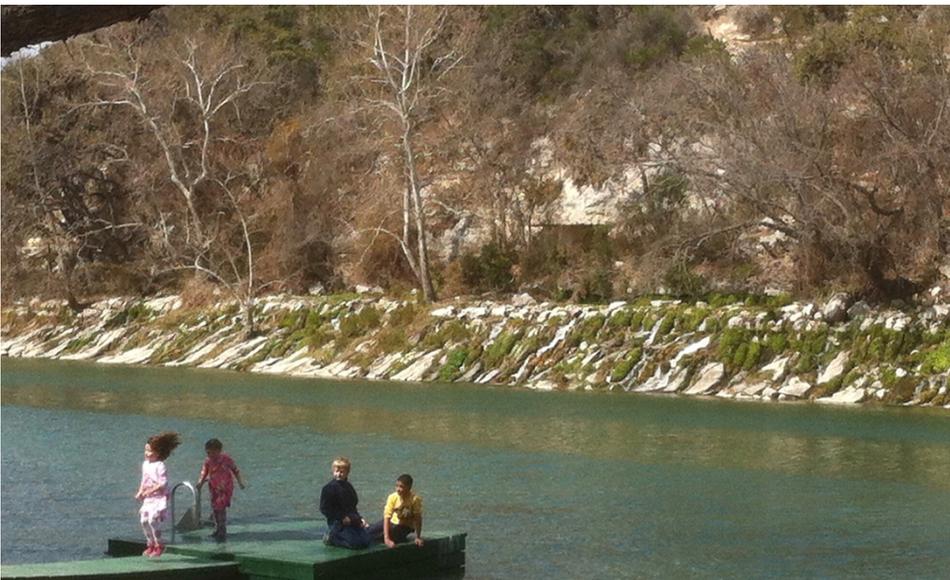


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Watershed Week in Review

Llano River Watershed Alliance

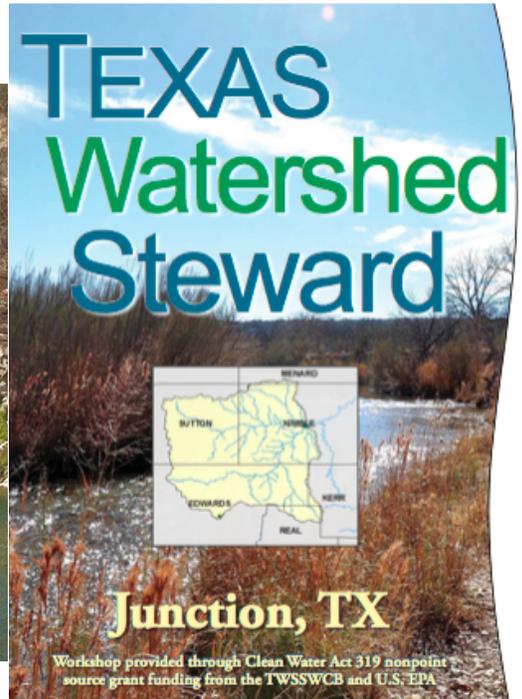
700 Springs Tour Tomorrow



*From Frederica Wyatt
Kimble County Historical Commission*

Next Saturday morning, April 29, at 10:00 o'clock, a motorcade is scheduled to leave the Courthouse in Junction for the 20-mile drive to the site known as Seven Hundred Springs (Highway 377, S). We hope you will join us for the day's outing made possible by the Springs' owner, Lee Pfluger. The Courthouse bathrooms will be open for your convenience before we leave Junction. There is no admission charge; however, we accept free-will donations to benefit the local historical museum.

...more on page 2



When: May 6, 8:30 am-
12:30 pm

Where: Llano River Field
Station, Texas Tech-
Junction

CEUs Available

more info page 3

more info...700 Springs Tour

You may need a light wrap or sweater, as the Springs' area can be a bit chilly. Bring a sack lunch and bottled water. We do have a few rules – **no swimming or fishing**. Children must be accompanied and supervised by an adult. We discourage bringing pets, but if that is necessary, they must be on a leash. Parking is in a designated area. Cameras are allowed. You must wait for the lead car before entering the Springs property.



The program will consist of a history of the Springs and its environs, and renowned geologist Peter Rose will give an insight into how the Springs began. Pete will also tell of the outlaw era along the South Llano River and beyond. If you have further questions, please feel free to call me or my sister @ 325-446-2477.

Axis Deer and the Upper Llano Watershed

James Murr – Junction Eagle
Reprinted with permission

A public meeting was held on April 6 at the Texas Tech University (TTU) Center in Junction to review a project that will be undertaken on the management of non-native, free-ranging Axis deer and their effects on the riparian habitats of the Upper Llano River Watershed, which includes the valleys of the North and South Llano Rivers. Over 25 persons attended the meeting. TTU is seeking landowners and other parties to participate in the project.

The TTU-funded project flows – no pun intended – from the Upper Llano River Watershed Protection Plan (the Plan) that was developed by local stakeholders. The Plan is intended to address proactively the threats to the Upper Llano through “strategies to restore and/or protect the quantity and quality of surface water and groundwater resources through voluntary, non-regulatory watershed management strategies.”

One of eight proposals in the Plan is to increase the number of ranches with wildlife management plans by a least two annually, particularly in critically important riparian areas, which is the area of interface between land and a river or stream. Riparian areas are critically important components of ecosystems that support very diverse and interrelated plants and animal life.

[More about the research and meeting](#)

Texas Watershed Steward Workshop – May 6th in Junction

JUNCTION – A Texas Watershed Steward workshop on water quality related to the Upper Llano River watershed will be presented from 8:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m. May 6 at the Llano River Field Station, 254 Red Raider Lane in Junction.

The workshop is free and open to anyone interested in improving water quality in the region. Participants are encouraged to preregister at the Texas Watershed Steward website at <http://tw.s.tamu.edu>.



Program presenters are the Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service and the Texas State Soil and Water Conservation Board in cooperation with the Llano River Field Station and Upper Llano Watershed Coordination Committee. Light refreshments will be provided.

This workshop is designed to help watershed residents improve and protect their water resources by becoming involved in Llano River watershed protection and management activities,” said Michael Kuitu, College Station, AgriLife Extension program specialist and coordinator for the Texas Watershed Steward program.

The workshop will include a discussion of watershed systems, types and sources of water pollution, and ways to improve and protect water quality. There also will be a group discussion on community-driven watershed protection and management.

For more information on the Texas Watershed Steward program go to <http://tw.s.tamu.edu> or contact Kuitu at 979-862-4457, mkuitu@tamu.edu or Silvers at 325-446-2620, gssilvers@ag.tamu.edu.

[read more](#)

Water Well Testing in Junction – May 9th

Don't assume that the well water you drink is OK!

...from the Upper Llano River Watershed Protection Plan... In June of 2013, 46 wells in Kimble County were screened as part of the Texas Well Owner Network and water screening. Of the wells, 63% tested positive for total coliform and 13% tested for positive for *E.coli*. Similar screenings by the local groundwater district in 2014 showed 23% (35 wells) testing positive for *E. coli* and 14% for nitrates. In 2015, 15% (34 wells) tested positive for *E. coli* and 9% for nitrates.

When Have You Tested Your Private Water Well?

Private Water Wells should be tested annually. Kimble County Groundwater Conservation District and the Real-Edwards Water Conservation and Reclamation District are sponsoring a water well screening day for area residents on Tuesday, May 9, at the Kimble County Courthouse. Samples must be turned in on the morning of May 9 by 10:00 a.m. and will be run that day.

This well screening day is designed to inform private water well owners and users on the condition of their well water of possible contamination from common contaminants. These contaminants are fecal coliform, salinity and nitrate. The cost is \$5 per sample.

The presence of fecal coliform in water indicates that feces (bodily waste from humans or animals) may have contaminated the water. Water contaminated with feces have microorganisms present that can cause a number of "waterborne" diseases such as cholera, typhoid, and dysentery.

Nitrates in ground water at levels of 10 milligrams per liter mg/L or parts per million) is considered unsafe for human consumption. Nitrate levels above 10 mg/L can disrupt the blood's ability to carry oxygen throughout the body. Nitrate is converted to nitrite which combines with hemoglobin, the chemical that carries oxygen in the blood, to form methemoglobin. Oxygen can not bind with methemoglobin, therefore, oxygen is not carried throughout the body. As a result, oxygen starvation occurs. This condition is called methemoglobinemia. If left untreated, death may result. Infants less that six months in age and young livestock are most susceptible.

Salinity in the form of Total Dissolved Solids (TDS) will also be determined on each sample.

You will need to pick up a sample bag and instructions from the Kimble County Groundwater Conservation District office. You can contact the Kimble County Groundwater Conservation District Office by calling 325-446-4826 to receive an approved water sampling bag and instructions for taking your well water sample. It is very important that only sampling bags from the Water District Office be used and all instructions for proper sampling followed to insure accurate results.

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