

WATERSHED WEEK IN REVIEW



700 Springs Tour Tomorrow



The Kimble County Historical Commission announced that Lee Pfluger has once again graciously invited the general public to his 700 Springs Ranch on **Saturday, April 27, 2019.**

As in previous years, meet at the **Kimble County Courthouse in Junction** at 10am to caravan to the 21 miles to the springs. There is no charge, but donations to the Kimble Country Museum Building Fund are appreciated. Bring a lunch and a chair!

What do you See?



Photo : Texas Parks and Wildlife

Look closely for a long-lost friend who is beginning to reappear at Mason Mountain Wildlife Management Area northeast of Mason.

See page 2 for more info...

Horned Lizard Reintroduction



Photo : Texas Parks and Wildlife

From Mason Mountain Facebook page...

Good things come to those who wait!

We mentioned recently that when we visited with our partners at the Fort Worth Zoo we found that all of their captive Texas Horned Lizards

were already awake after their winter nap.

That got us motivated to spend more time looking for the lizards that we released last year. After several days of no success, just when expectations began to fall, we found some!

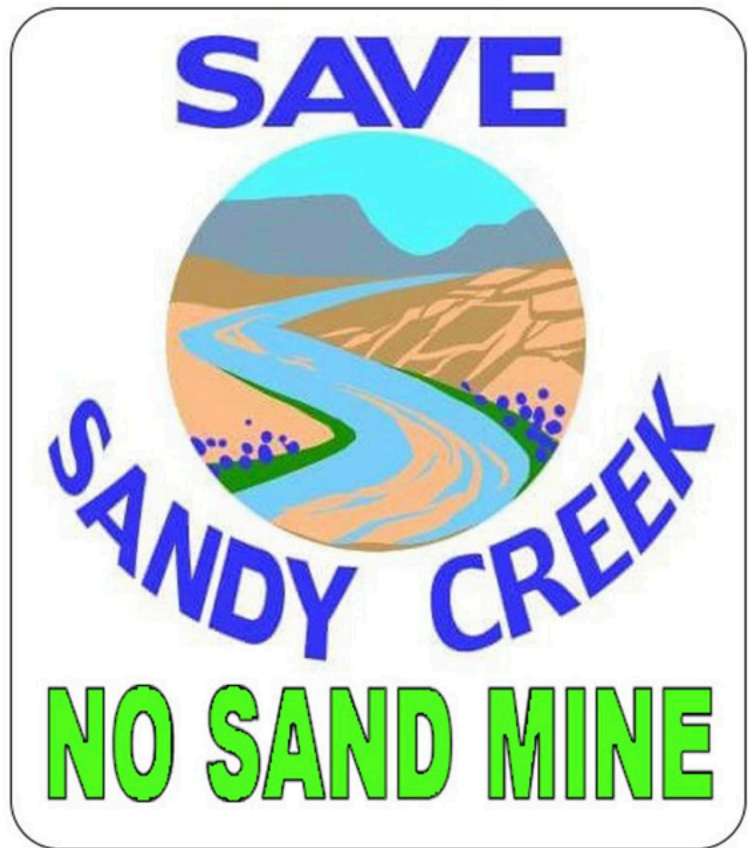
Those who have been following along for a while might remember that we tagged 10 of the little lizards that we released last year and we had a pretty good idea where 5 of them were when they dug in for the winter.

Last Friday we found 3 small lizards and we are pretty darned sure that they are some of the ones that we had tagged last year.

Even if we don't find any of the others, this suggests that 30% of them may still be out there somewhere. We haven't seen any sign of the other lizards yet, but we'll keep looking!

Sandy Creek Update

Since last summer, residents along Sandy Creek, just east of the Llano River watershed, have been opposing a proposed sand mine in the Creek. Because the proposed mining operation is in a navigable waterway, a permit is required from Texas Parks and Wildlife (TPWD). According to [this article from The Highlander](#), the proposed operation 'failed to meet the criteria set by TPWD', essentially halting the operation as proposed.



10,000 years of deposition

TxDOT is proposing to construct new bridges at Schneider and White's Crossings of the Llano.



As is customary, archaeologists survey an area pre-construction.

This dig at White's Crossing (south end) found evidence of a 10,000 year-old civilization ago now buried under 8-10 feet of river deposits.

Come Fly with Us

In December of last year, the Alliance had the opportunity to help Texas Parks and Wildlife (TPWD) analyze

the impacts of the Fall Floods on the Llano and South Llano rivers from a TPWD helicopter. The flight was recorded using a GoPro camera mounted on the skid of the helicopter. Part 1 of this footage, from the City of Llano downstream to Lake LBJ, is now available for viewing on the Alliance YouTube Channel. Additional footage will be uploaded in the coming weeks. [View!](#)



Llano to Lake LBJ Post October 2018 Flood

Unusual Vantage



This shot, taken from the top of Martin's Bluff in Mason County, shows a professional rock climber rescuing a drone. The drone experienced tracking loss while filming a segment of Hooked on Wild Waters last week and crashed on a ledge. Permission to descend the cliff was obtained from the landowners.

Ethan West Continues toward Matagorda

Ethan West continues to paddle towards Matagorda Bay. After starting on the South Llano River above Telegraph on April 1, Ethan is now nearing Wharton. He has less than 100 miles left on his 547-mile adventure.

[Follow Ethan Here.](#)



Mexican Needlegrass Continues to Plague Landowners in the Watershed

Mexican Feathergrass' was first identified in Kimble County in 1950. Its spread into the pastures and riparian zones of the Llano continues to be a growing problem. Texas AgriLife has released some information on recommended ways to control this aggressive plant.



Volunteers remove Mexican Needlegrass at South Llano River State Park.



Urban Stream Restoration Training – Junction Area

May 7, 2019 | 8:30 am - 4:00 pm

Llano River Field Station
254 Red Raider Ln,
Junction, TX 76849 ([Map](#))

Information including the hydrologic cycle, basics to stream morphology, stream classification, stream instability, stream restoration, stabilization structure, vegetation, and monitoring and evaluation will be explained through classroom-style teaching in the morning session, and hands-on activities in the field at a nearby stream in the afternoon sessions. Participants will receive a certificate of completion at the end of the training.

Registration is limited to the first 40 people. Cost is \$100 and includes all training materials, lunch, and a certificate of completion at the end of the course. Registration is required by May 2, 2019. Register online at <http://texasriparian.org/restoration-training/restoration-trainings-schedule/>, or by email to clare.entwistle@ag.tamu.edu. Lunch will be provided but participants may bring their own. Dress is casual and comfortable; hip boots/waders are required for the hands on field assessment, as we will be in the creek in the afternoon.

Continuing Education Units Available:

- Texas Water Resources Institute – 1 CEU
- Texas Nutrient Management Planning Specialists – 6 hours
- Texas Floodplain Management Association – 6 CECs
- Certified Crop Advisor — 7 CEUs (Nutrient Mgmt.: 1, Soil & Water: 2.5, IPM: 1, Sustainability: 2.5)
- Texas Board of Architectural Examiners "Acceptable for HSW credit"
- The program may also be used for CEUs for Professional Engineers.
- Check with your Chapter for Master Naturalist and Master Gardener to see if it is approved for your area.



Life's better outside.
PROUD PARTNER



Funding provided through a Clean Water Act Section 319(h) nonpoint source grant from the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality and U.S. Environmental Protection Agency.