

AUGUST 17, 2018

Watershed Week in Review

A Publication of
Llano River Watershed Alliance and
Llano River Field Station



Photo – Robert Stubblefield

*Do you own property along the river?
Would you like to earn some extra income?*

Come learn about the Texas Parks & Wildlife Department
River Access and Conservation Area Program

AUGUST 23 at 6:30pm

Castell General Store

Burgers and Door Prizes

Come out to the Castell General Store on banks of the
Llano River at Castell, Thursday, August 23rd at 6:30 to
learn more about a new opportunity for landowners...and
enjoy some great food. *You don't have to be a landowner to
attend!*

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The Great Crawfish Rescue

With flow conditions on the
North Llano at 0 cfs, Alliance
member Andrew Burnard set out
to rescue some crawfish that
were trapped in a receding pool.
He rescued more than 'some'.

Read his story on page 4



Come to Castell to learn about RACA



Photo – Castell General Store

Texas Parks and Wildlife Department's **River Access and Conservation Area (RACA)** program aims to increase sustainable fishing and paddling access to rivers and streams across private lands. This partnership between local landowners, TPWD and cooperating organizations will allow Texans to more fully enjoy the natural beauty that our local rivers have to offer and riverside **landowners an opportunity to earn extra monthly income.**

The Llano River Watershed Alliance is partnering with Texas Parks and Wildlife Department (TPWD) to host an informational program about the new RACA program. The program offers generous monthly payments to landowners who lease a portion of their land to TPWD for fishing and boating access. Lease agreements allow the landowner to set special conditions (types of use, period of time) for the use of the land.

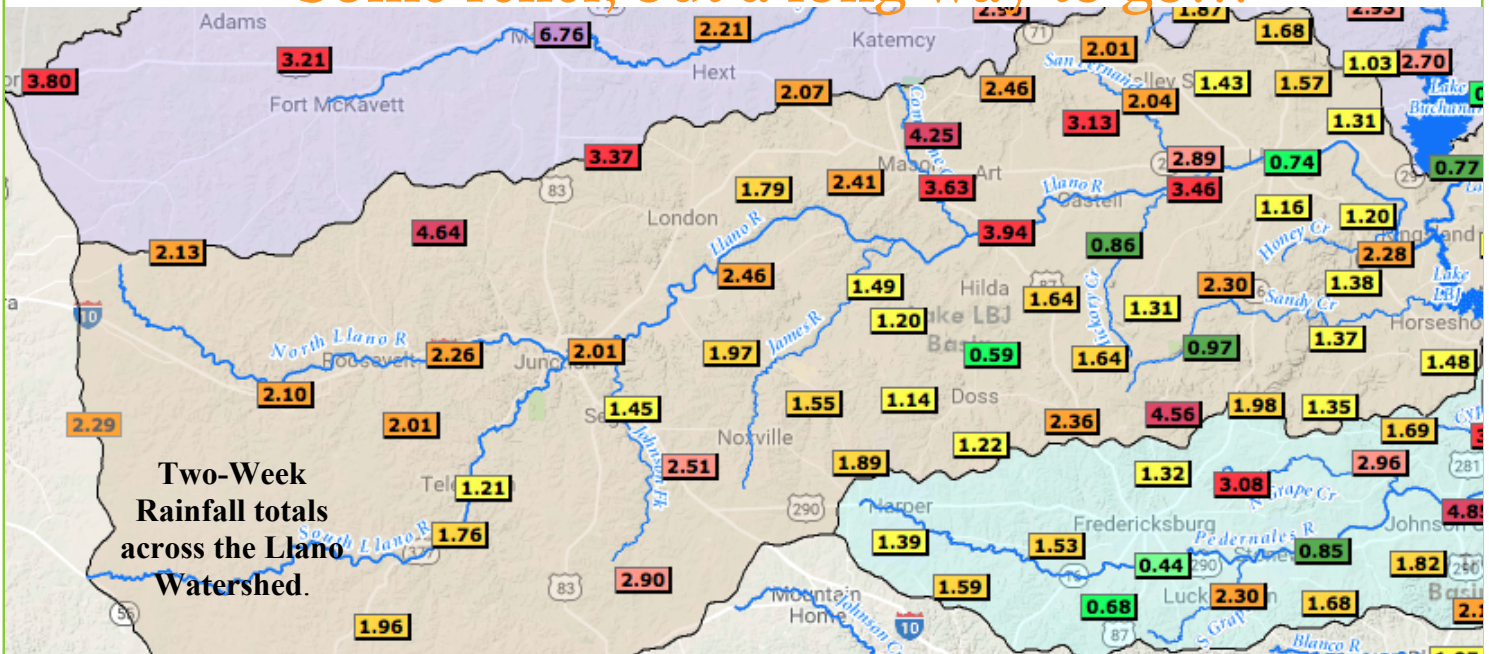
TPWD personnel as well as current RACA program participants will be on hand to answer questions. **Burgers from Castell General Store will be provided** and generous door prizes will be awarded.

For more information about the event and the RACA program, visit llanoriver.org or contact Tyson Broad at (325) 248-3137.



This NXT Series Fly Rod with Reel and Case will be one of the Door Prizes given away next Thursday in Castell.

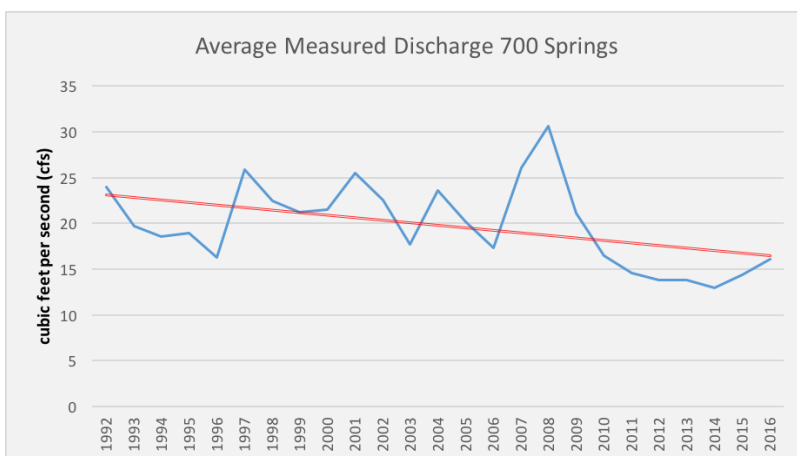
Some relief, but a long way to go...



The rainfall over the past two weeks has certainly helped what was becoming a dire situation. The Llano River @ Llano Monday morning was flowing at 177 cfs after being at near zero for five days and below 1 cfs for 16 days. The river is currently flowing at 47 cfs.

Unfortunately, we still have a long way to go. Because the heaviest rains fell in the lower part of the basin where the rocks are primarily igneous and metamorphic and impermeable, flows will continue to drop barring additional rain. But even if the heaviest rains had fallen in the more permeable sedimentary rocks of the upper watershed, they would have only made a minor dent in the aquifer deficit.

Up until 2016, the US Geological Survey took about 4-6 discharge measurements a year at 700 Springs (they have recently renewed these measurements). These measurements help tell the story about how much water is in the aquifer that feeds these and other Llano springs. The annual average discharge between 1992 and 2016 is displayed in the graph below. A trend line is depicted in red.



2007 was a very wet year and 700 Springs flowed at their highest levels in recent years. The aquifer was very full and these flows helped sustain the river during drought that followed. However, the aquifer has not been refilled since that time. Consequently, there are few reserves to sustain flows during these current dry periods.

The Great Crawfish Rescue

Story and Photos submitted by Andrew Burnard

What was a rapid to paddle down is now a deep hole. Even with the nice rain we have had this past weekend, the water level is still going down. On my daily paddle, I have been getting out and walking a section of the river. I noticed all these crawfish unable to climb out of this hole. They had a high bank on one side and a 4-foot rock bank on the other side.

The original plan was trap them all Saturday night and release them down the river in a deeper section on Sunday morning. Come Sunday, I had trapped hundreds, but many more remained. I realized this was going to take many more trips. So twice a day for 5 days I moved crawfish. In total, I estimate I moved about 2,500 crawfish about a half-mile down the river.

Being a landowner on the North Llano, I'm trying hard to do as much as I can to better my land and well as my little section of river. I have plenty to keep me busy for the next 30 years.



EDITOR'S NOTE:
Have a river or
stewardship story to
share? Pass it along.
Thanks Andrew!