

# Watershed Week

## in Review

February 17, 2017



### What do you think about groundwater?

Dr. Joni Charles, an Associate Professor of Economics at Texas State University, is conducting a research study to assess public perceptions of groundwater and groundwater management. The long-term abundance and quality of groundwater depends on the perceptions, knowledge and actions by residents of the watershed, and on actions taken to protect its groundwater. You are being asked to complete this survey because you are a resident within a watershed.

[Learn more about the survey](#)

### Dark Skies Designation for South Llano River State Park



The Milky Way sets over South Llano River State Park in Texas, U.S. Photo by Carolyn Whiteside (impressionspics.com).

Nestled just off Interstate 10 on the western edge of the Texas Hill Country is the International Dark-Sky Association's newest appointee – [South Llano River State Park](#), located just outside of the city of Junction. The International Dark Sky Park designation will ensure the protection of the park's dark skies not only for the park's natural resources, but also for the local community and out-of-town visitors to enjoy.

"Today's designation of South Llano River State in pursuit of dark skies and quality outdoor lighting we hope others in Texas and around the world will look toward for inspiration. We're excited to welcome South Llano River into the Dark Sky Park family, and we look forward to a long and productive working relationship with the park."

[read more](#)

## 700 Springs Tour



The Kimble County Historical Commission announced that Mr. Lee Pfluger has once again graciously invited the general public to 700 Springs Ranch on Saturday, April 29<sup>st</sup>, 2017.

Details forthcoming in future newsletters.



Twin Buttes Reservoir south of San Angelo is still nowhere near capacity. It is currently estimated to be 12.2 percent full.

## Are there lingering effects of drought?

Micke Mecke | Ranch & Rural Living

Most of Texas has been blessed with average or above average rainfall for the past year or more!

It is not uncommon to hear your TV weather folks say "The drought in Texas is over," and often that is echoed in the local coffee shops or by groups of weathered ranchers talking happily about the latest rain.

But, looking back at the number of drought years and exceptionally hot years we have had

in the past seven or eight years, I have been suspicious of what effects still linger on in Texas. Growing up in the 1950s drought left me cautious and suspicious of a good year or two completely curing a long-term problem. Advising and planning with ranchers and farmers for the next 40 years in Texas, New Mexico, Arizona and Wyoming and going through several other shorter periods of severe drought made me want to check more than my rain gage and records.

[More from Mecke...](#)



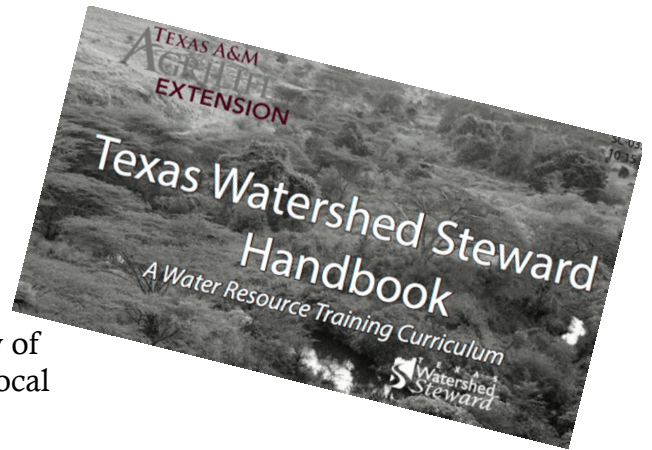
## Watershed Steward Program

May 6<sup>th</sup> - Junction

The Texas Watershed Steward Program will be returning to Junction on May 6<sup>th</sup> from 8:30 to 12:30 at the Llano River Field Station.

The Watershed Steward program is a statewide educational program designed to improve the quality of Texas' water resources by educating and informing local stakeholders about their watershed.

The program is sponsored by Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service, Texas State Soil and Water Conservation Board, and the Llano River Field Station in conjunction with the recently approved Upper Llano River Watershed Protection Plan.



[For more information and to register...](#)

Llano Earth Art Fest returns March 10-13

# LLANO EARTH ART FEST

March 10-13, 2017

Grenwelge Park, Llano, TX

TICKETS \$5 ADVANCE/\$10 GATE

[Click here for more info](#)



## Family Fun Events this weekend at South Llano River State Park



Life's better outside.®



Like us on Facebook!  
[Facebook.com/SouthLlanoRiver](https://www.facebook.com/SouthLlanoRiver)

### Family Park Programs

South Llano River State Park

Phone: (325) 446-3994



#### Buck Lake Trail Nature Walk

Saturday, February 18th, 12:30 pm - 2:00 pm

Meet at the Acorn Blind

(down the path from the restrooms, between campsites 39 and 41)

Join us for a hike in the pecan and hardwood forest. We'll walk past beautiful Buck Lake, named for the family who donated the land for the state park, and we'll keep an eye out for deer, birds, and other wildlife! 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. Wear good walking shoes and bring drinking water, and dress for the weather! All ages welcome.

#### Geocaching 101

Saturday, February 18th, 3:00 pm - 4:00 pm

Meet at the Walk-in Campground parking lot



Join us for Geocaching, a high-tech treasure hunt you can do anywhere in the world using a GPS unit or your smartphone! Loaner GPS units will be provided for this activity. Good walking shoes and drinking water are recommended. All ages and skill levels welcome!

#### Plants and People!

Sunday, February 19th, 10:00 am - 11:00 am

Meet at the Fawn Trail parking lot  
(behind Park Headquarters)



Join us for an easy trail walk, as we find out how people in this area have used local plants historically for food, medicine, and more! Good walking shoes and drinking water are recommended, and please dress for the weather.

All ages welcome!

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