

A P R I L 1 , 2 0 1 7

Watershed Week in Review

Llano River Watershed Alliance

The Story of Cedar Beavers

By Steve Nelle

From *Rangelands*
A publication of the University of Arizona

The proliferation of cedar (juniper) over the past 100 years has caused great alarm among the country's land managers. In some areas, cedar invaded grasslands and caused problems. As cedar became thick, forage for livestock was reduced, the value of wildlife habitat was diminished, and the flow of water into aquifers was impaired. Too much cedar where it did not belong hurt both the land and the people who used the land.

Many different ways were devised to control cedar, but most methods had two things in common: cedar control was both expensive and its effectiveness short-lived. No matter how completely it was removed, cedar quickly began to reappear.

In an effort to provide a more cost-effective and long-term control, a certain species of upland beaver was widely introduced. These beavers had a voracious appetite for browse and could actually kill woody plants by their browsing habits. Because old timers had seen them eating cedar, these animals got the nickname cedar beavers.

[continue](#)



Public Meeting Announcement

Texas Tech University Research Project

Ecology and management of free-ranging axis deer and their effects on riparian habitats of the Upper Llano River Watershed



The North and South Llano rivers are used extensively for recreation and as a municipal water supply due to their high quality and reliable flows while also supporting numerous wildlife and plant species. Consequently, the Upper Llano River Watershed Protection Plan was developed to maintain and protect the quality of the rivers and surrounding habitats.

Overabundant axis deer are likely contributing to degradation of water quality and riparian habitats by overgrazing and trampling resulting in erosion into the rivers. Yet, the precise effect of axis deer on riparian habitats, as well as other factors of their ecology remains unknown. A new project being developed and initiated by researchers from Texas Tech University seeks to fill in those knowledge gaps.

To facilitate this work and to provide an opportunity for public input a public meeting will be held at the Texas Tech University Center at Junction on Thursday, April 6th at 6:00 PM.

For more information please contact

Matthew Buchholz, M.S.

Ph.D. Research Assistant

Department of Natural Resources Management

Texas Tech University

806-392-3699 or matthew.buchholz@ttu.edu

Topics to be covered include:

- Introductions of the research team
- An overview of the Upper Llano River Watershed Protect
- Research objectives, methods, and potential implications
- Opportunities for partnerships and collaboration between wildlife professionals, and the public



During April 8-10th, 24 high school teams will arrive in Junction to participate in the Texas Envirothon. Five member teams will answer questions in the field about soils, aquatics, wildlife, forestry, and current issues. Monday morning, each team will deliver 20-minute oral presentations. The winner of the Envirothon competes in the National event in Maryland.

Volunteers are needed as group leaders and station monitors in the field on Sunday and as presentation judges on Monday morning. Training for judges will be provided. No experience is necessary.

Past Envirothon judges all positively comment about this rewarding experience. To volunteer, contact Koy Coffey at TTU-Junction (325) 446-2301

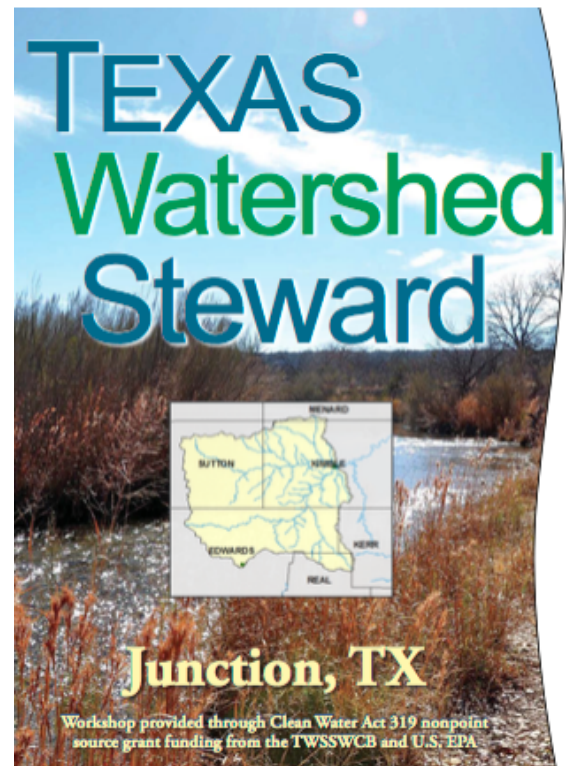
Watershed Steward Program

May 6th - Junction

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

“This workshop is designed to assist watershed residents improve and protect their water resources by becoming involved in Llano River watershed protection and management activities,” said Michael Kuitu, AgriLife Extension program specialist and coordinator for the Texas Watershed Steward program. “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://twss.tamu.edu>.”

For more information and to register...



700 Springs Tour

This year's tour of 700 Springs will be Saturday, **April 29th**.

As in years previous, the tour will begin at the Kimble County Courthouse in Junction at 10am sharp and caravan to the 700 Springs Ranch.



Apply to the Hill Country Chapter Class of 2017



Invitation from Reggie Cox, director 2017 Texas Master Naturalist, Hill Country Chapter training class

Welcome! The Hill Country Chapter's Class of 2017 is accepting applications. Residents of Bandera, Edwards, Gillespie, Kendall, Kerr, Kimble, Mason, Menard, Real, and San Saba counties who want to learn more about the Hill Country and volunteer in our ten-county area are encouraged to apply.

Texas Master Naturalist is a service-oriented organization, if you do not want to volunteer 40 hours per year with any of our 100 approved volunteer projects, please do not apply.

Applications must be received by 30 June. Our training course begins 21 August with our terrific trainee reception at Kerr Arts and Cultural Center in downtown Kerrville. Our educational (and fun) classes occur on Wednesdays beginning 23 August in the Upper Guadalupe River Authority Lecture Hall near downtown Kerrville. Field trips to geologically significant sites, preserves, and wildlife management areas are scheduled. Commencement occurs 15 November with a celebratory Bar-B-Q.

[MORE INFO](#)