

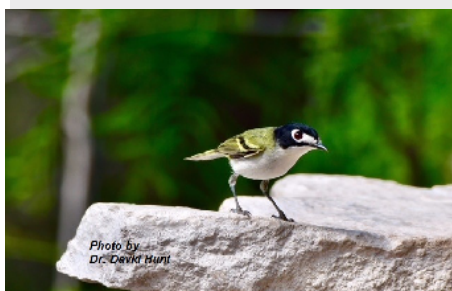
WATERSHED WEEK IN REVIEW



Birding Festival Filling Up

“Every Golden-cheeked Warbler is a native-hatched Texan. This is the only species of bird that we can say this about.”

-Romey Swanson
South Llano River State
Park Birding Festival
Guide



[Request a
Registration Packet
here.](#)

Llano featured in Guadalupe Bass Report



The rocky, spring-fed rivers of the Texas Hill Country are ecologically diverse, hosting 54 species of native freshwater fishes, including the official state fish of Texas, Guadalupe Bass. Of those species, Guadalupe Bass is one of 15 currently considered imperiled and identified by Texas Parks and Wildlife Department (TPWD) as a Species of Greatest Conservation Need. Guadalupe Bass is also a popular sport fish. The economic value of fishing in Hill Country rivers was recently estimated to be \$71 million over a 16-month period, with nearly half of anglers who fished the region specifically targeting Guadalupe Bass.

[read more...](#)



Photo : Winterfisch

Record Channel Cat Caught on Llano

This 6.3 pound channel catfish was caught during Winterfisch last weekend at the James River Crossing. It is the largest officially recorded channel cat from the Llano River; the previous record 4.55 pounds. To be official, the catch must be recorded at TPWD Official Weigh Stations.

While Winterfisch is primarily about releasing non-native rainbow trout, it is nice to see some of the native fish appearing after the flood.

TPWD New Reservation System

Reserve Campgrounds AND Day Passes

Planning a day or overnight trip to a Texas State Park just got easier with new online features available in the Texas State Parks reservation system. The new options allow visitors to reserve a specific campsite, buy day passes in advance and buy or renew a Texas State Parks Pass online.



“We are excited to introduce these helpful features to park visitors and provide a new way to efficiently schedule a trip, either for the day or overnight, to any Texas State Park,” says Rodney Franklin, Director of Texas State Parks. “These options give park goers the ability to plan their perfect state park vacation, no matter where and when they want travel.”

The system includes online features that are mobile-friendly and easy to use.



The Economic Contributions of Texas State Parks

New Study shows Economic Impact of State Parks

A newly released study from the Texas Parks and Wildlife Foundation shows that across the state, the State Park System generated nearly \$900 million in sales in 2018 and supported nearly 6,100 jobs.

“State and local parks are important to our state’s economy and help preserve our Texas way of life. With more than 10 million visitors annually, it’s clear that Texans support and enjoy our parks, and we should do all we can to make sure future generations can continue to do so.”

— Texas House Speaker Dennis Bonnen

Locally, more than 60,000 people visited South Llano River State Park in 2018, spending nearly \$750,000 within Kimble County. In total, the Park brought \$1.3m to the local economy and generated nearly 16 jobs. — [view report](#)

Kinder-Morgan Pipeline Meeting slated for Fredericksburg - Feb 21

Last week’s newsletter carried information re a proposed natural gas pipeline that is currently slated to cross the Llano watershed in Kimble County. While no informational meetings are currently scheduled for the Llano and points west, Kinder Morgan has announced a meeting in Fredericksburg at the Gillespie County Fair Grounds from 6-8 pm on Thursday, February 21st.

The open house will have land maps, along with the company’s engineers, construction management team and environmental specialists, according to Kinder Morgan Vice President Allen Fore. The company plans to install a 42-inch, natural gas pipeline 430 miles from the oilfields near Midland across the state to just northwest of Houston (Katy). —read more from [Fredericksburg Standard](#).

In addition, our friends at the Hill Country Alliance have created an [Oil and Gas Pipeline webpage](#) to assist landowners with additional resources.

Congratulations to Alfredo Muñoz and Kimble County NRCS Office

Our good friends at the Kimble County NRCS have much to be proud of. Long time employee, Alfredo Muñoz, is the new District Conservationist for Sutton County in Sonora. We looking forward to continue working with Alfredo in the upper reaches of the North Llano.

In addition, the Kimble County NRCS office, under the direction of District Conservationist Dandy Kothmann, received the first Texas Earth Team Volunteer Group of the Year Award at the the annual meeting of Soil and Water Conservation District Directors. Dandy, along with Alfredo and Landon Pyle, had the most Friends of Conservation volunteers and volunteers hours since the program began. This award represents hours from many landowners, educators and other volunteer efforts to promote conservation and ensure best practices for the future of Kimble County lands. [Check out the Kimble County NRCS newsletter.](#)



Junction Field Office staff, left to right: Dandy Kothmann, NRCS District Conservationist; Alfredo Muñoz, NRCS Rangeland Management Specialist and Landon Pyle, NRCS RMS.



Make Plans and Purchase tickets to attend the 5th annual Llano Earth Art Fest.

Stop by and visit the Alliance at our booth and workshops.

Details soon.