

J U L Y 1 4 , 2 0 1 7

Watershed Week in Review

Llano River Watershed Alliance
and
Llano River Field Station

Riparian Restoration



Volunteers from the Llano River Watershed Alliance, Llano River Field Station, Hill Country Alliance, Texas Master Naturalist and Texas Parks and Wildlife joined together last Sunday to help improve riparian habitat at South Llano River State Park.

Overbrowsing from white-tailed deer and axis creates a riparian zone lacking in recruitment of young trees and shrubs. Placing enclosures around young trees using rolled hog panels and t-posts is a relatively simple way to protect these young trees.

See page 3 for more pictures.

[Read Hill Country Alliance Press Release](#)

Return of the Bats



[Eckert James River Bat Cave Preserve](#), south of Mason, provides a unique bat viewing experience. From time to time, the Preserve is open at the crack of dawn for visitors to experience the return of 4 million Mexican Freetail Bats.

To watch videos of the bats' return, check out the [Alliance's Facebook Page](#).

The Preserve is open Thursday-Sunday.

For viewing times, call (325) 347-5970

Class in the Grass

By Zachary Patton, Brittany Quinones, Lucas Schilder, Chad Clark, and Melody Harrington
Photos: Lucas Schilder



Dr. Warren Conway displays molt feather progression in tail feathers to the class

songbirds helped us learn how to handle and measure the animals we captured. Comparable in utility, but more exciting, was the capture of Rio Grande wild turkeys. No amount of classroom notes can replicate sitting in a blind for two hours, to then leaping into capture and banding of the real animal.

Please note - The professors of this course, Drs. Conway and Dr. Grisham, have all federal explosives permits, state banding permits, and TTU Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee Permits to capture and handle all animals for this class. [More photos...](#)

In college, students enjoy (or endure) an array of courses. Among these courses, NRM 3407: Wildlife Techniques, held at the Texas Tech University Center at Junction, stands out. We obtained hands-on instruction with the species we will work with in our future. The course also provided invaluable experience with other skills of wildlife biologists, including, but not limited to, learning how to measure vegetation, use heavy equipment, and

do land surveys. Among the techniques practiced, mist-netting



Dr. Clint Boal teaching a student how to scale a tree to access raptor nests

City of Junction implements Drought Contingency Program



The City of Junction this week implemented Stage 2 Water Restrictions. Stage 2 Mandatory Water Conservation Compliance requires City residents to **only water from 6am to 11am and 6pm to 11pm.**

*Even number addresses may water
Monday/Wednesday/Friday;
Odd number addresses may water
Tuesday/Thursday/Saturday.*

Raising Cane : Texas Parks and Wildlife Video on *Arundo donax*



Texas Rivers and stream are under attack. The invasive Giant Reed threatens pretty much every river system in the state, but biologists are fighting back. See what it takes to knock back this towering cane invader.

Informative Video

(scroll to Program 2513-click Show Featured Segments)

EDITOR'S NOTE : A few *Arundo* stands are found along the Llano. The Llano River Field Station and the Llano River Watershed Alliance are working with the TPWD to treat this plant before it becomes it becomes well established. If you have a stand that needs treatment, please contact the Alliance at southllanoriver@gmail.com and we will add you to the list for treatment.

New Website look for local Soil District

Our friends at the Upper Llanos Soil and Water Conservation District have redesigned their website to show all the great activities and partnerships they provide:

- Seed Sale
- Fall Plant Sale
- Youth Education
- USDA-NRCS
- Upper Llanos Prescribed Burn Association



Have you seen an old-time ULSWCD gate sign?

Please share a picture of other ULSWCD signs you may have spotted!

ULSWCD Director Ward Whitworth took a pic of this one (on the right) at his family's Bolt Ranch.

[Check out the website's new look](#)

Building Riparian Exclosures at South Llano River State Park



EXPERIMENTAL DESIGN : Volunteers construct a horizontal exclosure within the floodway of the South Llano, attaching the panel to four T-posts at each corner. Such design should decrease the likelihood of the exclosure being washed away during a flood



A young Alliance volunteer demonstrates proper seed sowing technique

Carefully supervised volunteers first rolled the hog panels on the ground, wired the ends together, then set them in place (see page 1), securing the exclosure to two T-posts. (photo Megan Bean)



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Family Park Programs

South Llano River State Park

Phone: (325) 446-3994

Bird Walk

Saturday, July 15th, 8:30 am - 10:00 am
Meet at the Fawn Trail parking lot
(behind Park Headquarters)



Come birding with us! We'll walk an easy trail, sit in the blind, and see what birds we can spot! Good walking shoes, sun protection, and drinking water are recommended. Binoculars provided, or bring your own.
All ages and skill levels welcome.



Skins, Skulls, and More!

Saturday, July 15th, drop in between 3:00 pm - 4:00 pm
Held at the Acorn Blind

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

Stop by the Acorn Blind between 3 and 4 pm to see real animal furs and skulls, and find out what a skull can tell you about how that animal lived! Children must be accompanied by an adult.

Geocaching 101

Sunday, July 16th, 9:00 am - 10:00 am
Meet at the Acorn Blind



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

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, sun protection, insect repellent, and drinking water are recommended. All ages welcome.

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