



South Llano
Watershed Alliance

Watershed Week
in Review

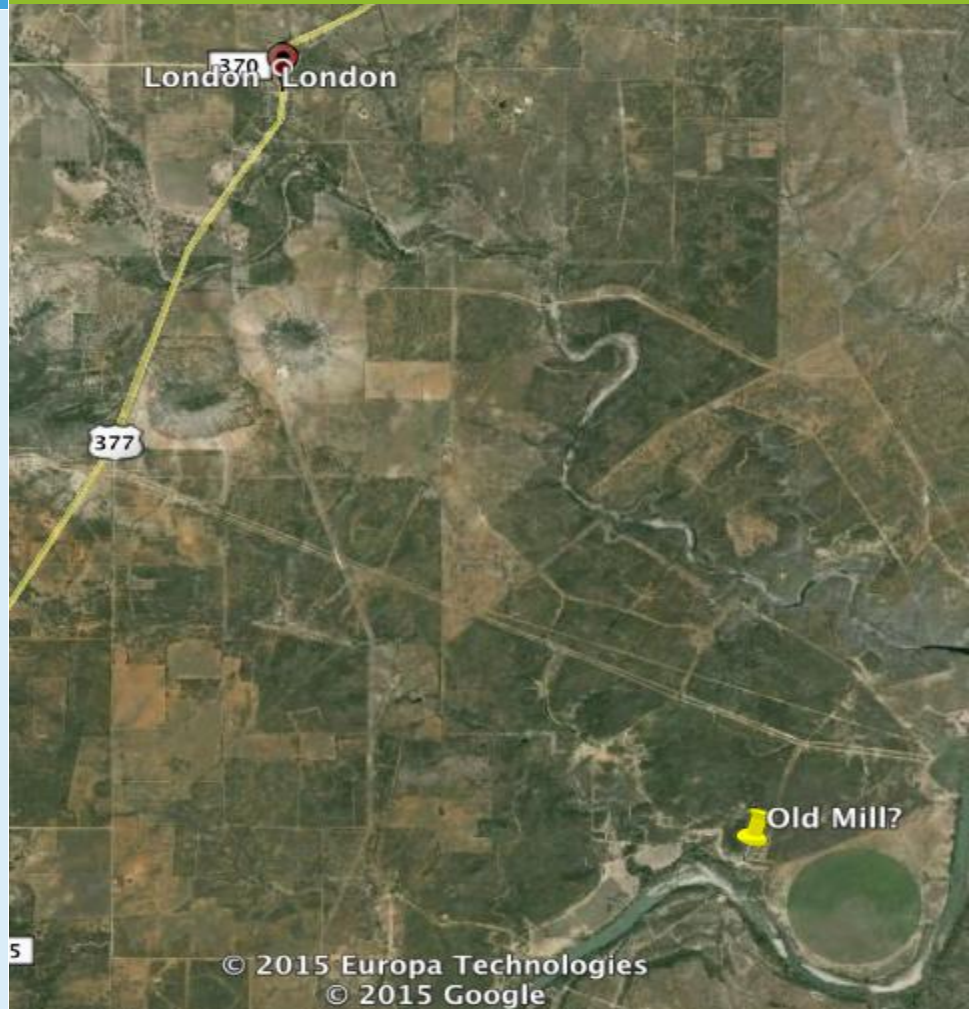


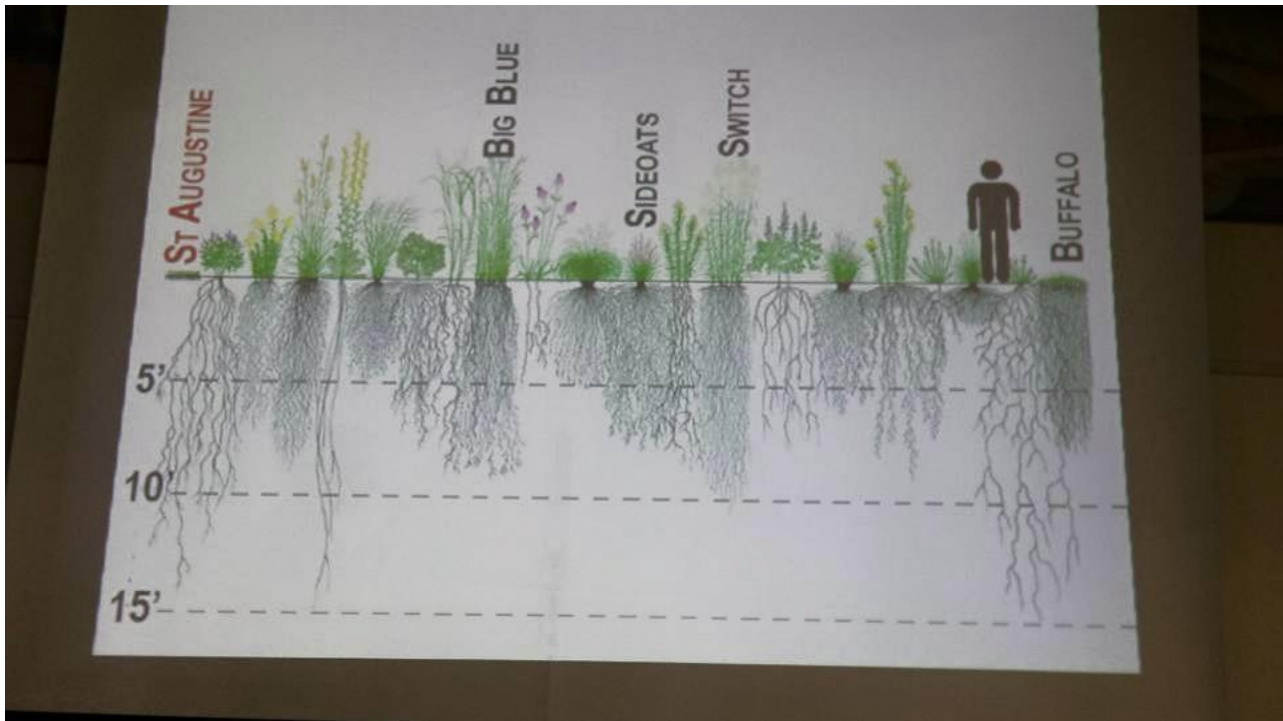
June 13, 2015

Anyone know the History?

Tony Plutino at [Llano River Region Adventures](#) sent this photo of what he thinks might have been an old mill on the Llano River downstream of Yates Crossing and southeast of London.

Does anyone have any insight on its history?





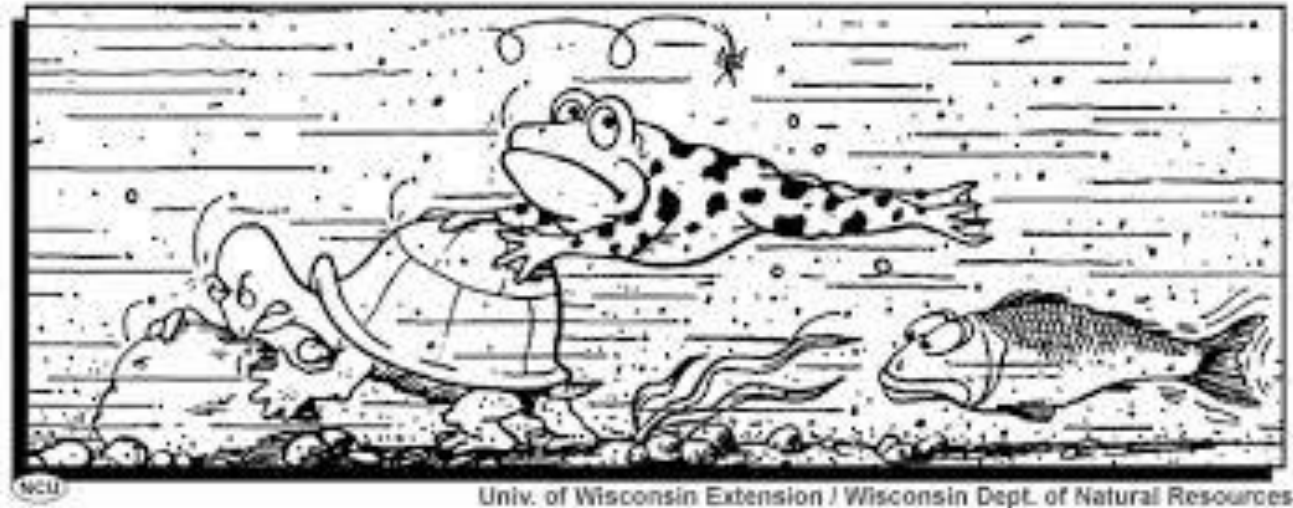
Root depths and plants during floods

Dianne Wassenich at the [San Marcos River Foundation](#) shared the above handout from the Blanco River Valley Restoration Workshop held this past week.

The roots systems of various grasses are measured in feet. The root system of St. Augustine on the far left is barely visible because it barely has any roots. The grass roots on riverbanks can help the soil stay in place and is important to help hold the trees in a flood, and the riverbanks themselves.



Although Roosevelt or Poverty weed (*Baccarus neglecta*) is not considered beneficial, it did do a good job of capturing debris and trapping sediment during last month's rise along the banks of the South Llano River.



How do fish react during floods?

Dr. Tim Grabowski, with the U.S. Geological Survey, [Texas Cooperative Fish and Wildlife Research Unit](#) at Texas Tech University, shared an essay about the challenges and opportunities floods present for fish.

□ In late May 2015, a series of storms produced the wettest month ever recorded in Texas and effectively marked the end of one of the worst droughts seen in the state. Flood events are essential for maintaining the long-term health and diversity of Texas streams, rivers and bays. The dramatic increase in flows and current velocities associated with flood events help to clear out accumulated debris and sediment, re-working the substrate and morphology of the channel and restoring or rebuilding important instream habitat features, such as gravel bars and riffles. In rivers that have a tendency to support excessive growth of either native or invasive aquatic vegetation, such as the Colorado River downstream of Longhorn Dam in Austin, large flood events clear out vegetation-choked channels and restore the instream habitat diversity necessary for a riverine species. The influx of freshwater is also important for the bays and estuaries along the coast as it reduces salinities and increases productivity. At the same time, an observer standing near a river at flood stage could be forgiven for wondering what happens to all the fish living in the river. Do all of them wind up being washed into the ocean? [Continue reading](#)

State Climatologist: Drought and the Hydro-illogical cycle

State Climatologist John Nielson-Gamin:

What happens next depends on whether Texas chooses to follow the so-called hydro-illogical cycle. Will the recent rain lead to apathy and disregard for the need to prepare for the next drought?

It is useful to treat the past drought as an experiment. If you cut back on water use, either voluntarily or by requirement, how did it go?

In your yard, which plants did well with less water, and which ones showed their lack of resilience?

[Read more...](#)

August 6-8

Prescribed burning workshop at Sonora Station

The Academy for Ranch Management is offering a basic prescribed burning workshop August 6-8 at the Texas A&M AgriLife Research Sonora Station located on State Highway 55 between Sonora and Rocksprings.

The course is open to those wanting to learn about the benefits of prescribed burning and the basics of planning and carrying out a prescribed burn.

The workshop provides information on the history and benefits of prescribed burning, weather, fuels and fuel moisture, and the equipment that is used on a burn.

[Learn more](#)

Chairman of Water Development Board to step down

Carlos Rubinstein, chairman of the Texas Water Development Board, is stepping down after serving in the position for nearly two years.

Rubinstein led the board into a new era after it was handed greater authority over water supply projects by the Legislature...A few months after Rubinstein's appointment, voters approved \$2 billion from the state's Rainy Day Fund to help pay for water projects such as pipelines and treatment plants.

On Thursday, Governor Abbott's office named Bech Brunn, a current member of the Board to be the next chairman.

[Read more](#)