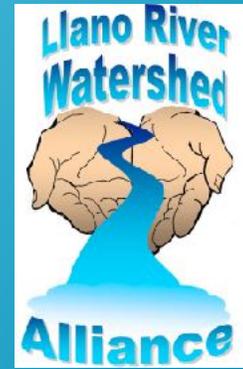


WATERSHED WEEK IN REVIEW



Invite a Friend or Colleague to Join the Alliance for Free!

As an added feature for the coming year, we encourage members to nominate another person or business to become a member. Twelve of these nominations will be selected for a one-year **free membership**.

Deadline for nominations is *August 31, 2020*.

[Nominate Here!](#)

Alliance Memberships Extended

Existing Llano River Watershed Alliance memberships will be extended until September 2021.

Because Alliance activities have been curtailed since the beginning of the Covid-19 pandemic, the Alliance is unable to offer all four landowner tours. As this was a stated membership benefit during last year's membership drive, existing memberships will automatically be renewed for another year. We hope to be able to restart programming in the near future.

While the Alliance is foregoing membership requirements for this year, we also appreciate and fully utilize any and all donations.

Being a member of the Alliance makes you an active part of taking care of the watershed. The Alliance appreciates your support.

How do Scientist Use Models?

By David Hillis

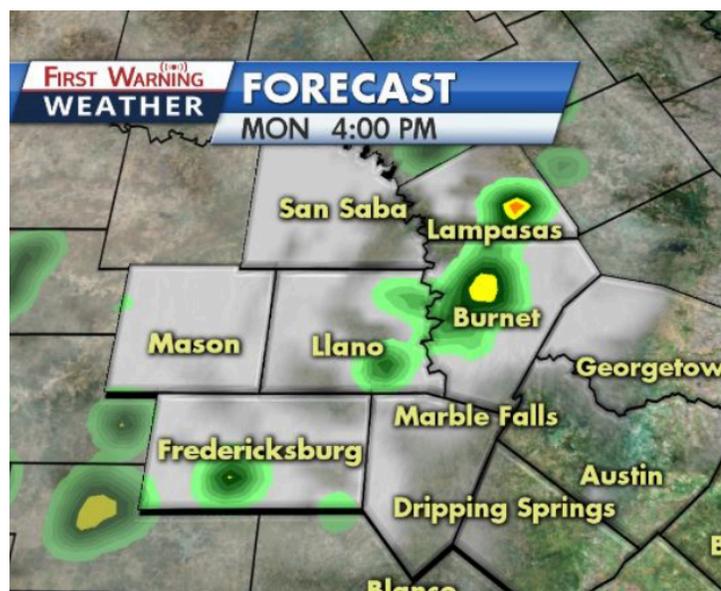
Reprinted with permission of *Mason County News* - “*Mason County Science Corner*”

During the current COVID-19 pandemic, you have probably read a lot about scientific models. Scientists rely on models of how systems work to take new data, add that information into a model, and then use the model and new data make predictions. The predictions may be about the future (things we haven’t observed yet), or about the past (things no one was around to record).

You have likely heard someone downplay such predictions, by saying “it’s only a model.” Although it is true that models encompass uncertainty (which is typically measured or evaluated in any scientific analysis), models are a necessary and very useful way of taking information about what we have learned in the past, and then using the model to make predictions based on new information as it becomes available.

We all use models very successfully in our everyday lives. For example, we are all familiar with taking information we have learned about the location of stable objects and using that information to make maps. A map is just a model of what the world looks like and where things of interest are located with respect to one another. All maps distort reality in one way or another, because they are simplifications of reality. If they weren’t simplifications, they would not very useful, because they would be as large and complex as the world itself.

continue reading



Re-wilding Rancho Cascabel

From Cornell Chronicle

Herpetologist **Harry Greene** had challenged himself this year to finish the manuscript of his next book, “Monkey, Snakes and Spears: Reflections on Wildness.” In between writing, he planned to spend some weekends in Mason County, Texas, getting his new property – Rancho Cascabel (“Rattlesnake Ranch”) – ready for habitation. He had lived in this Texas Hill Country as a child, where he first began searching for snakes among the yucca, prickly pear cactus and rugged limestone and granite boulders.

...Greene says the goals of rewilding are slightly different from “preservationism,” the reigning paradigm in U.S. environmentalism, which “idealizes the wild as a place where humans leave only footprints and only take photos,” says Greene, professor emeritus of ecology and evolutionary biology. “I’ve come to think that this is literally unrealistic: Humans have always been part of nature, and so preservationism amounts to a peculiarly Eurocentric, colonial-centric vision.”

In contrast, rewilding means restoring an area to its maximally diverse state of biological richness, by reintroducing animal species, or close approximations, that had been previously native to the area.

Rewilding requires “pondering relationships with other species,” Greene

says, “and how they can involve informal, messy contracts regarding what we’ll tolerate and what level of real or perceived cost we’re willing to pay in order to coexist.”

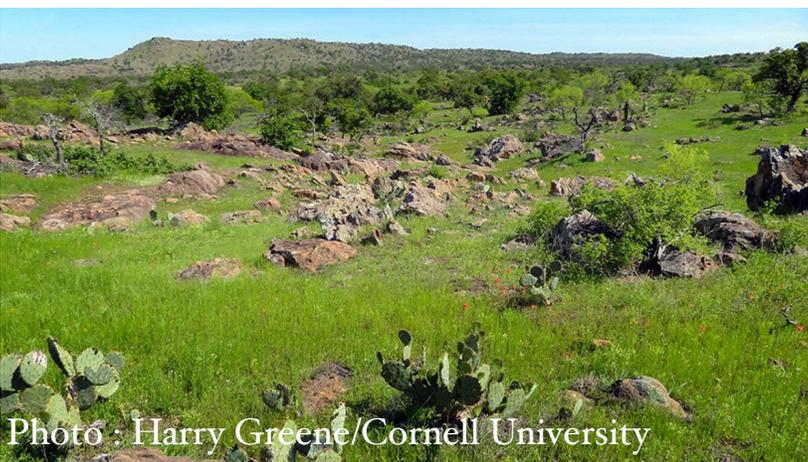


Photo : Harry Greene/Cornell University

continue reading

Save the Date!



Help restore the
**pecan
bottomlands**

at South Llano River
State Park!

October 15-16, 2020

9:30 am -3:30 pm

Please bring your lunch and
snacks, plenty of water, a
hat, sunscreen, kneeling pad
(if desired), and work gloves.

Meet at HQ.



We are launching the pilot of a long-term restoration of the native pecan bottomland. This fall, we will be planting over 200 pecan saplings which were germinated from local trees. We're excited to get these trees in the ground, but we need your help! We'll train participants on the morning of October 15. October 16 schedule will be dependent on how much was accomplished on the 15th.



[1927 Park Road 73, Junction, TX 76849](https://www.texaswildlife.com/locations/south-llano-river-state-park)