

# WATERSHED WEEK IN REVIEW



## Chupanmar



Based on the active response to last week's newsletter article re Chupacabra habitat in the Llano watershed, we are putting together a 'Chupanmar' to discuss these elusive creatures.

You are not going to believe the list of speakers who have committed to speaking. *See page 4.*

## LRWA Partners to Control *Arundo Donax*

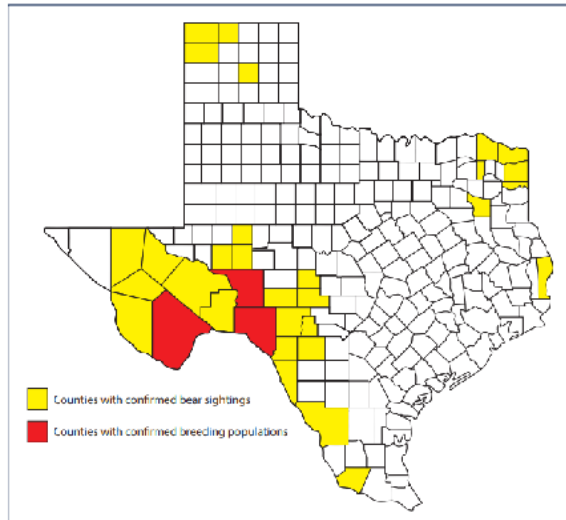


### Healthy Creeks Initiative to Combat Invasive Arundo

The Alliance has partnered with Texas Parks and Wildlife and other agencies and organizations to begin addressing the spread of *Arundo Donax* (Giant Reed or Carrizo Cane) along the Llano. Through the Healthy Creeks Initiative, *Arundo* control will be provided to landowners along the Llano at **NO COST.**

[Additional details are available here.](#) If you are interested in participating, please contact [southllanoriver@gmail.com](mailto:southllanoriver@gmail.com) to get additional information re site visits, treatment/re-treatment schedules and Covid-19 protocols.

## Black Bear in the Llano?



A recent on-line periodical raised the question if there are bears in the Texas Hill Country. For those readers who remember Laird’s Barbecue in Llano, there was a picture of a black bear taken southeast of Llano by Ester Laird in the early 90s.

According to Texas A&M Agrilife, confirmed bear sightings during the last 17 years have occurred in the upper portion of the watershed in Real, Edwards, Sutton, Kimble and Menard County.

## Potential World Record on North Llano

What may have been a world record for Rio Grande cichlid may have been caught recently on the North Llano.

According to the Austin American Statesman, Jackson Ryan, whose father and grandfather are well known to baseball fans, caught the fish presumably near old Fort Terrett, at the headwaters of the North Llano.



▲ HIDE CAPTION  
This beautiful and brightly colored male Rio Grande cichlid decided to strike an inline spinner that Jackson Ryan, son of Reid and grandson of Nolan, was fishing on the Llano River. The fish may have been a new world record but the father and son released it to swim away. [Contributed by Reid Ryan]

According to Fishes of Texas, Rio Grande cichlid are native to the Rio Grande and Pecos drainage, but have been introduced to other watersheds as far north as the San Gabriel.

# Funding Opportunity Returns for Streamside Landowners

*TPWD Press Release*

AUSTIN – The Texas Parks and Wildlife Department is looking to expand public access to fishing and paddling on Texas rivers through leased access agreements with streamside landowners. Private streamside properties are essential to achieving this goal, and TPWD is requesting applications from landowners for the River Access and Conservation Areas program.

“Texas has over 40,000 miles of free-flowing rivers and creeks, and with 95% of the land held in private ownership, it can be a real challenge finding safe legal access to these waters.” said John Botros, TPWD River Access Coordinator. “We are really excited about this opportunity to create more private-public partnerships while expanding public access to the exceptional fishing and paddling resources that Texas rivers and creeks provide.”

The objective for TPWD is to establish lease agreements with landowners, resulting in increased river access for both anglers and paddlers. Since 2012, 24 public river access leases have been established with cooperating landowners. These agreements for access area use enabled or enhanced paddling and river fishing on more than 211 miles of 10 different rivers across Texas. Find out more information and review descriptions of all the outstanding river access areas supported through the leased access program by visiting the [TPWD River Fishing](#) page.

River Access and Conservation Areas are funded by a combination of sources including donations from the Texas Parks and Wildlife Foundation, sales of the [Texas Rivers Conservation License Plate](#), and grant awards through the U.S. Farm Bill and Wildlife and Sport Fish Restoration Program.

For more information or to submit an application, please see the River Access Request for Applications on the [TPWD Grants Page](#). Landowners interested in partnering with TPWD in this effort can gain additional valuable insight into the program by checking out this [fact sheet](#) that answers some of the more frequently asked questions.

Landowners are encouraged to apply at any time, however, to receive preference for 2021 funding cycle, **applications should be received by September 30, 2020.**



## Save the Date!

Come learn more about Chupacabras in the socially-distant confines of your own home. Join us as representatives from several viewpoints discuss these elusive creatures.

We will hear from a researcher in Puerto Rico who first chronicled the appearance of chupacabras in the New World. Join in to also learn about what types of habitats are necessary for chupacabras, sources of funding for providing these habitats, and innovative ways to protect livestock from these members of the Goatsucker family.



Photo Courtesy of Dr. Neal Wilkins

W236

## Speakers

**Mia Cuello** (Universidad de Corpus Canis - Puerto Rico) - *Origins of Chupacabras in the New World*

**Harry Sharp-Bitie** - (3S [Sticks/Stings/Stinks] Research Institute) - *Chupacabra Habitats (One Type Doesn't Fit All)*

**Molly M. O'Hare** - (Goats Unlimited) - *Innovative Methods for Protecting Livestock from Chupacabras*

**Ann Arbitten** - (Chupas Forever) - *Chupacabra Habitat Restoration and Funding*