

WATERSHED WEEK IN REVIEW



Title

Clarification



We apologize if there was some confusion last week regarding this photo and the discussion regarding operating a motor vehicle in the bed of the river. The motor vehicle as pictured in the photo is not technically in the riverbed, but unless it was airlifted or barged to the island, it violated state law in crossing the riverbed to get to that location.

Arundo and How it Spreads



Texas Parks and Wildlife will be treating patches of *Arundo donax* along the South Llano River in the coming weeks.

If you have a patch that you would like treated, contact the Alliance.

How can you be sure it is *Arundo*?

Check out this video.

God Is Not Making More Honey Creeks

Editor's Note: Many readers have had an opportunity to work with Joyce Moore on stewardship in the Llano. While this story takes place in the Guadalupe, it is becoming familiar one across the Hill Country.

By Brandon Gibbons
San Antonio Report (formerly Rivard Report)

“God is not making any more Honey Creeks,” Moore said. “There are no more being created, last time I checked. So to me, we have to steward what we are given, and what they’re trying to do is not stewardship.”



Joyce Moore stands at the high point of her ranch, which has been in her family since its establishment in 1871. Credit: Scott Ball / San Antonio Report

Joyce Moore lives in Gillespie County, but on many weekends, she makes the roughly hourlong drive south to Bulverde to the 640-acre ranch where she grew up, land that has been in her family for nearly 150 years.

Last Saturday, termite damage was the issue of the day. She and her 19-year-old son Josh worked in 103-degree heat fixing a decaying roof on a century-old pumphouse. After long days such as this, Moore likes to drive up to the old chapel on the hillside, where she can see across the rolling hills of oak, juniper, prickly pear, and native grasses.

“I used to enjoy coming out here,” Moore said. “Now, I don’t, and I can’t with what’s to come.”

[continue reading](#)

Hill Country Alliance Virtual Summit

Sept 23-25, 2020



The Hill Country Leadership Summit is the Hill Country Alliance’s premiere annual gathering, and provides an opportunity for learning, networking, and being inspired among our region’s top community leaders, conservation practitioners, and natural resource managers.

While historically a one-day event, this year’s online format allows the Summit to spread out over the course of **three days – Wednesday, Sep. 23 from 2-4 PM, Thursday, Sep. 24 from 10-12 PM, and Friday, Sep. 25 from 10-12 PM.** This new format will allow an expanded opportunity to tune-in to inspiring and informative talks from local and national environmental resource experts without having to sit on your computer all day!

Our Annual Leadership Summit is a perfect example of HCA’s commitment to unite and educate a community that is “for the Hill Country.” We hope you can join us virtually, for our first ever online Summit. **Stay tuned for a full agenda announcement – coming soon!**

[DETAILS](#)

All Droughts Are Not Created Equal

Dr. Robert Mace

Meadows Center for Water and the Environment



"Every time I pray for rain, I'm afraid the Lord will give me what I deserve, not what I want."

—Brooks Gunter, farmer, the Texas Panhandle (from *The Washington Post*)

Texas is better prepared for drought now than it was in the 1990s; however, the state is less ready for a repeat of the drought of record—or worse—than it was 20 plus years ago. If that sounds counterintuitive, it's because all droughts are not created equal.

Before the mid-'90s, two decades of cooler and wetter weather lulled Texas into complacency, turning the Dust Bowl and the Drought of the 1950s into hazy, distant memories. The drought of 1996 was an abrupt wake-up call.

That drought—the one that fundamentally changed water planning through 1997's Senate Bill 1—was mild compared to what Texas has been through since. But at the time, with only weeks of water left for several small communities, the drought's impacts earned statewide and national attention. In response, Lieutenant Governor Bob Bullock led the legislature to change water planning—and the water culture—in Texas by steeping stakeholders into every aspect of water, creating a mouthy bottom-up approach rather than the toothless top-down decreeing. continue...