

Watershed Week in Review

A publication of the
Llano River Watershed Alliance
and
Llano River Field Station

February 16, 2018

Adopt-A-Highway



This old refrigerator was not part of the haul yesterday, but rather, a recent spot on a side channel of

the South Llano. Ironically, the former owner seemed to care about taking care of the Gulf...



Alliance members gathered at Flat Rock Crossing in Junction yesterday to pick up trash from the Crossing to the city limits on the Rocksprings highway. The pickup appeared to have Valentine's Day theme as shown by Board Member Ruthie Russell (above), but unfortunately they were wayward plastic flowers blown from the nearby cemetery.

A note of thanks goes to crew at the Llano River Field Station for their regular maintenance of the area between Flat Rock and the TTU gate. They make our job much easier.

700 Springs Tour will be April 28

The Kimble County Historical Commission, in partnership with Lee Pfluger and 700 Springs Ranch, have set Saturday, April 28th as the date for this year's tour of the Springs.

As in years past, the motorcade departs the Kimble County Courthouse in Junction at 10am for the 21-mile trip to the 700 Springs Ranch. Reservations are not required, but parties must register when they reach Junction.

There is no charge for the event, but goodwill donations are accepted for the Kimble County Museum Building Fund.



Bring a sack lunch and folding chair, if possible. It is always cool at the Springs so a sweater or light wrap is helpful. Cameras are OK, but no fishing gear or metal detectors are permitted.



Life's better outside!



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Family Park Programs South Llano River State Park Phone: (325) 446-3994

River Trail and Buck Lake Hike

Friday, February 16th, 10:00 am - 12 noon

Meet at the 1st Day Use parking lot

(take road across from Headquarters, park at the 1st parking lot on the right)

On this easy morning stroll, we'll walk past beautiful Buck Lake, named for the family who donated the land for the state park, and along the spring-fed South Llano River. We'll keep an eye out for all kinds of wildlife and nature!

Trail is approximately 1.25 miles round-trip. Good walking shoes and drinking water are recommended, and dress for the weather. Bring binoculars if you're interested in looking for birds! Loaner binoculars will also be available. All ages welcome!





HILL COUNTRY CHAPTER

Texas Master Naturalist Land Management Assistance Program February 26 - Kerrville

We recently have had several inquiries from landowners regarding available programs for landowner assistance. One such program, through the Texas Master Naturalist Hill Country Chapter, will be discussed at their upcoming meeting in Kerrville, beginning at 6:30pm.

Through the Land Management Assistance Program, Master Naturalist volunteers walk the property with the landowner identifying plants and discussing various land management problems such as overgrazing, over-browsing, brush encroachment, erosion and exotic species. The landowners are given a report of species identified and any suggested management practices. [...to learn more about the program](#)



Held on the banks of the Llano River- one block from Llano's historic downtown- the Llano Earth Art Fest (LEAF) is an interactive experience for young and old alike. Watch internationally renowned artists defy gravity with amazingly balanced rock sculptures. Listen to great musicians fill the park with song. Try your hand at rock balancing or see if you've got what it takes to compete in the 2018 World Rock Stacking Championship. For kids there are plenty of activities, including a climbing wall, face painting, and more. Adults can enjoy a cold beer while taking part in workshops, viewing and creating art, or just relaxing in the sun.

Something New in the Watershed

JUNCTION – South Llano River State Park is excited to announce its First Annual Birding Festival, sponsored by the Friends of South Llano River State Park, to be held Friday, April 27 through Sunday, April 29th, 2018.

The Festival will feature guided bird walks, including Golden-cheeked Warbler walks and Birding the Riparian, and will also offer guided photography sessions in the park's four popular bird blinds. On Saturday afternoon, the festival will offer a live birds of prey presentation by Last Chance Forever, a Bird Call presentation by a young birder, a Beginners' Bird Walk, and vendor and information tables. Sunday morning will include more bird walks, and a Big Sit! as part of the Great Texas Birding Classic.

More than 250 species of birds have been observed at the park, including sought-after species such as the Golden-cheeked Warbler and Black-capped Vireo, both federally endangered birds which nest in the park. "We are so excited to showcase the terrific birding at our park and its beautiful bird blinds during one of the busiest bird migration weekends of the year," says Park Interpreter Holly Platz. "The park is very unique for birding, because it offers such varied habitat."

During the Festival, guided walks will offer participants a chance at spotting new bird species for their lists, and ample "free time" between walks and presentations will provide visitors with a chance to enjoy the park's popular bird blinds, each meticulously cared for by park volunteers and staff. "We hope that bringing a festival like this to the park and the city of Junction will highlight the area's biodiversity," says Park Superintendent Scott Whitener. "Birding along the South Llano River is top notch and attracts visitors from all over the world."

Festival registration is \$65 per person, with a maximum of 80 participants. Registration fees will go towards supporting future birdwatching events at the park. For more information about this event and how to register, please see the Festival's Facebook page at

<http://www.facebook.com/slrspbirdingfestival>, or email southllanoriverbirdingfestival@gmail.com for a registration packet.



Junction, Texas