

N O V E M B E R 4 , 2 0 1 6

# Watershed Week in Review

Llano River Watershed Alliance

## Opening Day Saturday: An opportunity to help the Watershed

Opening day of deer season starts this Saturday. As landowners, we all need to do our part to help manage wildlife in the watershed. The recently approved Watershed Protection Plan (WPP) recommends controlling wildlife impact as a critical component for maintaining healthy riparian areas.

In 13 of the last 15 years on the Edwards Plateau, more bucks have been harvested than does. Yet, in order to effectively manage the deer populations, **significantly more does need to be harvested.** (To

determine the specific harvest ratio for your property, [contact a Texas Parks and Wildlife Biologist](#).



TPWD Photo

In addition to white-tailed deer, axis deer also cause significant damage to riparian areas. Because axis are an exotic species in Texas, they may be hunted year round with no bag limit. Having a valid hunting license [is the only main requirement](#) for hunting axis. What is your favorite recipe to share?



Photo: Robert Stubblefield

## Texas Weather Extremes

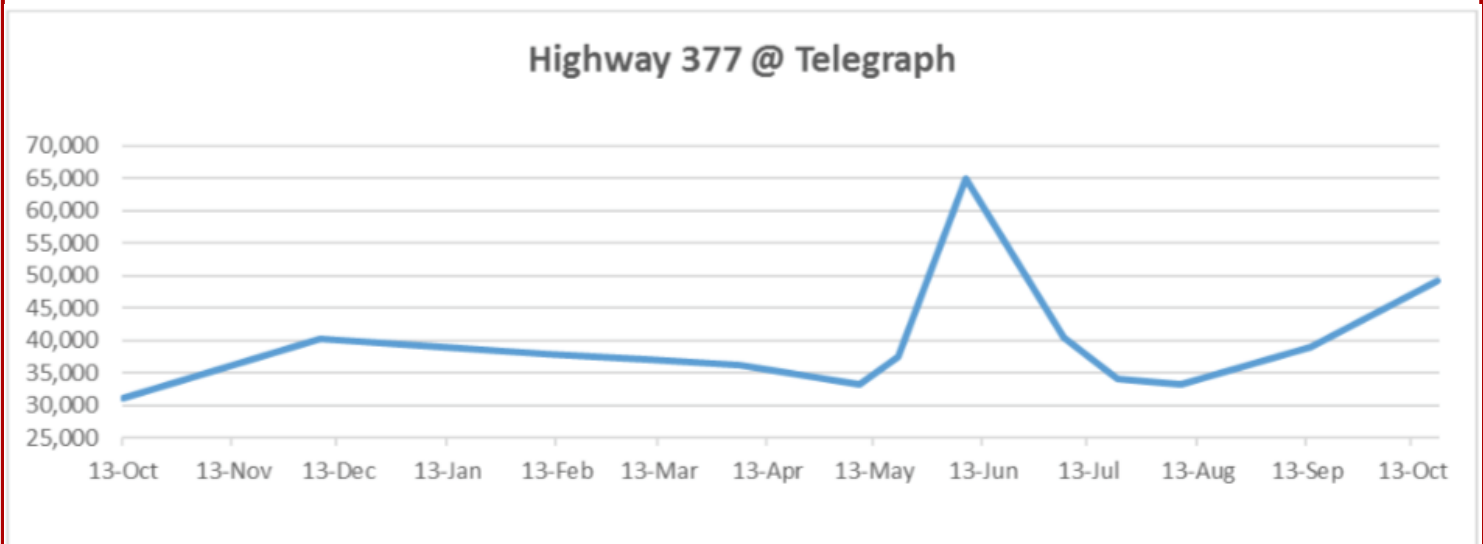
This Texas Water Resources Institute article explores the recent weather extremes we have seen across the State and provides some insight into what the future may hold.

[...article](#)

# EXTREMELY EXPECTED

*Extreme is the new (and old) normal in Texas weather*

## Flows of the South Llano



Our friends at the [Real-Edwards Conservation and Reclamation District](#) make monthly field measurements on the rivers that are fed by the aquifer they manage, the Edwards-Trinity. The District measures the South Llano at both crossings of US 377 near Telegraph. Above is a graph of the measurements made at the upper crossing over the past year. Note: Units are gallons per minute; about 450 gallons per minute equates to 1 cfs.

The [full report](#) notes that the South Llano gained about 14 cfs (123 cfs v 109 cfs) between the two crossings. These gains come from either Little Paint Creek or from springs in the river. USGS measurements made one week later (Oct 20) show 25 cfs in the South Llano above 700 and Tanner Springs, 21 cfs from 700 Springs, and 11 cfs from Tanner Springs, or 57 cfs in the South Llano above the confluence of Big Paint Creek. Subtracting this volume (57 cfs) from the 109 cfs measured at the upper crossing gives an estimated 52 cfs coming from Big Paint Springs (on Big Paint Creek) and other springs along the South Llano below Big Paint.

## Geology along Llano River provides glimpses into Earth's first life

Rice University Geology Professor Andre Droxler and his students regularly study some of the best outcrops in the world containing fossilized prehistoric bacteria and microbes along the Llano River in Mason County. Dr. Droxler believes these microbial reefs contained some of the first forms of life on Earth.

Some of these outcrops, called "stromatolites" can be viewed from the Llano above the James River. Stromatolites can also be viewed at the rest stop [along the San Saba River on Highway 87 between Brady and Mason.](#)

[view video](#)



## Llano citizens raise concerns over proposed concrete plant

...from *the Llano News* by John Verser

*"Several Llano citizens are concerned about a concrete plant that is proposed to be located just west of city limits. More than 25 people met last Thursday night at Inman's Kitchen to discuss concerns about the proposed plant and to discuss what options may be available to stop it from locating there. Ingram Concrete, LLC of Brownwood has filed a proposed air quality registration with the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality to locate a concrete batch plant just off Hwy. 29 west of Llano, at the edge of city limits.*

*Perry Thomas and his family moved to Llano about a year and a half ago, and said they thought it would be a terrific place to raise their family. He said they still do, but the location of the plant does raise concerns."*

[Full article](#)





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## Family Park Programs

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



### Fawn Trail Nature Hike

Saturday, November 5th, 10:00 am - 12 noon  
Meet at the Walk-in Campground parking lot

Join us for a morning hike on our Fawn Trail as we find out more about the plants and animals of the Hill Country. This hike is 3 miles round-trip, and is moderate in difficulty -- parts of the trail are steep and rocky, and others are more flat. Hiking boots or good walking shoes, sun protection, and plenty of drinking water are recommended. All ages are welcome!

### Geocaching 101

Saturday, November 5th, 3:00 pm - 4:00 pm  
Meet at the Walk-in Campground parking lot



Experience the fun of Geocaching, a high-tech treasure hunt you can do anywhere in the world using a GPS unit or your smartphone! Loaner GPS units will be provided for this program. Good walking shoes and drinking water are recommended. All ages welcome!



### Bird Walk

Sunday, November 6th, 9:00 am - 10:30 am  
Meet at the Fawn Trail parking lot (behind Park Headquarters)

Birdwatching is great here at South Llano River State Park. Join us as we walk some easy trails and sit in the bird blind, and see what birds we can spot! Binoculars provided, or bring your own. Good walking shoes and drinking water are recommended. All ages and skill levels welcome!

*Park programs are open to the public and free with park entrance fee*

## Open House for New Kimble County Museum November 19

Everyone is invited to an open house and ribbon cutting for the new Kimble County Historical Museum on November 19, from 2-5pm. This will be an opportunity to view the completed vacant facility before the artifacts and displays are in place.

Refreshments will be served.  
Location: 2101 North Main St-Junction