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# Watershed Week in Review

Llano River Watershed Alliance  
and  
Llano River Field Station

## New Newsletter Partner



The Llano River Watershed Alliance is pleased to announce that the Llano River Field Station (LRFS) has agreed to become a partner organization with the *Watershed Week in Review*!

The Llano River Field Station was established on Texas Tech's Junction campus in 2002 to provide a laboratory and classroom environment for undergraduate and graduate students from numerous universities, institutes and public schools.

The Field Station encourages and supports research of local watershed and riparian habitats. Having LRFS as a partner will provide readers of this newsletter an even greater appreciation for what the Llano has to offer.

Have a  
Happy  
Fourth!



The Llano River Watershed Alliance wishes all its supporters a safe and happy 4<sup>th</sup> of July.

Please be considerate of your friends, neighbors, and your river following your celebrations



## Zebra Mussels found in Lake Travis

Zebra mussels have been positively identified for the first time in Lake Travis in the Colorado River Basin in Central Texas, just weeks after biologists confirmed the aquatic invasive species had also spread to the Guadalupe River Basin.

“This is pretty disheartening for us and our many partners, including marinas, who work to prevent this invasive species from spreading – it’s two new river basins with infestations this year,” said Monica McGarrity, TPWD Aquatic Invasive Species team lead. “But we are very grateful to the marina staff for reporting the sighting, our partners at Texas Invasives for relaying the report to us, and the LCRA for participating in a rapid response to investigate the report.”

[Read more from TPWD](#)



## Back at the Elephant Ears

When she is not tracking down zebra mussels (see article above), Monica McGarrity (upper right photo) and her crew can often be found treating elephant ears along the Llano River.

Crews from TPWD and LRFS treated invasive elephant ears along the Llano earlier this month near Junction.

A Special Thank You to the Lumbleys at LUM'S BBQ and the Neimans at NATIVE AMERICAN SEED for providing the crews access to the river!





## A look down Devil's Sinkhole

The Llano and Devil's Sinkhole made news in the UK last week. Scientist trying to better understand how recharge water near Rocksprings feeds the Llano and the Nueces...[read more](#)

*But visitors are not allowed to go into Devil's Sinkhole - all descents are made by expert cavers for authorized scientific research.*

*And last week, researchers dropped down into the cave for scientific investigations.*



***The research includes increasing knowledge of the flow of water from the sinkhole to the Nueces and possibly Llano rivers and dating bat guano - or bat droppings.***

## How Exotics compete with Whitetails



Texas is no stranger to the introduction of non-native, exotic species and exotic hunting. Historical documentation shows exotics were likely to have begun being brought to Texas as early as the 1940s in the south Texas, King Ranch area. Since then, the introduction areas have greatly increased and expanded.

Roughly 68 percent of the total confined exotics in Texas occur within this Edwards Plateau region. It is estimated that Texas is home to an excess of 200,000 **exotic animals that are made up of just over 70 species.** The dominant players or most common exotic species are axis deer, fallow deer, sika deer, blackbuck antelope, nilgai antelope and aoudad sheep which represent 99 percent of the free-ranging exotics in Texas and they predominantly occur in this Hill Country area.

[Read more from Hall & Hall blog post...](#)

## Save the Dates-details in next newsletter

### Caging Native Trees along South Llano River

On **Sunday, July 9th from 9am - 1pm**, join Hill Country Alliance, Texas Parks & Wildlife, and the Llano River Watershed Alliance at the South Llano River State Park to learn about riparian (river-side) ecosystems, non-native invasive plants, and how to steward riparian systems.

Volunteers will help restore riparian habitat along the South Llano River by installing protective caging around native trees to deter herbivory.



**The Upper Llanos Prescribed Burn Association**  
In conjunction with  
**Texas Tech University (Junction, TX)**  
**Upper Llanos Soil and Water Conservation District**

Presents

**A Texas Dept. of Agriculture prescribed burn certification course with lead instructors Ray Hinnant and Butch Taylor at the TTU field station campus in Junction, Texas August 2-5, 2017.**



The Local Working Group in **Kimble County** presents

### Conservation Planning Meeting

Kimble County District Courtroom  
501 Main Street, Junction, TX  
August 9, 2017 10 am



Life's better outside!

Like us on Facebook!  
Facebook.com/SouthLlanoRiver

## Family Park Programs

### South Llano River State Park

Phone: (325) 446-3994



#### Bird Walk

Friday, June 30th, 8:30 am - 10:00 am

Meet at the Fawn Trail parking lot  
(behind Park Headquarters)

Come birding with us! We'll walk an easy trail and sit in the bird blind. Good walking shoes, sun protection, and drinking water are recommended. Binoculars provided, or bring your own. All ages and skill levels welcome.

#### Night Hike

Friday, June 30th, 9:00 pm - 10:00 pm

Meet at the Acorn Blind

(down the path from the restrooms, between campsites 39 and 41)

Experience the park after dark! We'll walk an easy trail (~ 1 mile round-trip) and look for fireflies, bats, deer, spiders, and more! Good walking shoes, bug spray, drinking water, and a flashlight are recommended. All ages welcome! No pets, please.



#### 2nd Annual 4th of July Campground Parade

Saturday, July 1st, 9:00 am - 10:30 am

Meet at the Overflow parking lot (across from campsites 18 and 20)

Bring your bike, your kids in a wagon or stroller, or your friendly dog on a leash, and join us for a patriotic parade around the 1-mile campground loop! Decorating will begin at 9:00 am. We will have some decorations available, or bring your own. Parade starts from Overflow parking lot at 10:00 am.

#### Skins, Skulls, and More!

Saturday, July 1st, Drop-in between 3:00 pm and 4:00 pm

Held at the Acorn Blind

(down the path from the restrooms, between campsites 39 and 41)

Stop by the Acorn Blind this afternoon to see and touch animal furs and skulls, and find out what a skull can tell us about how an animal lives! All ages welcome.



#### River Seining

Sunday, July 2nd, 10:00 am - 11:00 am

Meet at the 2nd Day Use parking lot

(take the road across from Park Headquarters, follow to the end)

What kind of fish live in the river? Come seining with us and find out! Water shoes, sun protection, and drinking water are recommended—and be prepared to get wet! Because this activity takes place in the river, adults age 17 and older must possess a valid fishing license to use the sein net.

All ages welcome!

#### Geocaching 101

Sunday, July 2nd, 3:00 pm - 4:00 pm

Meet at the Acorn Blind

(down the path from the restrooms, between campsites 39 and 41)

Experience the fun of Geocaching, a high-tech treasure hunt! We'll use GPS units (provided) to find hidden "treasure" in the park! Good walking shoes, sun protection, drinking water, and bug spray are recommended. All ages welcome!



#### Birding 101

Monday, July 3rd, 9:00 am - 10:00 am

Meet at the Acorn Blind

(down the path from the restrooms, between campsites 39 and 41)

Summer Tanager

Join us to learn binocular and bird ID tips. Then we'll practice identifying birds at the bird blind, and if time permits, take a short walk. Good walking shoes, sun protection, and drinking water are recommended. Binoculars provided, or bring your own. All ages and skill levels welcome!

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