

WATERSHED WEEK IN REVIEW



Mason County Geology

Dr. David Hillis
Mason Science Corner -
Mason County News

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Mason County has fascinating and diverse geological formations, and it is a popular destination for both amateur and professional geologists. Part of the reason for this diversity is that Mason County has rocks and deposits that were formed from billions of years ago up until the present.

Layers of the Earth's surface are always in one of two states : rock layers are either being formed (deposition), or they are being eroded away (erosion).

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This article in *Rock and Vine Magazine* by Hill Country Alliance's Daniel Oppenheimer tells the story of Nueces River Authority's Sky Lewey.

Sky is a longtime advocate of improving riparian habitats along the river. Here are some insightful quotes:

"Everything we do on the land is eventually reflected in a river. That's why it's so important to think about the whole landscape, how big and little pieces fit together"

"If you can appreciate the natural condition and function of the land and river, you're going to save yourself a lot of work."

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Texas Water Development Board Implementing new Spring Monitoring Program



Texas Water Development Board (TWDB) is beginning to implement a new spring monitoring program that aims to implement routine data collection, inventory, and analysis of the springs of Texas. The main goal is to collect water quality samples, measure flow rates, and observe the local ecosystem.

“Springs are important to study because they are one of Texas' least studied water resources and they contribute significant amounts of water to our rivers and streams.”

"Several aquifers across the state are experiencing historic levels of decline with the amount of storage that's available. We need to keep track of this so we can ensure that there's enough water for future Texans. We also need to keep track of the water quality to ensure it's safe for use. And we do this by measuring the water levels and the water quality and seeing how those conditions change over time."

A walk on the wild side becomes more than just exercise

Studies suggest human wilderness connection has psychological roots, could reduce disease risk

From Texas A&M AgriLife

The emotional connection or calming feeling that accompanies a walk in a park or forest is the result of psychological needs being met, according to a recent study from researchers at Texas A&M University, the University of Georgia and the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources.



The study found that people's attachment to the wilderness can be explained by their basic psychological needs for autonomy, relatedness and competence. [Additional research](#) links place attachment, specifically to areas where trees are plentiful, to feelings of well-being, suggesting that spending time in natural areas can provide positive mental and physical health outcomes and improve healing.

With increased stress and isolation due to COVID-19, natural areas and the psychological benefits they provide are needed now more than ever, researchers say.

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Llano Watershed loses a Friend

By Scott Richardson

We are sad to announce that the Llano River Watershed lost a valued friend and member of the conservation community with the passing of Tony Hall. He died this past Sunday at his home on his beloved Gentry Springs Ranch in Kimble County.

Tony is remembered for his conservation work as Director of the Upper Llano Soil



and Water Conservation District, a Director of the Upper Llanos Prescribed Burn Association, a Texas Master Naturalist volunteer, and member of the Llano River Watershed Alliance. Most notable is the model of good land stewardship he and his wife, Judy, created on his

Gentry Springs Ranch through a series of prescribed burns and proper grazing management.

...more on Tony