



South Llano  
Watershed Alliance

Watershed Week  
in Review

May 23, 2015

At last!



South Llano Watershed Alliance

Watershed Week in Review

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## Living Waters Conference

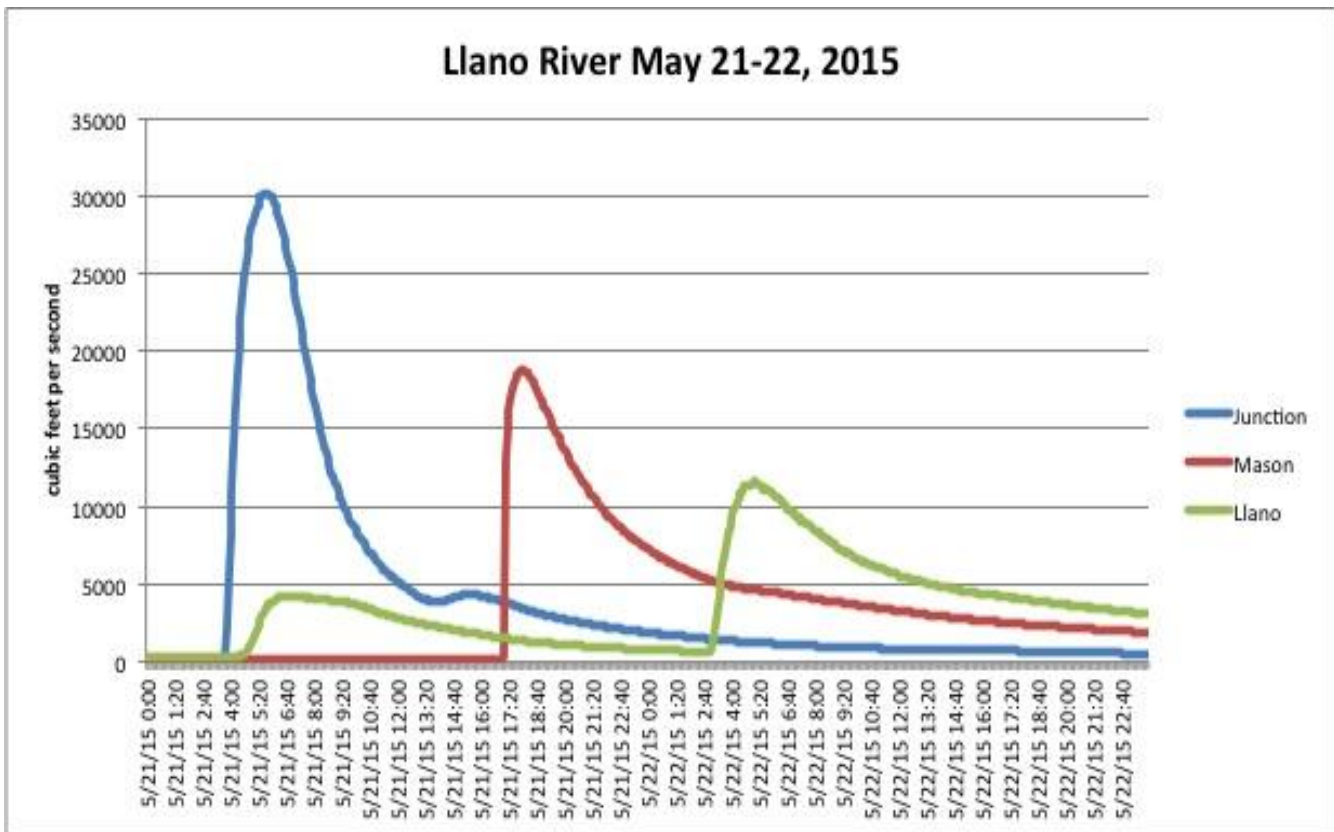
Texas A&M AgriLife  
Extension is  
sponsoring the [Living  
Waters Conference](#) in  
Junction on June 4<sup>th</sup>  
for landowners to learn  
about new techniques  
for managing  
watersheds and  
riparian areas.

This was the view of the confluence of the North and South Llano Rivers in Junction last Thursday morning. The flow at the time of this photo was about 11,000 cubic feet per second (cfs) following a peak of more than 30,000 cfs.

Over 90% of this flow came from the North Llano as nearly 3 inches of rain fell upon saturated soils in the watershed. The North Llano had not been this high since 2004 when the peak reached 62,000 cfs in November of that year.

The flood wave peaked one foot above flood stage at the Llano River near Junction gage (about 3 miles below the confluence) at 5:40am with a discharge of 30,200 cfs.

With 1-3 inches of rainfall predicted for Memorial Day weekend, the chances of an encore performance are good.



## Following the flood wave

After passing the Junction gage at 5:40 am last Thursday morning, the flood wave crest reached the Llano River near Mason gage (55 miles downstream at US 87) at 6:10 that evening with a flow 18,800 cfs. That is an average speed of 4.4 miles/hour.

The flood wave continued on to Llano, cresting the gage there at 5:05 the next morning with a peak of 11,600 cfs. The travel time for the 31 miles from Mason was just under 11 hours, or an average speed of 2.9 miles/hour.

While the flood crest was one foot above flood stage in Junction, it was about two feet below flood stage at both Mason and Llano.

Healthy riparian habitats are an important component of flood mitigation. As seen in the picture on the front page, riparian buffers filled with trees and other plant species help slow floodwaters, thus reducing the size of the flood wave as well as the risk of stream bank erosion. Some of the floodwaters slowed by riparian habitat seep into the soil and are stored in the stream banks....[more benefits](#)

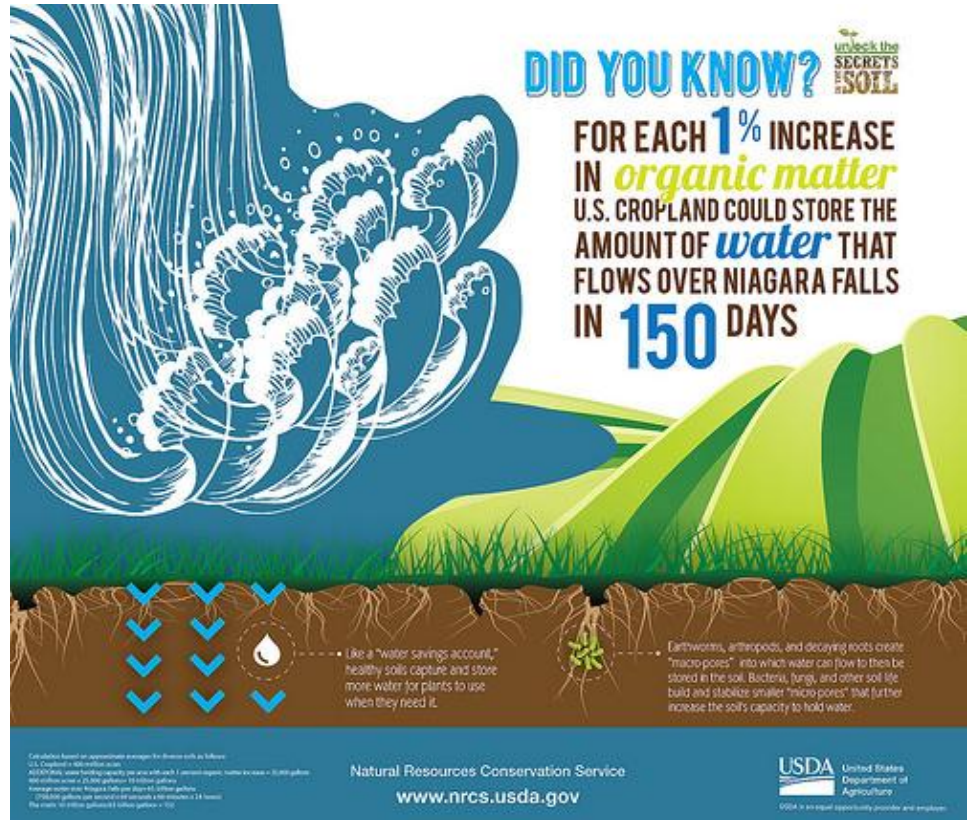
## Texas State Soil and Water Conservation Board Celebrates 75 Years

Our friends at the Texas State Soil and Water Conservation Board are [wrapping up their Diamond Jubilee](#).

This unheralded state agency, located on the Blackland Prairie in Temple, has been a big supporter of activities in the Llano River Watershed. They are the currently funding the development of the [Upper Llano River Watershed Protection Plan](#).

In addition, they are providing funding for the new gage on the South Llano River at the Flatrock Crossing in Junction. Funds from this agency also helped preserve the continuation of data collection at the North Llano River gage.

## Healthy Soils are Water in the Bank



While most look to the sky for drought relief, an increasing number of farmers and ranchers are looking to the soil. Healthy soils capture and store much more water.

That is the message from the US Department of Agriculture’s “Unlock the Secrets of the Soil” campaign. Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) is leading the effort to get more farmers and ranchers to adopt soil health management systems for a wide range of on-and off-farm benefits, including drought resiliency.

With better soil structure, infiltration of water into the soil improves, which allows the entire soil profile to take in and hold more water when it rains. For more info about this campaign, [go to USDA’s webpage](#).

## Your chance to become a Hill Country Master Naturalist

The Hill Country Chapter of Texas Master Naturalist is now accepting applications for its Class of 2015.

The Chapter is based in Kerrville, but serves residents of Bandera, Edwards, Gillespie, Kendall, Kerr, Kimble, Mason, Menard, Real and San Saba counties.



Participants in the class will cover a wide variety of topics including Ecological Concepts and Ecosystem Management, Cedar Myths and Consequences, Bird Behavior, Geology, and Hill Country Soils and Erosion Control, just to name a few of classes offered at the weekly, beginning August 17th.

Field trips to Selah-Bamberger Ranch Preserve, Love Creek Preserve, and Canyon Lake Gorge will also be available for participants.

Deadline for submitting applications is July 13<sup>th</sup>. [Click here for more info.](#)

## Electronics recycling available in Junction- May 30th

The Kimble County Chamber of Commerce is hosting a FREE Computer & Electronic Recycling Event next Saturday, May 30<sup>th</sup> from 9 am to 1 pm. The location of the event is the vacant lot behind the City Offices at the corner of North 8<sup>th</sup> and Pecan Street.

Items such as computers, printers, copiers, fax machines, servers, cell phones, electronic games, and digital cameras will be accepted.

Tires, paint, light bulbs and items with Freon are NOT accepted.

For a complete list of accepted items, check out the [Chamber's website](#).

