

Watershed Week in Review

March 9, 2018

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

700 Springs Tour 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.

Llano Earth Art Festival this Weekend

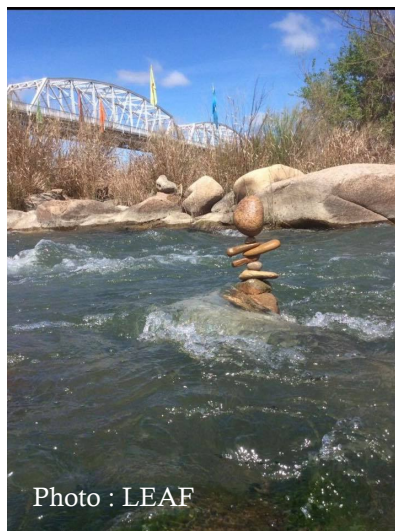


Photo : LEAF

The annual Llano Earth Art Festival is this weekend at Grenwolge Park below the Llano River Bridge in Llano. Rock stacking, music, climbing walls, human trees...this has a little something for everyone.

For more information on Workshops, Competitions, and Music, check out llanoearthartfest.org or the [LEAF Facebook page](#)

Exclosures at Llano River Field Station

The Llano River Field Station, Llano River Watershed Alliance, and Texas Parks and Wildlife have partnered to construct five new wildlife exclosures on the Field Station campus. Overbrowsing by white-tailed and axis deer limit the recruitment (re-vegetation) opportunity for many riparian species such as willow, pecan, and oak. If one looks across much of the riparian areas today, they only see older trees.

In 2011, the Field Station constructed an exclosure on the west side of the South Llano River. The results today are striking (see right). These new exclosures will be more accessible and will provide an opportunity for experimentation.

Exclosures 1-4 are a set of three paired

Experiments. Numbers 1 & 2, just southwest of Flatrock Crossing, will compare upland exclosed riparian habitat with management (think prescribed fire) versus no management in 100 x 100 ft exclosures. Numbers 3 & 4, which are two end-to-end 100 x 100 ft exclosures, capture management practices on riparian habitats lower and closer to the South Llano. Exclosure #5 is a 500 x 500 experiment designed primarily for bank stabilization.

Alliance members are welcome to join the Board before their monthly meeting for a tour on March 22nd at 5:30pm at the Field Station Pavilion across from Packard Hall.



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

Busy Weekend at South Llano River State Park



Life's better outside.®



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Facebook.com/SouthLlanoRiver

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



Skins, Skulls, and More!

Saturday, March 10th, Drop in between 2:30 pm - 3:30 pm
Held at Park Headquarters

Stop by Park Headquarters between 2:30 and 3:30 to see and touch animal furs and skulls, and find out what a skull can tell us about how that animal survives! Children must be accompanied by an adult.

Bird Walk

Sunday, March 11th, 8:30 am - 10:00 am
Meet at the Fawn Trail parking lot
(behind Park Headquarters)



South Llano River State Park is a great place to go birdwatching. Join us and see what we can spot! We will walk to the bird blind and see what birds come in to bathe, drink, or feed. If time permits, we may drive or walk to another bird blind as well.

Binoculars provided, or bring your own.

All ages and skill levels welcome!



Geocaching 101

Sunday, March 11th, 1:30 pm - 2:30 pm
Meet at the Acorn Blind

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

Join us for 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 activity. Good walking shoes and drinking water are recommended. All ages welcome. Children must be accompanied by an adult.

Buck Lake Trail Nature Walk

Monday, March 12th, 10:00 am - 11:00 am
Meet at the Acorn Blind

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

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 we'll keep an eye out for deer, birds, and other wildlife! This easy trail is approximately 1.25 miles round-trip. There is one steep but short hill, and the rest of the dirt path is fairly level. Good walking shoes and drinking water are recommended, and dress for the weather!

All ages welcome.



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