

S E P T E M B E R 2 7 , 2 0 1 5

Watershed Week in Review

Llano River Watershed Alliance



Happy Centennial Anniversary to a reliable friend

On October 1st, 1915, the US Geological Survey Llano River @ Junction gage recorded its first measurement: 306 cfs. One hundred years later, this gage still provides a daily record of the river that is the lifeblood of so many communities.

The gage has seen its highs and lows. On August 17th, 1956: 3.7 cfs and on June 14th, 1935: 319,000 cfs. There were also political lows when the gage was inactive from 1993-1997.

While this is not the oldest US Geological Survey (USGS) gage- that honor belongs to the Rio Grande @ Embudo gage in New Mexico (1889) - there are likely not many gages that are able to provide such a long-term record. USGS and their cooperators, such as LCRA, are to be commended for their long-term dedication to science.

Lunar Eclipse Sunday Night

There is a total eclipse of the moon on the night of September 27, 2015. It happens to be the closest **supermoon** of 2015.

It's the Northern Hemisphere's **Harvest Moon**, or full moon nearest the September equinox.

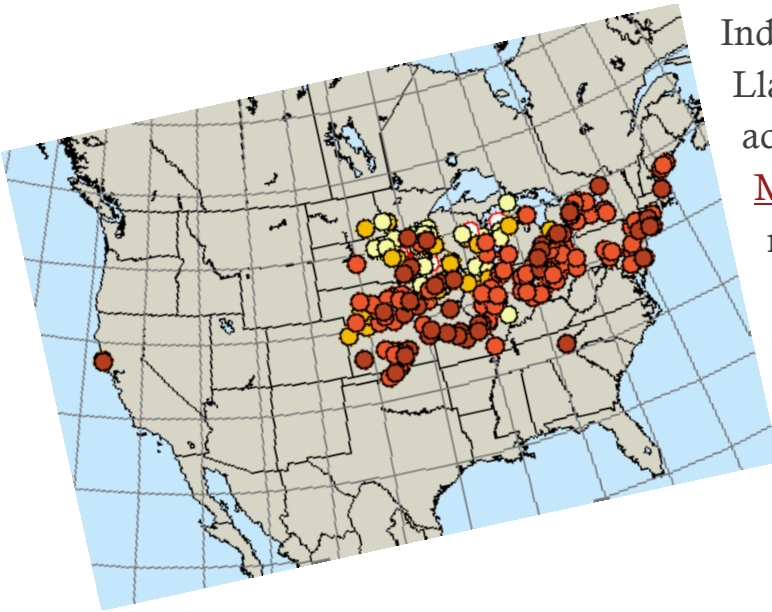
Full eclipse is 9:47pm local time



Monarch Migration

Individual monarchs were sighted at South Llano River State Park this past week, but according to the [Monarch Butterfly Fall Migration Map](#), the peak migration has just moved into northern Oklahoma.

Use this website to follow the monarch migration and even file your own reports.



State moves to control invasive species

Arundo donax, likely native to Asia, has been designated by the Texas Department of Agriculture a noxious and invasive species, the closest thing a plant can get to being named a public enemy.

This year, the Texas Parks and Wildlife department will invest \$570,000 on projects like this one to control the giant reed in Hill Country rivers such as the Blanco, Llano, Nueces and Pedernales, along with the Rio Grande.

[Read more](#)

Efforts on the Llano

Some of these funds are also being used to treat invasive elephant ears on the Llano. Last Tuesday, crews from the Llano River Field Station, Texas Parks and Wildlife, and Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center did follow up treatments of elephant ears along the South Llano and began treatment of elephant ears along the mainstem of the Llano below Junction (right)





Alliance Outing on the South Llano River this Sunday

The Llano River Watershed Alliance is looking forward to its Fall Outing this Sunday on [the South Llano Paddling Trail](#) from the South Llano River State Park to Flat Rock Crossing in Junction.

Trip participants will be joined by research professionals from Texas Parks and Wildlife, Llano River Field Station-Texas Tech Junction and the University of Texas for a 2-3 hour float on the river and the opportunity to learn about the latest efforts to repair eroding

streambanks, control invasive riparian species, and enhance populations of pure Guadalupe Bass.

A special thank you to our friends at [South Llano River State Park](#) for providing an entrance fee waiver for trip participants.

Although registration has closed for this event, we hope that you will be able to join us on future trips as we explore together different sections of the Llano.



Watershed 101

Hill Country Master Naturalist
Monday, September 28 - Kerrville

Water 101 is a one half-hour explanation of water in Texas. Charlie Flatten, water policy program manager with Hill Country Alliance will discuss science, management, policy, conservation, and the future of our most precious natural resource. Charlie's role at the Hill Country Alliance includes water planning, policy, and management outreach, and facilitating a cooperative dialog between the region's diverse communities.

[More info](#)