

J U N E 2 9 , 2 0 1 8

# Watershed Week in Review

A Publication of  
Llano River Watershed Alliance and  
Llano River Field Station

## Alliance Supports Youth Range Camp



For the past several years, the Alliance has partnered with our friends at the Upper Llanos Soil and Water Conservation District to provide tuition for a local student to attend the annual Youth Range Workshop at the Llano River Field Station.

This year's recipient is Collyn Schaefer.

## Sandy Creek Proposed Dredging

A controversy is brewing around Sunrise Beach regarding a [proposed sand mining operation near Sandy Creek](#). Officially, Sandy Creek is not a tributary of the Llano, but rather the Colorado, as it's confluence is downstream of Kingsland.

That being said, this provides a good moment to shed some light on the issue. Back in 2009, when the Alliance was just getting started, there was an issue re sand mining on the Llano below Llano. As a result, we put together a [webpage to highlight the issue](#).

On the page is [this video showing what happens when mining occurs in a river](#).

## Sand Mining in Texas Rivers

In Texas, the “disturbing or taking” of material in a streambed claimed by the State requires a permit from Texas Parks and Wildlife Department (TPWD). A streambed claimed by the State is either a navigable river (such as the Llano) or a river that is 30 feet wide between the banks (even if it is dry most of time), such as Sandy Creek.

[Chapter 86 TPWD Code](#) ~ [FAQ Website](#)

There are several exceptions to this rule, including the **restoration or maintenance of storage capacity of an existing public water supplies**. The City of Llano recently used this exemption for the removal of material from Llano and Robinson Lakes.



*Illegal sand and gravel mining on the Llano in 2009.  
The operator was cited for this violation.*

## Llano featured in LCRA Basin Highlights Report

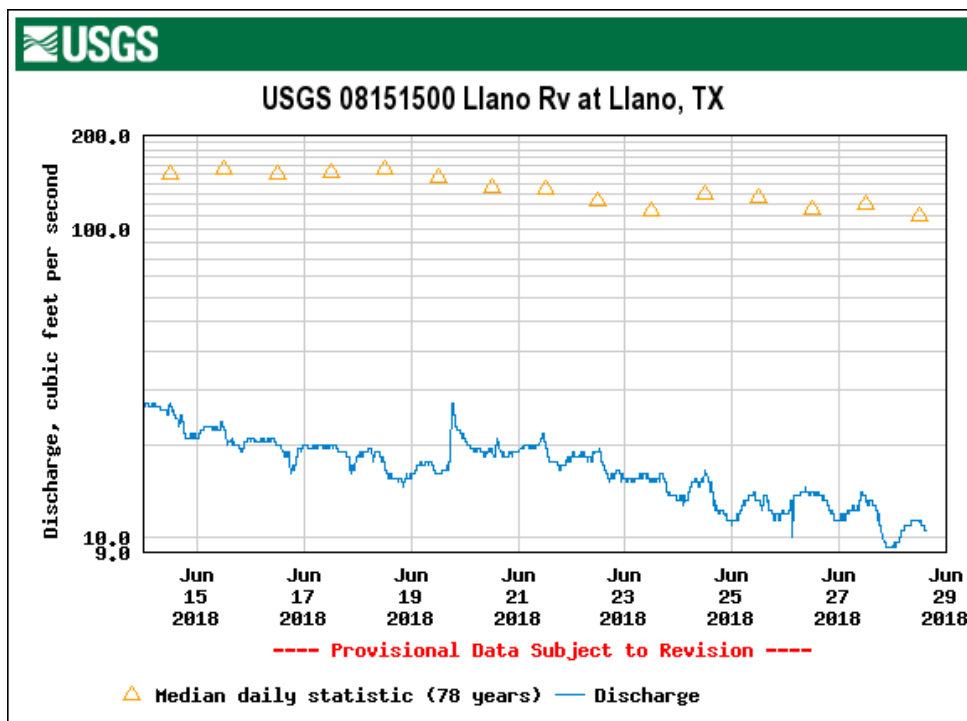
The Upper Llano River Watershed Protection Plan is featured in the 2018 LCRA Basin Highlights Report.

*In an effort to protect and maintain the ecological integrity of the Upper Llano River, the Texas Tech University Llano River Field Station (TTU-LRFS) and Texas Water Resources Institute (TWRI) are working with the Llano Watershed Alliance (LWA; formerly known as South Llano Watershed Alliance) and others to implement the Llano River Watershed Protection Plan (WPP), which was completed in May 2016.*



[Link to Report](#)

## Low Flows on the Llano



Last week, the Newsletter carried information about the Llano River at Llano at 15 cfs. Unfortunately, conditions have continued to deteriorate and flows are now near 10 cfs in Llano.

Upstream conditions are only slightly better:

Llano @ Junction – 27 cfs  
Llano near Mason-26 cfs.

For both Junction and Mason, this is lower than flows in 2011 on this date, when both gages read 31 cfs.

Hopefully the predictions for rain next week and a [wetter than normal fall and winter](#) prove correct.

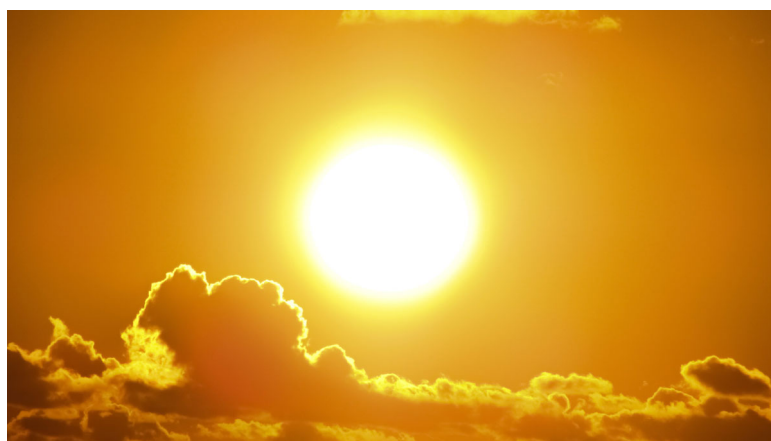
## What to Expect this Summer?

*Texas Living Waters Blog*  
*John Nielsen-Gammon*

Much like the old saying about life, weather is just one damn thing after another. It's sunny, then it rains. It's windy, then calm. It's a drought ended with a flood. And on and on.

In [Texas in the summertime](#), imagine how bad things would be if we had the same weather day after day!

At first, that might not seem so bad. If you have something planned for a certain day, you might want that day to be bright and sunny. And if every day is bright and sunny, well then there's nothing to worry about! Alas, Texas needs rain during the summer, too. ...[continue reading](#)...







Life's better outside.



Like us on Facebook!  
Facebook.com/SouthLlanoRiver

## Family Park Programs, June 30 – July 8

### South Llano River State Park

Phone: (325) 446-3994



#### River Seining – Saturday, June 30th, 10:00 am - 11:00 am

Meet at the river crossing parking lot.

(Head toward the park exit. Parking lot is on the right before the bridge.) 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!

#### Skins, Skulls, and More! - Saturday, June 30th, Drop by 1:30 pm and 2:30 pm

Held at the Park Headquarters porch.

Stop by park headquarters between 1:30 pm and 2:30 pm 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.



#### The Park After Dark – Saturday, June 30th, 8:30 pm - 9:30 pm

Meet at the Acorn Blind (down the path from the restrooms, between campsites 39 and 41)



Experience the park after dark! We'll learn how animals use their senses and we will walk an easy trail as we 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.

#### Japanese Fish Printing – Sunday, July 1st, 10:00 am - 11:00 am

Meet at the Acorn Bird Blind (down the path from the restrooms, between campsites 39 and 41)

Try your hand at the ancient art of Gyotaku, a method that Japanese fishermen used to record their catch! All materials are provided. All ages welcome! Children must be accompanied by an adult.



By J.G.



#### Animal Tracks – Sunday, July 1st – Drop by 1:30 pm to 2:30 pm

Held at the Park Headquarters porch

Stop by park headquarters between 1:30 pm and 2:30 pm to make tracks and learn how to identify the tracks of common park wildlife. All ages welcome.

#### 3rd Annual 4th of July Campground Parade – Wed., July 4th, 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.

#### Under the Microscope – Thursday, July 5th, Drop by 1:30 pm to 2:30 pm

Held at the Park Headquarters porch

Stop by park headquarters between 1:30 pm and 2:30 pm to see what's under the microscope. Whether it's Buck Lake water, a butterfly wing, a feather, or something quite different, it will be exciting!



#### Skins, Skulls, and More! - Friday, July 6th, Drop by 1:30 pm to 2:30 pm

Held at the Park Headquarters porch

Stop by park headquarters between 1:30 pm and 2:30 pm 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.



#### Buck Lake Birds, Butterflies, Bugs & More – Saturday, July 7th, 9:00 am - 10:00 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. We'll look for birds, butterflies, turtles, frogs, insects, lizards and more! There is one steep but short hill. 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.



#### River Bugs! - Saturday, July 7th, 1:30 pm - 2:30 pm

Meet at the 2nd Day Use parking lot (Take the road across from Headquarters, follow to the end. Look for the water bug pole)



Come find out what kinds of insects live in the river! We will show you how to use a dip net and magnifying glass to discover cool aquatic insects! Sun protection and drinking water are recommended. Wear clothes you can get wet! Children must be accompanied by an adult.

#### Backyard Bass – Sunday, July 8, 10:00 am to 11:00 am

Meet by the floating dock at Buck Lake (down the path from the restrooms, between campsites 39 and 41)



Rods and reels provided. Come practice casting and reeling in your catch! No bait needed, since we will not catch real fish. Don't know how to fish? This fun game will help you learn the basics! All ages welcome.

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

## Land Stewardship 101

### Becoming Good Stewards of the Land

How long has it been since you had an opportunity for an Outdoors Experience in a beautiful setting, while earning Professional CEU's? Well that's too long!

**JOIN US FOR AN OUTDOOR LEARNING EXPERIENCE ON THE BEAUTIFUL LLANO RIVER!**



**What is it?** –An interdisciplinary environmental educational experience taught by education professionals and natural resource specialists. You will sharpen your skills and teaching methods to engage students in science, nature, and conservation.

**Who Should Attend?** – Anyone who is interested in learning more about fostering a relationship between our youth and the natural world– teachers, scout leaders, parents, naturalists, park rangers, zoo educators, youth group leaders, and private citizens.

**Date:** July 17-19, 2018

**Cost:** \$195.00

**(Includes 2 nights lodging, 6 meals, and curriculum materials)**

**16 Hours of Professional Continuing Education Units**

**Certification in Leopold Education Program curriculum**

For more information, contact Christine Moseley at [Christine.moseley@utsa.edu](mailto:Christine.moseley@utsa.edu)

**Texas Tech University Center in Junction, TX**

<http://www.depts.ttu.edu/junction/>

Topics	Activities	Sponsors
Soils	Fishing	Texas Tech University -Junction
Water quality	Kayaking	McCulloch SWCD
Land ethics	Swimming	Upper Llanos SWCD
Biodiversity	Birding	Menard SWCD
Plant ID	Nature Walks	
Habitat management	Journaling	

**Scholarships may be available through local Soil and Water Conservation Districts**

**SCHOLARSHIPS ARE AVAILABLE!**

[Click here for more info...](#)