

N O V E M B E R 3 , 2 0 1 7

Watershed Week in Review

Llano River Watershed Alliance
and
Llano River Field Station

Deer Season Starts – Please Don't Help the Feral Hogs



Bacterial contamination of our waterways from feral hogs is an emerging problem in the Llano Watershed.

Please do your part to protect our waterways by constructing exclosures around your deer feeders. [Learn how.](#)

A full-grown hog eats about 6 pounds of food per day. Even if not all of this is from feeders, it doesn't take long for a sounder of 25-30 to go through a 50-pound bag of deer corn.

Materials to construct such an exclosure cost less than \$200.

Pumpkin Float



Volunteers light jack-o-lanterns on the Llano in Llano last Saturday night.

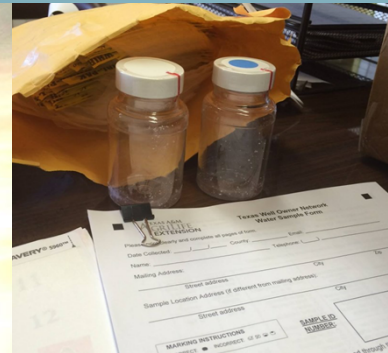
Several readers have inquired how the pumpkins didn't sink.

They wore PFDs of course...Pumpkin Flotation Devices

More on page 3

Get your Well Tested and Learn How to Protect It From Contamination

Water Well Owners Educational Event



Tuesday, November 14, 2017
8:30 am— 12:30 pm

Texas Tech Center at Junction
254 Red Raider Ln.
Junction, TX

TEXAS WELL OWNER NETWORK PROGRAM

The Texas Well Owner Network (TWON) program is a free, educational training for Texas residents who depend on household wells for their water needs. TWON is for private well owners who want to become familiar with groundwater resources, septic system maintenance, well maintenance, water quality and water treatment. Private well owners are independently responsible for monitoring the quality of their wells. Essentially, they are the operators of their own water system and are responsible for ensuring that their water is safe.

BRING YOUR WELL WATER SAMPLES!

Well owners may bring water samples to the training to be screened for nitrate-nitrogen, total dissolved solids (TDS) and *E. coli* bacteria for \$10. Pick up approved sample containers with instructions at the [Kimble](#) County Texas A&M AgriLife Extension office.

Bring your samples and payment of \$10 to the training on November 14.

Pre-register for the workshop at

<http://twon.tamu.edu/training/> or call 979-845-1461



Funding provided through a non point source grant from the Texas State Soil and Water Conservation Board.

DETAILS



RAINWATER REVIVAL + HILL COUNTRY LIVING FESTIVAL

NOVEMBER 4, 2017 | 10AM TO 5PM | DRIPPING SPRINGS RANCH PARK

BIGGER. BETTER. MORE FUN!

It's all about rainwater collection, conserving water and energy, and living lightly, responsibly and beautifully in the Texas Hill Country!

New This Year!

- Tiny Home Rodeo – visit our showcase of tiny homes; meet builders & enthusiasts
- One-Stop Hill Country Wine Tour – all within walking distance
- Food Trailer Court – a rolling smorgasbord of tastes and treats
- Hill Country Music Stage – singers, songwriters, toe tapping; [Get Performance Schedule!](#)
- Other items of interest and surprises to be announced.

Pumpkin Float on the Llano



Thanks to the organizers of the Llano Pumpkin Float for a spectacular event. A big thank you also for making sure all pumpkins made it back to shore and didn't 'drown' in the river. Joaquin Cortez constructed the glowing pumpkin sand carving at left.

by Naveena Sadasivam

How To Disappear a River

A 40-mile stretch of the San Saba River keeps drying up, and some locals say illegal pumping is to blame. Why hasn't the state done more?

John Quinn says the trouble started in 2011. Texas endured one of its worst droughts ever that year, with blistering temperatures and parched conditions leading to devastating wildfires and \$7 billion in agricultural losses. Quinn is a third-generation cattle rancher in the small town of Brady, about two hours northwest of San Antonio, and his business took a big hit. With no rain, the grass on Quinn's land soon turned brown and died, leaving his Angus heifers with nothing to eat. He was forced to sell off the whole herd.

"It was pretty disheartening," Quinn recalled. "It was very hard to sell, but I just did it anyway. I hate to see livestock suffer, so I just got rid of them."

Not long after, he noticed something strange: The ranch belonging to his close friend and pastor, Rusty Allen, still had hundreds of acres of bright-green grass. Every Sunday morning,

Quinn and his wife drove to church at Allen's ranch in nearby Menard, a half-hour southwest of Brady. On those weekly drives, Quinn couldn't help staring at Allen's lush fields. He wondered: Could his friend be illegally pumping water from the San Saba River?



A sign on the outskirts of Menard protesting TCEQ's involvement in water rights. JEN REEL

...continued

City of Junction Seeks to Renew Permit

The City of Junction is requesting to renew its Permit to discharge up to 280,000 gallons per day of treated domestic wastewater to the Llano River.

[View Permit Request](#)

[View Permit](#)



The Notice for Permit Renewal was only distributed Wednesday, and therefore, was not published in this week's *Junction Eagle*. The 30-day time period mentioned in the Permit Renewal will begin once the Notice is published.

The Llano River Watershed Alliance has yet to review or discuss the Permit Application and at this time has taken no position on the Application.



Life's better outside!



Like us on Facebook!
Facebook.com/SouthLlanoRiver

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

Bird Walk

Saturday, November 4th, 9:00 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. Good walking shoes and drinking water are recommended, and dress for the weather! Binoculars provided, or bring your own. All ages and skill levels welcome!



Skins, Skulls, and More!

Saturday, November 4th, Drop in between 2:00 pm and 3:00 pm
Held at the Acorn Blind
(down the path from the restrooms, between campsites 39 and 41)

Stop by the Acorn Blind anytime between 2 and 3 pm 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.