

J U N E 2 2 , 2 0 1 8

Watershed Week in Review

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

River Access and Conservation Area Program June 30th



Photo: Robert Stubblefield

*Do you own property along the river?
Would you like to earn extra income?*

**Come learn about the Parks and Wildlife's
River Access and Conservation Area
Program**

June 30 at Noon

Boone's Crossing (CR 150 off US 377 South)

Door Prizes (see right) and Free BBQ

More info page 2

Door Prizes

A Fly Rod, Reel and Case, along with a Texas Parks and Wildlife Annual Parks Pass are door prizes to be given away Saturday the 30th.



River Access and Conservation Area

...continued

Come out to the banks of the South Llano at Boone's Crossing (County Road 150) Saturday, June 30th at NOON to learn more about a new opportunity for landowners...and enjoy some great BBQ.

Texas Parks and Wildlife Department's **River Access and Conservation Area (RACA)** program aims to increase sustainable fishing and paddling access to rivers and streams across private lands. This partnership between local landowners, TPWD and cooperating organizations will allow Texans to more fully enjoy the natural beauty that our local rivers have to offer and riverside **landowners an opportunity to earn extra monthly income.**

The Llano River Watershed Alliance is partnering with Texas Parks and Wildlife Department (TPWD) to host an informational program about the new RACA program. The program offers generous monthly payments to landowners who lease a portion of their land to TPWD for fishing and boating access. Lease agreements allow the landowner to set special conditions (types of use, period of time) for the use of the land.

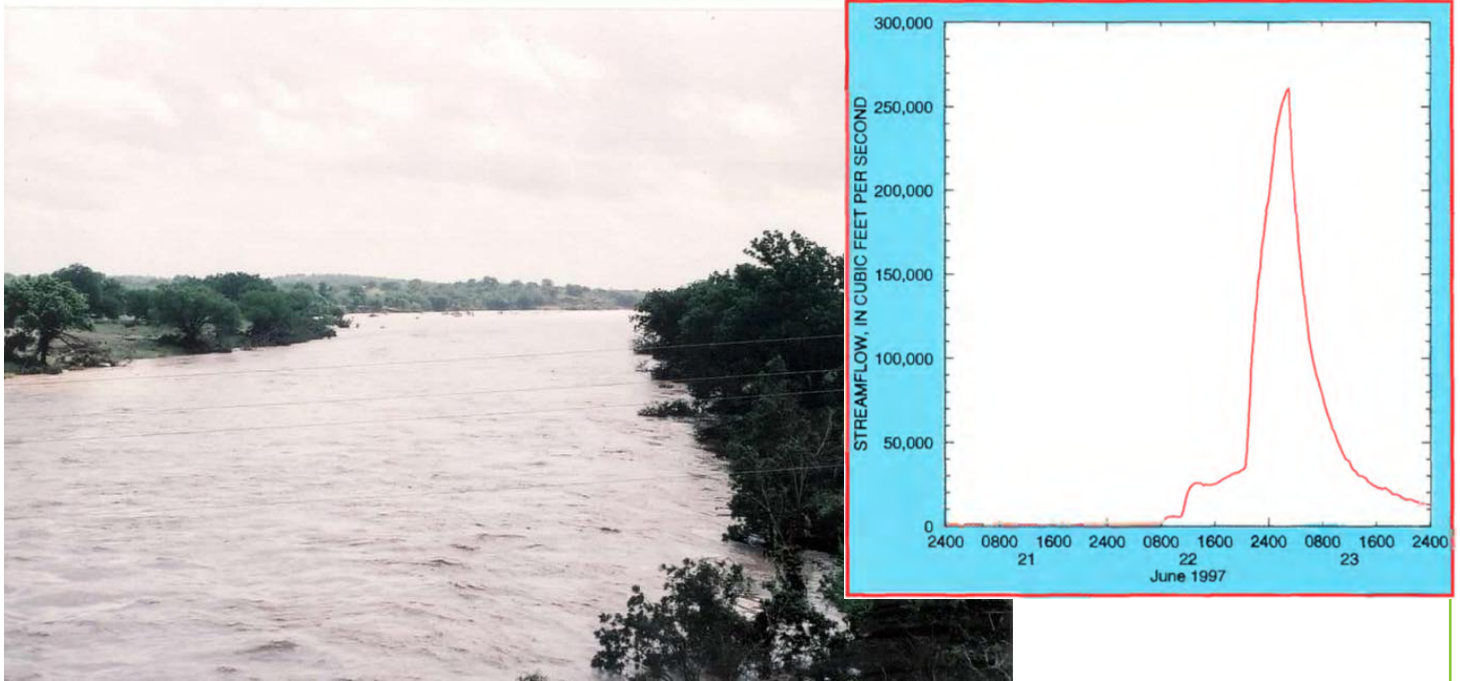
TPWD personnel as well as current RACA program participants will be on hand to answer questions. **FREE Lum's BBQ will be provided** and generous door prizes will be awarded. **Please RSVP for the BBQ Lunch at southllanoriver@gmail.com** or by calling Tyson Broad at (325) 248-3137.

Prior to the program, the Watershed Alliance will host the **RACA River Float**. Participants will meet at 9am at Boone's Crossing (County Road 150). FREE shuttles will be provided upstream to the First Crossing (from Junction) of the South Llano at US 377. Boaters will paddle the 2.7 miles downstream to Boone's Crossing, taking time to enjoy the beautiful scenery, swim, fish, and pick up trash (litterbags provided). A prize will be awarded to the boat that picks up the most trash.

For folks who do not wish to paddle, there will be volunteer opportunities at Boone's Crossing to improve landscaping and signage at the RACA site.

For more information about the event and the RACA program, visit llanoriver.org.

The Llano River then and now...

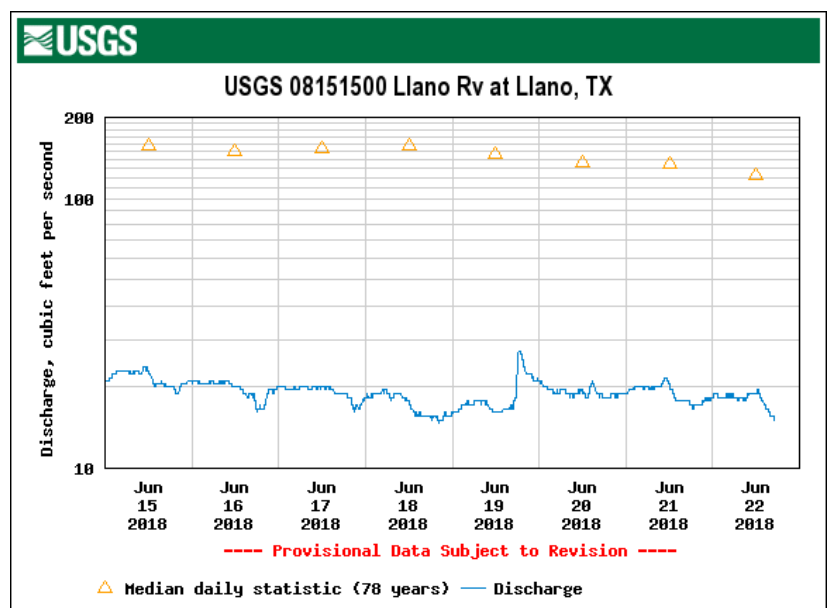


(Left) Twenty-one years ago today. Massive Mason County flooding on June 22, 1997 (this was the third major flood on the river in nine months). The Llano River rose 39 feet at the LCRA gauging station near the Highway 87 Bridge to be the second highest Llano River flood in recorded history. The highest flood came in at 46 feet in 1935. This photo was taken from the Hwy 87 Bridge after the floodwater began receding. Photo and information: Don Gray. (Right) The gage at Llano recorded more than 250,000 cfs of water. Source : [USGS-Floods of South-Central Texas, June 1997.](#)

Today, the Llano River at Llano is 15 cfs. On this date in 1984, the Llano River was 21 cfs. That summer the River ceased to flow for 2 days in mid-July.

There is a possibility this low flow is partially a result of the refilling of the upper reservoir in Llano that had previously been drained for dredging.

We will re-examine the gage data next week.



Arundo is found in the Llano as well...



The Healthy Creeks Initiative is providing no-cost assistance to Pedernales River watershed landowners to treat Arundo, an invasive plant causing damage in the Hill Country

Join us at an information session for landowners to learn more about no-cost assistance to treat Arundo and improve the health of the Pedernales River Basin.

Saturday, June 23rd, 2:00 PM – 4:00 PM in Fredericksburg

Gillespie County AgriLife Extension Office ([95 Frederick Rd](#))

Food and drinks will be provided – please RSVP to make sure we have enough to go around! Email healthycreeks@tpwd.texas.gov or call 512-389-8750

Learn more about the Healthy Creeks Initiative on our website at:

<http://tpwd.texas.gov/healthycreeks>



A Chance to Visit Mason Mountain WMA

The Hill Country Chapter of Texas Master Naturalist are hosting an Introduction to Mason Mountain Wildlife Management Area this Saturday, from 8am to noon.

Learn all about the history and purpose of Mason Mountain Wildlife Management Area and about various ongoing Texas Master Naturalist volunteer activities and opportunities including Vegetation Data Collection, Bluebird Box Monitoring, Deer Census Counting, and Pollinator Habitat Improvement. Contact Tony Plutino at 512-496-2020 or tonyplutino@gmail.com.



YOU DO NOT HAVE TO BE A TEXAS MASTER NATURALIST TO ATTEND.

Hill Country Master Naturist to Discuss Monarch Habitat Restoration – June 25

Monarch Habitat Restoration: How Citizen Scientists Play a Key Role in State and National Efforts
presented by Cathy Downs

The Texas Hill Country landscape plays a vital role in the annual migration of the monarch butterfly. This iconic insect, once numbering a billion, is now under review by U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service as an endangered species. Efforts by Hill Country landowners to restore monarch habitat on the local, county, and regional scale could help lead to the recovery of this population. Using available resources and participating in citizen science programs can help sustain and nourish the monarch butterfly for years to come.

[more info...](#)



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Family Park Programs, June 16 - June 24

South Llano River State Park

Phone: (325) 446-3994

Buck Lake Birds, Butterflies, Bugs & More - Saturday, June 16th

9:00 am - 10:00 am



Meet at 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, 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.



Skins, Skulls, and More! - Saturday, June 16th

drop in between 1:30 - 2:30 pm

Held at Acorn Blind (Down the path from the restrooms, between campsites 39 and 41)
Stop by between 1:30 and 2:30 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.

Japanese Fish Printing - Sunday, June 17th

10:00 am - 11:00 am



By J.G. Wang

Meet at Acorn 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.



River Bugs! - Saturday, June 23rd

10:00 am - 11:00 am

Meet at the 2nd Day Use parking lot (take the road across from Headquarters, follow to the end, look for 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 a 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.

Skins, Skulls, and More! - Saturday, June 23rd

drop in between 1:30 - 2:30 pm



Held at Acorn Blind (Down the path from the restrooms, between campsites 39 and 41)
Stop by 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.



Backyard Bass - Sunday, June 24th

10:00 am - 11:00 am

Held 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!
Sun protection and drinking water are recommended.
All ages welcome!

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