South Llano Watershed Alliance

Watershed Week in Review

June 21, 2015

Eighty years ago

Scott Zesch shared this photo of the Llano River from June 14, 1935. At the time of the photo, the Llano was at 38 feet flowing under the Highway 9 (now Hwy 87) bridge southeast of Mason.

The river rose to 46 feet that day, sending the bridge (as well as the Llano bridge) on its way. Flows at Mason and Llano were estimated to be 380,000 cfs and 319,000 cfs in Junction, the highest flows ever recorded on the Llano. By comparison, the Llano River flood of 1997 reached 260,000 cfs.

Widespread flooding was common during 1935 as Austin received over 9 inches of rain in both May and June. On May 30th of that year, 22-24 inches of rain fell on D'Hanis in 2 hours and 45 minutes.

More on the floods of 1935…

Are you seeing and hearing bobwhites for the first time in a long time?

Texas A&M AgriLife wants to know. Help them track quail sightings by county.

More on the award for the Llano River Field Station

Last month, the newsletter reported that our partners at the Llano River Field Station received the Universities Council on Water Resources Education and Public Service Award for 2015.

Last week, Field Station Director Dr. Tom Arsuffi officially received the award in Nevada.

Read more about the award and the Field Station's work on the Llano in this week's press release from Texas Tech University.

GONE PADDLIN' ***photo: Tony Plutino***

Another short newsletter must mean that Newsletter staff are out playing on the river. Indeed, the flows of the Llano are the best they have been in years.

Where are the best sections to run?

Well, there is always the South Llano River Paddling Trail.

Yesterday's run was featured on the cover of Texas Monthly back in 2010.

Castell Guide Service offers this interactive map of access points, distances, and recommended flows.

As always, please respect the rights of landowners along the river and remember to bring along a trash bag.

How to collect a well-water sample?

If your home relies on a private well for its water supply, the responsibility for ensuring its water quality falls on you. Some local groundwater districts, such as the Hickory Underground Water Conservation District #1, provide testing for district members. Others host water well screening days on an annual basis.

One of the key steps in protecting your well's water quality is properly collecting the water sample. This short video from Texas A&M AgriLife shows you how.