



South Llano
Watershed Alliance

Watershed Week
in Review

June 28, 2015

Mr. & Mrs. Fatmucket

Clint Robertson and the [Texas Rivers & Streams Facebook page](#) also shared this picture of male and female fatmuckets.

The males (on left) have a more pointed shell



[Watch Video](#)

Fatmuckets

Clint Robertson with Texas Parks and Wildlife shared this great underwater video of a Texas fatmucket (*Lampsilis bracteata*) in the Llano River. According to Clint, this female is trying to lure a fish host with her mantle display.

According to the [Freshwater Mollusk Conservation Society](#), inside the female fatmucket, fertilized eggs develop into microscopic larvae called *glochidia*. Mussels need to 'infect' a host fish with their glochidia in order to reproduce. For this species of mussel, females have an extension of the mantle tissue that resembles a small fish. When a soon-to-be host fish swims by to eat the 'lure', the marsupial gills of the female are ruptured and the fertilized eggs come loose and attach themselves to the fish.

The glochidia must attach themselves to the gills or fins of the host fish in order to survive. Tissue of the host fish grows over or 'encysts' the glochidia. The glochidia transform into juveniles and drop off. If they settle into suitable habitat, a new mussel bed is created.

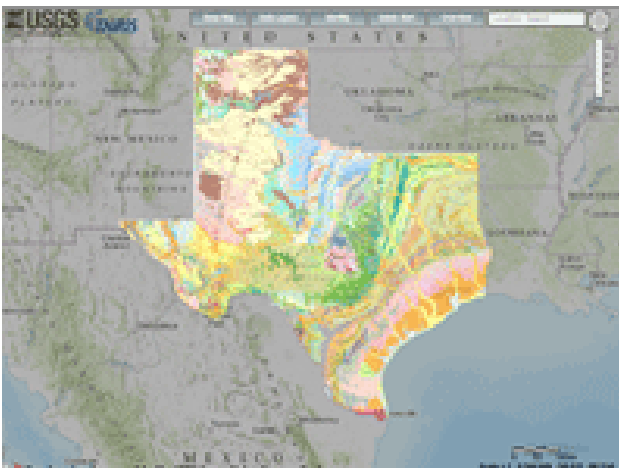
New interactive map shows geology of Texas

The US Geological Survey has released an interactive map of the Geology of Texas.

Want to know what geological formation you live on?

Want to know where faults are located?

Simply go [online here](#) and enter your location. Happy exploring.



...and if 'fatmucket' made you smile...

Texas rivers and streams are also home to the

Texas pigtoe
Sandbank pocketbook
Southern hickorynut
Texas heelsplitter
Texas pimpleback
Smooth pimpleback
Mexican fawnfoot
 and
Rio Grande Monkeyface

Want to learn more about freshwater mussels and why they are important to river health? Check out Texas Parks and Wildlife's [webpage](#).

San Antonio Express-News highlights Junction

A gem of a destination for hunting, fishing and kayaking, Junction is also perfect for a scenic day trip for some down-home eats, window shopping at second-hand shops, taking in a historical site or two or gawking at the town's famous Deer Horn Christmas Tree, tubing, swimming, hiking, biking and a picnic in the park.

[Read article](#)

Alliance partners with Upper Llanos SWCD for scholarships to 2015 Range Workshop



Neil Payne and Carl Mogford are pictured with SLWA Board members Znobia Wootan, Tyson Broad, and Art Mudge, and Soil Board Director Ward Whitworth. (Art Mudge is also a Soil Board director.)

These young men offered a heartfelt thanks to both organizations for providing them the opportunity to attend the most recent Range Workshop at the Llano River Field Station.

New technologies help homeowners save water

Technological advancements are helping homeowners and utilities use water more efficiently, and new consumer information is helping utilities better understand and target consumers' needs and attitude.

This article by Danielle Kalisek for the [Summer 2015 issue of txH2O](#) discusses how perceptions about water supplies have changed in the last few years...

In 2008, a survey of 419 Texans showed that on 47% felt that water quantity was an issue in their area. A 2014 survey showed that that percentage had increased to 61%.

...and how new technologies can help homeowners reduce usage...

We are attempting to provide more real-time data to homeowners and see if them accessing this data encourages any water-use reductions.

Alliance names new officers

Last Thursday, the SLWA Board of Directors elected new officers to the Board:

Emily Neiman
(President, Treasurer)

Dr. Gary Garrett
(Vice-President)

Tyson Broad
(Secretary)

A special thanks to outgoing president **Znobia Wootan** for her leadership these last years.

Below is a picture of Znobia accepting the Lone Star Land Stewardship Award in 2013 on behalf of the Alliance. Pictured with Znobia is our new vice-president, Dr. Gary Garrett



USDA expanding investments in water conservation and resilience to droughts

TEMPLE, May 19, 2015 - Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack announced that the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) will invest approximately \$21 million in additional Farm Bill dollars to help farmers and ranchers apply science-based solutions to mitigate the short and long term effects of drought.

These investments will focus financial and technical assistance in the most severely drought-stricken areas in eight states to help crop and livestock producers apply conservation practices that increase irrigation efficiency, improve soil health and productivity, and ensure reliable water sources for livestock operations.

[Read more](#)

Apply by July 13th for next Hill Country Master Naturalist Class

The Hill Country Chapter of Texas Master Naturalist is now accepting applications for its Class of 2015.

The Chapter is based in Kerrville, but serves residents of Bandera, Edwards, Gillespie, Kendall, Kerr, Kimble, Mason, Menard, Real and San Saba counties.

Participants in the class will cover a wide variety of topics including Ecological Concepts and Ecosystem Management, Cedar Myths and Consequences, Bird Behavior, Geology, and Hill County Soils and Erosion Control, to name just a few of the weekly classes that begin August 17th.

[Learn more](#)