

WATERSHED WEEK IN REVIEW



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Continued in next week's

LRWA Letter to TxDot concerning White's Crossing



Llano River upstream of White's Crossing, Mason County

The Alliance wrote a follow-up letter to TxDot regarding their recent presentation on the proposed White's Crossing Bridge. The new bridge is to be 15 feet in height and the old bridge will be removed. Many residents and river users raised concerns regarding the loss of river access once the new bridge is completed.

The Alliance, in our letter to TxDot, suggests that the removal of the old bridge be reconsidered.

[Click here to find out why.](#)

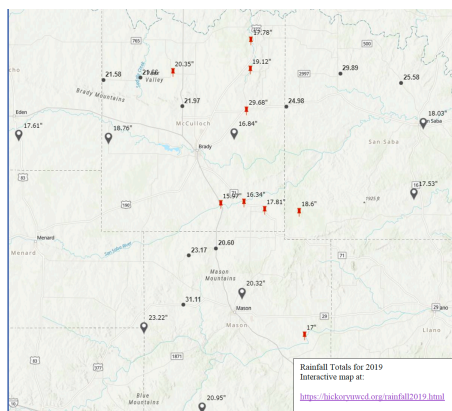
Letter to TCEQ re Grayson Cedarworks Waste Water Permit Renewal

It was a busy week for the Alliance's letter-writing team as we also submitted a comment letter to Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ). Grayson Cedarworks, near Segovia, has a permit to discharge wastewater into Johnson Fork, a tributary of the Llano River. They are seeking to renew this permit.

Our concerns expressed in the letter addresses the lack of reporting by the applicant. According to the ECHO EPA Database, Grayson Cedarworks has failed to file any Discharge Monitoring Reports (DMR), as required, for the last year and a half.

The Alliance did assess basic water quality parameters (temperature, pH, dissolved oxygen, specific conductance) at the bridge crossing downstream of the discharge point and identified no parameters of concern. However, we feel that TCEQ should require all DMRs to be complete before renewing a permit. **Otherwise, organizations like the Alliance must expend their own resources and time to collect data that, by law, should already be available to the public.**

What's Happenin' in the Hickory?



Our friends at the Hickory Underground Conservation District #1 are a great resource for folks living in Mason, McCulloch, and San Saba counties. Their latest newsletter, "Heartbeat of the Hickory" can be found here. It includes a great map showing 2019 rainfall totals across the area.

Learning more about Flash Droughts

A typical drought is a slow-motion catastrophe. But scientists are trying to figure out a phenomenon called a flash drought, which forms in as little as two week.

By Matt Simon, Wired Magazine

In late spring of 2012, climactic chaos descended upon the Midwest and Great Plains in the midst of the growing season. A drought is supposed to unfold on a timeline of seasons to years, but in the two weeks between June 12 and 26, the High Plains went from what a monitoring group called “abnormally dry” to “severe drought.”

This is one of the reasons why drought researchers are worried about climate change: Warmer weather means a landscape can dry out quickly, even after a wet winter and spring, as was the case in the Midwest. Climate change is also making rain storms more intense yet less frequent. “I think the game changer recently has been, with a warmer climate and hotter temperatures, it speeds up the hydrological cycle,” says Svoboda. [Read more...](#)



MAR
14

**Aliens from Planet Earth -
Invasive Species and their
Impact on our Rivers**

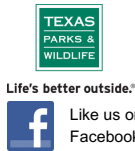
by Llano Earth Art Festival (LEAF) and
World Rock Stacking Championships

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Free

Come see us at Llano Earth Art Fest on March 14
where we will be talking about *Aliens from Planet Earth*

Busy Week at South Llano River St. Park



March 2020 Park Programs

South Llano River State Park

Phone: (325) 446-3994



Sunrise Hike - Meet at Juniper Blind (located by the walk-in campsite parking lot). Come enjoy the beauty that is mother nature **Saturday, March 7 - 6:30am**

Wheel around the Park - Join a Ranger with your bike at the **Acorn Bird Blind**. We will ride down past Buck Lake and by the river. **Bring:** helmet, your bike and water. **Saturday, March 7 - 1:30pm**

Worm Super Moon! - Come learn about Earth's BFF with a Ranger! Meet at **Acorn Bird Blind**. Bring: water, chair and red flashlight (if you got one). **Monday, March 9 - 7:00 - 8:30pm**

Skins, Skulls, and More! - Meet at **Acorn Bird Blind**. Come see and touch animal furs and skulls. Find out what a skull can tell us about how an animal lives. **Tuesday, March 10 - 10:00am**

Scat and Tracks! - Come learn about what gets left behind. Meet at the **Headquarters**. **Tuesday, March 10 - 1:30pm**

Let's Get Fishy - Try your hand at Gyotaku, a method used by Japanese fishermen to record their catch! All materials provided. Meet at the **Main Day Use Parking lot** by the river. **Wednesday, March 11 - 1:30pm**

Hike with a Ranger! - Come hike with a ranger and explore the West Canyon Loop trail! The trail is rated as moderate - it's 4 miles long. We will meet at the **Agarita Blind** trail head next to HQ. **Thursday, March 12 - 10:00am-noon**

Atl What? Atl Who? Atlatl! - Come practice your prehistoric hunting skills. Find out how hard it is to catch dinner. Meet at the **Main Day Use parking lot** (the big lot). **Thursday, March 12 - 1:30pm**

Pre-K in the Park! - Join a Ranger and have fun at a program designed for the little ones (ages 3-5) in our lives. This program will be exploring pollination and flight to gear up for spring! Meet at the **Acorn Bird Blind**. **Friday, March 13 - 10:00am**

River Discovery - Come explore the river and see who lives in the water. Meet at **Main Day Use parking lot** (the big lot) and be prepared to get wet. **Friday, March 13 - 1:30pm**

SPECIAL PROGRAM: Won't You be my Neighbor ?! - Meet and learn about some animal neighbors. Meet at the **Acorn Bird Blind**. Bring: water and chairs. There will be live animals just a heads up. **Saturday, March 14 - 10:00am-noon**