

# Watershed Week in Review

February 9, 2018

A publication of the  
Llano River Watershed Alliance  
and  
Llano River Field Station

## 700 Springs Tour Date Announced

The Kimble County Historical Commission, in partnership with Lee Pfluger and 700 Springs Ranch, have set Saturday, April 28<sup>th</sup> as the date for this year's tour of the Springs.

As in years past, the motorcade departs the Kimble County Courthouse in Junction at 10am for the 21-mile trip to the 700 Springs Ranch. Reservations are not required, but parties must register when they reach Junction.

*More details to come.*

## Hill Country and Llano Watershed Selected for Partnership Program



Last fall, the Llano River Field Station and Llano River Watershed Alliance, in conjunction with 17 other partners, applied to the Natural Resources Conservation Service's (NRCS) *Regional Conservation Partnership Program* to address natural resource concerns related to extreme drought and flooding in the Texas Hill Country.

NRCS recently announced that the project, the Hill Country Headwaters Conservation Initiative, has been selected as one of [three projects in Texas](#). More than **\$5 million** of additional funding will be available in the coming years to landowners to implement NRCS conservation programs, including funding for brush control. Stay tuned.



## Adopt A Highway Litter Pickup this Thursday



Join us this Thursday, February 15 at 4:30pm at Flat Rock Crossing as the Llano River Watershed Alliance (formerly South Llano Watershed Alliance) help keep our highways (and ultimately waterways) clean. Bring a pair of gloves. We will provide trash bags and vests.

Following the pickup, join us at 5:30 at Paddlers Porch for our monthly Board Meeting.

Information about the Board and [Meeting Minutes](#) are available on our website.

## Ivy Whitener joins Alliance Board

Ivy Whitener moved to Junction in 2017 with her husband, Scott, who manages South Llano River State Park. Ivy currently works as a medical laboratory microbiologist for Hill Country Memorial Hospital in Fredericksburg and Peterson Health in Kerrville. As a student and upon graduating from the University of Texas at Austin, Ivy worked as a laboratory assistant at UT's Center for Research in Water Resources. She has also previously volunteered her time with the San Marcos River Rangers. In her spare time, Ivy enjoys exploring South Llano River State Park and the surrounding area via foot, mountain bike, and kayak.

[To learn more about Board members...](#)



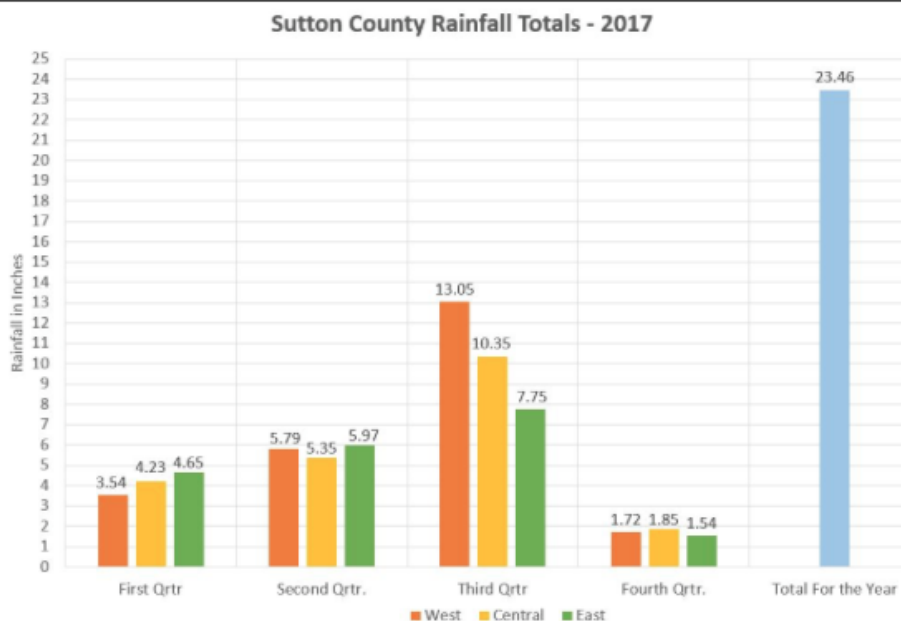


## Precipitation and Groundwater Levels in Sutton County

From our friends at the Sutton County Underground Water Conservation District...

In the Sutton UWCD Newsletter, [\*Karst Chronicle\*](#), the District provides a year in review look at rainfall and groundwater levels in the County. (They divide the County into three regions, with the eastern portion of the County in the North Llano Watershed.) For the year, Sutton County received 23.46 inches, a slight decrease from 2016, with 24.79 inches. But like most of the entire Llano Watershed, the last quarter showed less than 2 inches.

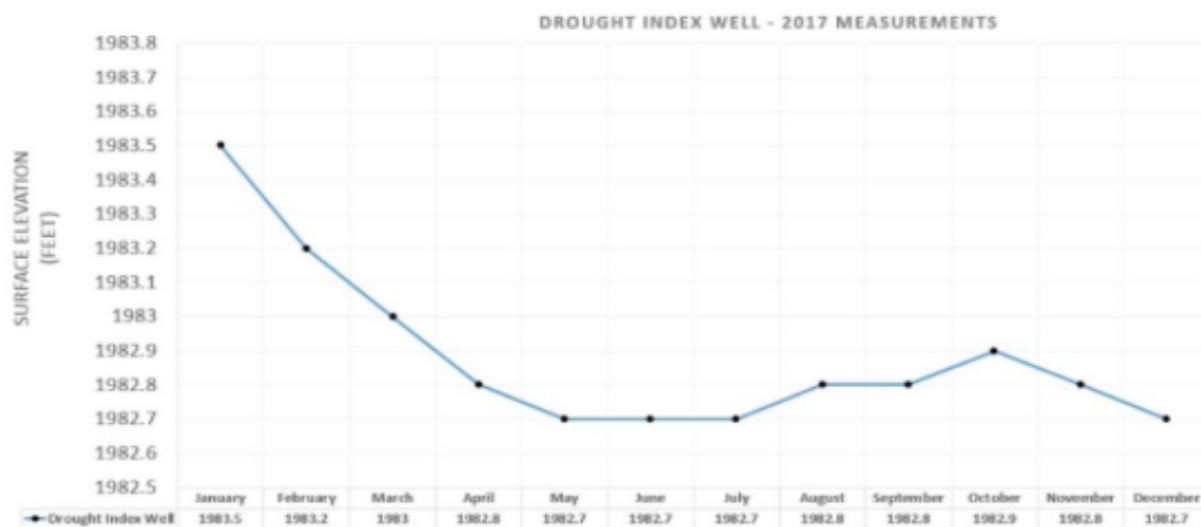
### 2017 Rainfall Totals



Water levels in the District's Drought Index Well also dropped slightly during the last quarter, but only by 0.3 feet. The District does not consider this drop significant, but the one-foot drop for the year may initiate some level of concern. While we do not have corresponding data for the North Llano, we do know that springflow in the South Llano can be impacted by just a two foot drop in water levels.

See next page...

### 2017 Drought Index Well



## Groundwater Levels and Springflow on South Llano River

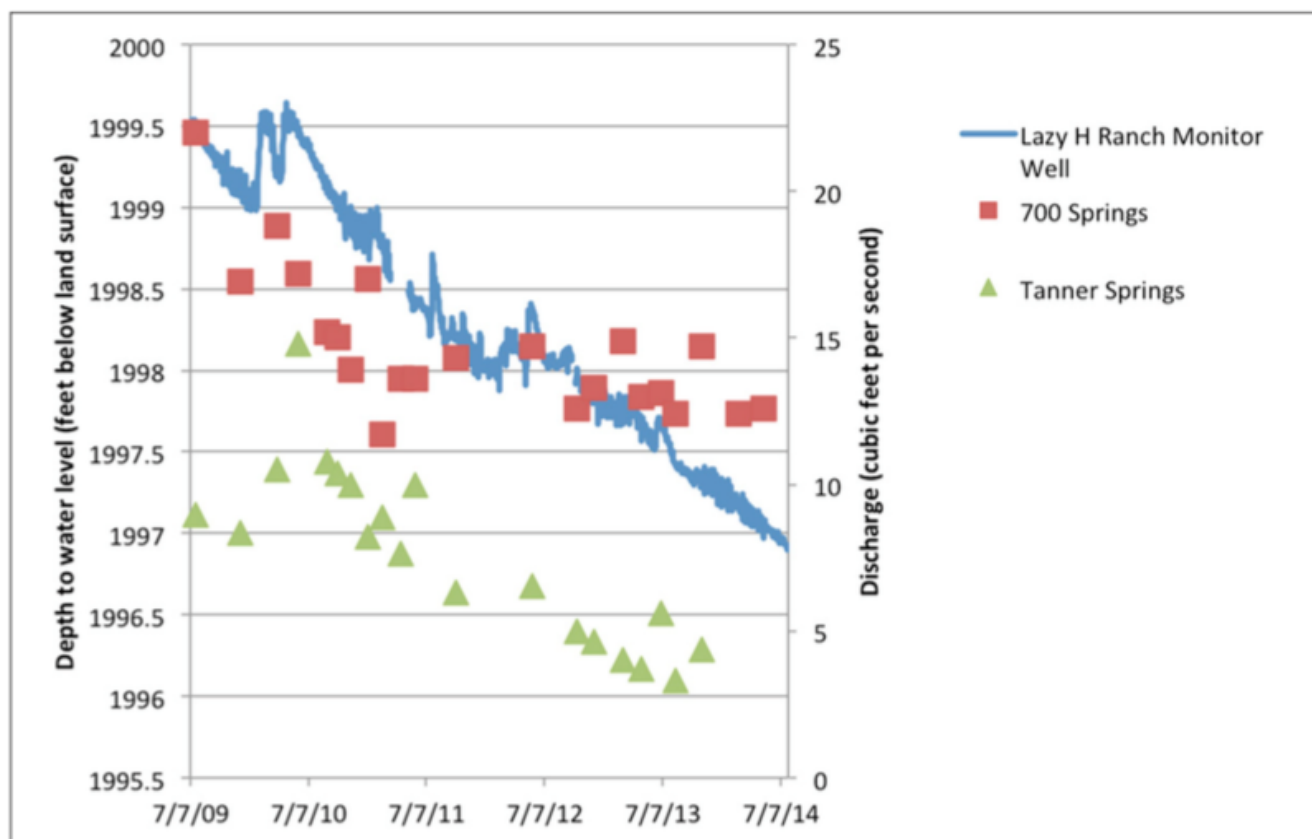


Figure 10. Groundwater levels measured at the Lazy H Ranch in Edwards County and Seven Hundred springs and Tanner Springs in Edwards County from 2009-2014.

The drought also impacted groundwater levels and spring flows. Figure 10 shows declining water levels in a monitoring well northeast of Rocksprings and decreasing spring flow in the headwaters of the South Llano. While water levels only declined about two feet, Tanner Springs fell below 5 cfs and registered its lowest recorded flow of 2 cfs in January of 2015. Spring flow at Seven Hundred Springs declined to about 12 cfs and then maintained a fairly continual flow; these springs reacted in the same manner during the drought of the 1950s.

The above figure and text is excerpted from page 37 of the [Upper Llano River Watershed Protection Plan](#).

MAR  
3**Keep Texas Waterways Clean-Llano**

Public • Hosted by Keep Llano Beautiful and Llano, Tx Chamber of Commerce

🕒 Saturday, March 3 at 8 AM - 11 AM

📍 300 Legion Drive Llano, TX 78643

The Keep Texas Waterways Clean program provides support and supplies for waterway cleanups across Texas. This program is open to ALL affiliate and non-affiliate communities located within 30 miles of an H-E-B or Central Market store location.



*Held on the banks of the Llano River- one block from Llano's historic downtown- the Llano Earth Art Fest (LEAF) is an interactive experience for young and old alike. Watch internationally renowned artists defy gravity with amazingly balanced rock sculptures. Listen to great musicians fill the park with song. Try your hand at rock balancing or see if you've got what it takes to compete in the 2018 World Rock Stacking Championship. For kids there are plenty of activities, including a climbing wall, face painting, and more. Adults can enjoy a cold beer while taking part in workshops, viewing and creating art, or just relaxing in the sun.*

## Something New in the Watershed

JUNCTION – South Llano River State Park is excited to announce its First Annual Birding Festival, sponsored by the Friends of South Llano River State Park, to be held Friday, April 27 through Sunday, April 29<sup>th</sup>, 2018.

The Festival will feature guided bird walks, including Golden-cheeked Warbler walks and Birding the Riparian, and will also offer guided photography sessions in the park's four popular bird blinds. On Saturday afternoon, the festival will offer a live birds of prey presentation by Last Chance Forever, a Bird Call presentation by a young birder, a Beginners' Bird Walk, and vendor and information tables. Sunday morning will include more bird walks, and a Big Sit! as part of the Great Texas Birding Classic.

More than 250 species of birds have been observed at the park, including sought-after species such as the Golden-cheeked Warbler and Black-capped Vireo, both federally endangered birds which nest in the park. "We are so excited to showcase the terrific birding at our park and its beautiful bird blinds during one of the busiest bird migration weekends of the year," says Park Interpreter Holly Platz. "The park is very unique for birding, because it offers such varied habitat."

During the Festival, guided walks will offer participants a chance at spotting new bird species for their lists, and ample "free time" between walks and presentations will provide visitors with a chance to enjoy the park's popular bird blinds, each meticulously cared for by park volunteers and staff. "We hope that bringing a festival like this to the park and the city of Junction will highlight the area's biodiversity," says Park Superintendent Scott Whitener. "Birding along the South Llano River is top notch and attracts visitors from all over the world."

Festival registration is \$65 per person, with a maximum of 80 participants. Registration fees will go towards supporting future birdwatching events at the park. For more information about this event and how to register, please see the Festival's Facebook page at

<http://www.facebook.com/slrspbirdingfestival>, or email [southllanoriverbirdingfestival@gmail.com](mailto:southllanoriverbirdingfestival@gmail.com) for a registration packet.



## Junction, Texas