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Watershed Week in Review

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

Warning for Boaters between Junction and Grobe Crossing

About halfway between the confluence of Johnson Fork and the Llano and Grobe Crossing (KC 314) is a large pecan tree blocking the left channel around an island. At this time, the tree only impedes passage and is not a dangerous strainer. But that could change. The main flow of the river is currently (pun intended) down the left side of the island and into the downed tree.

[For an interactive map...](#)



A Little Moisture Across the Watershed

The Llano Watershed received some nice rains this week. Areas in the upper basin received less than an inch, while some areas in the lower basin received over two inches.

It certainly will help the wildflowers and made for a nice scene Thursday morning north of Pontotoc



Alligator captured near Kingsland

By *Connie Swinney*
DailyTrib.com

According to the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department, on March 29, a Llano County Sheriff's Office deputy spotted the alligator and trapped it until a game warden took possession of it. The creature, believed to be an American alligator, was found in Kingsland close to where it was first spotted. Officials said it will be relocated closer to its more natural habitat.

[Read full story](#)



Photo:
Tim Lewis

...and at the other end of the watershed...

Fort Terrett Ranch has been in operation since 1854

By *Jerry Lackey*
Special to *San Angelo Standard Times*



Fort Terrett, located by the headwaters spring of the North Llano River in Sutton County, was established in February, 1852, as a frontier defense outpost to protect settlers, travelers, and commerce in the region along the San Antonio Road.

The soldiers stood sentinel against the Indian raiders of the Comanche, Apache, Kiowa, and Lipan-Apache in the early 1850s. The tribes were nomadic horse Indians, according to “From Muskets to Mohair: The History of Fort Terrett.”

When the fort closed two years later, the First Infantry troops including Commander Lt. Colonel Henry Bainbridge assigned to Fort Terrett went 30 miles north to Fort McKavett which continued operation until 1859.

[Read full article](#)

More Tagged Guadalupes Released by TPWD

Your odds of catching a tagged Guadalupe bass in the South Llano River just got even better.

Yesterday, TPWD stocked 20 more tagged fish in the river at [South](#)

[Llano River State Park - Texas Parks and Wildlife](#) and in the South Llano Paddling Trail between the state park and the Flatrock Lane Crossing in Junction.



This brings the total number of tagged fish to 35; only 5 have been accounted for. Catch one of these tagged fish by Dec. 31 and you'll get cool fly-fishing gear donated by [Bass Pro Shops](#).

The First Annual South Llano River State Park Birding Festival is sponsored by the Friends of the SLRSP and they are looking for volunteers on April 28 & 29.

Help is needed to staff the four bird blinds at scheduled times and help visitors with basic bird ID. Volunteers are also needed for staging areas and as roving emergency contracts on some of the walks.

Volunteers who serve a total minimum of 4 hours will be given a volunteer's birding festival t-shirt, lunch on Saturday and breakfast on Sunday. Volunteers will also be given a free parking sticker for the park and be able to attend the afternoon public special events.

To learn more, check out their [Facebook Page](#).

To volunteer, email [Scott Richardson](#) or call 325-475-2271 or 830-459-2271.

Volunteers Needed



New Video on South Llano River State Park



Texas Parks and Wildlife will air a fantastic new video showcasing our friends at South Llano River State Park this week.

New Park Superintendent Scott Whitener takes us on a mountain bike ride in the backcountry, while Park Naturalist

(and Alliance Board Member) Holly Platz lights up children’s faces by helping them discover aquatic insects.

The show will air on KLRU Austin Saturday morning at 8am and Sunday morning at 10am. [Other viewing opportunities can be found here.](#)

700 Springs Tour April 28

This year’s tour of 700 Springs will be Saturday, **April 28th**.

As in years previous, the tour will begin at the Kimble County Courthouse in Junction at 10am sharp and caravan to the 700 Springs Ranch.





THE HILL COUNTRY ALLIANCE & THE HILL COUNTRY CONSERVANCY PRESENT

CONSERVATION EASEMENT WORKSHOP

Join fellow landowners in learning about an innovative estate planning and conservation tool: Conservation Easements. Land trust experts will be on hand to answer FAQs about conservation easements, income and estate tax implications of easements, the land trust / landowner relationship, and much more. Hear from landowners who have donated conservation easements, network with your neighbors, and celebrate the Hill Country! Lunch will be provided and a networking reception will follow. We hope to see you there!

Questions? Contact Carolyn Vogel by email at cavogel2013@gmail.com or by phone at (512)633-4995.



WHERE: Burnet County Agrilife Extension Office Auditorium
607 N. Vandever Street
Burnet, TX 78611

WHEN: Friday, April 20, 2018 from 10 am to 4 pm

TICKETS: \$15/individual; \$20/couple. Tickets can be purchased in advance at the website below or at the door. Walk-ins are welcome!



hillcountryalliance.org/conservationeasementworkshop  hill country alliance



Life's better outside.™

Like us on Facebook!
Facebook.com/SouthLlanoRiver

Family Park Programs, March 30th - April 9th South Llano River State Park

Phone: (325) 446-3994

Bird Walk - Friday, March 30th

8:30 am - 10:00 am

Meet at the Fawn Trail parking lot (behind Park Headquarters)

South Llano River State Park is a great place to go birdwatching. Join us and see what we can spot! We will walk to the bird blind and see what birds come in to bathe, drink, or feed. If time permits, we may drive or walk to another bird blind as well.

Binoculars provided, or bring your own. All ages and skill levels welcome!



Geocaching 101 - Saturday, March 31st

11:00 am - 12 noon

Meet at Acorn Blind (Down the path from the restrooms, between campsites 39 and 41)

Join us for Geocaching, a high-tech treasure hunt you can do anywhere in the world using a GPS unit or your smartphone! Loaner GPS units will be provided for this activity. Good walking shoes and drinking water are recommended. All ages welcome. Children must be accompanied by an adult.



Skins, Skulls, and More! - Saturday, March 31st

drop in between 2:30 - 3:30 pm

Held at Headquarters Front Porch

Stop by Park Headquarters between 2:30 and 3:30 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.



Buck Lake Trail Nature Walk - Sunday, April 8th

10:00 am - 11:00 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, and we'll keep an eye out for deer, birds, and other wildlife! This easy trail is approximately 1.25 miles round-trip. 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.



Bird Walk - Monday, April 9th

8:30 am - 10:00 am

Meet at the Fawn Trail parking lot (behind Park Headquarters)

South Llano River State Park is a great place to go birdwatching. Join us and see what we can spot! We will walk to the bird blind and see what birds come in to bathe, drink, or feed. If time permits, we may drive or walk to another bird blind as well.

Binoculars provided, or bring your own. All ages and skill levels welcome!



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