

OCTOBER 20, 2017

Watershed Week in Review

Llano River Watershed Alliance
and
Llano River Field Station

This Weekend along the Banks of the South Llano



Our friends and sponsors at Fredericksburg Fly Fishers are hosting the 14th Annual Oktoberfish October 20-22 on the South Llano.

[See schedule](#)

The Alliance will be hosting a booth and the Field Station will be doing Stream Trailer Demonstrations from 9-2.

Come out and join us.

[More info](#)

Monarchs & Frostweed



Frostweed is an important nectar source for Monarchs and other butterfly species as it is one of the few blooming plants this time of year. It also provides a great spectacle after the first frost, thus the name.

The Llano River Field Station takes care to maintain healthy stands of frostweed in the riparian area along the South Llano. The Monarchs seem appreciative.

CELEBRATING CONSERVATION MILESTONES

for the Llano River Watershed and the State Fish of Texas

Guadalupe Bass Milestone Celebrated

Llano River Watershed Alliance
Texas Parks and Wildlife Department
Bass Pro Shops

Texas Parks and Wildlife released 15 retired Guadalupe Bass broodstock back into the South Llano River on October 17, 2017. The broodstock were used to successfully restore the genetically hybridized South Llano population. To celebrate this and other recent conservation successes for our state fish, Llano River Watershed Alliance is partnering with Texas Parks and Wildlife and Bass Pro Shops on a prize giveaway in which prizes will be presented to anglers who catch these Guadalupe Bass and return a tag. Eligible Guadalupe Bass will have registered TPWD Floy Tags. If you catch one of these fish, please clip (do not pull) the tag and take a photo with the fish!

The official state fish, Guadalupe bass, has been restored to the South Llano River. To celebrate, the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department (TPWD), the Llano River Watershed Alliance and Bass Pro Shops are partnering on a prize giveaway program.



Prizes include fly rod and reel combos, fly fishing vests, landing nets, and fly assortments donated by Bass Pro Shops.

Contest will run from
10/20/2017 to 12/31/2018.

The first 15 anglers to contact Llano River Watershed Alliance with clipped, registered tags will receive a prize. To be eligible, you must clip the tag from the fish, record the capture location, and please take a photo with or of your fish!

Beginning Oct. 17, 2017, and continuing until Dec. 31, 2018, any angler who catches a tagged Guadalupe bass from the South Llano River will receive their choice of prizes from an assortment of fly fishing gear donated by Bass Pro Shops. "We're incredibly appreciative of the Llano River Watershed Alliance and Bass Pro Shops for sponsoring this prize giveaway. It showcases a conservation success story for our state fish that has resulted from eight years of extraordinary efforts by a passionate and committed network of public and private partners," said Craig Bonds, Director of the Inland Fisheries Division at TPWD.

The prize giveaway aims to raise awareness about the success of an ambitious conservation project launched in 2010 by TPWD, the Llano River Watershed Alliance, and the Texas Tech University Llano River Field Station to restore Guadalupe bass to the South Llano River. "Guadalupe bass are endemic to the South Llano River and other clear, spring-fed rivers of the Texas Hill Country, said Preston Bean, Conservation Biologist with the TPWD Inland Fisheries Division. "Guadalupe bass populations are threatened by habitat alteration and hybridization with non-native, introduced smallmouth bass. These threats are enormously challenging to address, but recent outcomes in the South Llano River demonstrate what can be achieved when partners rally around a shared conservation vision."

The story begins in 1934, the first year that smallmouth bass are known to have been brought into Texas. With 30,000 smallmouth bass fry provided by the Arkansas Game and Fish Commission, the Texas Game and Fish Commission attempted to establish a smallmouth bass production program at the Tyler and Dundee State Fish Hatcheries. Water in the hatchery ponds proved too warm; the broodstock couldn't survive the Texas summers. That program was abandoned in 1937, and the remaining smallmouth bass were stocked in Caddo Lake and Tyler Post Office Lake.

[Continue story...](#)

Watershed Protection Plan Featured in State Publication



By Claire Corley

Composed of the North and South Llano rivers, the Upper Llano River is known as a Hill Country treasure. Its near-pristine flows provide a healthy ecosystem supporting a variety of aquatic communities and numerous recreational opportunities.

To sustain the river's pristine condition, local stakeholders partnered with the Texas State Soil and Water Conservation Board (TSSWCB), soil and water conservation districts, groundwater conservation districts, Texas Tech University Llano River Field Station, Texas Water Resource Institute (TWRI), Texas Parks and Wildlife Department and the Llano River Watershed Alliance to develop a watershed protection plan (WPP).

Typically, a WPP is developed in a watershed that is impaired and needs restoration; the Upper Llano River WPP is an exception.

...the rest of the story

**UPPER LLANOS SOIL AND WATER
CONSERVATION DISTRICT #225**

OUR ANNUAL FALL TREE SALE IS GOING ON NOW!

LAST DAY TO PRE-ORDER IS OCTOBER 23, 2017

ORDER YOUR TREES, SHRUBS AND SELECTED PERENNIALS NOW

Payment must accompany all pre-orders

Delivery date: Friday, October 27, 2017

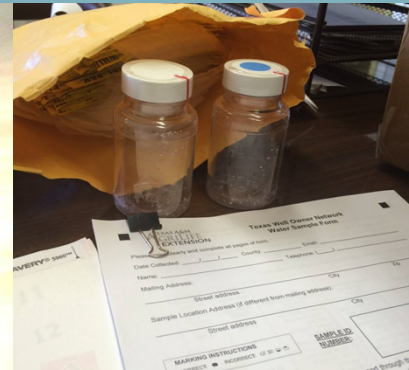
--more info--

Get your Well Tested and Learn How to Protect It From Contamination

Water Well Owners Educational Event

**TEXAS
WELL
OWNER
NETWORK**

RESOURCES HELP LANDOWNERS PROTECT GROUNDWATER



Tuesday, November 14, 2017
8:30 am— 12:30 pm

Texas Tech Center at Junction
254 Red Raider Ln.
Junction, TX

TEXAS WELL OWNER NETWORK PROGRAM

The Texas Well Owner Network (TWON) program is a free, educational training for Texas residents who depend on household wells for their water needs. TWON is for private well owners who want to become familiar with groundwater resources, septic system maintenance, well maintenance, water quality and water treatment. Private well owners are independently responsible for monitoring the quality of their wells. Essentially, they are the operators of their own water system and are responsible for ensuring that their water is safe.

BRING YOUR WELL WATER SAMPLES!

Well owners may bring water samples to the training to be screened for nitrate-nitrogen, total dissolved solids (TDS) and *E. coli* bacteria for \$10. Pick up approved sample containers with instructions at the [Kimble](#) County Texas A&M AgriLife Extension office.

Bring your samples and payment of \$10 to the training on November 14.

Pre-register for the workshop at

<http://twon.tamu.edu/training/> or call 979-845-1461



Funding provided through a non point source grant from the Texas State Soil and Water Conservation Board.

Mussel Decline Discussed at Monday's Texas Master Naturalist

Declines in Native Fauna and Flora: Explanations Based on Freshwater Mussel Studies



Freshwater mussels are Mother Nature's barometers of environmental quality. When ecological conditions change or degrade, they are the first organisms to decline and then vanish. As a result, nearly 80 percent of freshwater mussels are extinct, threatened, endangered, at risk, or will be very soon.

Bob Howells began work with Texas Freshwater Mussels in 1992 and it quickly became apparent that many issues were directly or indirectly linked to declines in their abundance and distribution. Obvious factors like dewatering, water pollution, reservoir construction, and habitat alteration contributed to reduced numbers of freshwater mussels. However, less-obvious considerations like long-term environmental shifts, introductions of exotic species, public release of sensitive information, and poorly-understood harvest regulations have contributed as well.

...[Learn more](#)



NOVEMBER 4, 2017 | 10AM TO 5PM | DRIPPING SPRINGS RANCH PARK

BIGGER. BETTER. MORE FUN!

It's all about rainwater collection, conserving water and energy, and living lightly, responsibly and beautifully in the Texas Hill Country!

New This Year!

- Tiny Home Rodeo – visit our showcase of tiny homes; meet builders & enthusiasts
- One-Stop Hill Country Wine Tour – all within walking distance
- Food Trailer Court – a rolling smorgasbord of tastes and treats
- Hill Country Music Stage – singers, songwriters, toe tapping; [Get Performance Schedule!](#)
- Other items of interest and surprises to be announced.

Halloween Fun in the Watershed this Weekend



(Not so)
Creepy Critters

Come learn about your favorite “creepy critters” and the important role they play in nature.

Featuring **live** animals!

When: Saturday, October 21st; 12:00pm-2:00pm
Where: South Llano River State Park day use area
Who: The whole family!
Cost: Free with park entrance fee of \$5; children 12 and under are free.
Bring: Dress up for our costume contest and bring a pumpkin to decorate.
Questions: Call the park at (325) 446-3994

Snakes! ...Bugs! ...Bats!

Photos from Bats of the United States by Michael J. Harvey, J. Scott Altenback and Troy L. Best. Arkansas Game and Fish Commission, 1999. Spider and other bugs from bugs.com.

Pumpkin Carving Contest & Family Night Out



WHAT: Get Ready For Halloween

- Design and carve your own Jack-O-Lantern
- Play some Halloween Bingo
- Enjoy a soothing camp fire
- Roast & enjoy a hot dog, followed by a yummy S'more! (we'll have all the fixings)

WHERE: Texas Tech University Outdoor School
254 Red Raider Lane, Junction, TX. (Outdoor Pavilion)

WHEN: Sunday, October 22, 2017

TIME: 5 - 7pm

BRING: Your family and a Pumpkin for carving.

Hope to see you there! It's going to be a fun night!