

J U N E 1 6 , 2 0 1 7

Watershed Week in Review

Llano River Watershed Alliance

More on Otters



Photo : Texas Parks and Wildlife

Ironically, the *Passport to Texas* Radio Show aired this segment last week. The segment originally aired several years ago...

Wildlife biologist Gary Calkins could not have predicted eight years ago—when he invited radio listeners to send in their otter sightings—that it would change how we understand otter distribution in Texas, or that the sightings would continue coming in. He created a map using the data listeners supplied, and is confident it's accurate.

[Listen to segment](#)

Reader's Corner

INVASIVES 101

A reader recently asked if there is a list of invasive species in the Texas Hill Country?

Our go-to Internet source is TexasInvasives.org, a partnership between agencies, organizations, academia, and businesses to help protect Texas from the threat of invasive species.

The website provides a list of the invasive species of greatest concern by ecoregion.

Here is the [list](#) for the Edwards Plateau.

Volunteers treat Chinaberries along South Llano

By Daniel Oppenheimer, Hill Country Alliance

On Monday, June 12th, volunteers joined staff from the Hill Country Alliance and Native American Seed at the Texas Tech University (TTU) Llano River Field Station in Junction, Texas. There, they set forth an ambitious goal: control the more than 100 Chinaberry trees that are quickly spreading their footprint along the Llano River at the TTU field station.

Chinaberry trees were first introduced to Texas from Asia in the mid-1800s and continue to be used as an ornamental yard tree today. Bill Neiman, owner of Native American Seed in Junction, notes, "The Chinaberry tree has left homes and neighborhoods and found its way to invade

many of Texas' sensitive riparian areas. And the Llano River has her fair share. But thanks to Texas Parks and Wildlife and the Hill Country Alliance, an initiative is being launched to raise awareness about the importance of invasive species control along our precious rivers."

[Read more](#)



Alliance Sponsor Tony Plutino of [Llano River Region Adventures](#) treats a Chinaberry along the South Llano

Alliance loses a good friend

The Alliance is saddened to learn of the passing of Margaret Akers at her beloved ranch on June 7th. Margaret was a dear friend of the Alliance and served as one of its original Board of Directors. She and her husband, Dave, were always generous in sharing the beauty of their headwater springs along Copperas Creek.

A memorial service will be held at Trinity Episcopal Church in Junction on July 29th.



Save the Dates

Caging Native Trees along South Llano River

On **Sunday, July 9th from 9am - 1pm**, join Hill Country Alliance, Texas Parks & Wildlife, and the Llano River Watershed Alliance at the South Llano River State Park to learn about riparian (river-side) ecosystems, non-native invasive plants, and how to steward riparian systems.

Volunteers will help restore riparian habitat along the South Llano River by installing protective caging around native trees to deter herbivory.

River Cleanup and Installing Signage along South Llano River

On **Friday, August 4th from 9am - 2pm**, join Hill Country Alliance, Texas Parks & Wildlife, and the Llano River Watershed Alliance along the South Llano River to learn about aquatic and riparian (river-side) ecosystems.

Volunteers will help clean up trash along the river and install an educational kiosk.

The Llano River Watershed Alliance is partnering with our friends at Hill Country Alliance, Texas Parks and Wildlife Department, and South Llano River State Park to improve the river and habitat along the Llano River. In addition to Chinaberry removal next week (see page 1), additional events will take place this summer.

Volunteer participants are asked to bring work gloves, water bottles, sunscreen, and appropriate work clothing (long pants and shirt, closed-toe shoes, and a hat).

Drinks, snacks, and hand tools will be provided.

Registration Deadline Approaching



The Hill Country Chapter of Texas Master Naturalist is accepting applications until June 30th for classes next fall.

Classes meet twelve Wednesdays starting August 23rd.

Class size is limited to forty people.

[Click here for more information](#)