

N O V E M B E R 1 5 , 2 0 1 5

Watershed Week in Review

Llano River Watershed Alliance



Photo: Robert Stubblefield

Axis tilt towards overload

Axis deer were introduced to Texas from India about 1932. In areas where they are not high fenced, they have become a problem in many parts of the State, including the Llano watershed. Axis compete with white-tailed deer and livestock and due to trailing behavior, they cause significant erosion, especially in riparian areas.

As axis are not considered a game species, they may be hunted year round, providing an extra recreational and financial opportunity for local landowners. If you have never tried axis (and missed your opportunity in Mason last night), check out Junction's upcoming [Wild Game Dinner](#), the Saturday after Thanksgiving.

What's that slimy stuff?

With the more plentiful rains, you may have seen this slimy-looking stuff growing on your property.

It is called Nostoc and is a nitrogen-fixing algae.

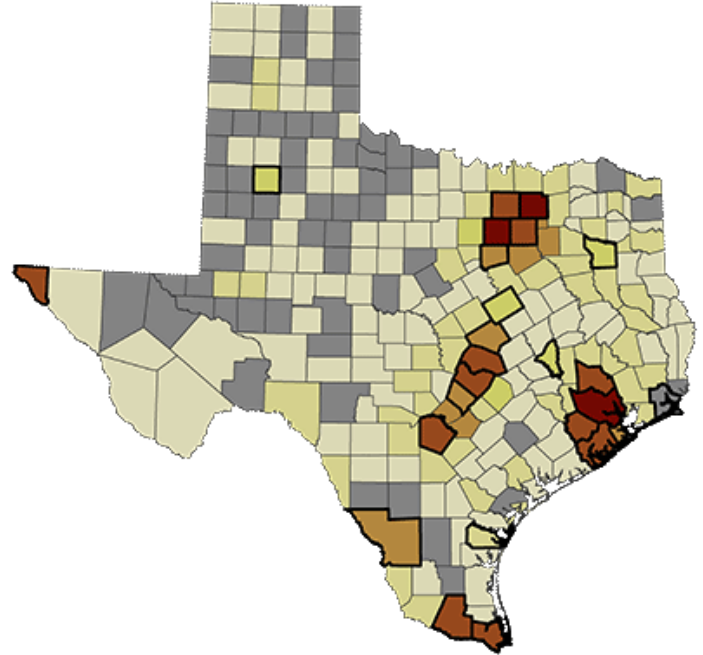
Check out this month's issue of the Master Naturalist-Hill County Chapter newsletter, [The Texas Star](#) to learn more.



Texas Land Trends Webinar

From time to time, this newsletter has featured information from [Texas Land Trends](#), a cooperative effort spearheaded by the Texas A&M Institute of Renewable Natural Resources (IRNR).

This Tuesday, November 17th, IRNR Director Dr. Roel Lopez will be discussing “[An Overview of Texas Land Trends](#)” via webinar. The webinar, which can be viewed on your personal computer, is hosted by the Houston-Galveston Area Council. While the information provided may have some specific Houston/Galveston area examples, the information provided by Dr. Lopez applies to all of Texas.



The webinar is free [to all who register](#).

Mason students get to know their bats

The [Eckert James River Bat Cave](#), located in southern Mason County, is a maternity colony for 5-6 million Mexican Freetail Bats.

Mason ISD and the Bat Cave recently teamed together for a student art project. Some of the results can be found on the [Bat Cave's Facebook page](#).



Mason students also learning about a burgeoning local industry



There are more than half a dozen wineries and vineyards in the Llano River watershed. All of them are located in Mason County.

Beginning this school year, Mason High School students are learning about growing grapes by participating in the Texas' first high school viticulture class.

[Learn more about the program](#)

For Landowners: What constitutes gross negligence?

Texas Agriculture Law Blog

The Texas Supreme Court recently analyzed an important question for Texas landowners: What constitutes gross negligence under the Recreational Use Statute?

Texas has a Recreational Use Statute which essentially shields Texas landowners from liability if a person is injured on agricultural land while engaging in a recreational activity.

If a landowners falls under the protections of the Statute, they are only liable if a jury finds that he or she acted intentionally or with gross negligence...[more](#)