

## WATERSHED WEEK IN REVIEW



### Help the Habitat on the Llano

Lots of folks have expressed concerns about the fish population in the Llano following the floods.

**Now is your chance to put concern into action.**

Meet at *Castell General Store this Saturday at 11am*, grab some lunch, then head out to the neighboring River Access Conservation Areas (RACA) sites to plant seedlings, grasses and sedges to speed habitat recovery.

More details on page 3

### Time Running Out for Landowners



Have  
you  
been



wanting

to do a project on your land that benefits water, soil and wildlife?

**You have until Tuesday to potentially get funding.**

The Hill Country Headwaters Initiative is providing **over \$5 million in NRCS funding** specifically for projects in the Texas Hill Country. Applications of Eligibility must be received by **May 21st.**

See page 4 for more details.

## Get to know your Fish : Central Stoneroller (*Campostoma anomalous*)

By Megan Bean - Texas Parks and Wildlife

Central Stonerollers are a common fish in central Texas headwater streams. The species can be found in many streams in Texas and as far north as North Dakota. In the Llano watershed, they are found mostly around gravel substrates where they can scrape algae and bugs off rocks. Most of the Central Stonerollers you will see will be 2 to 5 inches long, but a really large one was recorded at just above 11 inches (not from Texas). Adults typically live for three to four years and become mature around one year old.



Males Central Stonerollers will build nests where males have been observed defending the nest. Central Stonerollers are intolerant of pollution and heavy silt in a river which makes them a good indicator for water quality.

Cool fact: *Campostoma* means “curved mouth” and *anomalum* means “extraordinary”. The ridge around their mouth is a hard cartilage which they use to gather algae and aquatic bugs.

Identification: This minnow species will be mostly silver/tan in color with patches of darker colored scales. Breeding adult males will have orange tinted fins.

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### Llano Aerial Footage-Pt 4



Part 4 of the Llano River aerial footage, from the Schneider's Crossing upstream to Castell, is now available for viewing on the Alliance YouTube Channel. Additional footage will be uploaded in the coming weeks. [View!](#)

## Llano River Workday Saturday, May 18th

### *From TRPA...*

The Texas Council of Fly Fishermen International, in conjunction with the Texas Parks and Wildlife Dept (TPWD), the Llano River Watershed Alliance (LRWA), and the Texas Rivers Protection Association (TRPA), will be hosting a workday on the Llano River at several sites near Castell on May 18th. The plan is for volunteers to meet at the Castell General Store at 11 am, a good place for lunch, and disperse in several groups to several sites. We will be planting seedling grasses and sedges, assembling a kiosk for signage, and doing some trail building.



We will need some post hole diggers, garden trowels, etc. Please bring the normal river stuff: gloves, sunscreen, insect repellent, fluids, snacks, etc.

There will be free primitive camping available Saturday night with a drinking water source and a porta-potty. There are also campgrounds, RV parks, and B&B's in the area. Sunday will be free for fishing and/or boating. The river is clean and clear, is running good, and people are catching fish.

This is the first step for the Conservation Grant to FFI that David Reichert will present to the FFI in late May at their next meeting. But we can't wait that long to plant grasses and sedges because of the summer heat. We already have access to \$5000 donated to the TXCouncil by the TRPA and some funding and help from TPWD and LRWA.

The actual FFI grant money will be spent in the Fall planting trees and building exclosures to protect them from deer. We will have from \$1500-\$3000 for that effort. We will be asking clubs to donate cash for that effort also volunteers.

Please RSVP if you can volunteer to David Reichert at [reichert@satx.rr.com](mailto:reichert@satx.rr.com). We need some idea how many people to expect so we can plan the work groups.

Thanks for your consideration

## Sign up by Tuesday for the Hill Country Headwaters Conservation Initiative

*From Hill Country Conservancy...*

Questions? Call 325.248.3137

Are you a conservation-minded rancher, farmer or wildlife enthusiast looking to enhance the water, soils or wildlife on your land? If so, you are in the right place. Hill Country Conservancy and its partners (including the Llano River Watershed Alliance) are now offering land stewardship financial assistance, as part of the Hill Country Headwaters Conservation Initiative (HCHCI), to subsidize important land stewardship projects.

The HCHCI is a collaborative program created by Hill Country Conservancy, The Texas Hill Country Conservation Network, and 19 partner organizations to ensure long-term conservation of sensitive agricultural lands through partnership with area landowners. The initiative is financed through a \$5.15 million award from the National Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) as part of their Regional Conservation Partnership Program (RCPP).

A portion of this award will be directed towards key land stewardship projects that meet the following criteria:

- the project falls within the Blanco, Upper San Marcos and Llano River basins, and within areas of the Middle Colorado [shown on this map](#), and
- the project aims to enhance or protect soil, water and wildlife habitat, long-term.

HCC is accepting Applications of Eligibility **now through May 21, 2019** at 12:59 p.m. To be considered for this financial award, landowners must take this first step in the application process by the specified deadline. Qualified applicants will be notified of their advancement and receive information about next steps. If you have a prospective project or group of projects, we encourage you to begin the application process by filling out our Application of Eligibility.



## Come Learn about Landowner Incentive Programs



### *Save the Date!*

Join us Thursday, May 30, from 2:00-3:30PM  
at the Eckert Civic Center in Mason

**CALLING ALL LANDOWNERS!** Join us on May 30 for an overview of programs that provide funding or assistance for conservation and habitat management projects on your land, with a focus on the Landowner Incentive Program (LIP) and Pastures for Upland Birds (PUB). This is a comprehensive look at incentive programs available, who they are for, what to know about them and how to apply!

Hear from special guests and sponsors at Hill Country Alliance and Llano River Watershed Alliance about additional educational and financial resources to support your land stewardship efforts. Family, friends and neighbors welcome! Enjoy snacks and beverages while learning how to protect your land's natural resources.



Plateau Land & Wildlife Management is partnering with Hill Country Alliance and LRWA to offer a free overview of programs that provide funding or assistance for conservation and habitat management projects. The program will be held on May 30th - 2 pm - at the Eckert Civic Center - 1024 McKinley Ave in Mason.

## South Llano River State Park Programs for May 2019

**Frog Watch** - Look and listen for frogs with a ranger. Learn all about what they are talking about. We will learn about the local amphibians and hear their story of survival. Meet at the **Acorn Blind**. **No pets, please. Friday – May 17 – 9pm**

Bring: water, flashlight (red light one if got it), and bug spray.

**Bike with a Ranger!** - Come explore the park on two wheels. Meet at the **Acorn Blind** with your bike. Helmets required for kids. **Saturday – May 18 – 10am**

**Skins, Skulls, and More!** - Held at **Acorn Blind**. Come see and touch animal furs and skulls. Find out what a skull can tell us about how an animal lives! **Saturday – May 18 – 1:30pm**

**Who's Buck?** - Come learn about the man, the myth, the legendary Walter Buck. We will also talk about the area's history in general. Meet at **Lora's Blind**. **Tuesday – May 21 – 10am**

**Hike with a Ranger!** - Come hike with a ranger and explore the West Canyon Loop trail! The trail is rated as moderate - it's 4 miles long. We will meet at the **Agarita bird blind** next to HQ. **Thursday – May 23 – 9am-11am**

## TREAD Coalition hosts Kimble County Town Hall

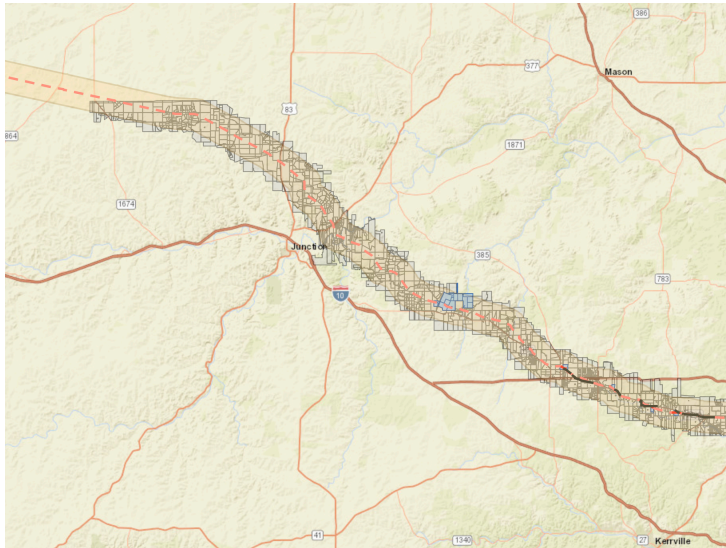


TUE, MAY 21 AT 6:30 PM

### Kimble County Pipeline Town Hall

254 Red Raider Ln, Junction, TX 76849-6189,...

★ Interested



The Texas Real Estate Advocacy & Defense Coalition (TREAD) hosts a town hall meeting about the proposed Kinder Morgan Pipeline this Tuesday at the Llano River Field Station Dining Hall.

The proposed route (left) has many landowners worried about decreases in property values, and danger to drinking water and wildlife. The meeting begins at 6:30pm. Pizza and refreshments will be served.

## The Land Ethic

*"The land ethic simply enlarges the boundaries of the community to include soils, waters, plants, and animals, or collectively: the land."* - Aldo Leopold



# Fostering a Land Ethic Workshop for Informal and Formal Educators

**June 16-19, 2019**

**Texas Tech University - Llano River Field Station  
Junction, TX**

**What is it?** –An interdisciplinary outdoor educational experience taught by education professionals and natural resource specialists. This workshop will include the skills and teaching methods to engage students in the art and science of nature and will emphasize stewardship of Texas' natural resources and development of a personal land ethic. Participants will explore human connections to the natural world through hands-on experiences in conservation topics related to Soils, Water quality, Land Ethics and Health, Biodiversity, Plant ID, Habitat and Management. Activities will include Fishing, Tubing, Birding, Nature Crafts, Nature Journaling, Hiking, and Plant Pressing.

**Who Should Attend?** – Anyone who is interested in learning more about fostering a relationship between our youth and the natural world– teachers, scout leaders, parents, naturalists, park rangers, zoo educators, youth group leaders, and private citizens

### Sponsored by:

 **State Soil and Water Conservation Board**

 **McCulloch County SWCD**

 **Upper Llanos SWCD**

 **Menard County SWCD**

 **Texas Tech University - Junction**

**Cost: \$250.00**

### Includes:

**3 nights lodging and  
9 meals**

**25 Hours of  
Professional  
Continuing  
Education Units**

**Certification in  
Leopold Education  
Project curriculum**

**LEP Curriculum  
Guide**

**Copy of Sand County  
Almanac**

**Lessons correlated  
to the TEKS.**

For information about the workshop, contact Christine Moseley at [Christine.moseley@utsa.edu](mailto:Christine.moseley@utsa.edu)

**Full or Partial Scholarships available from local Soil and Water Conservation District**