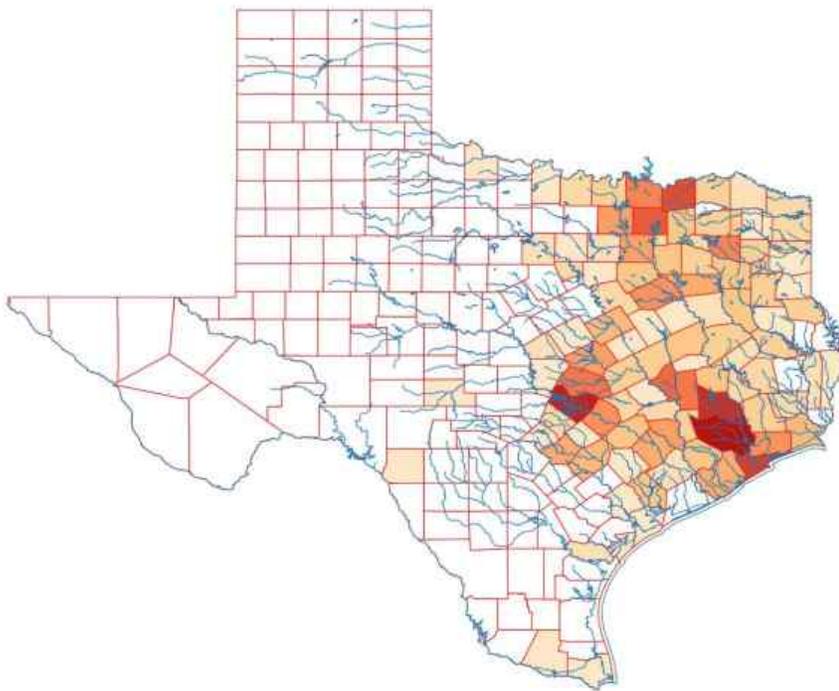


J U N E 2 3 , 2 0 1 7

Watershed Week in Review

Llano River Watershed Alliance

River Otter Map



Last week's newsletter discussed an otter citizen-siting map prepared by Parks and Wildlife Biologist Gary Calkins. Gary retired from TPWD last May, but *Passport to Texas* Producer and Host Cecilia Nasti was kind enough to share the otter map with us.

Although we have been unable to locate a legend for the map, it does show the relative distribution of sitings and the fact that Kimble County is one of the most westward counties.

Reader's Corner

INVASIVES 101

A reader expressed concern that axis deer were not on the invasive list of greatest concern in last week's newsletter.

Apologies for the editor's omission of the fact that the list only mentioned invasive plant species. What is surprising, however, is that axis deer are not listed in that database.

Axis deer, which have a scientific name we can all remember (*Axis axis*), are included in the [Texas Invasive Species Institute webpage](#).

Governor vetoes Brush Control funding

Governor Abbott [made news earlier this month](#) for vetoing 50 pieces of legislation from the recently concluded Regular Session of the 85th Texas Legislature. What didn't grab headlines is the fact that he also line-item vetoed certain sections of the State Budget passed as Senate Bill 1.

Included in the veto was \$2.5 million the Legislature approved for the Texas State Soil and Water Conservation Board to fund brush control for water supply enhancement. This funding provides a 70%-30% match to landowners to remove brush in selected watersheds in order to enhance water supply. Such funding is currently being used to assist landowners in the Llano River watershed with *Ashe-juniper* removal to improve baseflows in the River.

In a [Proclamation dated June 12](#), Governor Abbott noted, ***“This program primarily funds efforts to remove brush from private land. Texas landowners have a rich history of improving the value of their land through various self-funded measures. As a general concept, government should abstain as much as possible from inserting itself into private property matters unless a greater public needs commands otherwise.”***

For transition purposes, Governor Abbott left intact the \$2.5 million budgeted for the first year of the program. Federal brush control funding at a 50%-50% match is still available through Natural Resources Conservation Service.

Alliance joins with Soil District for Scholarship

For the third year in a row, the Llano River Watershed Alliance joined with the Upper Llanos Soil and Water Conservation District to provide scholarship funding for local youth to attend the Youth Range Workshop at the Llano River Field Station.

Pictured with Alliance members Art Mudge (left) and Tyson Broad (center) are Sam Jetton, Tony Hall, and Ward Whitworth.



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.

White-tailed Deer Management at Monday's Master Naturalist Meeting

The public is invited to attend the June meeting of the Texas Master Naturalist Hill Country Chapter to hear a presentation on White-tailed Deer Management. Once considered threatened in Texas due to unregulated hunting, White-tailed Deer are an adaptable species. In the last several decades, their number has increased significantly and they have now expanded into suburban neighborhoods and cities and towns throughout the state. Kevin Schwausch, Texas Parks and Wildlife Department (TPWD) Biologist, Kevin Schwausch, will speak on strategies for the management of white-tailed deer populations in suburban and urban areas.

The meeting is free and open to the public. It will be held on Monday, June 26, 2017 at the Upper Guadalupe River Authority's lecture hall, 125 North Lehmann Drive in Kerrville. Doors open at 6:30 p.m.; the program starts at 7:00 p.m. Contact Craig Childs, Vice-President, (210) 286-2674, for further information.

[Learn more...](#)

Last Chance to Register for Texas Master Naturalist



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](#)



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South Llano River State Park

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Yellow-breasted Chat

Bird Walk

Friday, June 23rd, 8:30 am - 10:00 am

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

Join us as we walk the trails, sit in the blind, and see what we can spot! Good walking shoes, sun protection, and drinking water are recommended. Binoculars provided, or bring your own. All ages and skill levels welcome.

Buck Lake Trail Nature Walk

Saturday, June 24th, 9:00 am - 10:00 am

Meet at the Acorn Bird Blind

(down the path from the restrooms, between campsites 39 and 41)

Join us for a hike in the pecan forest! This week is National Pollinator Week, so during our hike we will find out about and look for pollinators, as well as other wildlife and plants along the way. 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, sun protection, and drinking water are recommended. All ages welcome.



Skins, Skulls, and More!

Saturday, June 24th, Drop in between 2:00 pm and 3:00 pm

Held at the Acorn Bird Blind

(down the path from the restrooms, between campsites 39 and 41)

Stop by the Acorn Blind between 2:00 and 3:00 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.

Butterfly Walk

Sunday, June 25th, 9:00 am - 10:00 am

Meet at the Bridge parking lot
(near the park entrance)

Red Admiral

Come join us as we find out about the butterflies who call the park home, and go for an easy walk to look for butterflies in action! This is the last day of National Pollinator Week, so we will find out about how butterflies and other insects pollinate plants, and why pollination is important! Good walking shoes, sun protection, and drinking water are recommended. All ages welcome.

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