

WATERSHED WEEK IN REVIEW



3rd Annual Birding Festival Registration Open

Registration space is filling quickly for the 3rd Annual South Llano River State Park Birding Festival.

April 24-26, 2020

Saturday will be filled with a variety of birding activities and then a banquet. Sunday is the Big Sit!

[Information & Registration](#)

Llano the Subject of Award-Winning Article



YOUNG WRITERS AWARD WINNER

A River Worth Saving: Who Will Protect the Unheralded Llano?

The Llano River is an ecological gem in Texas Hill Country, supporting dozens of native and rare plants and animals. But due to weak state environmental protections, the Llano – along with other waterways in Texas – is increasingly facing pressure from industry and development.

BY AUSTIN PRICE • JANUARY 7, 2020

Editor's Note: Although the author missed the opportunity to discuss some of the Alliance's efforts to protect the Llano, he does shed light on many of the issues the Alliance and others are working hard to address.

[Read Article](#)

Great Opportunity for Llano Landowners



Hill Country Conservancy
is now accepting pre-applications for funding of
conservation easements through the
Hill Country Headwaters Conservation Initiative.

The Hill Country Headwaters Conservation Initiative (HCHCI), a program of Hill Country Conservancy, the Texas Hill Country Conservation Network and 18 partner organizations, is now accepting Pre-applications from **landowners** located within specified critical river basins, including the Llano. The HCHCI has a \$2.1 million pledge, awarded by the Regional Conservation Partnership Program, for the **purchase of conservation easements** from willing landowners. *...[Learn more](#)*

New House at Llano River Field Station May Change How We Conserve

From High Plains Public Radio



On the banks of the Llano River, just south of Junction, Texas, amongst the cactus and mesquite trees sits a house that researchers hope will change the face of conservation.

Atmospheric scientist Brian Ancell walked along the edge of this mesquite field. He walked past a small wind turbine, past a beige double wide prefabricated home with a solar array and around the corner to a central piece of his experiment: a 10,000 gallon water tank filled with rainwater...

"The reason we are focused on water is because water is one resource that can go away. The wind will always blow, and the sun will shine," Ancell said.

...[Continue reading](#)

The Continuing Success Story



Check out the latest regarding our Guadalupe Bass restoration efforts with TPWD.

Why are we proud of our efforts?

Fishing for Guadalupe Bass in the Texas Hill Country brings \$75 million and over 700 jobs to the local community.

[Read Annual Report.](#)

Guac Grab Grabs Top Billing

From Texas Observer's [10 Strange Stories for 2019...](#)

JUNCTION // Holy guacamole! Some 42,000 pounds of avocados were waterlogged when a tractor-trailer plunged into the South Llano River. The Junction Eagle livestreamed the 40-minute effort to recover the truck from the water next to Highway 377 South, noting that the driver was uninjured. No word on the fate of the avocados.



As for the fate of the avocados, likely some aquatic species, as well as feral hogs, had a special treat. As for the mesh bags carrying the avocados, many of them ended up in the back of pickups of Alliance volunteers following two river clean ups.

Trout Fishing in America—the Llano

More trout are on their way to the Llano: South Llano River State Park will be the release site on January 17th (just in time for the fishing tournament—see next page). James River Crossing will again be a release site on January 29th.

Randy Leifeste at Castell General Store asked us to let folks know that in addition to the trout release at Castell on December 12, they were also released downstream at Schneider and Scott Crossing.

btw...*Trout Fishing in America* is a book published in the late 60s by Richard Brautigan. It is also the name of a Houston-based band in the 80s and 90s.



South Llano River State Park Activities

Birding 101

Come on out no matter your birding experience !

📅 9:00a to 10:00a
Sat, January 11, 2020

How do you tell all those colorful birds apart? Join us to learn binocular and bird ID tips. Then we'll practice our newfound skills at the bird blind, and if time permits, take a short bird walk!

Binoculars available or bring your own. Good walking shoes, sun protection, and drinking water are recommended.

Meet at the Acorn Bird Blind (down the path from the restrooms, between campsites 39 and 41). All ages and skill levels welcome!

Fishing Tournament

📅 10:30a to 12:30p
Sat, January 18, 2020

You think you got the skills to get your fish on?! Well, prove it by signing up!

This tournament is for both kids and adults. The kids are required to have parental supervision. The river and Buck Lake (catch and release only) are open for use.

* **Register by email** before January 10, 2020. Include number of adults and kids (ages needed). Let us know if you need loaner tackle (limited supplies) and if you are fly fishing or not.

Meet at the Main Day use parking lot (big one).

Fly fishing is allowed but in a different category.

Artificial lures only.

* Registration required but the event is FREE. Only park fees apply (park entrance fee \$5 per adult; children 12 and under are free). Fishing license required if going in the water for ages 17 and up.

📍 [South Llano River State Park](#)
[Map & Directions](#)

👤 [Lorissa Digiacomio](#)
(325) 446-3994
lorissa.digiacomio@tpwd.texas.gov

📅 [Download to Your Calendar](#)