



HCA is a passionate community caring for the unique features, spring-fed streams, heritage ranch lands, spectacular beauty and culture of the Texas Hill Country for the benefit of future generations.

PEDERNALES NEWS



Rock Crushing Operation Seeks Permit in Blanco County

Public information session **TODAY, Thursday, April 30**. 7pm at the PEC Auditorium in Johnson City

In mid-March notice was posted for a permit application with the TCEQ to open a rock crushing operation 4 miles west of Johnson City. The application would allow for the facility to run 5.5 days per week, 10 hours a day. Overall production at the facility would include a primary and secondary crusher, each authorized to produce more than 500,000 tons/year. There would also be significant water use on site to minimize dust. The facility is roughly 1,000 feet from the Pedernales River.

Residents concerned about the impact that this proposed rock-crushing facility could have on traffic, noise, air and water pollution in the Pedernales watershed are encouraged to attend a public information session today, Thursday April 30th, at 7pm at the PEC Auditorium in Johnson City. More information can be found [here](#). Those who are interested but unsure of their concerns should read the “possible concerns” document attached to this newsletter. We will have sample questions available for those who would like to find out more from the applicant.

Representatives from the TCEQ and the applicant, Chanas Aggregates, will be on hand to answer questions. Many members of the public have expressed frustration at the very limited scope of public involvement in the permitting for this proposed rock-crushing site. The Texas Tribune featured an article on legislative efforts to further limit the public’s participation in the permitting process at TCEQ today. Click [here](#) to find out more.



HCA, the Nature Conservancy, Texas Parks and Wildlife and the City of Fredericksburg Partner to Educate about Arundo

Those giant bamboo-type plants you've probably noticed in Barons Creek as you drive into Fredericksburg on 290 are a nasty example of a Texas Invader. Commonly known as Giant Reed or Carrizo Cane, this plants' scientific name is *Arundo donax*- and it can have serious consequences for our Hill Country rivers and streams. It grows at an alarming rate, displaces native vegetation, and can become so thick that it alters the natural hydrologic function of our creeks. On top of that, it is tough to get rid of! HCA is teaming up with the Nature Conservancy, TPWD and the City of Fredericksburg to educate landowners about dealing with this aquatic invasive. For more information, visit [Pull.Kill.Plant](#) or check out [the recent article](#) in the Fredericksburg Standard Radio Post.



A large stand of Arundo donax welcomes visitors entering Fredericksburg on 290.



This image was taken from an aerial survey of Arundo in the Pedernales. More than 275 plants were identified- that number is likely to grow.

Calendar of Pedernales Events

Thursday, April 30th

Public Meeting Concerning the Chanas Aggregates Rock Crushing operation in Blanco County
@ the PEC Auditorium, 201 S. Avenue F Johnson City
7pm

This public meeting will allow landowners and residents to ask questions of the TCEQ and Chanas Aggregates regarding the proposed rock crushing operation along the banks of the Pedernales, west of Johnson City.

All concerned residents are encouraged to attend!

Thursday, June 25th

TX Water Symposium
@ Hill Country University Center,
290 East, Fredericksburg
7pm- 8:30pm

This Texas Water Symposium will feature a discussion of the recently released regional water plan drafts. Ever wondered how our state water plan is written? Come learn how you can be involved in the prioritization of regional water projects. Hosted by the Hill Country Alliance, this event is free and open to the public. More details available soon on www.hillcountryalliance.org.

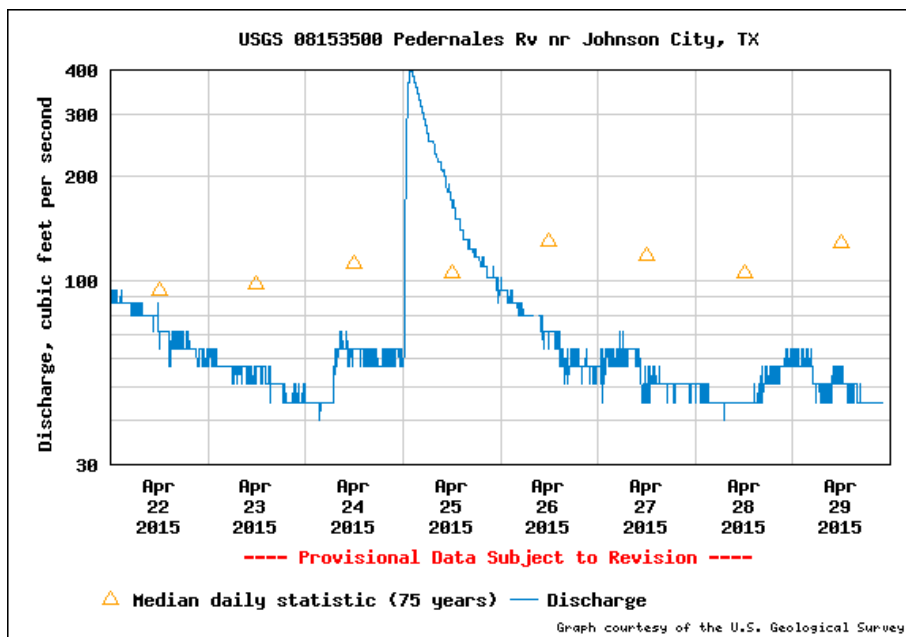
Volunteers Needed! Help Fredericksburg SHINES



Fredericksburg SHINES is a nonprofit organization with a mission to make Fredericksburg the most sustainable city in Texas. From bicycling and art to a sustainable homes tour, recycling and their goal of zero waste for the City, Fredericksburg SHINES has set their sights high for the city and they are gaining momentum around town! Check out their latest newsletter [here](#), and volunteer to support their mission!

Before and After: The Power of the Pedernales

Spring and summer are great times to see the amazing power of our Hill Country River systems – and the Pedernales is a classic example. Thanks to Scott Gardner of the [CL Browning Ranch](#) for the photos!



In spite of the roughly 5 inches of rain that have fallen on parts of the Pedernales this year, discharge from the river monitor near Johnson City reveals that we are still well below the median discharge levels. More next time on efforts to increase our understanding of rainfall, soil moisture and river recharge.



Have an event or news item that is of particular interest to the Pedernales Basin? Email Katherine@hillcountryalliance.org for inclusion in our next newsletter!
 Hill Country Alliance | Pedernales Program | www.hillcountryalliance.org | 512-410-9368