

OCTOBER 18, 2015

Watershed Week in Review

Llano River Watershed Alliance



Photo by Judy Hall

Bush nonprofit partners with State and Feds to Restore Monarch Population

DALLAS— Conservation efforts for the Texas monarch and other native pollinators took center stage at the George W. Bush Presidential Center in Dallas this morning when Former First Lady and Founder of Texan By Nature Laura Bush, Texas Parks and Wildlife Department (TPWD) Executive Director Carter Smith, Director of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) Dan Ashe, and President and CEO Collin O'Mara of the National Wildlife Federation (NWF) unveiled a conservation plan to help sustain native pollinators and their survival in Texas.

[Read more](#)

“3 Days in the Field” highlights Mason

The Texas Parks & Wildlife Magazine highlighted the Llano River Watershed [town of Mason](#) this month.

The article discusses the elusive hunt for topaz but the successful search for good food, beautiful scenery, and nice folks.

This month's magazine also features a prominent citizen of the watershed. See pg 2.



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Do wind turbines impact Monarchs?

This question was recently raised on the Llano River Watershed Alliance List Serve.

According to the [Monarch Guide](#), *“One of the many things we don’t know is what impact wind turbines have on migrating monarchs.”*

[North America Windpower](#) notes, *“Data suggest that the wind speeds and patterns associated with operating turbines likely will not create a collision issue with butterflies,”* but goes on to note that no literature was found on how wind turbulence from wind turbines specifically affects insect or butterfly behavior.

TPWD Magazine recognizes Kimble County citizen

The October issue of Texas Parks and Wildlife Magazine features Bill Neiman, Native American Seed, the partnership with Texas Parks and Wildlife and how it all came to be...

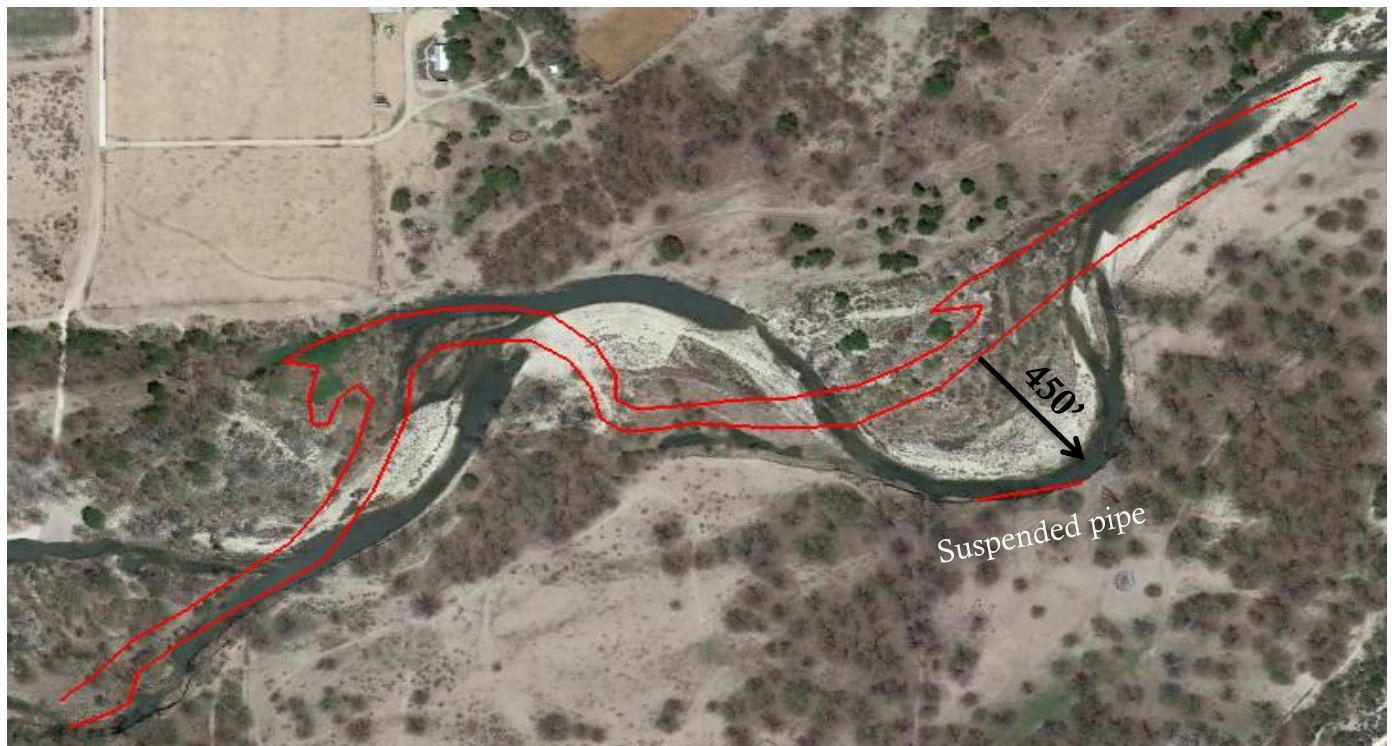
But by 1985, at the age of 30, Neiman was questioning everything about his business. Haunted by a brutally hot 1980, when his non-native landscapes succumbed to drought, Neiman realized he was growing the wrong kinds of plants. The surrounding countryside was virtually covered with alien species. No one, it seemed, knew where to find native vegetation.

[Read more](#)



More on Streambank Erosion

Last week's Watershed Week in Review showed the amount of streambank erosion that has occurred just downstream of bridge into South Llano River State Park. Unfortunately, this type of problem isn't just confined to the park. Further downstream, below the park boundary, over 450 feet of streambank has been lost. The Google Earth image below shows the existing channel with the 1974 channel superimposed in red. See below to see the results of this erosion.



The Suspended Pipe

If you have had the opportunity to enjoy the South Llano River Paddling Trail, you can't but notice the unusual site of the suspended pipe on the right bank. This pipe was likely an irrigation line that used to sit more than 100 yards away from the river. However, due to significant erosion it is now suspended above the river (image above).

Too much sediment in the river is causing the South Llano to increase its meandering, increasing streambank erosion and exacerbating the problem. Part of the problem is runoff to the river from drought-plagued uplands. A related problem is the lack of a good rise to help flush the system. The last major flood event was in 2004. Since that time, there have been no floods on the South Llano above what is considered minor flooding (gage height 16 feet) by the National Weather Service. A flood warning for the South Llano has not been issued since 2010 when the river crested at 13 feet, or 18,000 cubic feet per second.