



MEMBER SPOTLIGHT



This month, we spotlight our member group, Llano River Watershed Alliance

A Community Born from Love of a River —
Collaborate. Educate. Participate.

Mission

Headquartered in Junction, Texas, with membership stretching from Mason to Marble Falls, the Alliance is a nonprofit organization of landowners, ranchers, scientists, paddlers, and neighbors united by one conviction: that

the Llano Rivers, born of limestone springs deep in the Edwards Plateau, deserve to be cared for as the living, irreplaceable gift that it is. Its mission is simple and heartfelt — to preserve and enhance the Llano River and its adjoining watersheds by encouraging land and water stewardship through collaboration, education, and community participation.

History and Progress

The Alliance's roots reach back to early 2008, when the Environmental Defense Fund launched the South Llano River Project to talk with local and regional stakeholders about protecting the river's flows for the long term. That conversation produced the “Land of the Living Waters” report and, in November 2008, drew more than seventy-six people — landowners, community leaders, and resource agency representatives — to a workshop in Junction to discuss the river's future together. By January 2009 those neighbors had a name for their shared purpose, the South Llano Watershed Alliance, and a mission statement that still guides the organization today. Within months, they had elected a board, written bylaws, and filed for 501(c)(3) nonprofit status, turning a kitchen-table idea into a lasting institution.

The Alliance ran land stewardship and riparian workshops, partnered with Texas Parks and Wildlife on the Guadalupe Bass Restoration Initiative, helped launch the South Llano Paddling Trail, and began a citizen-scientist water-quality monitoring program that volunteers still carry out today. In 2013, the organization received the TPWD Lone Star Land Steward Award in recognition of its work. As its reach grew beyond the South Llano to embrace the North Llano and the river's full course to Lake LBJ, the board voted in February 2015 to rename itself the Llano River Watershed Alliance. This name better matched the breadth of a community now caring for an entire watershed, not just one stretch of it. The Alliance was a close collaborator with Texas Tech University in the development of an Upper Llano River watershed protection plan.

In 2022, the alliance led the charge against the permitting of a private dam near the South Llano's headwaters, staving off a precedent that would have allowed a serious threat to free flows of the river. The fight garnered statewide attention and helped LRWA forge close working relationships with GEAA in San Antonio, the Hill Country Alliance, the City of Austin, and Save Texas Streams.

Today the Alliance's work is as varied as the watershed itself. Its current Healthy Creeks Initiative is tackling the spread of invasive Arundo (giant cane) along Hill Country streams. Alongside partners like the Greater Edwards Aquifer Alliance and Wastewater Conservation Coalition, LRWA tracks wastewater-discharge permits and clean-water enforcement, and downtown Junction now sports a huge mural from the "Texas Runs on Water" campaign.

Upcoming Events

The Alliance co-hosts gatherings such as the "After the Rain" land-ethics conference at the La Cuna center in Castel near Mason, Texas, where ranchers, scientists, and artists come together to learn from voices like the late Aldo Leopold's, whose "ethic of care" for the land continues to inspire the group's volunteers. Through it all, a dedicated, mostly volunteer-run newsletter — published continuously since January 2015 — keeps members connected to river flows, drought conditions, wildlife, and the ever-present question of how best to love and protect this remarkable place.

**For more on Llano River Watershed Alliance
and ways to follow and support
Click [HERE!](#)**