

# TEXAN by NATURE™

## December Conservation Round-Up

*Highlighting conservation efforts & events from across the Lone Star State*

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### CONSERVATION EVENTS

#### Lights & Luminaria

The Texas Botanical Gardens invites you to stroll through our native gardens in December. We are placing 100 luminaria along the garden path in honor and or memory of our loved ones. We will be open Friday and Saturday nights as well as Christmas Eve and Christmas Day. You may honor a loved one by calling 325-648-2750. Your \$20.00 donation helps maintain our garden.



**Registration Link:** [www.legacyplaza.org](http://www.legacyplaza.org)

**Location:** 1150 Fisher St, Goldthwaite, TX 76844

**Date:** December 1, 2018

**Time:** 5 PM - 9 PM every Friday & Saturday, Christmas Eve & Christmas Day

**Cost:** \$20 per Luminaria

**For all media inquiries:**

Savannah Early, Garden Manager

[savearly@gmail.com](mailto:savearly@gmail.com)

325-648-2750

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#### The Parade of Lights

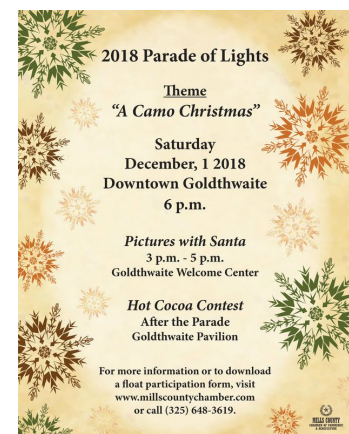
Season's Greetings! Our Parade of Lights will be held on Saturday, December 1, 2018 in downtown Goldthwaite! The parade will begin as soon as it is dark enough outside (usually a little after 6 p.m.). This years theme will be "A Camo Christmas".

The Chamber will have Photos with Santa before the parade at the Welcome Center. Don't forget to join us after the parade to stroll through our Gardens and enjoy the 2nd Annual Hot Cocoa Contest in the Goldthwaite Pavilion.

**Location:** Downtown Goldthwaite

**Date:** December 1, 2018

**Time:** 6 PM



**For all media inquiries:**

Savannah Early, Garden Manager  
savearly@gmail.com  
325-648-2750

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## **Beginning-Intermediate Walk & Talk Bird Tour**

**SEAGOVILLE, TX** - Join us as we go on a walking bird tour and learn about the birds who live at the Wetland! Meet the tour leaders at the Wetland Center at 7:00am. With migration here, it is the perfect time to learn the basics of birding. In this beginner to immediate class, you will learn how to use binoculars, field guides, keep a life-list and what to look for when identifying birds. Enjoy a relaxing morning learning more about the fastest growing spectator sport in America. Free with \$5 Admission; Members are Free. Binoculars and Field guides are available for use. For questions contact the Wetland Center.



**Registration Link:** [http://www.wetlandcenter.com/events\\_list.html](http://www.wetlandcenter.com/events_list.html)

**Location:** Wetland Center 655 Martin Lane Combine/Seagoville, TX 75159

**Date:** December 1, 2018

**Time:** 7 a.m.

**Cost:** Free with \$5 admission, Members Free

**For all media inquiries:**

Linda Dunn, Education Manager  
[ldunn@wetlandcenter.com](mailto:ldunn@wetlandcenter.com)  
(972)-474-9100

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## **Bunker's Pond Trail Walk- Third Saturday of Every Month**

**SEAGOVILLE, TX** - Join us at 10:00 am on the newly opened Bunker's Pond Trail and learn about the natural and cultural history of the area as we walk this 1.8 mile loop trail. The trail begins with a walk through a forested area to a true bottomland hardwood forest, then follows the East Fork on the Trinity River and ends on the Wetland levee roads. This trail is great for families and those who are interested in learning about native trees, flowers, animals and anything else we find along the way!



For questions contact the Wetland Center. Cost: Free with \$5 admission fee, Free for Members

**Registration Link:** [http://www.wetlandcenter.com/events\\_list.html](http://www.wetlandcenter.com/events_list.html)

**Location:** Wetland Center, 655 Martin Lane, Seagoville, TX, 75159

**Date:** December 15, 2018

**Time:** 10 AM

**Cost:** Free with \$5 admission, Members Free

**For all media inquiries:**

Linda Dunn, Education Manager

[ldunn@wetlandcenter.com](mailto:ldunn@wetlandcenter.com)

(972)-474-9100

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## The Archaeology of Climate Change

**NEW BRAUNFELS, TX** - Throughout the Headwaters at the Comal's archaeology excavation, special programs will take place for visitors who want to dig a little deeper into archaeology.

These programs will include an in-depth tour of the site and presentation led by members of the archaeology community. In December, our special program will take a closer look at archaeological examples of climate change.



**Registration Link:** <https://www.headwatersatthecomal.com/event/climatechangearchaeology/>

**Location:** [Headwaters at the Comal](#)

333 E. Klingemann St., New Braunfels, TX 78130 United States

**Date:** December 13, 2018

**Time:** 5 PM - 7 PM

**Cost:** \$3 – \$10

**For all media inquiries:**

Lauren Strack, Assistant Manager

[lstrack@nbutexas.com](mailto:lstrack@nbutexas.com)

830-608-8937

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## Giving Tuesday Celebration at The Castle

**AUSTIN** - Join the Hill Country Conservancy, Saturday, December 1st for an exclusive celebration at The Castle! This party celebrates the tenth anniversary of the Emerging Professionals in Conservation (EPIC) program and honors our Giving Tuesday supporters. Become an EPIC Member or donate \$100 or more to receive your invitation to this exclusive event!



**Registration Link:** [https://hillcountryconservancy.org/?post\\_type=tribe\\_events](https://hillcountryconservancy.org/?post_type=tribe_events)

**Location:** The Castle, 1111 W 11th St, Austin, TX 78703 United States

**Date:** December 1, 2018

**Time:** 4:30 PM - 9:00 PM

**For all media inquiries:**

Sarah Dean, Donor Relations Manager,  
sarah@hillcountryconservancy.org,  
512-3282481

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## Violet Crown Trail Clean Up

**AUSTIN** - Help clean up the Violet Crown Trail in some of the spots where folks leave behind their trash. The clean up will be between 1.5 - 2 hours

**WEATHER:** If this event needs to be cancelled or rescheduled due to rain, we will send an email 12 hours before the event.



**Registration Link:**

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/epic-vct-cleanup-tickets-50921852632>

**Location:** Zilker Park Trailhead, 2131 William Barton Dr., Austin, TX 78746

**Date:** December 9, 2018

**Time:** 9:00 AM – 11:00 AM

**Cost:** Free

**For all media inquiries:**

Sarah Dean, Donor Relations Manager  
sarah@hillcountryconservancy.org  
512-328-2481

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## Walk and Talk with the Founder

**SUNSET VALLEY-** You're invited to join George Cofer, Hill Country Conservancy Founder and CEO, for a hike along the Violet Crown Trail. You'll have the opportunity to chat with George about all things HCC - conservation, Violet Crown Trail, life in the Hill Country and more! We encourage individuals who are both familiar and unfamiliar with HCC to Walk & Talk with our fearless leader.



**Registration Link:** <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/walk-talk-with-the-founder-tickets-50919989058>

**Location:** Violet Crown 290 Trail Head, 4934 West US Highway 290 Service Road, Sunset Valley, TX 78745

**Date:** December 14, 2018

**Time:** 7:50 AM – 9:15 AM

**Cost:** Free

**For all media inquiries:**

Sarah Dean, Donor Relations Manager  
[sarah@hillcountryconservancy.org](mailto:sarah@hillcountryconservancy.org)  
512-328-2481

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## First Look: Harold Simmons Park

Join the Trinity Park Conservancy at South Side Music Hall to meet the design team of Harold Simmons Park and get a first glimpse at the design as it progresses in response to hearing your input at our fall workshops and online survey! This event is free and open to the public.

**Website Link:**

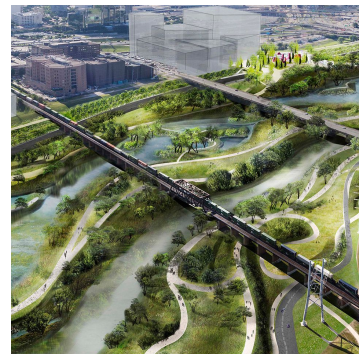
<https://trinityparkconservancy.org/event-posts/first-look/>

**Cost:** Free

**Time:** 5:30 - 8:00pm

**Date:** December 6, 2018

**Location:** South Side Music Hall  
1135 S Lamar St, Dallas, TX 75215



**For all media inquiries:**

Elizabeth Jones, Marketing & Communications Associate  
[elizabeth@trinityparkconservancy.org](mailto:elizabeth@trinityparkconservancy.org)  
214.740.1616

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## Ranching Heritage Center Presents Pioneer Christmas

What began four decades ago with a few hundred visitors now attracts thousands as the National Ranching Heritage Center (NRHC) at Texas Tech University celebrates its 40th Annual Candlelight at the Ranch from 6:30 to 9 p.m. Dec. 7 and 8.

Despite having more lights and sparkle than ever before, holiday scenes created in the center's historic structures will be lit as much as possible with only lanterns, fireplaces and campfires. Visitors to the free event will celebrate Christmas as it might have been on the open prairie in frontier days.

More than 4,000 luminarias will line the paths of the 19-acre historic park, and pathways will be wheelchair and stroller accessible as visitors pass cowboys camped out with their horses and brewing coffee over a chuck wagon fire. With the help of more than 150 volunteers each night—many dressed in period clothing—holiday scenes will be recreated in 14 historic ranching structures dating from 1780 to the 1950s. The NRHC is located at 3121 Fourth St. in Lubbock.



**Registration Link:** [nrhc.ttu.edu](http://nrhc.ttu.edu)

**Location:** National Ranching Heritage Center 3121 Fourth St. Lubbock, TX 79409

**Date:** December 7 & 8

**Time:** 6:30 pm - 9 pm

**Cost:** Free; \$5 minimum suggested donation

**For all media inquiries:**

Sue H. Jones, Communications Coordinator

[sue.jones@ttu.edu](mailto:sue.jones@ttu.edu)

806-834-2646

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## Winter Bird Fest

**CEDAR HILL-** Winter is here and so are the birds! Geared for fledgling and adult birders, join Dogwood Canyon Audubon Center for Birding 101 and birding by ear programs. Crafts, activities and live animal encounters will take place during this event. \$3/person, ages 2+.

**Registration Link:**

<https://dogwoodcanyonaudubon.ticketleap.com/winterbirdfest/>



**Location:** Dogwood Canyon Audubon Center, 1206 W FM 1382, Cedar Hill, TX 75104

**Date:** December 15, 2018

**Time:** 10 am - 3 pm

**Cost:** \$3

**For all media inquiries:**

Katie Christman, Education Specialist, [kchristman@audubon.org](mailto:kchristman@audubon.org), 469-526-1988

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## Texas Land Conservation Conference

**AUSTIN** - The 2019 Texas Land Conservation Conference will be held Wednesday, February 27 - Friday, March 1, 2019 at the Hilton Austin Airport in Austin, Texas. TLCC is the preeminent statewide meeting for anyone working in the field of land and water conservation, private landowners interested in conserving their land, government, business and NGO agency partners, and any person interested in learning more about these important issues in Texas. Come Join us for three days of learning, inspiration, and fantastic networking events as we work together to conserve Texas land!



**Registration Link:** [www.texaslandconservationconference.org](http://www.texaslandconservationconference.org)

**Location:** Hilton Austin Airport, 9515 Hotel Dr, Austin, TX 78719

**Date:** February 27 - Friday, March 1, 2019

**Time:** 3:00 PM - 12:00 PM

**Cost:** \$95 - \$450

**For all media inquiries:**

Lori Olson | Executive Director

[lori@texaslandtrustcouncil.org](mailto:lori@texaslandtrustcouncil.org)

512-994-TLTC (8582)

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## Implementing Watershed Based Plans Training

Water and natural resource professionals are invited to the Implementing Watershed Plans Training set for December 17, 2018 from 10 AM - 4:00 PM in College Station. The training includes an overview and case studies on implementation strategies, sources of funding, keeping stakeholders engaged, outreach programs, tracking implementation, and evaluating progress. This training is the next step for those that have attended the Watershed Planning Short Course in the last several years.



Refunds will be available prior to December 13th less a \$15 processing fee. There will be no refunds for cancellations after December 13th, but substitutions are allowed, providing that notification is sent to Nathan Glavy ([nathan.glavy@ag.tamu.edu](mailto:nathan.glavy@ag.tamu.edu)) in advance.

**Registration Link:**

<http://watershedplanning.tamu.edu/training/dec-17-2018-implementing-watershed-based-plans-training/>

**Location:** Texas A&M Forest Service, 200 Technology Way, College Station, TX 77845

**Date:** December 17, 2018; Registration is required by December 13, 2018

**Time:** 10 AM - 4:00 PM

**Cost:** Cost is \$50 and includes all training materials, lunch, and a certificate of completion at the end of the course.

**For all media inquiries:**

Kathy Wythe

Communications Manager

[kwythe@tamu.edu](mailto:kwythe@tamu.edu)

979-845-1862

**Homeowner septic system workshop to be held in Matagorda County**

The Texas Water Resources Institute and Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service are offering two free educational events on the maintenance of septic systems in December for Matagorda County homeowners.

The first program is from 6:30-8:30 p.m. Dec. 6 at the Palacios Educational Pavilion, 693 S. Bay Blvd. in Palacios.

The second is from 9:30-11:30 a.m. Dec. 7 at the Matagorda County Fairgrounds Multi-Purpose Room, 2604 Nichols Ave. in Bay City.



Workshop presenters will provide a basic understanding of the operational and maintenance activities of a septic system and explain how activities within the home impact septic systems. Presentations will cover the treatment processes, health and safety considerations, how to inspect, care for and feed the system, and general maintenance procedures. The septic system trainings are part of the implementation of the Tres Palacios Watershed Protection Plan, which was developed by the Texas Water Resources Institute and local stakeholders.

To register, interested individuals should contact Aaron Sumrall, AgriLife Extension agent for agriculture and natural resources in Matagorda County, at 979-245-4100 or [sasumrall@ag.tamu.edu](mailto:sasumrall@ag.tamu.edu). For more information about the program, contact Ryan Gerlich, AgriLife Extension program specialist, College Station, at 979-458-4185 or visit <http://ossf.tamu.edu/>.

**Registration Link:**

<https://today.agrilife.org/2018/11/26/homeowner-septic-system-workshops-to-be-held-in-matagorda-county/>

**FIRST PROGRAM**

**Location:** Palacios Educational Pavilion, 693 S. Bay Blvd., Palacios



**Date:** December 6

**Time:** 6:30 PM - 8:30 AM

**Cost:** FREE

**SECOND PROGRAM**

**Location:** Matagorda County Fairgrounds - Multi-Purpose Room, 2604 Nichols Ave., Bay City

**Date:** December 7

**Time:** 9:30 AM -11:30 AM

**Cost:** FREE

**For all media inquiries:**

Kathy Wythe

Communications Manager

[kwythe@tamu.edu](mailto:kwythe@tamu.edu)

979-845-1862

# CONSERVATION NEWS

## John Bunker Sands Wetland Center-Expanding Our Horizons

Since opening our doors in 2010, John Bunker Sands Wetland Center has welcomed over 60,000 students and adults to experience hands-on conservation in our amazing wetland habitat. As they've grown, so has the population they serve and the need for sustainable water resources and wildlife habitat protection. The organization addresses and promotes conservation literacy through in-depth field studies on water conservation, wildlife ecosystems and the benefit of protecting wetland habitats in the Trinity River basin.



To meet the increased number of students and visitors, the JBS Wetland Center board, staff and stakeholders have developed a plan to expand our horizons with new facilities and amenities to engage more people by 2020. The new education facility will sit light on the land and blend in with the ranch and current building. Expansion plans include two new enclosed smart technology classrooms, new restrooms, an open-air terrace, a flexible outdoor amphitheater and an outdoor stage for presentations and special events.

This expansion will allow the Wetland Center to double student capacity, enhance the use of technology for distance learning, increase our innovative programming and provide new rental space for sustaining our future.

To learn more about their plans and how you can become involved with our expanded horizons, visit [www.wetlandcenter.com](http://www.wetlandcenter.com).

**Announcement Link:** [wetlandcenter.com](http://wetlandcenter.com)

### For all media inquiries:

John DeFillipo, Director

[jdefillipo@wetlandcenter.com](mailto:jdefillipo@wetlandcenter.com)

(972)-474-9100

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## Archaeology at the Headwaters

During this archaeological excavation, visitors are invited to learn more about the thousands of years of history at the Headwaters at the Comal through a variety of exciting programs, including guided tours and weekly live video updates!

Visit our website or Facebook page to keep up to date with the archaeology excavation and sign up for activities. Don't forget to sign up for our newsletter while you're there to stay informed about other Headwaters at the Comal programs!

**Event Link:** <https://www.headwatersatthecomal.com/archaeology/>

**For all media inquiries:**

Lauren Strack, Assistant Manager

[lstrack@nbutexas.com](mailto:lstrack@nbutexas.com)

830-608-8937



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## Gopher Tortoise: Building a thriving community

The Texas A&M Natural Resources Institute researchers, including Drs. Wade Ryberg, Danielle Walkup, Toby Hibbitts and Brandon Bowers, are working in partnership with many private landowners and stakeholders to relocate hundreds of gopher tortoises to new, development-free habitats so that many more species can survive.

**Announcement Link:**

<https://nri.tamu.edu/blog/2018/november/gopher-tortoise-building-a-thriving-community/>

**For all media inquiries:**

Brittany Wegner, Communications

[brittany.wegner@ag.tamu.edu](mailto:brittany.wegner@ag.tamu.edu)

832-389-7414

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## More on Texas Tribune's Preserving Natural Resources Panel

In a two-day event organized by the Texas Tribune, more than 200 officials, agriculture stakeholders including NRI's director Dr. Roel Lopez, and residents from across the state gathered to discuss and answer questions about challenges and opportunities facing rural Texans.

The panel allowed for the organization to openly discuss and debate hard issues where shifts in perspectives are spurred by research in the field, by events happening right now. As Dr. Lopez pointed out, the best path forward is to continue to build more resilient rural communities and landscapes—after all, land is the most important rural infrastructure in Texas.

**Announcement Link:**

<https://nri.tamu.edu/news/2018/november/the-eagle-cites-nri-on-texas-tribunes-preserving-natural-resources-panel/>

**For all media inquiries:**

Brittany Wegner, Communications  
[brittany.wegner@ag.tamu.edu](mailto:brittany.wegner@ag.tamu.edu)  
832-389-7414

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**NRI Releases New Wild Pig Reporting Tool**

A new feature on our institute's wild pig website offers Texas landowners and homeowners an easy-to-use tool to report sightings of wild pigs and the damage that may have occurred. This new online reporting tool takes only a few minutes to capture data like location of sighting, number of feral hogs sighted, estimations on age, the type of damage being caused and includes an entry for photo submissions. The submitted reports will be used to support outreach efforts and help locate areas of high activity to guide both management and educational efforts across the state.

**Announcement Link:** <https://nri.tamu.edu/news/2018/november/new-reporting-tool-for-wild-pigs/>

**For all media inquiries:**

Brittany Wegner, Communications  
[brittany.wegner@ag.tamu.edu](mailto:brittany.wegner@ag.tamu.edu)  
832-389-7414

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**Reimagine Our River. Take the Trinity Park Conservancy's online survey and be a part of designing Harold Simmons Park!**

As the Conservancy begins to develop Harold Simmons Park along the Trinity River, we want to better understand what you like and how you interact with the outdoors and Trinity River. This will assist us in plans to build a public space that brings Dallas together with one another and nature.

**Registration Link:**

<https://trinityparkconservancy.org/survey/>

**For all media inquiries:**

Elizabeth Jones, Marketing & Communications Associate  
[elizabeth@trinityparkconservancy.org](mailto:elizabeth@trinityparkconservancy.org)  
214.740.1616