

Nueces River Watershed Partnership

January 2014

To improve and protect the water quality of the Nueces River Watershed so that the river is restored and preserved for current and future generations

Nueces River Preservation Association

The Nueces River Preservation Association (NRPA) was awarded the Coastal Bend Bay's Foundation's 2013 Non-Profit Conservation and Environmental Stewardship Award. The award was given in recognition of their efforts to restore and preserve the natural beauty of the Lower Nueces River.



Illegal Dumper Caught

On October 16, 2013, a stakeholder on Riverview Drive confronted a driver of a vacuum truck who was discharging its load on private property along the river. The authorities were called and the incident was investigated. The newspaper reported that a man that lives adjacent to the private property was paid \$20 to let the driver dump the waste, which was a mixture of raw sewage and rinse water. The driver worked for a repair shop that had been hired by the septic disposal company to work on their vehicles. Nueces County plans to prosecute the owner of the repair shop, which could result in prison time and a hefty fine.

Hazel Bazemore Park



As reported in the July 2013 newsletter, the CR 73 cleanup effort was a huge success. Much of that success can be contributed to the assistance of Nueces County and the City of Corpus Christi and their in-kind contributions to the effort. So much so, there was enough money remaining from the Coastal Bend Bays and Estuaries grant that NRA was able to purchase the supplies for

Nueces County to build and install 30 trash cans in Hazel Bazemore Park. In addition, AEP Texas donated funds to the NRPA to create and install a sign at the boat ramp encouraging people to help keep the river clean for all to enjoy.



History Lesson

La Fruta Park in San Patricio County Park was started in the early 2000s. It is named after La Fruta, Texas., located on the north bank of the Nueces River near the present SH 359 bridge 4 miles south of Mathis. There was a small school house, and after the railroad came through the area in 1888 at least two stores were started. On April 29, 1892, a post office was established in James C. Thompson's store, with Thompson as postmaster. The post office was moved to Mathis in 1895, but for several years La Fruta continued to be a shipping point for vegetables, especially watermelons. A ford existed where the highway now crosses the Nueces, and in 1871 Calvin Wright was issued a permit to operate the first ferry there. A bridge to replace the ferry was approved in 1909 and completed in 1915. Footings for the old bridge were still in place on both sides of the highway bridge in the early 2000s.

Source: <http://www.sanpatriciocountyparks.com>



www.nuecesriverpartnership.org



Nueces River Authority

**Conrad Blucher Institute for Surveying and Science
Nueces River Water Quality Monitoring
(<http://www.cbi.tamucc.edu/Nueces-River-Monitoring/>)**

Three continuous, real-time monitoring stations have been recording water quality data since September 2012. The stations were installed and are operated by the Conrad Blucher Institute for Surveying and Science (CBI) at Texas A&M University—Corpus Christi for the City of Corpus Christi Water Department. The information gathered by this monitoring system is crucial to understanding the physical and biological dynamics of our freshwater resources given the expanding population and the growing demand for water supply.



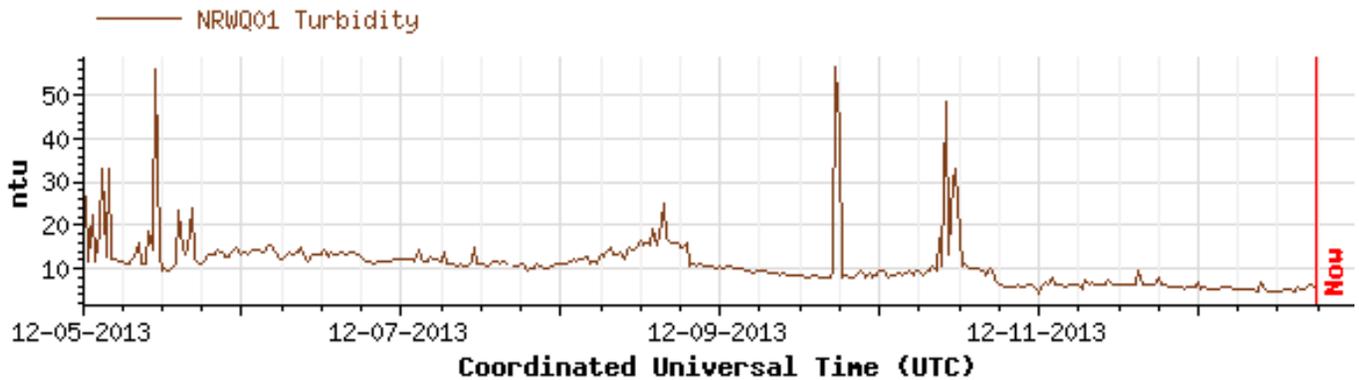
Station #1 at Wesley Seale Dam



Station #1 is located at Wesley Seale Dam, Station #2 is located at San Patricio Estates, and Station #3 is located at the O. N. Stevens Water Treatment Plant intake. These monitoring sites report water temperature, specific conductance, salinity, pH, dissolved oxygen, and tur-

bidity. Air temperature, wind speed, wind direction, barometric pressure, relative humidity, and precipitation are also reported. Data are utilized by the City of Corpus Christi Water Department as well as the Nueces River Authority to help implement best management strategies within the Nueces River watershed, including the Choke Canyon and Lake Corpus Christi reservoirs.

CBI maintains a webpage for each station via the website above. The 'Overview' tab contains the latest information, collected every 6 minutes, and on-the-hour readings for the previous 24 hours. Graphs of data for the previous 7 days are on the 'Daily QC' tab. The 'Data Query' page provides access to all collected data.



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Sample graph of turbidity data collected at Station #1 December 5-13, 2013.