



Friends of Guadalupe River, Honey Creek, Inc.

A non-profit organization

President's Letter

by Wilt Shaw

Board of Directors

You might want to come to the Park to see what's going on! Thanks to the leadership, perseverance and patience of our Restoration Chairman, Dave Kibler, our beloved Rust House is beginning to look like new. Well, not exactly new, but rather revealing what we think is the old charm of this magnificent World War I era farm house. Be sure to read Dave's article in this issue on the restoration progress.

President
Wilt Shaw
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Thanks to a great crew of volunteers, the bulk of the painting was completed at the end of November. There are still a couple of more details that need to get done, so Dave is scheduling work days in January and February to complete them. Please contact Dave at djkib@gvtc.com to volunteer your time, so that you can say you had a hand in restoring this wonderful Guadalupe River State Park treasure.

Vice President/Ed. Programs
Holly Camero
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The Friends recently received a great surprise volunteer addition to our board. Bryden Moon, who retired from AT&T in San Antonio after working within the Bell System for 27 years, has requested to be the Historian for the Friends group. We welcome Bryden and his wife Kay with open arms! In December of 2005 Bryden and Kay, who recently retired from the Comal Independent School District, moved into the WaterStone subdivision.

Secretary/Newsletter
Terry Urbanczyk
830-980-2311
rturban@gvtc.com

Bryden has become a self-described amateur historian after serving as a docent at the San Antonio Missions National Historical Park for six years, conducting tours of four missions/churches and giving demonstrations. He is a member of St. Joseph's church, and recently joined the Genealogy Society of Kendall County. He writes a history column, "Of Water, Stone, and Trees" for the WaterStone subdivision's newsletter.

Treasurer
J.W. Pieper
830-336-3241
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Bryden, whose inaugural commentary appears inside, is interested in gathering information and history related to Honey Creek and the surrounding area, so that it can be shared in our newsletter. Please don't hesitate in contacting him with any stories, letters, documents, and anecdotal stories/tales of our rich local heritage. He can be reached at bemoonjr@aol.com.

Director/ Web Master
Dan Freeman
830-899-5539
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Another Friend's event, "Halloween in the Park" was once again a great success, thanks to all of the local volunteers. It is becoming an annual tradition with some folks to come and enjoy a spooky evening in the park with the kids. The Third Grade Education Program led by Holly Camero brought a few hundred students and parent chaperones out to Honey Creek SNA for a day of outdoor education. This is always a very successful event with all participants leaving with a greater appreciation for the beauty of nature.

Director/Maintenance Chair
Dave Kibler
830-336-3716
djkib@gvtc.com

Director/Historian
Bryden Moon
Bemoonjr@aol.com

Director/Past President
Tom Anderson
210-653-5225
tomander@texas.net

From the Park Superintendent's Perch

by Mark Abolafia-Rosenzweig

With another Thanksgiving gone I have so much to be personally thankful for. I have a supportive and strong wife, two boys with good and kind hearts, a great job, and a gorgeous "back yard." My thanks, however, would not be complete without acknowledging those who help make my great job so really great. The dedicated folks who call themselves Friends of Guadalupe River and Honey Creek are right at the top in this list. They (and "they" know who they are) consistently give their time and personal resources to a cause - the conservation and betterment of Guadalupe River State Park and Honey Creek State Natural Area for the use and enjoyment of current and future generations - that they see as a labor of love.

Our entire community benefited from the recent "Haunted Trail" that has become an annual event at the park. This evening extravaganza was organized and run entirely by volunteers who gave of themselves so that our communities' families could have a safe place to take their children for a really enjoyable Halloween experience. Somewhat behind the scenes, however, much more is going on. Over the last couple of years the group has taken on a major restoration project of the park's Rust House - a historic home (circa 1917) that is the staging area for our Saturday morning guided tours of Honey Creek State Natural Area. The house as been leveled, had its dilapidating porches replaced, has had old peeling paint removed, and is now being repainted. Within two years, these tremendous volunteers have used the funds the group has garnered and expended their own time and sweat to transform this structure from an aging building that was all too readily showing its age to a beautiful remnant of the site's history that should become a centerpiece of many of the park's educational activities. I'm blessed to call these people my friends. Yes, I have a lot to be thankful for.

Historical Committee

by Bryden Moon

New additions to the Friends group are Bryden and Kay Moon. Bryden has volunteered to take the position of Historian and will chair the Historical Committee.

Bryden Moon retired from AT&T in San Antonio after working within the Bell System for 27 years. In December of 2005 he moved into the WaterStone subdivision with his wife Kay, who recently retired from the Comal Independent School District.

Bryden has become a self-described amateur historian, after serving as a docent at the San Antonio Missions National Historical Park for 6 years: conducting tours of four missions/churches and giving demonstrations. He is a member of St. Joseph's church, and recently joined the Genealogy Society of Kendall County. He writes a history column, "Of Water, Stone, and Trees" for the WaterStone subdivision's newsletter.

Bryden is interested in gathering information and history related to Honey Creek and the surrounding area so that it can be shared in our newsletter. Please don't hesitate in contacting him with any stories, letters, documents, and anecdotal stories/tales of our rich local heritage. He can be reached at

bemoonjr@aol.com.

The Friends of GRSP welcome area residents with historic connections to Honey Creek and surrounding areas who can help in locating and organizing information and artifacts of the early European settlers who first came to settle this untamed land.

Please call or email Bryden if you would like more information or have any information that would be useful. Any interested person is welcomed to attend the Friend's monthly meeting on the 2nd Thursday of each month at the Guadalupe River State Park Rust House.

Rust House Renovations

by Dave Kibler

In 2005, the Friends board began the long process of restoring the historic Rust House on the property of the Park. The first part of the project was to restore the stability of this fine 1917 structure by replacing and resetting all 54 cedar post piers which formed the foundation of the house. When the restoration contractor completed the work, the floor of the house was again level throughout, and structural areas which had subsided were restored to their original positions. In the summer of 2006, an experienced restoration carpenter was hired to replace areas in which wood infrastructure had rotted. David Pipes, the contractor, did an excellent job, completing this work, which featured construction of new steps and replacement of the entire porch flooring, front and back in early September. The Friends invested over \$14,000 in these two processes.



The final phase was the decision to repaint the exterior of the Rust House. This work is currently in progress, and six workdays in early November have resulted in the complete scraping and re-caulking of the house. The primer coat has also been applied, and work will begin soon on the application of the first of two finish coats of white paint. This work will be completed in the coming months, as volunteers become available. The plan is to also apply two coats of new paint to all the blue/green trim areas. The porch ceilings will receive new light blue paint,

and the new porch decking will be painted in gray. These colors will match to the best of our ability the original colors of the historic house.

So far a total of 211 volunteer hours have gone into the project. Volunteers have been Bob Gray, Bob Hamilton, Wilt Shaw, Prem Norid, Larry Mickey, Kathy Mickey, J.W. Pieper, and Dave Kibler.

Please come out on future work days to donate a day or two of your volunteer time to this worthwhile project. We start at 8:30am and finish by 3pm. Lunch is furnished, along with all materials. Volunteers for the repainting project are asked to contact Dave Kibler at 830-336-3718 or djkib@gvtc.com.



RIVER CLEAN UP

By Tom Anderson

The Guadalupe River Clean-up Day held on September 30 was a great success!

We had 24 volunteers who worked a total of 120 volunteer hours and collected **650 pounds of trash/debris** of which 45 pounds were recycled. We cleaned 1 and 1/2 miles of the Guadalupe River on both sides for a 3 mile total. Staying about within the park boundary. Volunteers received patches and magnets along with the lunch that was provided for their services.

Sincere thanks goes to all of those terrific volunteers who volunteered.

Imagine how much more we can accomplish with a few more hands to help out!

Halloween at the Park Update

by Terry Urbanczyk

When the Friends of Guadalupe River/Honey Creek decided to host some kind of Halloween activity within the park about seven years ago, there was really nothing for the rural families to do other than drive into town to go Trick-or-Treat in a neighborhood. We wanted to provide a safe, natural environment for some outdoor, nighttime fun. Well, I think we succeeded in doing just that.

For our first event, Friends members and their family and friends provided all of the decorations, cooking, story telling and candy. We started the planning in August for the event in October. It was a big surprise to have about 300 visitors show up with very little advertising. At that time we had a hayride along a park road in addition to the spook trail and we let kids and their parents roast their own hot dogs and marshmallows over some pits we organized around the amphitheater. This all seemed like a pretty good idea until the number of visitors increased and fire dangers in drought conditions forced us to be very careful with any kind of fires. Each year saw an increase of about 200 more guests until this year when we had about 1100 kids and parents go through the spook trail. Many families returned from before and invited other neighbors to come along for the fun.

As the event grew in popularity it was plain to see that the Friends members could not keep up with all the preparations alone. About four years ago we invited local families, schools, clubs, churches and other organizations to help out by sponsoring a "candy station". That entails bringing *lots of candy*, having a few folks dressed up in Halloween costumes to pass it out and putting up a few decorations around the designated area. Well, let me tell you, these sponsors have really taken the task to heart!



This annual event has brought out some real creativity in the sponsors, and they all say they have more fun than the guests do! Mrs. Teesie Mauer and her son Michael set up a terrific witch cave, complete with spider webs, glowing eyeballs and bats. Susan Dolinsky and family of "All Around Cleaning" always have a great display with some pretty scary costumes. These folks were some of the first sponsors to volunteer to help us out and we can always count on them for their support.

We have some really terrific Girl Scout Troops who have been coming out to sponsor stations for a few years now. Lori Nease with her Girls Scout Troop #1981 and Corette Maulding's Troop #571 all set up great decorations and have a great enthusiasm for the event. The O'Brien Girls of Bulverde 4-H have a large group of young ladies who spend lots of time setting up an elaborate Halloween display and have some very interesting costumes! They all have been a tremendous help for many years and all the ladies do an outstanding job of cleaning up their areas when the event is over. This is a big help in preserving the environment for the resident animals! (Too bad we haven't had any Boy



Scouts Volunteer to help out yet!)

Smithson Valley High School student clubs have also been a great help to the park in the past three years. SVHS Choir and Theater Club members put their hearts into putting on a real performance for the park visitors! SV FCCLA and SV PALS had several members as well who got right into character to spook the visitors! Of course, no one was too scary. They were aware of the very young guests and didn't go overboard. These students did a terrific job and are a great help.



New comers this year were the Hudson and Munoz Families and Friends. WOW! Did they go all out! With about 20 group members all in costume in an elaborate set up with tents, smoke and sound machines and glow in the dark effects, it was a real experience. They all said they had a great time and plan on coming back next year with an even better display! I can't wait!

I can't forget to recognize and thank Cordillera Nature Club for all their work in helping to organize the event and for all of the club members who participated in decorating, cooking and passing out candy. They filled up a large section of the trail through the woods and made it quite special. (Who was that "little girl" in the pigtails anyway?)

Friends members and park staff who do so much to make this event a success cannot be thanked enough. Holly Camero and her family have always put so much time and effort into their displays. Friends members



Tom and Carol Anderson, Dave Kibler, JW and Jan Pieper all put a lot of time and effort into making this a successful event for the children of our area. Mark and Betty Abolafia-Rosenzweig and park staff make sure the area is safe, clean and in good working order for the park guests. A great team effort goes into the event and we all have a great time doing it. **Thank you to everyone who helped!**

It is important to note that while a good time is had by all, our park is benefiting in a great way as well.

This event is paid for by donations from Friends members and some local businesses like HEB who generously donates all the food. Tetco, at the corner of HWY 281 and Hwy 46, always gives us all the ice we need. A local candy distributor has donated several hundred pounds of candy for us to give out. The park entrance fee is decreased for the evening to only \$6.00 per carload, and of course all the volunteers come in free. The actual event is free to the public, although we do ask for a voluntary donation of \$2 per person. Over the past 2 years donations have risen to where we now clear about \$1200 for the event.

All donations go directly into park projects. Thanks to Halloween at the Park the Rust House gets a new coat of paint!



Friends of Guadalupe River/ Honey Creek, Inc.

Annual Christmas Party

And General Meeting

Date: December 14 **Time:** 6:30pm until 9:00pm

Location: Honey Creek Ranch

Ronnie & Terry Urbanczyk's place

26226 Hwy 46

Across the street and west of St. Joseph's Catholic Church

Pot Luck Dinner; bring something delicious

to surprise everyone!

"Chinese" gift swap game; bring along a gift to play.

Please RSVP by Dec. 10 by calling Terry Urbanczyk at 830-980-2311

Or send an email to rturban@gvtc.com

HONEY CREEK STATE NATURAL AREA

HUNT CLOSURE DATES

Please be aware that Honey Creek State Natural Area will be closed for all research projects, tours, and birding activities for the following period:

5:00 p.m., December 3, 2006 through 12:00 p.m., January 19, 2007.

This is due to the Public Hunt.

Please feel free to contact Rex Shaddox at 830-438-2656

should you have any questions.

2007 Membership Dues Are Now Due!

If you have not renewed your Friends of GRSP/Honey Creek membership this year, **please do so!**

As a reminder, we are a 501(c) (3) organization which means that contributions to the Friends organization are tax deductible. Just mail your check to the official address for the Friends, 3350 Park Road 31, Spring Branch, Texas 78070, or drop it off at Park Headquarters on your next visit.

There are several levels of membership available:

Individual	\$10
Family	\$15
Sustaining Member	\$50
Contributing Member	\$100
Life Member	\$1000

As you know, this newsletter keeps you current with the activities at the Park, but with the costs of sending it out continuing to increase, the Board of Directors has authorized the cancellation of subscription privileges to the Quarterly Newsletter for all members who are in arrears.

Please remember that your contributions go toward making the Park a better place for all of us to enjoy. Please feel free to let your friends know about the Guadalupe River State Park and Honey Creek and the Friends organization.

Thank you for your continued support!

Friends of Guadalupe River/Honey Creek, Inc. Membership

(Membership Renewal date is January 1st)

Name(s): _____ Date _____

Address: _____ City, State, Zip: _____

Email _____ Phone: _____

Membership Type: New Member Renewal Change of Address

Level of Membership: \$5 Education or Youth Organization \$50 Sustaining Member
 \$5 Student (under 18) \$100 Contributing Member
 \$10 Individual (over 18) \$500 Corporate Partner
 \$15 Family \$1000 Life Membership

I would like to help the Friends by volunteering for:

Interpretive hikes Outdoor Ed. Programs Trail Maintenance
 Historical Drama Evening Programs South Island Beautification
 Trail Ride Event Fundraising Other _____

Send checks payable to "Friends of GR/HC, Inc. Mail to: 3350 Park Road 31, Spring Branch, TX 78070
 Friends of Guadalupe River/Honey Creek, Inc. is a 501(c)3 organization. All donations are tax deductible.

**Friends of Guadalupe River
and Honey Creek, Inc.**

3350 Park Road 31
Spring Branch, Texas 78070

We're on the web!
www.honeycreekfriends.com

*The Friends of Guadalupe River and
Honey Creek, Inc. is a non-profit
organization working with Guadalupe
River State Park and Honey Creek
State Natural Area.*

*The "Friends" meet monthly at the
Park. Please join us on the third
Thursday at 7:00 pm.
And bring a friend!*