



FALL 2008 NEWSLETTER

Friends of Guadalupe River, Honey Creek, Inc.

A non-profit organization

President's Letter

by Nancy Gray

Board of Directors

The friends group is at the end of the summer of a busy, productive year. The dry, hot summer has brought many visitors to our wonderful river park but has also had some challenges and downsides. The drought limited the park's wildflowers, which led to less butterflies for our first annual park butterfly count. Our park interpreter, Craig Hensley, has continued to provide many new and well-attended programs. Along with Craig, the other Saturday night programs arranged by the friends group have been having excellent attendance. More people have become trained interpretive guides for our weekly Honey Creek hikes. The friends board members and others cleaned the Rust house and we have plans to use it in the future for both cultural history and nature exhibits. It will also continue to provide a meeting and workspace for the friends group and park personnel. Thanks to everyone who has been involved with all these activities.

All the activity at the park provides increased opportunities for friends members to help with interpretive programs. It's fun and rewarding to share the love of the natural world with others through these programs. There are many opportunities to help present or assist with the programs. Look at the events calendar on the friends web site, www.honeycreekfriends.com, to see examples of all the activities. Tom Anderson has graciously volunteered to be the coordinator for all volunteer interpretive opportunities; so if you are interested, contact Tom at 210-653-5225 or tanderson46@satx.rr.com.

Be sure and check out the notices for the general meeting on September 23 and our biggest event of the year, Halloween in the Park, October 26. We always need volunteers to help with Halloween so come join in the fun. This upcoming general meeting provides some special access to Honey Creek and the new park telescopes as well as a chance to visit with other friends members and explore fun new things to do as part of the friends group. I'll see you there.

Nancy Gray

President and Director of Sat. Programs

Nancy Gray
830-229-5376

Vice President/Ed. Programs

Holly Camero
210-490-4882
CHCamero@aol.com

Secretary/Newsletter

Terry Urbanczyk
830-980-2311
rturban5@gmail.com

Treasurer

J.W. Pieper
830-336-3241
jwp.j@gvtc.com

Director/ Web Master

Dan Freeman
830-899-5539
alyseskia@yahoo.com

Director/Maintenance

Dave Kibler
830-336-3718
djkb@gvtc.com

Director/Historian

Bryden Moon
830-336-3375
Bemoonjr@aol.com

Director/Past President

Wilt Shaw
830-230-5008
wshawjr888@aol.com

Friends of Guadalupe River State Park and Honey Creek
General Membership Meeting

September 23, 2008

Meet at the Rust House at the park, 6:30 PM

- Special excursion to Honey Creek at dusk
- Refreshments/light Supper at the Rust house afterward
- Explore all the exciting opportunities to participate with volunteering at the park including Halloween
- Observation of the night sky with the new park telescopes

Come for any or all of this, we look forward to seeing you!

Together We Make a Difference

by Craig Hensley, Park Specialist I

Guadalupe River State Park just put the wraps on what was by all accounts a wildly successful summer. Visitation increased dramatically, sales of annual park passes were up and attendance at programs showed the potential of what can be accomplished in the state park system when there are positions dedicated to interpretation/education. I have had the great fortune to be the one to deliver many of the programs for our guests. However, while I get to net butterflies, track down frogs, look for bats and otherwise “play” in the woods with the children and parents that attend, many others get a great deal of credit for the overall success.

First and foremost, there is the Friends group. The individuals you see listed on the right hand panel on the cover of this newsletter (and the rest of its members) put the nets in the hands of the children, provide the skulls, skins and other artifacts our guests enjoy, as well as the microscopes and binoculars that we look through. Without the efforts of the Friends group, who raise money through hikes, memberships, sponsorship of the Saturday Night Speaker Series and other events, including the annual Halloween in the Park program, we would be less able to provide meaningful hands-on opportunities for our guests.

The staff of the park is also integral to our program success, from Joan and Bill who run the office so efficiently to Wynona, Sandy, Tina and Karen, who greet each guest, sell park passes and check folks into their campsites. In addition to these important duties, each does their part to promote the programs being offered each weekend. Distributing flyers listing all the programs, describing them in person and encouraging our guests to attend all work to help boost attendance – and ultimately to enrich the experience of those guests that participate.

The Rangers assist with program success as well. Setting up the canopy, tables and other equipment along the river so guests can check out those skulls, skins, aquatic critters and more takes time and effort. Each and every one from Greg and Angelo to Joe, Daniel, Craig B., Russell, Preston, James and Kenny help promote the programs, direct folks to the interpretive center and provide clean facilities (along with the important help of our Park Hosts).

Then there is our Park Peace Officer and Assistant Park Manager Scott with his awesomely bright bat-finding flashlight. Most Saturday nights he is available to assist as necessary and yes, that flashlight comes in handy when we are in search of those oh-so-important flying mammals. And of course, there is myself. My role is the easiest. Put together programs, work with the staff and Friends to have the necessary supplies and equipment, promote the programs, and then go outside and have some serious fun! This summer we also had an intern, Amanda Hill, who assisted with program delivery and the work that goes on behind the scenes.

Finally, there is our Park Superintendent Mark. Without his vision and leadership many of these programs simply would not be possible. Mark has long believed that Guadalupe River State Park could and should become the central location for outdoor education in our area. Mark believed in this so strongly that when the opportunity came to hire a new interpreter he made sure it was a dedicated position, not one in which interpretation would take a back seat to other responsibilities often attached to the position. He is now realizing that vision and does everything in his power to make it successful, from his on-going support and praise to his willingness to empower me to, as Captain Picard of the Starship Enterprise used to tell his crew, “make it so,” so to speak.



The bottom line is that since the interpretive program started with a dedicated, full-time staff member, more than 5,500 guests and community members have benefited from programs offered both at the park and at schools and elsewhere. This is on top of those guests that attend our Saturday morning hikes led by trained Friends volunteers and guest speakers that deliver many of our Saturday night programs.

Today we are able to provide a variety of nature-based outdoor experiences for families, children and adults. The fact that people choose to attend these programs in our park demonstrates not only what is possible here, but throughout the State Park system. This is, I believe, a critical role that must continue into the future. In order for our parks and wildlife areas to exist and thrive, we must advocate for nature, and the best way to do this is to connect our guests with the resources upon which we all depend.

If you are member of the Friends group already, thank you from all of us. If you are not, please consider joining this group of dedicated and talented individuals. Your membership and involvement will be richly rewarded in the smiles and laughter of our guests as they explore and discover the wonders of both Guadalupe River State Park and Honey Creek State Natural Area, learning that indeed, “Life is Better Outdoors.”

Trails to the Past ~ Mapping the Past

by Bryden Moon

History has a way of repeating itself. But today I would like to illustrate one other point: history can occur in a short span of time radically altering the heritage (and geography) of a region. Now I’m emphasizing “short”, because it does not match the conventional view of “how much passage of time constitutes history”. Mentally we set a bar as to what we think is historical – maybe it has to be a hundred years ago or longer; maybe it has to date from the 1800’s. My objective today is to shorten the time horizon on everyone’s bar.

So we live and work in a sleepy, slow growth, never-changing hill country environment. But as time creeps on... a lot of change occurs over even a span of a few decades much less over a lifetime – as we will see by using the back drop of the 1933 American Legion map of Comal County.

(See Map on next page)

Obviously, its main focus is on Comal County. In the bottom right hand corner it identifies the “tourist camps” in the area...so the map was created to assist in local travel. Take a hard look at the map. Anything missing; anything added? Has much changed since the 1930’s ...you bet!

Since the map is to aid in local tourism, why do they not have Canyon Lake or in our neck of the woods, Guadalupe River State Park/ Honey Creek State Natural Area? Oh, that’s right – they did not come along until 1966 and 1983/1988 respectively. See what I mean? In just 40 years, the landscape has been altered significantly. Do the timelines associated with the opening of these playgrounds fit with your mental bar of history? Maybe, maybe not...but let me extend my point by saying that back in 1966 there was a lot of excitement in anticipation of Canyon Lake opening. And now, those anticipations have yielded to four decades of memories. Can you imagine all the experiences within Guadalupe River State Park and Honey Creek State Natural Area during the past twenty plus years? Have we captured any of these?

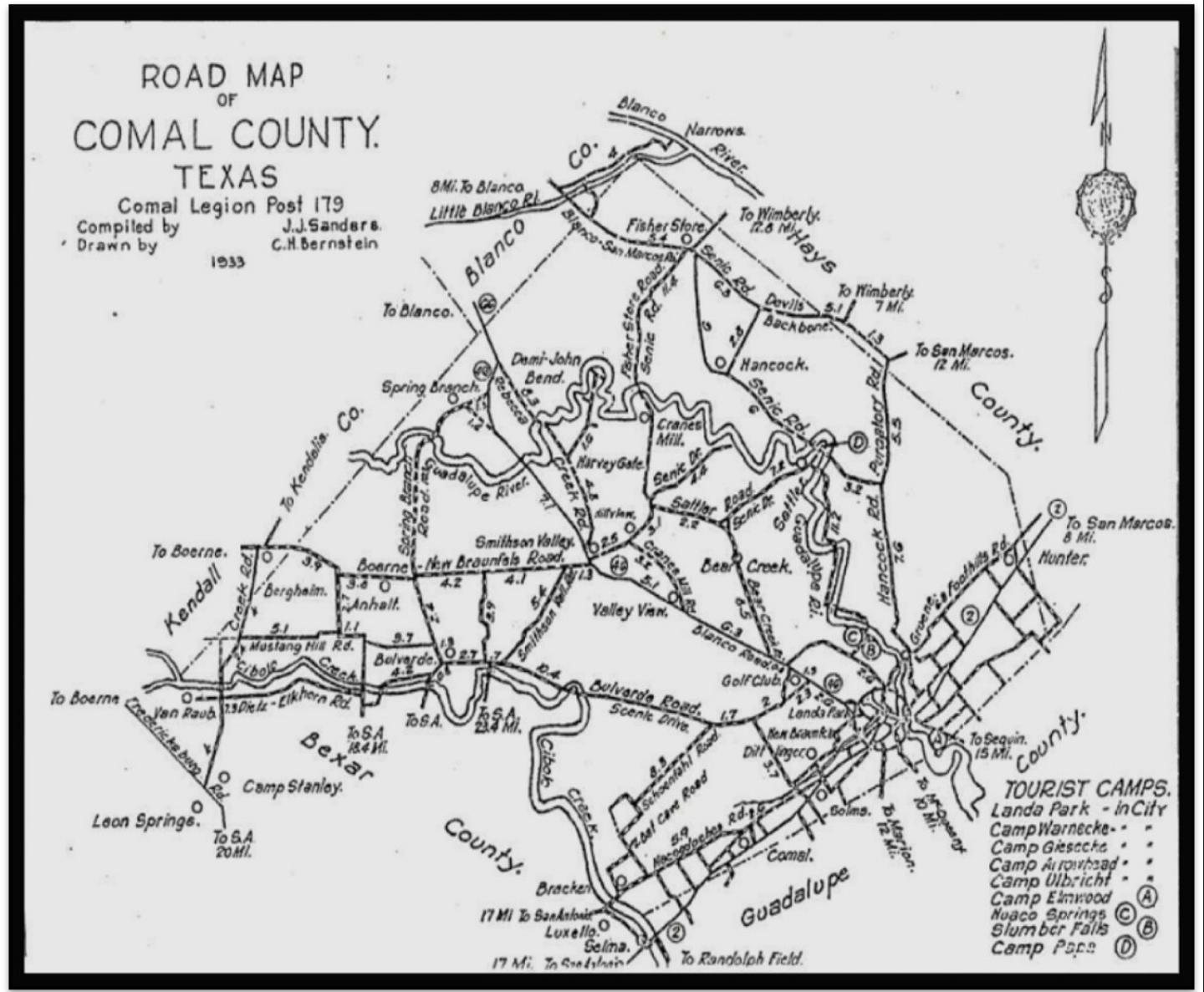
Trails to the Past

by Bryden Moon

I'll let you explore the map in more detail, possibly with the assistance of a magnifying glass. Notice anything different about the road systems? No IH 10 running past Leon Springs, nor IH 35 at New Braunfels. Where is State 281? In some cases the old routes are altered. Sometimes the names are changed, and in others, the paths are extended. But what happened to Mustang Hill Road that is shown coming out of Bulverde? And today where is Curry Creek Road, which in 1933 ran north out of Leon Springs? So the names, and the routes, don't just disappear, but are enhanced, redirected, and renamed. Is this history? I believe it is. It has been said that maps are of time not place and that without them we would not only lose our way but our past as well, since they tell us not only where we are going, but also where we have been.

You know, some day they will be celebrating the 100 year anniversary of GRSP/HCNSA. And those folks who come after us will be trying to gather facts surrounding the region, because it now fits the conventional view of history: 100 years old. See my point, today is the history of tomorrow. Let's make it easy for them.

There are more stories to be told!



September Programs

by Craig Hensley

Saturday, September 13

Honey Creek Hike. 9-11 a.m.

Kids in Nature: Bugs-R-Us! 9:30-10:30 a.m. Their creepy and crawly, with bug eyes, two antennae, four wings and six legs. They are insects of course and we'll be searching high and low for them during this morning of sure-to-be-fun! At the Amphitheater.

Nature Adventures 101: Nature Games Galore! 2-4 p.m. Join our park Interpreter and volunteers for an adventure of the natural kind. We'll be learning about animal adaptations and the natural world through a series of fun, active games and activities perfect for the whole family. Join us at the Amphitheatre.

Saturday Night Program: Insect-a-Mania: The World of Six-legged Critters. 6:30-8 p.m. Join Park Interpreter Craig Hensley for a look into the lives of insects. From grasshoppers, butterflies, dragonflies and more you'll find out how important these creatures are in the natural world, and even see a few up close and personal! This program is sponsored by The Friends of Guadalupe River & Honey Creek. A donation of \$2 per person or \$5 per family is requested.

Sunday, September 14

Bird Walk and Talk. 8:30-10 a.m. Join Park Interpreter Craig Hensley for a leisurely walk in search of the birds of the natural area. From songbirds in the bush to raptors overhead, we'll track down the birds that live in and migrate through this 2,000-acre area. A limited number of binoculars are available for loan. Meet at the Park Headquarters.

Saturday, September 20

Honey Creek Hike. 9-11 a.m.

Kids in Nature: Our Feathered Friends! 9:30-10:30 a.m. Birds come in all different sizes and shapes with amazing adaptations. Join our park interpreter for a look into the world of birds and see if you can figure out who eats what in our "Bravo for Beaks" game. Meet at the Amphitheater.

Nature Adventures 101: River Wonders. 2-4 p.m. Join our park Interpreter and volunteers for an adventure of the natural kind. The Guadalupe River is home to a host of great critters from bugs that eat fish to fish that eat bugs and more. Join us for a wet and wonderful look at the critters that share the river with us. Be prepared to get wet! Meet at the Amphitheatre.

Saturday Night Program: Bats of the Hill Country. 6:30-8 p.m. Join Park Interpreter Craig Hensley for an in-depth exploration of the lives of bats. From those that eat bugs to those that pollinate flowers, bats play many important roles in the natural world. This program is sponsored by The Friends of Guadalupe River & Honey Creek. A donation of \$2 per person or \$5 per family is requested.

Sunday, September 21

Morning Meander. 9-10:30 a.m. Looking for a last nature experience before heading home from your weekend stay at the park? Join Park Interpreter Craig Hensley for a leisurely walk along one of our nature trails. We'll enjoy the sights and sounds of nature from flowers and birds to other wonders of the park. Bring water and be prepared to walk a minimum of two miles. Meet at the Headquarters.

Saturday, September 27

Honey Creek Hike. 9-11 a.m.

Kids in Nature: Bounding Around for Butterflies. 9:30-10:30 a.m. Join us for a look into the world of our gossamer-winged wonders. From eating machines as caterpillars to sugar seekers as adults, butterflies play many roles in the natural world. Following a short presentation we'll take nets in hand and head out in search of these scale-winged wonders. Meet at the Amphitheater.

(September Programs, continued)

Nature Adventures 101: Geology Rocks! 2-4 p.m. Join our park Interpreter and volunteers for an adventure of the natural kind. If rocks and fossils are your thing, then this is the program for you. We'll learn about how rocks are made, how they influence us and then head out to Honey Creek for a look at holey rocks, rocks from deep in the earth as well as fossils frozen in time among them. Meet at the Rust House.

Saturday Night Program: The Great Guadalupe Nature Quiz! 6:30-8 p.m. So how much do you and your family know about nature? Here is your chance to find out. Join us at the amphitheatre for the Great Guadalupe Nature Quiz and test your knowledge of the natural world! Prizes will be awarded! This program is sponsored by The Friends of Guadalupe River & Honey Creek. A donation of \$2 per person or \$5 per family is requested.

Sunday, September 28

Bird Walk and Talk. 8:30-10 a.m. Join Park Interpreter Craig Hensley for a leisurely walk in search of the birds of the natural area. From songbirds in the bush to raptors overhead, we'll track down the birds that live in and migrate through this 2,000-acre area. A limited number of binoculars are available for loan. Meet at the Park Headquarters.

October Programs

by Craig Hensley

Saturday, October, 4:

Honey Creek Hike, 9 a.m.

Kids in Nature, 9:30-10:30 a.m. Grasshoppers Galore!

Nature Adventures 101: 2-4 p.m. Mammal Mania

Saturday Night Speaker Series: San Antonio Astronomical Society Astronomy Night 7-8:30 p.m.

Friday, October, 10:

Stories in the Stars, 7-8:30 p.m.

Saturday, October, 11:

Honey Creek Hike, 9 a.m.

Kids in Nature, 9:30-10:30 a.m. Here Fishy, Fishy!

Nature Adventures 101: 2-4 p.m. Who Goes There?

Saturday Night Speaker Series: Dutch Oven Camp Cooking 7-8:30 p.m.

Saturday, October, 18:

Honey Creek Hike, 9 a.m.

Saturday Night Speaker Series: Archeology of the Hill Country 7-8:30 p.m.

Saturday, October, 25:

Honey Creek Hike, 9 a.m.

Kids in Nature 9:30-10:30 a.m. Skull, Skins and Skeletons

Nature Adventures 101: 2-4 p.m. Creepy Crawlers & Other Bug-eyed Wonders

Saturday Night Speaker Series: Prowlin' for Owls 7-8:30 p.m.

Sunday, October 26:

Halloween in the Park 6:30-9 p.m.



Come join us for safe fun & excitement!

Halloween at Guadalupe River State Park

Sunday, October 26

6:30 PM until 8:30 PM

Enjoy hot dogs, chips and refreshments

\$3.00 entrance fee 12 and under FREE

Suggested \$2.00 donation per child for event to Friends of Guadalupe River State Park, Inc.

6:30 to 7:00 - Little Tots Trick or Treat along the forest trail (2-6 year olds)

6:30 to 7:30 - Little Tots Halloween story time

7:00 to 8:30 - Big Spooks haunted trail (7-12 yr. olds)

7:30 to 8:30 - Big Spook Ghost Story Tellers!

Call 830-438-2656 for more information or to sponsor a spooky station

A community service hosted by

Friends of Guadalupe River/Honey Creek, Inc.



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 second Thursday at 7:00 pm.

And bring a friend!