



## FALL 2010 NEWSLETTER

# Friends of Guadalupe River, Honey Creek, Inc.

A non-profit organization

### President's Letter

by Tom Anderson

### Board of Directors

You know someone is a friend when you can't stand to see them go! That is the way I feel about Mark. I first met Mark Abolafia-Rosenzweig by phone. He was considering the opening that Guadalupe River State Park had for park manager. He called to ask me about the Friends group. It was quite clear during the phone conversation that he wanted a more active Friends organization than we had at that time. Mark expressed to me if he were to become manager he would assist the group in developing more members and activities that would benefit the park.



This phone conversation was in the winter of 2002. He was selected as the park manager in April of that year. He was true to his word. We had a revitalization of the Friends bringing on board new volunteers from the community and nearby area. During Mark's stay at the park the Friends have helped the park staff with many worthwhile projects that are too many to mention in this article. The attribute that I like best about Mark is he was always available to meet and listen to what ideas the Friends had. Several of these have become a reality. The project that has become the biggest for bringing in new guests to Guadalupe River State Park is our Halloween Party which will be October 24<sup>th</sup> of this year. This will be our 8<sup>th</sup> Halloween Party. It started with a little over 200 guests and has grown to between 1500-2000 guests and community volunteers annually. This is truly a joint project between the Friends, the park, and the community. It is now looked forward to by many in our area. You will find additional information in the newsletter about the event. It is my belief that Guadalupe River State Park/Honey Creek State Natural Area is a much better place because of Mark Abolafia-Rosenzweig. There are so many hats state park managers must be able to wear in order to complete their job. Mark had the ability to juggle all that was expected of him and more. He made sure that the Friends did everything we needed to do to satisfy the requirements of the state without disrupting our goals. Another important project that happened during his watch is the developing and opening of the Discovery Center. This is truly one of the unique interpretative projects of the state park system. It gives families and individuals opportunities to learn and explore about Guadalupe River State Park. There are projects that will be completed in the future that Mark and the Friends have been planning. Such as opening the North side of Guadalupe River State Park, landscaping the Rust House and having it as our Historical and Cultural Center and building a group pavilion. For all of this and more Mark your leadership will be missed. There is good news he will not be too far away and he has hired his replacement and others that will continue to make these two great parks a vital part of the area. Mark, The Friends of Guadalupe River State Park/Honey Creek State Natural Area would like to say THANK YOU!

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## Halloween in the Park

by Holly Camero

It's that time of year again for our Friend's group annual Halloween in the Park event! Put on your best costume, load up your family and come out to the park for an evening of fun, stories, food and fright of the fun kind. Hosted by the Friends of Guadalupe River and Honey Creek, since 2004, this community event is designed for children of every age in a safe and not-too-scary environment.

Last year we streamlined entering the Park and event by having the trick-or-treaters pay a flat fee of \$10.00 per carload. The program begins at the Amphitheatre behind the Discovery Center and then continues onto the spooky forest trail. The decorated trail is the combined efforts of so many wonderful volunteers, from School Groups, Scouts, Clubs, Businesses and many local families who donate their treats, time and effort to decorate their candy stations and man their areas in costume. Thanks to their help the event was again a great success last year!

Once more we ask your help and the help of any individuals or organizations to make this community event be as fantastic as it always has!

If your or family, business or organization would like more information to sponsor a station or help in any way. Please contact: Holly Camero

E-mail: [chcamero@aol.com](mailto:chcamero@aol.com) Phone: 210 490-4882 or Cell:210 861-5004

**Come join us for safe fun & excitement!**

**Halloween**

**at Guadalupe River State Park**

**Sunday, October 24 6:30 PM until 8:30 PM**

**\$10.00 flat fee per party traveling together**

***(includes entrance, parking and event)***

***Additional donations appreciated to Friends of Guadalupe River State Park/Honey Creek, Inc***

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

**7:00 to 8:30 - Enjoy complimentary refreshments**

**7:00 to 8:30 - Big Spook Ghost Story Tellers!(7 to 12 year olds)**

**Call 830-438-2656 for more information**

**A community service hosted by**

**Friends of Guadalupe River State Park/Honey Creek, Inc.**

## Park Happenings

by Chris Dooley

There has been a lot this summer at Guadalupe River! As our office staff can tell you, we've had very high visitation these last 3 months, and we've all been very busy keeping up with the crowds. We are very fortunate that we received occasional rain throughout most of the summer which helped keep the river flowing at a decent rate. We're also very lucky that, thus far, we've had a very safe summer, with only a very few incidents and injuries. It's a safety record we can be proud of.

We are also very proud to announce that we've successfully cleared the cedar off of some 186 acres of park land near the headquarters. This had been an ongoing project since early this Spring, and we are very pleased with the work that was done. This project came down to the wire in July, but with the help of park staff and volunteers wielding hand tools, we were able to clear the last few cedars from the middle of the oak thickets and complete the project on time and on budget. Thanks to all the volunteers from the Alamo and Lindheimer Master Naturalists who helped us out in the heat! Those of you who have not yet seen the results of this clearing project, head down the equestrian trail at the headquarters and take a look!

Our interpretive season is in full swing, with programs at the Discovery Center every Saturday night, as well as hikes to Honey Creek every Wednesday and Saturday through October. As always, the Discovery Center is open every weekend, 9 to 5. Attendance so far has been good, and we are looking forward to cooler weather and more hikers. We will also be continuing our Saturday Night Programs through the month of October, so check out page 6 for a complete schedule!

This summer has also seen work done on the Bauer Unit, our 600 acre property on the north side of the river. While we are still not able to open the Bauer Unit to visitors, park staff and volunteers have been working on several important projects that will hopefully allow us to open it in the near future. Eagle Scout John Caron constructed and installed a number of informational signboards at trails junctions and other important areas on the Bauer Unit, which will be of great help for hikers and camper once the unit is open.

Also, this spring graduate students from the UTSA College of Architecture conducted a Historic Structure survey of the Bauer House. This house, built in the mid 1800's by German homesteaders, gives the Bauer Unit its name. In their report, the students made several recommendations for the preservation of the house, chief of which was the removal of plants growing up through the house's foundations. Park staff have spent several days this summer clearing out vines, shrubs, and even small trees that were beginning to threaten the structure. We will be continuing this project in the fall, once the weather cools down a bit.

As the summer draws to a close we are preparing once again for hunting season. Simply put, we have too many deer on the park, and public hunts are one of the best methods we have for controlling their population. We are beginning population surveys during daylight and darkness, and hopefully the rain this year will bring a good harvest for our hunters.

Finally, we have a new Park Police Office on patrol here at Guadalupe. Joel Parker joins us from McKinney Falls State Park, and has been with us since the beginning of July. We welcome Joel and his wife to our park and wish them a long and productive stay here.

## Trails to the Past

by Bryden Moon

### Filling the Void of the Past The Hill Country's Big Bang

So how did it all begin? How did this land, only populated with Native Americans, ever become established? How did the Hill Country become synonymous with the German culture? In 1844 our region's land was a blank slate. A few Mexican land grants existed in our region and a few others had been doled out by the Republic of Texas, yet they were in name only; the land grants lay unoccupied. Even when Texas became a state in 1845, this land was not immediately filled with homesteaders. Land speculators, with no intention of living on the land, played a small part. The major reason – the indigenous Americans who roamed our lands were not looking for new neighbors.

Into this backdrop came the German settlers. Facing political uncertainty and lack of opportunity in their homeland, a large number of German immigrants traveled across the Atlantic in the 1840s, to settle in the United States in the pursuit of prosperity (freedoms and wealth) in a foreign land. From 1844 to 1847, a German organization called the *Adelsverein* (*Verein*) facilitated the transportation of thousands of colonists to Texas. But the Verein did not have enough land to meet their commitments, so in their haste to find available parcels, the organizers selected acreage on the edge of civilization. In doing so, the Verein placed their new colonies into hostile Comanche land (especially in the case of Fredericksburg). When they established New Braunfels (1845) and Fredericksburg (1846), they were two instant cities with populations immediately in the hundreds. And since no one

was living on the land that was adjacent to these communities, they were also remote community islands. Into these community islands streamed the German immigrants. These German pioneers were all alone when they carved their settlements out of the wilderness. In the beginning there were no fields, no stores, no buildings, not even neighbors. Everything was built from the ground up.

The towns also served as bookends, defining the outer edges of a region. Between the edges was a large area of pioneering opportunity: a 60-mile void between the two "instant" cities (both are starred on an 1849 map). Trade between Fredericksburg and New Braunfels created rudimentary trails linking the two communities and soon opened the doors to more German

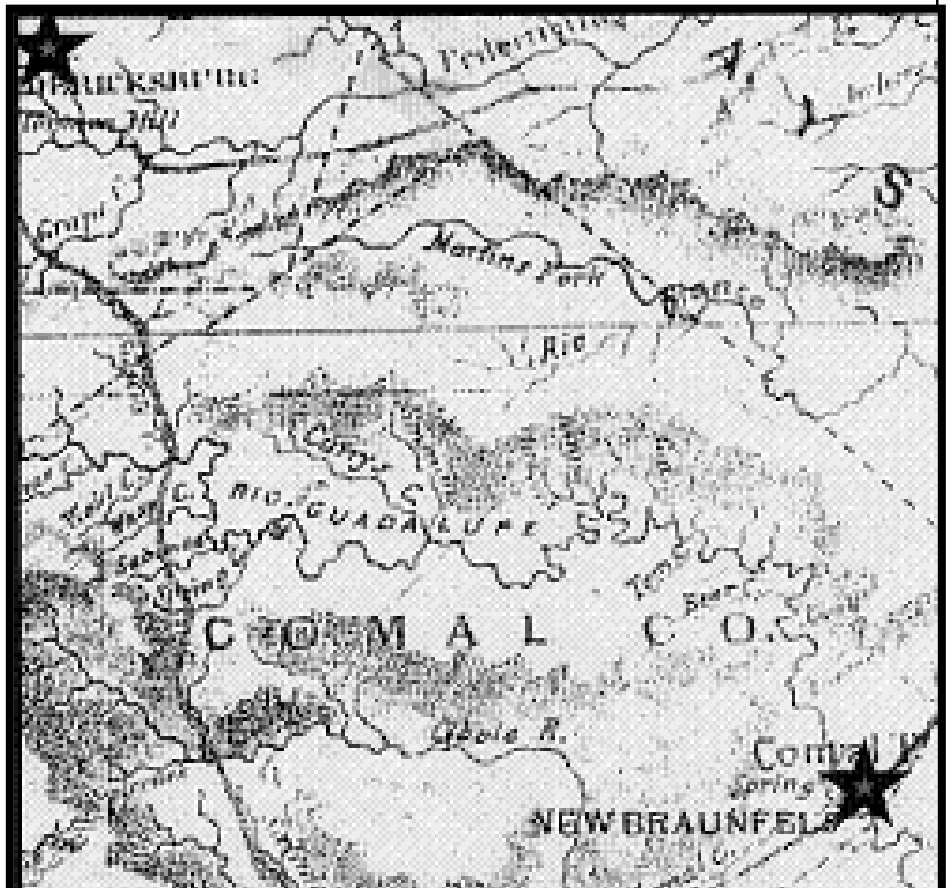


immigrants and non-German settlers, luring them into the Texas Hill Country. Outside these major towns, a few hardy individuals struck out on their own. Sporadic settlements and plotted towns began dotting the maps. Still, the presence of Native Americans made this an opportunity not without risks. Even George Wilkins Kendall, for whom Kendall County was named (1862), had his reservations. From Fayette Copeland's Kendall of the Picayune as he describes Mr. Kendall's mindset in the 1850s:

***... his dreams outran the New Braunfels establishment. Forty miles to the west lay the larger tract of land he had purchased from the Republic of Texas in 1845 ...he did not write her (Mrs. Kendall) that one reason for not building there immediately was fear of Indians, whose depredations were greater in this region than around the little town of Boerne six miles to the West. But to the Picayune, he wrote of the alarm among his shepherds at Post Oak, of how they spent the night in an armed watch, and of how his best shepherd left because of fear of Indians.***

Yet the German and non-German settlers ultimately did discount the Native Americans. So if you were willing to look past the Indians, and push on in securing land to farm and ranch, what would you look for? For the first pioneers, the answer was easy. Just as in the TV program - Survivor, access to a good water supply had the immigrants settling next to rivers, creeks and springs. Early outlying areas were defined by water names. In our area Curry Creek, Bulverde, Boerne, Spring Branch, Smithson Valley, Anhalt, Blanco, and ultimately Honey Creek were added into the mix of organized townships and loosely-knit pockets of homesteaders. As each community was established, additional pioneers settled in the area. But even with the influx of new settlers, the population density still remained extremely low. While the founding of the instant cities of New Braunfels and Fredericksburg served as the catalyst for German settlement of the Hill Country, nothing ever again approached the big-bang-like years of 1844 thru 1847.

**There are more stories to be told!**





**Saturday Evening Program Schedule**

by Nancy Gray



4-Sep	<b>Prehistoric Hunting</b>	<b>Diane Desmukes</b>
11-Sep	<b>Archeology in the Hill Country</b>	<b>Wilson McKinney</b>
18-Sep	<b>Amazing Migration of Mon-arch Butterflies</b>	<b>Kip Kiphart</b>
25-Sep	<b>Things That don't go bump in the Night</b>	<b>Chris Dooley</b>
2-Oct	<b>Outdoor cooking, Wild Game Preparation</b>	<b>Ralph Winingham</b>
9-Oct	<b>Owls</b>	<b>Kim Hoskins</b>
16-Oct	<b>Texas Reptiles</b>	<b>Romey Swanson</b>
24-Oct	<b>HALLOWEEN</b>	



## Bird's Eye View

by Bruce Jones

Summer Tanager, Black-Crested Titmouse, Northern Cardinal and other birds have been visiting the Wildlife Viewing Area this past summer. Fall will bring on a southern migration of birds, so one never knows what could be spotted in the Guadalupe River State Park. Come on out and see what you can find.



### **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](http://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!*