



## Fall 2011 NEWSLETTER

# Friends of Guadalupe River, Honey Creek, Inc.

A non-profit organization

## HALLOWEEN IN THE PARK 2011

Guadalupe River State Park

by Holly Camero

### Board of Directors



Sunday night, October 30<sup>th</sup>, the Friends of Guadalupe River State Park/Honey Creek SNA will again host the annual Halloween in the Park for children ages two to twelve.

“Halloween at the Park” allows children to walk down a wooded path lit by candlelight and lanterns while being greeted by costumed characters with candy treats along the way. Just the experience of walking through the trees at night, feeling the wind and hearing the night sounds is a special, unique

experience. After completing the trail that starts and ends at the amphitheater, visitors can have hot dogs and refreshments. A storyteller will be telling age appropriate stories at the amphitheater.

The event will begin at 6:30 PM with storytelling and trick or treat for young children (2-6) followed by the same activities for big spooks (7-12) from 7:00 to 8:30 PM. Hot dogs and drinks will be served between 6:30 and 8:30 PM while they last.

The Park has worked with the Friends to expedite Park entry. **The fee at the entrance to the park will be a \$10.00 flat fee per vehicle which includes entrance, parking, and event.** If you wish to make an additional donation to the Friends you may do so at the event.



Due to the tremendous response in the past couple of years we need community support to man the trail stations where volunteers in costume will provide and hand out candy. We also need volunteers to assist with food, decorating, and donation collection. If you are interested in participating in this event, please contact:

Holly Camero at [eyesthatfly@aol.com](mailto:eyesthatfly@aol.com) , or Tom Anderson at [tanderson46@satx.rr.com](mailto:tanderson46@satx.rr.com), 210-241-1916

If volunteers identify themselves at the gate they will get free admission to the Park. Y'all come!



### President

**Tom Anderson**

[tanderson46@satx.rr.com](mailto:tanderson46@satx.rr.com)

### Vice Pres. / Maintenance

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### Secretary

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### Treasurer

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### Saturday Night Program

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### Director at Large

**Wilt Shaw**

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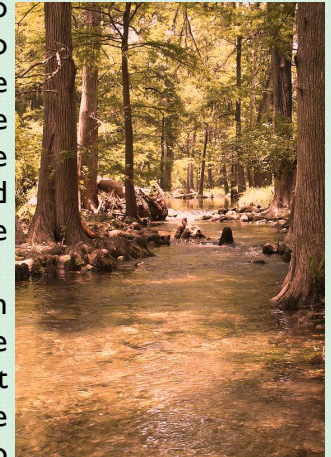
**President Letter**

by Tom Anderson

I look forward to fall so that not only do the leaves turn and fall, but for me I like to feel the temperatures fall as well. The park staff has worked extremely hard this past summer trying to make sure not only that the people visiting the park are safe but the park is also safe from wildfires. I know not being able to have a campfire is tough but the consequence of a fire out of control is not worth the chance. Besides doing the normal things as a staff they also had to dig and lay a pipe from headquarters to the water treatment plant. They also with the help of TxDOT are moving forward with a parking lot on the North side and hopefully that part of the park will be open within the next year.

I was saddened to receive a message from Terry Urbanczyk asking to resign from the Friends Board. Terry and her husband Ronnie are life members. They have helped the park with many projects. I know that the park is dear to Terry's heart and she will continue to stay in touch and help when she can. She helped organize an environmental education program at the park allowing Comal ISD students to learn in the outdoors. She also helped start the Homecoming Homesteaders day at the park which has become a big event. I cannot remember or mention all that she has done for the park because of amount of space but this last thing that I will mention is our annual Halloween Event. She saw that the kids in the surrounding counties did not have an easy way to trick or treat or enjoy Halloween so we started the Halloween Event October 2003. It has grown to the largest single event that Guadalupe River State Park partners with the Friends of Guadalupe River/Honey Creek to provide for the area.

If you have never taken part in the Halloween Event I would like to ask you to consider helping us put on this event on October 30<sup>th</sup> this year from 6:30 to 8:30 pm. There are many ways in which you can assist. We need to have groups volunteer to have an area in which they decorate and give out candies to the children. I am not sure who has the most fun the kids or the adults. We can use help with setting up before and taking down after the event is over. We can always use candy runners that take excess candy to the trick or treat stations. We serve food and drinks and can always use servers. There is also a need to assist the crowd in moving through the area. I know if you would help us you would be hooked to come back annually.

**Saturday Night Programs**

by Chris Dooley

**September 10<sup>th</sup> - 7:30 pm** - Things that don't go Bump in the Night! - Chris Dooley

**September 17<sup>th</sup> - 7:00 pm** - Archaeology in the Hill Country - Wilson McKinney

**September 24<sup>th</sup> - 7:00 pm** - Plants and Animals of the Hill Country - Dough Daghish

**October 1<sup>st</sup> - 7:00 pm** - Where have all the Horny Toads Gone? - Rollo Newsome

**October 8<sup>th</sup> - 7:00 pm** - Use Your Head! - Chris Dooley

**October 15<sup>th</sup> - 6:00 pm** - Life of a Water Drop - Chris Dooley

**October 22<sup>nd</sup> - 7:00 pm** - Amazing Adaptations! - Chris Dooley

**Park Happenings in August**

by Chris Dooley

This summer has seen some record heat and drought here at the park. For the last two months the days have regularly reached well over 100° which has had a noticeable impact both on the park and the people who visit. We are seeing increased instances of oak decline as the drought-stressed trees become more susceptible to parasites and disease. In addition, the drought and heat have had an impact on our local wildlife. The spring butterflies and other insects have been affected by the lack of plants and flowers for food, which in turn impacts the populations of birds and other animals in the food chain. Roadrunners and other predators are searching harder for prey, and our herbivore population has had a very tough time finding food and water. In the campgrounds, the raccoons have grown even bolder in their attempts to pilfer what essentials they can from unwary campers.

Not that there have been many campers. The sustained heat, often remaining well into the 80's until after midnight, combined with our long-running burn ban and a low, slow river have led to far lower visitation than expected. The large crowds of both camper and day users we saw every weekend in the park last summer are gone. While this means that our revenue is down for the year, we have been keeping busy in the park by working on maintenance projects that are usually set aside for the slower winter months.

On the subject on maintenance projects, those visitors that have braved the heat in the last few weeks will have noticed that our headquarters bathrooms are once again back online! Our ongoing sewer project is in its final phase, and both visitors and staff are grateful to the rangers who worked so hard on this project. We have also made progress with our Bauer Unit parking lot. Thanks to cooperation between TPWD and TxDOT, the parking area near the gate at the Bauer Unit has been cleared and leveled, and we are working to get road base laid. Completion of this project will bring us one step closer to opening the Bauer Unit to the public

This is also the time of year when we begin preparations for our public hunts. We will begin in October with archery hunts on the Bauer Unit, and we will continue with various hunts on the Bauer Unit, Honey Creek, and the park itself, until March. We invite everyone to apply for the public hunt drawings or sign up as a standby hunter. This season we have added a feral hog and exotics only hunt on the Bauer Unit in February, in order to get our hog, axis, and aoudad populations under control. Public hunts are the park's most effective tool for managing our wildlife populations, and we are happy to provide hunters an inexpensive opportunity to bag some game this year.

As the summer draws to a close, we at GRSP would like to thank our summer staff members who have worked with us through the heat and drought to keep the park going. Our summer clerks, Danielle Munoz-Valadez, Lori Greenman, Kayla Kappelman, and Christa Priess, have been a great help keeping campers and other visitors aware of the ever-changing conditions of the park. In addition, they have helped us keep the headquarters area looking beautiful by maintaining the landscaping throughout the drought. Our summer maintenance staff, Adam Bain and Preston Dodson have assisted with everything from search and rescue to water system repairs to trail clearing. These guys have worked alongside our regular staff in some of the worst heat we've seen, and we are grateful for their help. Finally, our interpretive and resource management programs have benefitted greatly from the help of our summer intern, Ryan Spencer. Ryan has worked on everything from children's programs to hog traps, and has been enthusiastically willing to learn every step of the way. We hope that all our summer staff have enjoyed themselves and we thank them once again for their service.

## Trails to the Past

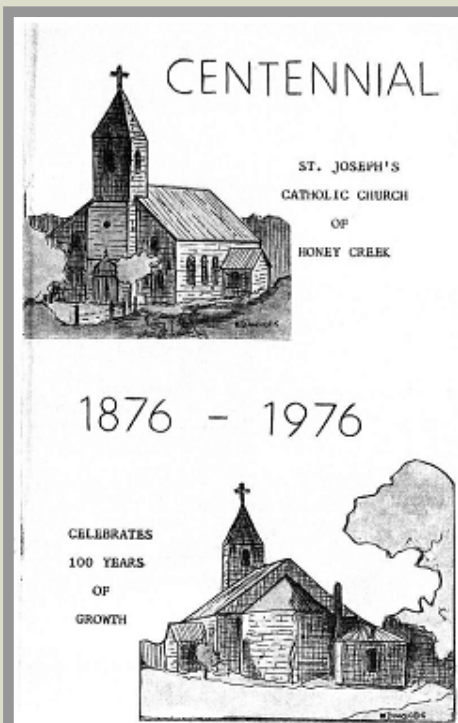
by Bryden Moon

## Trail to the Honey Creek (Name) Takes a Detour – Part I

Last edition we explored the life of one of our regional homesteaders, Johann Adam Kneupper, and explained that he, along with four other men, G. F. Kunz, Michael Bechtold, Hubertus Robert Moos, and Casper Moos (along with their families), came to this region, all surveying land in 1867 and receiving patents in 1871 (see the red/larger stars).

While very close, none of these homesteader lands are in park property, yet these families are linked to the origin of the Honey Creek name, especially Kunz, Bechtold, and Kneupper, since their homesteads were the closest to Honey Creek.

Alfred Engel, who is the son of Bergheim's founder Andreas Engel, also has ties to these Honey Creek families. His father, Andreas, married Michael Bechtold's daughter, Eva in 1890.

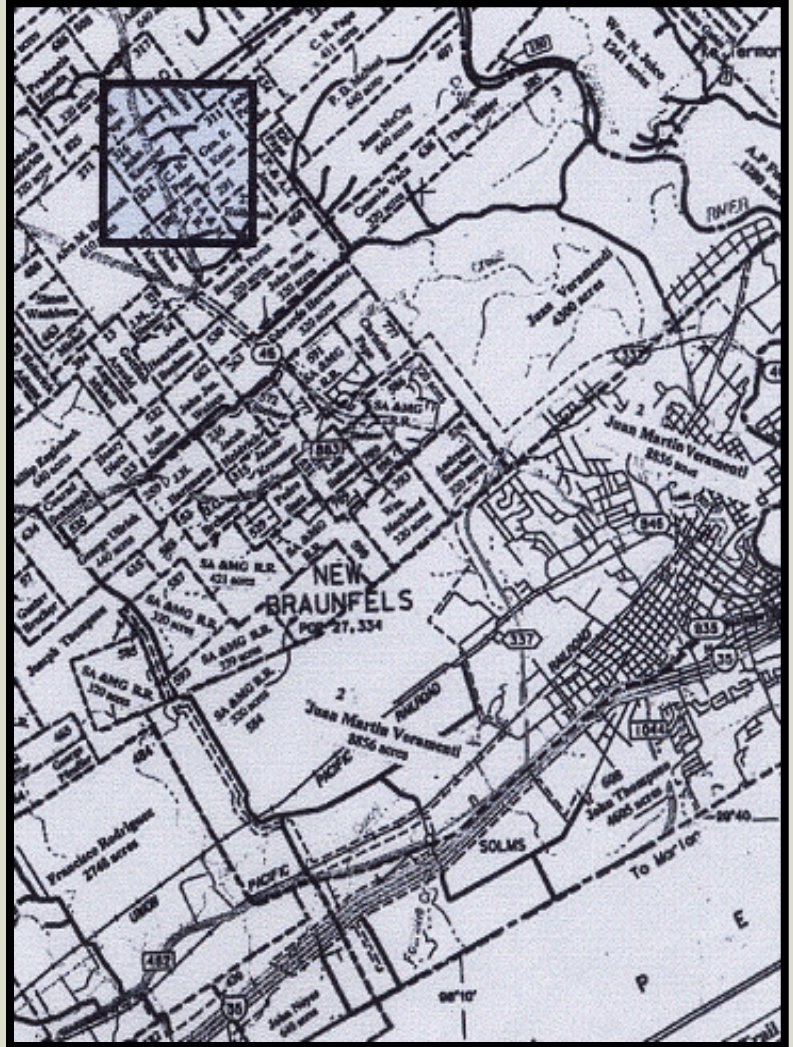


Alfred Engel wrote his father's and his family's oral history in the publication - Centennial St. Joseph Catholic Church of Honey Creek 1876 – 1976. In the following passage he relates the families' search for a new homestead: ***They went up the creek about a half of a mile and discovered the spring...This stopping place had already been named Anhalt, which was the right name for the place because it was the stopping place for everyone coming down the road. This locality would have been a nice place to settle down, but they were just a little late as all the land along the stream had already been claimed by someone.***

***While spending a few days at Anhalt to rest, they also began looking for another running stream. As they walked north from Anhalt, they were to come upon some unclaimed land belonging to the state. There they found another stream which emptied into the Guadalupe River, but there was very little tillable land here, rather, the land was covered with cedar. They went up this stream and found where the water was bubbling from under a rock ledge. They decided to look no longer for the land because this would be the place for their new home.*** So land just outside the southwest boundaries of the park and natural area is where the

families chose to put down long-term stakes; they were attracted by the headwaters of Honey Creek. Today we will explore the Kunz and Bechtolds' arrival into Texas and their intervening years before settling on the headwaters of Honey Creek in 1860s.

The Kunz and Bechtold family heritage held that the year 1850 yielded immigration, marriage, and Honey Creek area settlement. When researching the families, a far more complex arrangement of dates and relationships unfolds, some pre-dating and others post-dating 1850. Research shows that G. F. Kunz and the Conrad Andrew Bechtold family arrived on different ships during the Verein-organized immigration window of 1844 – 1847. Both Kunz and Bechtold came in 1845. During the fall of 1845 and spring 1846, many German immigrants either died at the coast, during their long trip inland or even in New Braunfels due to cholera and dysentery. While the New Braunfels’ pastor logged in approximately 400 burials, some have pegged the number of epidemic-related deaths as high as 1200. The Bechtolds became part of the epidemics’ statistics. Contrary to family tradition, Mrs. Bechtold’s husband, Conrad, made it to Texas soil, but he, along with his mother and three of his children all perished in 1846. Mr. Kunz came by himself. Mrs. Bechtold (Christina) then married George F. Kunz in 1847. G. F. and Christina Kunz appear in the 1850 New Braunfels census, along with her sole-surviving child from her prior marriage, Michael Bechtold (8).



And from this census we also learn that their family has grown: they now have a son Valentin (3) and a daughter, Eva (2 months). Later the family moves onto land that is located just a few miles outside of New Braunfels (it was surveyed in 1855). Mr. Kunz gets a mention for being at this site in Herman Seele’s



book ***The Cypress and Other Writings of a German Pioneer in Texas***. As he describes growth outside of New Braunfels:

***The first settlers along the Guadalupe, upward from Buffalo Springs were Bremer, Kunz...***

It is here where Kunz and Kneupper first become neighbors in Texas; Mr. Kneupper arrives in Texas in 1852, and has land adjacent to Kunz’s surveyed in 1856, (see small box within map above and enlargement left). Both the Kunz and Kneupper families are listed in the 1860 census at this location; for the Kunz family, no changes except for everyone getting older and...another child, Hubert (6).

So in 1860 the Kunz and Kneupper families (along with Michael Bechtold) are sitting on land five miles outside of New Braunfels. You have learned that Kunz & Kneupper were neighbors, but what about Casper & H. Robert Moos, how do they fit in? Why did the five families all come out to Honey Creek at the same time? And who actually named Honey Creek? Stay tuned as we attempt to answer these questions in our next publication...**There are more stories to be told!**

**Special Hike**

by Tom Anderson

The Friends provide regular Saturday morning hikes to Honey Creek State Natural Area at 9 am. These hikes are led by trained interpretative guides. The Friends are also happy to provide special hikes for groups that contact the park. About every other year during the college winter school break a class travels to Texas and studies the ecosystems of the state. I have been pleased to lead Joe Colosi's class from DeSales University from Center Valley Pennsylvania on a walk. The professor has them take notes and it is part of the material they are tested on. Each year



that I lead this hike I go home feeling uplifted that the future of our world is in good hands. The following are a few pictures of this years hike.



Halloween Event

by Holly Camero



Come join us for safe fun & excitement!



Halloween

at Guadalupe River State Park

Sunday, October 30

6:30 PM until 8:30 PM

\$10.00 flat fee per vehicle (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.

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.org](http://www.honeycreekfriends.org)

**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!**