



Winter 2012 NEWSLETTER

Friends of Guadalupe River, Honey Creek, Inc.

A non-profit organization

Boy Scout Service Project

Guadalupe River State Park

by Dave Kibler

Board of Directors

OCTOBER 27, 2012

The Park welcomed an enthusiastic group of Scouts (Boy Scout Troop 285 and Venture Crew 285) and adults, including the Saturday Paddlers, on the chilly morning of Saturday, the 27th of October. Over 60 total volunteers took part in clearing the banks of the river of trash, cutting numerous Ashe juniper trees from an area near the Rust House, and improving the mulching of the new trail behind the house, used by weekly visitors to the Honey Creek State Natural Area. Much progress was made in clearing the area of the thick cedar thickets which had overtaken the area west of the historic house. Following the three-hour work session, all were treated to a super hot lunch, provided by the Friends of the Park and other volunteers, at the river-front day-use area. This work activity is scheduled each spring and fall and is the recurring service project of Boy Scout Troop 285 of San Antonio, led by 35-year Scoutmaster Bill McCalister.



President
Tom Anderson
tanderson46@satx.rr.com

Vice Pres. / Maintenance
Dave Kibler
djki@gvtc.com

Secretary
Bob Gray
RGrayTX@gmail.com

Treasurer
J.W. Pieper
jwp1@gvtc.com

Director / Discovery Center
Richard Mizanin
rjmizanin@yahoo.com

Saturday Night Program
Craig Hensley
craig.hensley@tpwd.state.tx.us

Director / Education
Holly Camero
chcamero@aol.com

Director / Hikes
Nancy Gray
grayabbott@aol.com

Director / Historian
Bryden Moon
Bemoonjr@aol.com

Director / Webmaster
Ed Sypniewski
capted@gvtc.com

Chairman / Publicity
Joan Nitschke
jen10@gvtc.com

Director at Large
Wilt Shaw
wshawjr888@aol.com

Halloween at the Park

by Tom Anderson



The 10th annual Halloween at the Park event was a great success. We had another large turnout of over 800 Participants. Helping put this all together was the help of over 200 volunteers! Besides the folks who decorated and manned the over 30 candy stations there were many people responsible for making and giving out the refreshments along with decorating the amphitheater area.

Park personnel helped throughout the day with assisting the Friends where ever needed and helping control vehicle and pedestrian traffic. That, along with our method of entering the park by the carload, really kept everything moving smoothly.

We were happy to have Craig Hensley the Park Interpreter greet the trick or treaters before they entered the trail. The Storyteller, Sue Kuntz was also there entertaining everyone with Halloween ghost stories, and she brought along some of her students to also tell stories. The trail was awesome and after dark transformed into a delightfully creepy experience!

It was wonderful to have many return station sponsors along with our corporate sponsors and we welcome and are thankful for the new folks who came out to help. Throughout the years HEB has supported us the food donations, along with Randy Ehmen who has donated the extra candy for the event. Broadway Bank helped out with sponsoring stations and guidance around the trail corner. HEB at 281 & 46 also helped with a 2 stations as did GVTC and McDonalds. And again this year Starbucks of Bulverde donated several bags of candy. The food tent is always a busy place giving out 1,000 Hot Dogs, chips, and a drink in about 1 1/2 hours. Distributing the food this year were previous volunteers, Carole Anderson, and Bob Hamilton, and joining them was Sylvia and Wilt Shaw and Joan Nitschke. Special thanks to park ranger Aspen for helping with the juice. As always Dave & Judy Kibler cooked the dogs. We were helped by so many wonderful organizations and individuals that sponsored candy stations: Cordillera Nature Club did an incredible job by manning over 6 stations, All Around Cleaning, Girl Scout group 445, Pat & Mike Hansen, Smithson Valley FFA, Camero & Friends Group manned by the Rodriguez and Couteau families, Chapel Hill Methodist Church, Clown People and the Bulverde 4-H, and new comers Genie & David Bacci. We thank everyone for this year and look forward to another amazing event next October. Look for pictures and acknowledgments of groups helping in the newsletter. Keep in mind next year we will be having Halloween in the Park on Sunday October 27th.



Trails to the Past

by Bryden Moon

Rough & Distant Roads
Pathway to Kendall County's Future

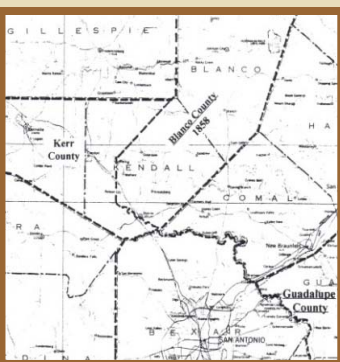
Kendall County celebrates its 150th anniversary this year and in a nod to this hallmark, let's look back at the roots of pre-county activity. In 1855 five individual petitions from future Kendall County citizens were submitted to the Texas Legislature. Nearly identical in both handwriting and wording, the petitions were addressed **To the Hon. Senate and House of Representatives**. All five documents lead off on the first page with the words: **We the undersigned Citizens & Residents of Comal and Bexar County**. On the second page, just above the signatures, each specific petition indicated that they were unique regions located within these counties: **Leon Springs, Sisterdale, Comfort, Guadalupe & Sabine Settlements, and Boerne**.

As it turns out all five petitions were written by the same man, Gustav Theisen. For those of you who don't know, just three years earlier, Mr. Theisen partnered with surveyor John James, and began selling lots in the newly-platted town of Boerne. So Theisen was promoting his new real estate venture: he embedded within the petitions that Boerne was well situated **on the main and only good road from San Antonio to Fredericksburg**, and postured that it only made sense that it serve as its county seat.

The pre-Kendall County denizens signed these petitions because they agreed with what was written. It expressed their laments that their existing county seats were very inconvenient - they had to travel great distances and over rough roads to reach them. At the time, Comfort was in Bexar County and Boerne, Sisterdale and the Curry Creek region were in Comal County and thus their respective county seats were San Antonio and New Braunfels. These pioneers did have a point, since as the crow flies, it was between 34 and 52 miles between each community and its respective county seat (see box). While distance mattered so did the rough terrain: **In addition to the great distance we are from said County sites, the Country between the Creeks and Rivers is extremely rocky and mountainous and impassable for teams, except on one or two main thoroughfares...**

1855 Petitions	
<u>Comal County Settlements</u>	
(Direct miles* to county seat of New Braunfels)	
Boerne	- 43 miles
Sisterdale	- 46 miles
Curry' Creek	- 34 miles
<u>Bexar County</u>	

(Direct miles* to county seat of San Antonio)	
Comfort	- 52 miles
* "As the crow flies." Kendall County - GIS	



When the Texas legislature did create new counties, there were echoes of "be careful what you wish for." The results were not remotely close to what our petitioners had imagined. Comfort became part of Kerr County when it was established in 1856 (county seat in Kerrville), still separated by county line from the other local communities. The other local settlements, Boerne, Sisterdale & Curry's Creek, became part of new Blanco County (county seat in Blanco) when organized in 1858.

The locals were disappointed that they did not have their own county; they did not embrace their new county. In their view, the overlaying of Blanco County lines onto their small hamlets was considered a step backward: the trip to the new county seat of Blanco was even more tenuous than prior routes. Obviously the quality of their routes overshadowed the distances; since the mileage to their new county seat had actually shortened (see table right). Still motivated by distance and rough terrain, these issues mobilized them and were the genesis of another **petition to the Texas legislature in 1859**. In this new petition they continued to ask for a county of their own. However, Kendall County's future

founding fathers so disapproved of the connection to Blanco County, that they even back-peddled from their 1855 petition, admitting that they are willing to embrace prior county arrangements: ***It would be of greater convenience and more desirable for the inhabitants of Boerne and its vicinity to be annexed to Comal County or still better to Bexar County; the County seat San Antonio being only 25 to 35 miles and having a direct good road and a regular intercourse with the two places San Antonio and New – Braunfels.***

The four-page, 800-word 1859 petition ends with more back-tracking (from the 1855 petition): ***We the undersigned residents of the headwaters of the Cibolo Creek, Balcones Creek, Sister Creeks, Wasp Creek, Sabinal Creek, Joshua Creek, Salinas Creek, Post Oak Hill Creek and settlers on the Guadalupe River have been thrown from one County to the other within the last 5 years. We belonged originally to Bexar and were well satisfied with this arrangement. We have since been annexed to Comal, Kerr and Blanco County and each time lost by the change. Our connection to Blanco however is so unnatural, inconvenient, and intolerable that we believe our situation cannot be made worse than it is now and any change would be agreeable.***

Absent on this petition were the settlers of Curry's Creek (future Kendalia area). Not only were they now only 12 miles away from Blanco, but Curry's Creek's pioneers and stalwarts were a part of the politics: the man tapped to organize the new county of Blanco was William E. Jones and Blanco County's first judge was Samuel Boyd Patton. Yet turnabout is fair play. When Kendall County was finally created by the Texas legislation in January of 1862, the Curry's Creek settlers' homesteads were included in the northeast corner of the new county of Kendall.

There are more stories to be told!

2013 Homesteader Homecoming

Save the date!

Sunday, April 21st @ 2:00

More details to come!

1859 Petitions

Blanco County Settlements

(Direct miles* to county seat of Blanco)

Boerne - 32 miles

Sisterdale - 23 miles

Curry' Creek - 12 miles

* "As the crow flies."

Kendall County - GIS

News from the Park

by Craig Hensley

As we transition to the holiday and winter months, activity at the park still remains brisk, particularly on the weekends. The campgrounds continue to be filled each Friday and Saturday night and park programs continue to receive great attendance, including visitors coming to the Discovery Center. Speaking of programs, we are pleased to announce that Doris Mager, the Eagle Lady, will be returning to the park for a series of special raptor talks the weekend of January 11-13! She is going to deliver several programs during her stay including a special presentation for members of the Friends Group – and you are invited! This program will be Friday, January 11 beginning at 6 p.m. with a reception followed by the program. For more details about Doris and her birds, read about her elsewhere in the newsletter.

Along with our programs, this winter will also feature a series of public hunts. These hunts not only provide hunters with wonderful experiences on public land, but also help us to manage populations of white-tailed deer and other non-native animal populations found in the park and at Honey Creek. During our hunts, those sections of the park and natural area are closed to public access. Hunts are scheduled in such a manner as to minimize impact on our other park guests, thus the park is always available for weekend camping, picnicking and hiking. The hunt dates and locations are listed below:

GRSP:

Monday-Friday, December 3-7, 2012; Monday-Friday, December 10-14, 2012; Monday-Friday, January 7-11, 2013.

Honey Creek:

Monday-Friday, December 3-7, 2012; Monday-Friday, December 10-14, 2012; Monday-Friday, January 7-11, 2013.

Bauer Unit:

Monday-Friday, February 4-8, 2013; Saturday-Sunday, March 23-24, 2013.

The Eagle Lady Returns to GRSP

Doris Mager is returning once again to the park with her traveling birds of prey. Doris has worked with raptors since the 1960's including taking care of more than 80 eagles over the years. In 1983, Doris began her own non-profit organization known as S.O.A.R.

She has delivered thousands of programs on birds of prey all over the country, still travelling in her van from state to state. She has led natural history tours to Central and South America, Europe and Africa, as well as Mexico and the Caribbean.

Doris will be bringing three live birds of prey with her including two owls and a kestrel. She is incredibly engaging and entertaining and the passion she has for raptors always enralls and captivates her audiences, young and old.

During her visit to the park she will present a special program to the Friends of Guadalupe River and Honey Creek, Inc. on Friday evening, January 11, beginning at 6 p.m. at the . In addition to that, she will present talks on Saturday and Sunday as well as join our Park Ranger/Naturalist Craig Hensley for a owl walk Saturday night and a bird banding program on Sunday morning.



Be sure you make plans to see the Eagle Lady and her birds of prey! You won't be disappointed.

Program Highlights at Guadalupe River State Park

Programs are offered every Saturday from 10 to 11:30 a.m. These programs are hands-on, experiential programs for children and families, but anyone is welcome to attend. In addition, presentations are also offered each Saturday night at the Amphitheatre behind the Discovery Center at the park beginning at 7 p.m.

In addition to these, occasional Sunday morning bird walks are offered at Honey Creek and in the park. Finally, a new program, entitled the Two-O'Clock Trail Walk will begin in January on Saturday afternoons. Beginning January 19th, these walks will allow park guests to join Craig to see what's out and about. They will be general in nature, focusing on seasonal plant and animal activity as it is encountered.

A sampling of programs is offered below (for more program listings, please visit the website for Guadalupe River State Park at: <http://www.tpwd.state.tx.us/state-parks/guadalupe-river>).

Bird in the Hand: Saturdays, December 8; January 5, February 2, March 2, from 9 a.m.-Noon. This program provides nose to beak looks at area songbirds as birds are captured, banded and released.

Geocaching 101: Saturdays, December 15, January 19, February 16, March 16 at 10 a.m. and 2 p.m. These programs introduce participants to the fun of Geocaching, including how to use GPS units.

Prowlin' for Owls: Saturdays, December 8 and January 12, at 7 p.m. Learn about the owls of Texas and the then head out in search of Barred and Great-horned Owls.

Honey Creek Bird Walk: Sundays, December 16, January 20 and February 17th, 8:30-11 a.m. Search for winter songbirds and others with Park Ranger/Naturalist Craig Hensley.

Eagle Lady Birds of Prey: Saturday, January 12, 10 a.m. and 2 p.m., Sunday, January 13 at 10:30 a.m. Join our special friend of a wonderful presentation on birds of prey!

Two O'Clock Trail Walks: Saturdays from 2-3:30 p.m. Beginning January 20. Take a guided hike on one of the park's trails to enjoy seasonal discoveries.

Walk Under the Full Moon: Friday, December 28, 6:30-8 p.m.; Saturday, January 26, 6:30-8 p.m., Monday, February 25, 6:30-8 p.m. Join our Park Ranger/Naturalist for a walk under the full moon and view it through a telescope at hike's end.

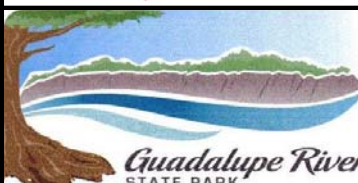
3rd Grade Education Program

by Holly Camero

The end of October is the conclusion of the fall session of NEISD's Third Grade Program a "Day of Observation". This program has run for 10 years bringing kids out to Honey Creek State Natural Area for a day of learning and experiencing the outdoors. This year 91 teachers and parents from 8 schools participated by, chaperoning the student's walk or presenting in one of the four areas set up on the "short tour loop" at Honey Creek. The presentations are part of a set curriculum, but the experiences and observations that the students have, by being out in an undeveloped natural area, is the heart of the program. There were 670 students attending the field trip. Very many of them had never been to Guadalupe River State Park, let alone, Honey Creek State Natural Area. After seeing the excitement and hearing the stories of how awesome their visit was, we hope that they will be visiting the Park with their folks and friends, in the near future.

Halloween at the Park

by Guadalupe State Park

*Mague's Cafe**Appreciation to all
organizations and companies.*The GVTC Foundation
Just plain caring



Membership Events for 2013

Starting 2013 the Friends will provide the following events free for members.

January 11-12-13: Eagle Lady (Doris)

- 11th- Free Members only event at the Bergheim Volunteer Fire Department's Fire Station at the intersection of Hwy. 46 and Old Curry Creek Road, just west of beautiful downtown Bergheim. 6 pm- Appetizers and drinks, 7 pm program. You may join at the event.
- 12th- 10 am and 2 pm Program, Friends members will assist by selling her books and t-shirts. Donations will be taken for the Friends.
- 13th- Programs by Craig.

March 30th: Welcome Back Golden Cheek Event. Free for members, and fees for some of the other events. All day programs to include children activities from Project Wild, and Project Learning Tree, Birding, Bird Banding, Introduction to Birding.

April 21st: Homesteaders Homecoming at Wehe Ranch

May 3rd: Aldo Leopold Film "Green Fire" at the amphitheater free to members. Fee for others.

October 12th: Honey Creek Evening Hike. Pot luck at 6 pm and hike to follow. Free for members.

December 5th: Holiday Party Pot luck meal with meat and drinks provided.

2013 Dues

by J.W. Pieper

2013 Membership Dues Are Now Payable

With the New Year approaching it is a time of renewal, and if you have not renewed your Friends of GRSP/Honey Creek membership for 2013 it is time to do so. As you know, this newsletter keeps you current with the activities at the Park, but the costs of sending out the newsletter are continuing to increase.

As a reminder, we are a 501 (c) 3 organization which means that contributions to the Friends organization are tax deductible. Just use the application on the inside back cover of this newsletter and 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.

The Board of Directors has authorized the cancellation of subscription privileges to the Quarterly Newsletter in February for all members who are in arrears.

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

**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 first
Thursday at 6:30 pm.
And bring a friend!**