“Home in the Hills” Along Meandering Crossroads
Andreas Engel’s Early Days – Pre & Post Bergheim

After arriving in Texas from Austria in 1885, Andreas Engel lived in our area for 15 years before moving to his Bergheim land in 1900. In 1890, he obtained acreage in the Schiller region from Casper Sueltenfuss (5 miles north of present-day Bergheim): this Guadalupe River site was his home for the next ten years. During his early years at Schiller, Andreas’s courtship of and marriage to Eva Bechtold, is interwoven with the early days of two of the region’s iconic organizations. From Andreas’s son, Alfred, we learn: *Andreas missed going to church...they brought him to the Honey Creek log cabin church* (St. Joseph Catholic Church - Honey Creek, was originally 3 miles north of today’s location on Highway 46 (est. 1876)). *Then one day at the log cabin church he met Mr. Bechtold who...had a large family and three...girls nearly the same age as Andreas. Mr. Bechtold invited him to dinner...It so happened that this Sunday there was a dance at Anhalt* (this Germania Farmer’s Verein’s dance hall (est. 1876)) and *Mr. Bechtold asked Andreas to take the three girls to the dance. The oldest two girls...had boyfriends. This left Eva, who was quite young...after a few more visits Eva and Andreas decided to get married...Eva and Andreas were married in 1891 (see wedding portrait).* His son, Alfred, wrote that shortly after he married Eva Bechtold, he *“...moved to their home on the Guadalupe. Soon after this Andreas built a two-room store about half way between the river and the top of the hill.”* Andreas and Eva were married for 55 years.

Life-defining moments sometimes come to us by accident and in Andreas’s case the catalyst for leaving his river site for an uncertain future was both nature and nurture. Since there was no bridge near his Guadalupe River store, when it rained his customers on the other side were cut off. More from his oldest son, Alfred: *In the year 1900...was the wettest year anyone could remember...it rained every few weeks...so the store had very few customers. Andreas realized the store was in a poor location.* Friendship and timing allowed Andreas to make the move 5 miles south: his friend Paul Sueltenfuss wanted to buy back his land and Frederick Hofheinz sold him five acres of promising land between meandering crossroads so that he could build a new store. The old cypress water tank in the field next to the store was erected in 1900 and is a remnant of Andreas’s first enterprise on the Boerne – New Braunfels Road. Now cotton growing would probably not be top of mind when thinking of our region, but it was a viable crop at the beginning of the 20th century. Alfred Engel, writing for his father, supplies the details: *Frank Schwartz had a cotton gin about five miles from this location (Andreas’s new home), but it was so hard to get to that all his customers complained...he...*
begged Andreas to buy the gin and move it to his five acres...a wonderful location. But Andreas knew nothing about a gin...Frank promised he...would help. The first thing needed was a well. So the Schwartz boys came and drilled a well and put up the big cypress tank (photo above). Andreas’s son Alfred, who was 5 years old at the time, fills in the details: **Joe Woods had been hired to put the two-story building** (see photo left) and **he was to manage the ginning**... The Schwartz boys helped move all the heavy machinery and put up the boiler...And so on September 15 ginning started. But things had just been going good when hard luck hit again. The water well went dry...two to three weeks to drill the well deeper and wagons were standing everywhere. But by ginning from dawn until dark they finally caught up. Although the cotton gin was ultimately taken down, we still have the sentinel, that old cypress tank, a witness to the launch of Andreas Engel’s legacy.

Imagine that it is 1901 and you have decided to put a post office in your home. Dealing with most governmental agencies involves paperwork, and Andreas Engel’s request to operate a post office was no exception. Since it was a new entity, he was required to submit a name on government documents that, if accepted, would be used by future postal customers as part of their address. The earliest post offices were fading: grist and wood mills were closing down, and the settlers, with slots in their homes’ doors, were now too far off the beaten path. So back to the postal paperwork...in this process many times the first name submitted was rejected - normally because it was already taken. Additionally, on the postal form that Andreas used we learn: **Attention ...the following order issued by the Postmaster General, dated April 9, 1894...To remove a cause of annoyance to the Department and injury to the Postal Service in the selection of names for newly established post offices, it is hereby ordered, that from this date only short names or names of one word will be accepted.** We'll never know if his March 16, 1901, submission was his first, but we do know that Mr. Andreas Engel came up with a really apt one-word designation. German for “Home in the Hills”, it was called Bergheim (actual illustration at left drawn by Andreas as part of his 1901 post office application, showing the soon to be christened Bergheim and its position to other post offices in the area). From his original postal paperwork, dated 16th March, 1901, excerpts of Andreas’s ad hoc remarks also signal a shift in customs, a changing landscape: **The mail route as formally laid out, when the mail was carried by horse, has been given up since the mail carrier uses a vehicle to deliver the mail...old said road is...fenced up. Parties who ownes (sic) the land over which the mail carrier travels today now will also soon fence up, then the only way is by way of Bergheim to Schiller.** Not only are “vehicles” now used, but the regional practice of free range cattle was coming to an end – barbed wire is finally making its way into the Hill Country.

In 1903, Andreas finally opened his iconic store. The sign over the porch in the photo (circa 1905/1906) tells it all **A. Engel Groceries - Gen Merchandise** (Andreas 2nd from left). His son, Alfred Engel, relates: ...**Daddy Engel had dreamed of building his all rock store...once again a friend came to the rescue. William Stendebach was a rock mason builder...It was about August of 1903 when the store was finished. And like most building projects, by the time it was finished it was almost too small. In the front a small partition was fenced off for the Post Office and in the back a curtain separated the store and the living quarters.** The 109-year-old store continues to anchor Bergheim.

(See Living History in Bergheim!) There are more stories to be told!
On December 8th Bergheim participated in the Kendall County’s 150th Anniversary’s Heritage Passport program and Stanley Jones, owner of the Bergheim General Store and postmaster of Bergheim, and his wife, Charlene, hosted guests at his iconic store. Since he is literally following in the footsteps of his forebear Andreas Engel, Stanley detailed his family heritage to a large and enthusiastic audience. While not the first store or post office in Kendall County, over time, the Bergheim facility has outlasted earlier establishments: it is the oldest operating general store in Kendall County and physically, longest serving original postal site. (Learn more about Bergheim’s Andreas Engel, see Trails to the Past).

2013 Homesteader Homecoming

Mark your calendar...for 2:00 on Sunday, April 21 at the Wehe Ranch - 385 Wehe Road
(On your right as you travel north on Spring Branch Road (1.7 miles north of Hwy 46)

Learn about the Wehe family from four of our inaugural Homesteader Homecoming members: Barbara & Hilmar Wehe (who are hosting), Carmen Rittimann, and Brenda Anderson-Lindemann. As usual, Friends of Guadalupe/Honey Creek will supply the drinks and guests and friends members, are asked to bring a sweet. Any questions please call Bryden Moon @ (830) 336-3375 or e-mail (bmoonzjr@aol.com).
Eagle Lady at Guadalupe River State Park

Doris Mager arrived on the 11th of January and did a presentation at the Bulverde Volunteer Fire House for Friends members. She presented twice on the 12th at the park. She tours the country each year to make sure people understand more about raptors and what they need to survive. The pictures in this issue show her efforts. Watch next year for announcements and make an effort to attend. You will be happy that you did.

Why it’s Great to be a Friend!

I think I enjoy being in this organization the most when it comes time to provide the park money that will enhance the experience of the guests. This past year has been very monetarily productive for the Friends. We not only have seen donations increase but our membership has increased as well. These are the two ways that we have to make money. Because of increases we have been able to purchase the following for the park: Honey Creek T-shirts to sell, 2TV monitors, cables, and brackets, Halloween expenses, Bird seed, Insurance, children size table and chairs, river clean-up expenses, battery powered microscope lights, electricity for soda and candy machines, butterfly program lunch, radio antennas, viewing area materials, owl pellets, donation box for viewing area, visitor registration stand at the Discovery Center, and our latest purchase an ipad and software for use at the Discovery Center. We are pleased but not satisfied with the above. We are a 501c3 organization and appreciate any and all donations. These can be given at the Rust House each Saturday at 9 am for the Honey Creek Hike, at the Discovery Center each weekend from 10-4, and by mail to the park address att. Friends.

Discovery Center’s New Signs

Thanks to hosts Paul and Sharon Klose there are 3 new signs that are not only beautiful but very helpful in guests finding their way to what was one of the best kept secrets in the Guadalupe River State Park and the entire Texas park system. The Discovery Center is the starting place for many programs that help guests have a more enjoyable visit to our park. Each weekend there is a fun educational emphasis that is presented by the volunteers in the center. This corresponds with programs (see future programs elsewhere in the newsletter) presented in the park by the park interpreter, Craig Hensley. Because of this format we have seen increased numbers of adults and children alike visiting the center which also has increased donations that make it possible to purchase more materials for programs. (See elsewhere in the newsletter for examples of this past year purchases). The other valuable piece in making all this happen are the volunteers that give the one gift that makes all this happen and that is the gift of time. The coordinator of this dedicated group is Richard Mizanin with the assistants of his wife Brenda. We are always in need of additional help. If you feel volunteering in a wonderful facility that brings families together to learn and enjoy the outdoors is for you then contact Craig at Craig.Hensley@tpwd.state.tx.us and he will get you started on a great adventure. The Discovery Center also loans backpacks filled with objects that can enhance your park experience while visiting.

Citizen Science Opportunities

The Park is beginning several survey projects this year, as outlined below. For more details about the surveys and to possibly participate, please contact Craig Hensley at craig.hensley@tpwd.state.tx.us.

Golden-cheeked Warbler Surveys
A series of early morning surveys will commence in mid-March to assess the populations of Golden-cheeked Warblers at Honey Creek and Guadalupe River. These surveys will be conducted from 6 a.m. to 9 a.m. over several dates at different locations. We are looking for adults with an interest in birds and a willingness to assist with these surveys.

Butterfly Surveys
This year we will be conducting a monthly survey of the butterflies of the park and natural area to create a database of species and generational data for each species. These surveys will take place primarily on Thursdays from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. We are looking for adult volunteers interested in assisting; no experience, but an interest in learning about butterflies, is necessary to participate.

Breeding Bird Banding Research
Bird banding will be conducted at the park and natural area throughout the summer. These efforts will require a commitment of seven hours per day as we set up, run nets, process birds and close nets. A special training session will be held prior to beginning this project. If you are serious about assisting with this effort (this is not intended to simply attend training and walk away with advanced training hours) and committed to being involved over time, please contact Craig Hensley.
Greetings from the staff at Guadalupe River State Park! Another winter is about to be in the books and the Park staff are gearing up for what will no doubt be another busy spring and summer. The office staff will be adding additional personnel to handle the increased number of campers and other visitors, the maintenance staff and park hosts are busy finishing up projects and the Discovery Center volunteers and Interpreter are gearing up for a fun-filled season of educational opportunities for guests.

In terms of programs, we will be offering a continuing number of programs, particularly on weekends, for families and people of all ages. Each Saturday morning will feature a 10 a.m. nature-based program ranging from insect and aquatic life sampling to hikes in search of birds, animal signs and more. In addition, each Saturday night will feature a program presented by either the Park Interpreter or a special guest. Topics will include a regular monthly astronomy program, talks on bats, fireflies, frogs and toads, and other natural history topics of interest.

We’ll also offer Sunday morning nature walks periodically, primarily bird and wildflower walks, including hikes in search of the Golden-cheeked Warbler at Honey Creek State Natural Area. Along with these will be opportunities for beak-to-nose looks at songbirds through the popular Bird in the Hand programs offered on a monthly basis. The Park is also embarking on monthly butterfly surveys as well as spring surveys of Golden-cheeked Warblers at the Park as well as at Honey Creek. A schedule of those surveys is listed elsewhere. If you are interested in participating, please contact Park Ranger Craig Hensley at 830.438.7653 or by email at craig.hensley@tpwd.state.tx.us.  

With spring break just around the corner, we invite you to the park to enjoy daily programs from Monday through Friday, March 11th-15th. Programs will be offered each morning at 10 a.m. and the Discovery Center will be open from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. each day. To learn more about our program offerings, camping, picnicking and more, visit http://www.tpwd.state.tx.us and search under “Find a State Park” for Guadalupe River and then click on “Check the Calendar for Upcoming Events” under Ranger Programs.

The Friends of the Boerne Public Library are sponsoring a Children’s Nature Library at the Discovery Center. Selections are made from books donated to the Boerne Public Library, and the first group included bird guide books, identifying snakes, stars, children's nature activities and Dr. Seuss’s colorful – and accurate – guide to bugs. The books and literature will be available to visitors at the Discovery Center, and will serve to enhance the “hands on” experiences currently taking place at the center and to encourage the pleasure of reading. Park Naturalist, Craig Hensley, envisions afternoon storytelling under the oak trees.

The Friends of the Boerne Public Library operate an old fashioned “Bookshop under the Windmill” next to the main library. Donating books and literature to the Discovery Center is one means of providing community outreach. For other community events, such as book signings by local authors, visit http://friendsofboernepubliclibrary.blogspot.com/.

The Children’s Nature Library is an ongoing endeavor and your donations are welcome. A signed copy of “RJ: Tribute to a Golden Eagle” by Doris Mager was donated by Friend of both the Library and the Park, Bryden Moon.

Spring is my favorite time of the year. There are so many shades of green in the park. It also is the season when the days are not quite so hot. We have many activities to help you enjoy the two parks. In case you haven’t had occasion to visit we now have the North side of Guadalupe River State Park open for day use (8-8) and there are new hiking trails. Check with headquarters for how to enter and exit. In April we have an event of special notice, that being Homesteader Homecoming Sunday. Look for more information in the newsletter concerning days and times for these events. May 5th we will have our first Dawn Chorus Day led by Craig. This will take place very early and you need to contact Craig Hensley at the park before the event for important information. June 15th the park and the Friends will celebrate the 30th anniversary of Guadalupe River State Park. Look for more information on this event in the Summer Newsletter.

The Friends are planning a new training for Honey Creek Interpretive guides. If you would be interested in this way of volunteering at the park either call the park or contact Nancy Gray by email grayabbott@aol.com. The reasons we feel a need to have additional guides are; give our present guides the opportunity to present every other month if they wish, also add walks to our present program of every Saturday, and to have guides ready to do special walks as needed. I would also like to give credit to our present guides that each and every Saturday morning greet the guests and provide a walk to Honey Creek. They are: Lea Anzalotta and Stephan Gose the 1st Sat., Nancy and Bob Gray the 2nd Sat., JW Pieper and Wilt Shaw the 3rd Sat, Nalga and Paul Mebane the 4th Sat., and Lisa Whitehead and myself the 5th Sat. This does not include special hikes that are requested by groups at other days or times.

The Friends are having the park install an iron ranger (a way to collect donations) at the Wildlife Viewing Area. This donation place will be covered by pictures of birds done by a Texas artist. It is our thinking that guests may want to help us pay for the birdseed that is used at the area to attract the wildlife.
### Select Upcoming Programs at the Park

**Bird in the Hand** - *Saturday, March 2, 9 a.m.- Noon*  *Saturday, April 6, 9 a.m.- Noon*  *Saturday, May 11, 9 a.m.- Noon*  *Saturday, June 1, 9 a.m.- Noon*

Join our Park Interpreter for a presentation featuring the fliers of the night. From bats and nightjars to moths and fireflies, we’ll take a look at who’s on the wing during the night time. This program will begin at the Amphitheatre located behind the Discovery Center.

**Batty About Bats** - *Saturday, March 2, 7-8 p.m.*  *Saturday, May 11, 8-9:30 p.m.*

Join us for a look at the world of night-flying mammals – the bats. From amazing adaptations to who’s who among our local bats, you’ll discover how they survive and why they play such important roles in the natural world. This program will be held at the Amphitheatre behind the Discovery Center.

**Two O’clock Trail Walk** - *Saturday, March 9, 2-4 p.m.*  *Saturday, April 20, 2-4 p.m.*  *Saturday, May 18, 2-4 p.m.*

Join our Park Interpreter for a walk along the upland trails of the State Park. Along the way you’ll learn about the trees, critters and other natural occurrences found there. Be sure to bring water and wear sturdy hiking shoes. Hike locations will vary, meet at Headquarters at 2 p.m.

**Bugs-R-Us** - *Saturday, March 2, 7-8 p.m.*  *Saturday, May 11, 8-9:30 p.m.*

Join our Park Ranger/Naturalist for a walk along the upland trails of the State Park. Along the way you’ll learn about the trees, critters and other natural occurrences found there. Be sure to bring water and wear sturdy hiking shoes. Hike locations will vary, meet at Headquarters at 2 p.m.

**Slitherin’ Snakes Alive** - *Saturday, March 9, 7:30-8:30 p.m.*

Join our Park Ranger/Naturalist for a walk in search of spring wildflowers throughout the park and Honey Creek. We’ll meet at the Rust House for a walk and talk.

**Geocaching 101** - *Saturday, March 16, 10-11:30 a.m. / 12-1:30 p.m.*  *Saturday, April 13, 10-11:30 a.m. / 12-1:30 p.m.*  *Saturday, May 25, 10-11:30 a.m./12-1:30 p.m.*

Join us for an introduction to geocaching, learn how to use a GPS unit and then try it out on our practice course! GPS units are limited so please sign up at the Discovery Center by calling (830) 438-7653 for one of the two time slots. This program will begin at the Amphitheatre behind the Discovery Center.

**Stories in the Stars** - *Saturday, March 16, 7:30-9:30 p.m.*  *Saturday, April 20, 7:30-9:30 p.m.*  *Saturday, May 18, 7:30-9:30 p.m.*

Join us for a fun-filled look at the night sky. We’ll check out the constellations of spring and learn stories of heroes, villains and princesses that adorn the night sky. We’ll then head out to look at the moon and other celestial wonders through our telescopes. Meet at the Amphitheatre behind the Discovery Center.

**Bird Walks** - *Sunday, March 17, 8-11 a.m.*  *Sunday, April 14, 8-11 a.m.*  *Sunday, May 12, 8-11 a.m.*

Join us for a monthly bird walk along the trails of the park and natural area. We’ll search for seasonal birds ranging from the Golden-cheeked Warbler to the Painted Bunting. Locations will vary so plan to meet at Headquarters at 8 a.m.

**A Froggin’ We'll Go** - *Saturday, March 23, 7-9 p.m.*

Join us for a look at the world of frogs and toads. Following a presentation at the Amphitheatre we’ll head to the river with flashlights (bring your own) to listen for and capture a few of the four-legged hoppers.

**Critters Big and Small** - *Saturday, March 30, 10-11:30 a.m.*

We’ll be on the prowl for animals of all kinds and sizes during this nature walk along the trails of the Park. From butterflies to birds, we’ll see who is out and about. Meet at the Amphitheatre behind the Discovery Center.

**Wildflower Walk** - *Saturday, March 30, 2-4:30 p.m.*

Join our Park Ranger/Naturalist for a walk in search of spring wildflowers throughout the park and Honey Creek. We’ll meet at the Rust House for a walk and talk.

**Honey Creek at Night** - *Saturday, March 30, 7-8:30 p.m.*

We’ll head to Honey Creek during this special walk to enjoy the sights and sounds of the natural area as the sun sets. Be sure to bring a flashlight and meet at the Rust House.

**It’s a Watery World** - *Saturday, May 4, 10-11:30 a.m.*  *Saturday, June 15, 10-11:30 a.m.*

What lurks in the rocks and water of the Guadalupe River? Join us for this sure to be fun program as we wade into the river with nets in hand to search for critters from fish and frogs to bugs of weird kinds! Be ready to get wet!

**Bugs-R-Us** - *Saturday, April 27, 10-11:30 a.m.*  *Saturday, May 18, 10-11:30 a.m.*  *Saturday, June 9, 10-11:30 a.m.*

We’re heading out into the fields with our nets and containers in search of six-legged critters of all kinds. From butterflies to grasshoppers we’ll be catching, studying and releasing a host of insects. This program will begin at the Discovery Center.

**Bats and Other Night Flyers** - *Saturday, June 16, 8:30-9:30 p.m.*

Join our Park Interpreter for a presentation featuring the fliers of the night. From bats and nightjars to moths and fireflies, we’ll take a look at who’s on the wing during the night time. This program will begin at the Amphitheatre located behind the Discovery Center.
Park Activities

Natural History Workshops Sponsored by the Friends of Guadalupe River and Honey Creek

These workshops are intended to provide beginning and intermediate level learning opportunities about a variety of natural history topics. Registration is required and is limited to the first 15 people ages 14 and up. A $5 donation to the Friends Group is required. Please call 830.438.7653 or email craig.hensley@tpwd.state.tx.us to reserve a spot. Please be sure to bring a sack lunch, water and dress for being outdoors for each workshop.

Spring Wildflowers of the Hill Country - * Thursday, April 11, 10 a.m.-2 p.m.

Join our Park Interpreter for a wildflower workshop at Guadalupe River State Park. You’ll learn how to go about identifying wildflowers and then get practical on-the-ground experience in the fields and woodlands of the park and Honey Creek.

Butterflies for Beginners - * Thursday, May 9, 10 a.m.-2 p.m.

Wanting to know more about our scale-winged wonders but don’t know where to start? Then join Park Interpreter Craig Hensley for this hands-on workshop on the basics of butterflies and their identification. We’ll begin with an overview and then head outdoors to capture, study and release butterflies.

Woody Plants of the Hill Country - * Thursday, May 23, 10 a.m.-2 p.m.

Join us for an introductory look at the diversity of woody plants, from vines and shrubs to the trees found in our area. You’ll learn identification tips and learn to identify a wide variety of them through examination and the use of a taxonomic key made specifically for the park and area.

Special Events - San Antonio Astronomical Society Star Party! - * Saturday, April 27, 8-11 p.m.

Join members of the SAAS for a star party in the Park! Multiple telescopes and lots of knowledgeable and friendly volunteers from the group will be on-hand to share their love and passion for the night sky. Come early and stay into the evening. This event will take place in the large overflow parking lot just before you get to the day use area.

Dawn Chorus Day! - * Sunday, May 5, 5-9 a.m.

Join us and people from all over the world to wake up with the birds on this special day. We’re inviting folks into Honey Creek at 5 a.m. to enjoy the chorus of songbirds as they wake up. Known as the dawn chorus, this is a rite of spring each year that many of us never hear without rising early. More details will be forthcoming on our website!

NABA Guadalupe River Butterfly Count - * Thursday, June 27, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Join our Park Interpreter and volunteers for a day-long survey of the butterflies found in the park and surrounding area. This annual national count provides us with a good index of butterfly populations here and around the state and country. To participate please contact Craig Hensley at craig.hensley@tpwd.state.tx.us.

2013 Dues

by J.W. Pieper

2013 Membership Dues Are Now Payable

It is time to renew, 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.
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!