



Summer 2013 NEWSLETTER

Friends of Guadalupe River, Honey Creek, Inc.

A non-profit organization

Boy Scout Service Project

May 4, 2013

Guadalupe River State Park

by Dave Kibler

The Park again welcomed an enthusiastic group of youth and adults from Boy Scout Troop 285 on the chilly morning of Saturday, the 4th of May. Over 65 total volunteers took part in clearing the banks of the river of trash and in improving the trail used by weekly visitors to the Honey Creek State Natural Area. Specifically, the Scouts re-mulched a large section of the trail, as well as repairing an eroded area in the steep section of the trail by creating new steps with new logs and fill dirt.



Following the three-hour work session, all were treated to a delectable lunch of sausage and beans, provided by the Friends of the Park and other volunteers, at the river-front day-use area. The troop then retired to another area of the Park to enjoy a campout experience that night. This work activity is scheduled twice each year and is the recurring service project of Boy Scout Troop 285, based at Coker Methodist Church in San Antonio. It is led by Scoutmaster Bill McCalister, who has served in this capacity for the past 36 years.



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Announcement Honey Creek Interpretive Guide Training

by Nancy Gray

Looking for a new volunteer opportunity that combines the outdoors with cultural and natural history interpretation? Then the Friends of Guadalupe River and Honey Creek would like to invite you to become a Honey Creek Interpretive Guide.

We are offering a four-part training session to be held on Thursday evenings from 6-8 p.m. during August. The specific dates are August 8, 15, 22, and 29. The first evening will include an introduction of what to expect and a short hike led by our current guides which will provide you a first-hand look at what the hike entails. The final three sessions will cover a number of topics specific to Honey Creek as well as interpretive techniques. Each of them will allow you to see the material applied in short hikes. Because becoming an Interpretive Guide is a significant undertaking we are seeking individuals that can make a commitment to lead a minimum of 6 hikes a year, as well as attend all four training sessions. If you are interested please consider registering for this unique volunteer experience.

A fee of \$35, which includes all the material and a one year membership to the Friends group, is required. Please contact Nancy Gray, grayabbott@aol.com, to reserve a spot in the training or to request more information.

Eagle Project

by Tom Anderson

The Friends of Guadalupe River State Park/Honey Creek State Natural Area is extremely honored to have had J. Madison "Moose" McNair do his Eagle Project at our park. He led his troop in the following project: Planned, designed, and constructed six 12' X 12' concrete picnic bench pads at the Guadalupe River State Park. Planted trees and installed BBQ grills at each site and planted an additional border of trees around the parking lot. He also built a cedar post fence around a utility area. Madison finished under budget which allowed for a cash donation to the Friends in the amount of \$3149.

On Saturday May 18th, 2013 Madison presented to J.W. Pieper, treasurer of the Friends the check at his Eagle Award Ceremony. This presentation was held at Coker United Methodist Church.

Also present from the Friends were Dave Kibler, Vice President, Tom Anderson, President and Greg Nash representing the park. The Friends, the park and Troop 285 have a long standing relationship of projects that the troop has assisted us with to make a better park for all. The troop camps at the park and does river clean-ups along with mulching trails, twice a year. A picture is in the newsletter of the Eagle Award Ceremony. Thanks again to Madison and Troop 285.

**Special Opportunities for Naturalists**

by Joan Nitschke

The Entrance Fee to the Park is \$7 per person, age 13 and over. Children ages 12 and under are free.

A TPWD Annual Park Pass provides Free Entrance, and can be purchased at the park.

Dragonflies and Damselflies of the Hill Country: An Introduction

Friday, June 7

10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

They are fierce predators of both water and sky and here's an opportunity for you to learn more about these ancient insects. Join Guadalupe River State Park's Interpretive Ranger Craig Hensley for a look at the world of dragonflies and damselflies. You'll begin with a PowerPoint presentation at the Bulverde-Spring Branch Public Library followed by a field experience at Guadalupe River State Park. This program is sponsored by the Friends of Guadalupe River and Honey Creek, Inc. and a \$5 donation per person is requested. For more information and to register, please call Craig at 830.438.7653 or email him craig.hensley@tpwd.state.tx.us.

Guadalupe River State Park NABA Butterfly Count

Thursday, June 27

Beginning at 9 a.m.

Guadalupe River State Park Interpretive Ranger Craig Hensley is looking for people interested in assisting with the annual North American Butterfly Association count in and around Guadalupe River State Park. This annual effort provides information on the status of butterflies in the area and is one of several counts in the Hill Country. You do not have to be an expert in butterfly identification to participate! Please call Craig at 830.438.7653 for more information and to sign up to help during this sure-to-be fun and educational day.

Bird Banding Assistants Sought

Guadalupe River State Park's Interpretive Ranger and licensed bird bander Craig Hensley is seeking persons interested in becoming bird banding assistants for on-going research at the park and Honey Creek. From June through early August, Craig will be conducting two projects designed to monitor avian productivity and survivorship (known as MAPS). If you are interested in learning more about this project, please notify him by email at craig.hensley@tpwd.state.tx.us or by phone at 830.438.7653

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Trails to the Past

by Bryden Moon

Tracing the Branches of the Wehe Family Tree



Our 2013 Homesteader Homecoming took us to the epicenter of the antique Anhalt community, one mile as the crow flies from the historic Anhalt Dance Hall. In this unique setting at the Wehe Ranch, we were greeted by our hosts Hilmar and Barbara Wehe. History was in the air, on the grounds (an old freighter lodge) and on the faces of the local descendants. On this beautiful afternoon we learned about the three immigrant sons of Dr. Fritz Wehe of Anhalt, Dessau. Each Wehe brother had their own



“special” docent as Carmen Rittimann (bottom), Brenda Anderson-Lindemann (right) and Barbara Wehe (left) taught us respectively about Carl, Friedrich, and Heinrich Wehe. With 71 registered, our Friend’s group greeted over 80 guests.



Thank you to Craig Hensley, GRSP Park, and Friends’ members and family who lent their support: J. W. Pieper, Judy & Dave Kibler, Joan Nitschke, Tom Anderson and Kay Moon.

This homesteader homecoming also served, once again, as a family reunion. Old friends, new friends, and a core group of descendants, this was our fourth “off-campus” Homesteader reunion (see right red star). A unique setting, unique circumstances, yet still the same results...with our largest turnout since the inception of our Homesteader Homecoming program, another wonderful gathering honoring our area pioneers and their families!!!



See related article, **Wehe Brothers of Anhalt, Texas** by Brenda Anderson-Lindemann. **There are more stories to be told!**

Homesteader Homecoming 2013**Wehe Brothers of Anhalt, Texas**

By Brenda Anderson-Lindemann

The early Krause settlement included 3 of the thirteen children born to Dr. Fritz Wehe in Anhalt, Dessau. The three Wehe brothers - Friedrich, Heinrich and Carl were born in 1822, 1831 & 1836 respectively. Friedrich, the oldest, was the first brother to immigrate: in 1851 he sailed from Bremen, Germany on the ship "Francisca." He was followed to Texas in 1854 by his two younger brothers, Heinrich and Carl, who immigrated together on the ship "Antoinette". By the late 1850's all three were located in the Anhalt area, taking up both farming and the practice of freighting; moving goods and people between the coast and westward onto Fredericksburg and other destinations.



The three brothers' homeland origins quite possibly played a part in their community's ultimate name - Anhalt. All are listed on the 1860 Agriculture census. Friedrich Wehe's farm had 20 acres improved farm land out of 160 acres with only 1 horse, but grazed 18 milk cows and 18 regular beef cattle, 2 swine, and 6 working oxen valued at \$570 and the land produced 150 bushels of Indian corn, 18 bushels of Irish potatoes. Enough milk was collected and its cream churned into 520 pounds of butter. Carl Wehe had improved 8 acres and 152 unimproved acres of land. He owned

4 horses, 4 milk cows, 3 other cattle, 3 swine, 11 working oxen for his freighter-work that he shared with his brother, Heinrich Wehe. The report estimated the value of the livestock at \$466 and the farm had produced 8 bushels of Indian corn during the past year. Unfortunately, only Heinrich survived post-Civil War, as both Friedrich and Carl died in 1864. Heinrich lived another 40+ years on his land; his passing was in 1907. He was a charter member of the 1875 Farmer's Club and the 1876 Germania Farmer Verein. Hilmar Wehe, our Homesteader Homecoming host, is the Great Grandson of Heinrich Wehe.





June 2013 Programs at Guadalupe River State Park

by Craig Hensley

National Trails Day Walk

Saturday, June 1 8:30-11:30 a.m.

Join our Park Ranger for a walk along the trails of the Bauer Unit at Guadalupe River State Park in celebration of National Trails Day. We'll meet at the Park Headquarters and drive to the unit. Be sure to bring plenty of water and wear sturdy hiking shoes. This will be a 3+ mile walk is recommended for those 10 and above only. Please note that sections of the trail are rocky. Please call 830.438.7653 for more information. Registration is not required.

Honey Creek Night Walk – National Trails Day Walk

Saturday, June 1 8:00-9:30 p.m.

Celebrate the final hours of National Trails Day with an evening walk through Honey Creek State Natural Area, adjacent to Guadalupe River State Park. We'll meet at the Rust House inside the park and hike down to the beautiful Honey Creek. Be sure to bring water, a flashlight or headlamp and wear sturdy shoes. Please call 830.438.7653 for more information. No registration is required for this walk.

Dragonflies & Damselflies of the Hill Country: An Introduction

Friday, June 7 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

They are fierce predators of both water and sky and here's an opportunity for you to learn more about these ancient insects. Join Guadalupe River State Park's Interpretive Ranger Craig Hensley for a look at the world of dragonflies and damselflies. You'll begin with a PowerPoint presentation at the Bulverde-Spring Branch Public Library followed by a field experience at Guadalupe River State Park. This program is sponsored by the Friends of Guadalupe River and Honey Creek, Inc. and a \$5 donation per person is requested. For more information and to register, please call Craig at 830.438.7653 or email him craig.hensley@tpwd.state.tx.us.

Bugs-R-Us!

Saturday, June 8 10:00-11:30 a.m.

From butterflies to dragonflies, beetles to all kinds of other bugs, we'll spend the morning in search of our six-legged wonders with nets in hand. Join our Park Interpreter for a morning of bug-catch-and-release at its best. We'll meet at the amphitheatre behind the Discovery Center. This program is free of charge with a Park Pass or daily admission. Please call 830.438.7653 for more information.

Bats and Other Night Flyers

Saturday, June 8 8:30-9:30 p.m.

Join Guadalupe River State Park's Interpretive Ranger for a walk on the night side as you discover which denizens of the dark are out and about! From owls to bats, fireflies to moths, we'll check out the night flyers all around us. Please call 830.438.7653 for more information and be sure to bring a flashlight or headlamp!

It's A Watery World

Saturday, June 15 9:00-10:30 a.m.

The Guadalupe River is not only a great place to swim and canoe, it is home to an amazing collection of little critters that are important to the overall health of the river. Join Park Interpreter Craig Hensley for a morning of wet and wild fun as we search the river for fish, insects and other animals that live among the rocks of our beautiful river. We'll meet at the Interpretive Center then head to the river with our nets and buckets. Be sure to dress to get wet and as always, the program is free with a TPWD Park Pass or with a daily pass.

Stories in the Stars

Saturday, June 15 8:30-10 p.m.

Hercules will be high overhead and the summer triangle is on the rise. Head on out to Guadalupe River State Park and join an evening of star stories and stargazing through the park's telescope. You'll see the moon, perhaps a planet and other celestial wonders of the night sky. The program will begin at the amphitheatre behind the Discovery Center in the Park. Call 830.438.7653 for more information.

Geocaching 101

Saturday, June 22 10:00-11:30 a.m.

Geocaching is a wonderful way to spend time with your family in the great outdoors. Guadalupe River State Park is offering an introductory program during which you'll learn how to use a GPS unit and test your skills on their practice course. Please do call 830.438.7653 to reserve a GPS unit for your family.

Creatures of the Night

Saturday, June 22 8:30-9:30 p.m.

From fireflies to bats, a host of creatures wake up as the sun goes down. Join us at the amphitheatre next to the Interpretive Center of Guadalupe River State Park at 3350 Park Road 31, Spring Branch, TX 78070 for a presentation on these and more as we discover together what it takes to be successful under the stars. Please call 830.438.7653 for more information.

Walk Under the Full Moon

Sunday, June 23 8:30-10 p.m.

Join Guadalupe River State Park's Interpretive Ranger for a walk under the full June moon. Meet at the Headquarter parking lot and you'll head out to enjoy a wonderful moon rise and walk, and even have the opportunity to look at the moon at evening's end. Please call 830.438.7653 for more information.

Guadalupe River State Park NABA Butterfly Count

Thursday, June 27 Beginning at 9 a.m.

Guadalupe River State Park Interpretive Ranger Craig Hensley is looking for people interested in assisting with the annual North American Butterfly Association count in and around Guadalupe River State Park. This annual effort provides information on the status of butterflies in the area and is one of several counts in the Hill Country. You do not have to be an expert in butterfly identification to participate! Please call Craig at 830.438.7653 for more information and to sign up to help during this sure-to-be fun and educational day.

Insect-a-Mania!

Saturday, June 29 10:00-11:30 a.m.

From butterflies to dragonflies, beetles to all kinds of other insects, you'll enjoy a morning of six-legged catch and release fun at Guadalupe River State Park. This program will begin at the amphitheatre behind the Discovery Center inside the park. This program is free of charge with a Park Pass or daily admission. Please call 830.438.7653 for more information.

Slitherin' Snakes Alive!

Saturday, June 29 8:30-9:30 p.m.

You are invited to head on out to Guadalupe River State Park for an evening presentation about the snakes of the Hill Country. You'll learn how these critters survive and you'll even learn that much of what we think of snakes isn't really true. This program will take place at the amphitheatre behind the Discovery Center inside the park. Please call 830.438.7653 for more information.

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For more programs, check out our program page: http://www.tpwd.state.tx.us/state-parks/guadalupe-river/park_events

News from the Park

by Scott Taylor, Park Superintendent & Craig Hensley, Park Ranger

As we embark on another sure-to-be busy summer, we want to be sure to invite everyone to come out to Guadalupe River State Park and enjoy the beauty of the river, whether you canoe, kayak, swim, fish or just want to sit in the water and relax. We also have miles of hiking trails in the park proper as well as on the Bauer Unit north of the river.

If you are looking to join in on fun learning and exploration, check out our website for a host of programs being offered this summer. From insect catching to full moon and other night walks, we have something to offer for everyone. We also encourage you to stop by the Discovery Center and "Take Another Look" with our exhibits and hands-on materials. You'll discover that there is something there for everyone – and it has air conditioning to take the chill off those hot afternoons.

You'll soon be seeing a few new faces in the park as said goodbye to long-time employee Bill Beach who retired from TPWD after serving many years in the office, most recently as Office Manager, as well as to Georgia

Davis, who moved on to a new position in San Antonio. Assistant Park Manager Clay Boone also departed for Government Canyon State Park. We miss them all but will be welcoming new staff as soon as the hiring process for each position is completed. One significant project going on in the park this summer involves a new Ashe juniper removal project. A contractor has recently begun shredding juniper on a 200-acre area on the east side of the park road. As a result, and for the safety of our guests, the trails there have been and will remain closed for the next two months. Following this effort, a controlled or managed burn of the area will be done (within the next year or two) to re-introduce native vegetation similar to what was found here at the time of European settlement.

We do have a few volunteer opportunities for anyone interested this summer. This June 27th we'll once again be surveying butterflies as an on-going effort to monitor butterfly populations. This nation-wide effort, hosted by the North American Butterfly Association, has been going on for many years both here and across the country. You do not have to be an expert in butterfly identification to participate! Contact Craig Hensley at 830.438.7653 or by email at craig.hensley@tpwd.state.tx.us if you would like more information or to participate. We are also doing monthly butterfly counts to better understand the annual cycles of our local scale-winged wonders. You can also join this effort by contacting Craig.

Another volunteer opportunity is available with the on-going bird banding programs at the park and in Honey Creek. If you are interested in learning more about becoming a bird banding assistant, please notify Craig, as well.

Park Programs

(I am attaching the June program calendar for you to use as much of as you wish)

If you are planning a visit to the park be sure to check out the programs offered on Friday mornings for children and families and the regular Saturday morning and Saturday evening programs. We are providing a listing of programs for June; additional programs for the rest of the summer will be available at: http://www.tpwd.state.tx.us/state-parks/guadalupe-river/park_events.

San Antonio Christian Schools 6th Grade Field Trip

Ninety-seven 6th graders visited Guadalupe River State Park for a full day field trip. Park Ranger Craig Hensley, along with Tom Anderson, Friends Board President and volunteer, and Emily Wiener, volunteer, provided three of the four activities for the children. Craig did a bird banding demonstration while Emily guided students through the dissection of owl pellets and Tom led the students on a plant adaptations walk.

By all accounts the students had a great time, learned a lot and we know that the School will be returning next year and is already talking about expanding the program to include 7th and 8th graders.

Lackland Elementary School Field Trip

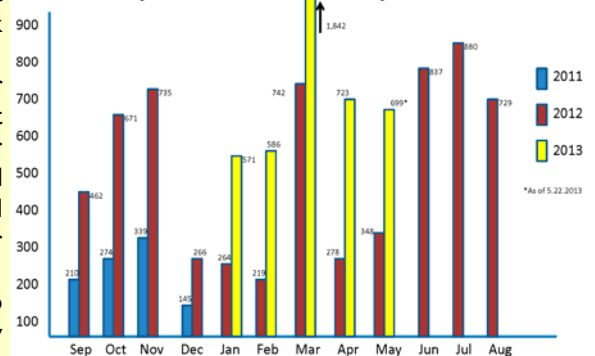
Thirty-six students from Lackland Elementary made the 90-minute journey to the Park during May, engaging in activities focused on birds. Bird banding, owl pellet dissection, a guided bird walk and participating in a bird migration game rounded out the activities for these children.

Discovery Center

The Discovery Center continues to be a hit with park guests of all ages. Over the course of the past 12 months, we have set new record highs for visitation for each month. Many thanks go to the wonderful group of community volunteers that donate their time on Saturdays and Sundays to make our guests visits memorable.

Beginning in early June, the Discovery Center will be open from Tuesdays through Sundays. If you haven't had the chance to visit the Discovery Center yet, or it's been awhile, come on out!

Discovery Center Visitation
September 2011-April 2013

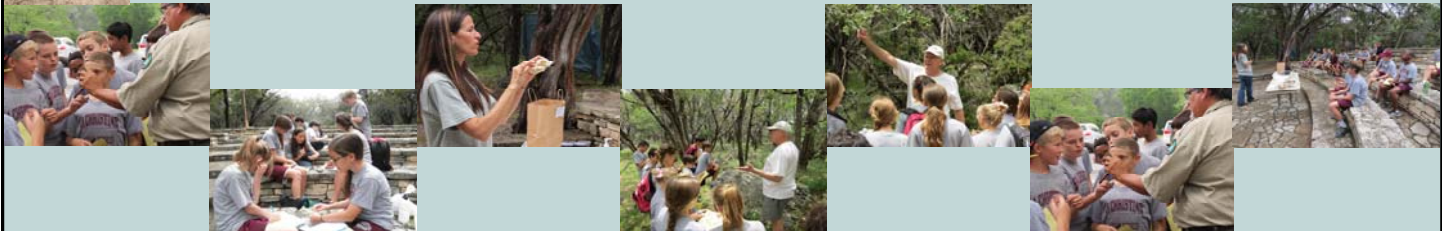


Education in the Park

by Tom Anderson



On the 15th of May 95 6th graders from San Antonio Christian School came to Guadalupe River State Park for a day of Outdoor Education. We divided the students into 4 groups and they explored the following stations: Bird Banding, Owl Pellets, plant adaptation, and water critters. There are several pictures in the newsletter showing the stations. On May 21st we again did an education program for 37 5th graders from Lackland Elementary School. This time they rotated between bird banding, owl pellets, a migration game, and a bird walk.



Wildlife Viewing Area

by Tom Anderson

There is a new addition to our wildlife Viewing Area. The Friends with the help of park staff and park hosts have a donation box at the viewing area. An area artist drew birds that are common in the park. We now have the ability to have a secure place to have money donated to help us in providing seed for the birds. There is also a lid at the top where we can have handouts about birds and projects at the park. There is a picture in the newsletter showing this great new addition.

2013 Dues

by J.W. Pieper

2013 Membership Dues Are Now Payable

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!**