



Winter 2013 NEWSLETTER

Friends of Guadalupe River, Honey Creek, Inc.

A non-profit organization

WOW! Halloween 2013

Guadalupe River State Park

by Holly Camero

Board of Directors

It is amazing how a little idea about having Halloween at the Park has now become a treasured community event. After 11 years things have expanded to 33 candy "stations", brought out some of the station sponsors best decorating talents, brought in some new helpers, but still keeps it's grass roots of a safe, family fun, spooky event. We had a great turnout this year with almost 700 participants and over 200 volunteers! Besides the very talented sponsors there are so many awesome people that make this a successful event that the community looks forward to year after year. Before the Event is held, Park personal are assisting the Friends getting everything ready for the event to run smoothly. Preparing the trail sites for the sponsors, directing traffic, people, parking, lighting etcetera. HEB supports the event by giving a donation that takes care of all the necessities to give every participant hotdogs and the other refreshments. Randy Ehmen has continuously helped the event with supplying the extra candy. The Urbanczyk's have donated the food tent we've borrowed every year. This year we started a half hour earlier, allowing more time for the little trick or treaters to go around the trail while it is still light out. After darkness falls, making the trail a truly spooky experience, the older kids venture out for their Halloween treats. In the amphitheater the story teller, along with some of her students, entertain everyone with Halloween stories before or after they have walked the "haunted trail". Each year the sponsors seem to get more and more intense with their decorating, utilizing the best technology in battery powered decor. Many of the new sponsors, from last year, vowed that this year they will be better prepared with more astonishing decorations and they did! We had many returning sponsors and some new people to the event for this year. There are so many people to thank! Starting on the trail, McDonalds had the first spot, with Ronald assisting, helping us were Park hosts; Sharron & Paul. Some of the groups have been with us since the very beginning: Pat Hanson & her Scout Group, Kristin Aljoe, Mague's Cafe, Cordillero Nature Club, who took 4 sites, Chapel Hill Methodist, who decorate the entire cul-de-sac with a complete haunted village, Venture Crew 285, Broadway Bank and their mascot who always guides everyone around the last corner, Bulverde 4-H, like many of the sponsors, have taken the same spot for years. Some of our newer groups also do an outstanding job; GVTC, The Little Nature Store, HEB from the Hwy 46 store with HEBuddy, our Park Manager's extended Family; the Taylor's, the Thode's and Meridith Taylor taking a site for Chili's. The Friend's Group sites are also run by many extended families; Camero, Couteau, Rodriguez, Macapura, Young and friends. There are very many family names for the 6 sites, because the Halloween Event is now a Family Tradition. Even after the kids got married they still help and now bring their kids! The event wouldn't be complete without the complementary refreshments we give to the Halloween participants. The food tent is always busy serving hundreds and hundreds of hot-dogs along with chips and drinks. Tom Anderson is the head of the food and food area. Our cooks this year were the Kibler's and the Moon's. Serving were Carol Anderson, Joan Nitschke, Bill Anderson's family and friends, Wilt Shaw who also ran candy and a very helpful new Friend's member Rheda Boardman who also worked on trail decoration. With the food tent always very active I feel I haven't thanked everyone, but know we are grateful for all you do. A special thanks to Tara Anderson for being our photographer. Other folks not named but certainly greatly appreciated are the all the Park Rangers, Park Hosts and the very important, cleanup crew. Next year we will have another incredible Halloween in the Park. People are already reserving "their" sites. People who couldn't make it this year have asked to be put on next year's sponsor list. People who just want to come and enjoy the event ask, what date is it? Halloween at the Park is always the Sunday before Halloween. Next year it will be on October the 26th. Mark your calendars! To give you some background, this event gets a great number of folks from the community involved in presenting a safe, family-oriented activity for children ages 2 to 12 in the natural outdoor surrounding. It provides a unique setting for families who live in rural areas or on large acreage lots who find it difficult or dangerous to trick-or-treat. *Halloween at the Park* allows children and parents to walk down a wooded path lit by lanterns while being greeted along the way by costumed volunteers with candy treats. All visitors will be treated to free refreshments and will be entertained by a storyteller.

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Trails to the Past

by Bryden Moon

Following the Paths of Past Trails

Observation shows how cleverly the Indians took advantage of the quirks of nature and the opportunities present, to establish this trail. It is impossible to found a large settlement along this trail and to do so further off the trail, to the right or the left, is unthinkable. It was very desirable to find a shortened trail on the left side of the river and repeated attempts have been made by Mexicans, Indians and Americans – but so far all failed. If a new trail has not been located by now, how can a settlement be located in that direction? The musings about an old native-American pathway are from German Verein member Alwin H. Sörgel's book, **A Sojourn in Texas, 1846-47**. Old trails will be the focus today and in the next edition.

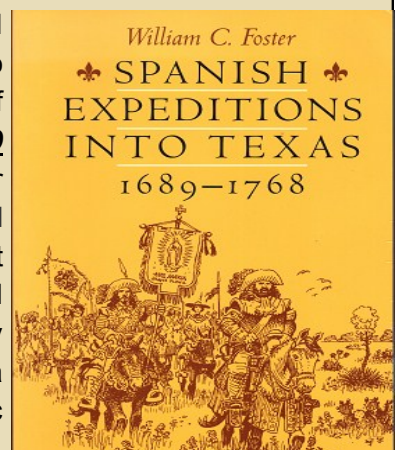


Since every journey has a measure of uncertainty, there is comfort in a predictable path that will carry you safely to your final destination. Still a pathway is a pathway, just nature and maybe a few ruts, and if heavily traveled, evidence of scored earth and rock, imprints of travels' past. Yet the interesting thing about old trails is that in spite of their humble conditions, they romantically evoke as much emotion as other artifacts of the past, a weathered pioneer structure, or a faded family portrait. What fires up our imagination, is our ability to overlay the human element into the blank primitive settings.

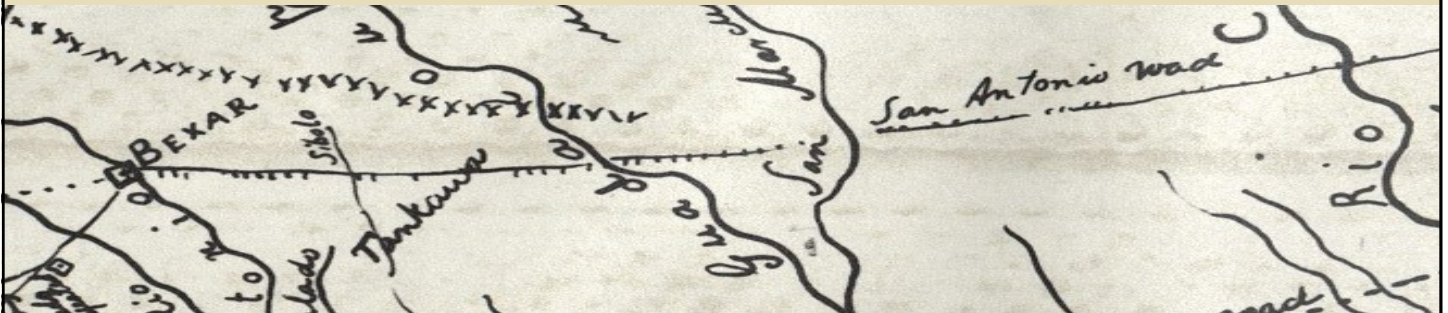
Just as artist Herman Lungkwitz did in his 1857 painting (left), we can project men on horseback wearing their defenses on their saddles and belts, clad with the wardrobe of their era; whether Spanish, Mexican, Republic of Texas or the Native-Americans that bedeviled all three.

Obviously trails are carved out by man's quest for finding the better passage, whether for easy access or for the most direct route or both. Many early trails were Native-America pathways, which they had repurposed from animal tracks...these pathways are unmapped in their early days of use. During the 1800s, if the earlier undocumented routes were incorporated into immigrant and supply routes or became the corridor between important communities, they would soon appear on maps and usually acquired contemporary names. It is not uncommon for a trail to be renamed; having multiple names over time and different names during a common window of time due to the lengthening of its horizon.

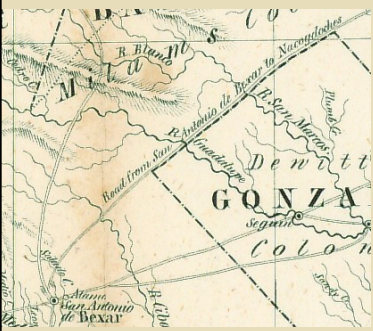
Comal County contains a portion of one of the most significant and earliest labeled regional routes. Touted as a major corridor for event-changing expeditions into northeast Texas during Spanish times, the ***Camino Real*** also illustrates many of the realities of major or minor pathways. In ***Spanish Expeditions into Texas 1689 – 1768***, William Foster devoted many pages of his research to the Camino Real or old San Antonio Road. His 339 page book is serious reading: three appendices and 24 pages of endnotes. And as there can always be debate and outright disagreement between scholars, Mr. Foster uses his references and resources and continually comments on those authors he believes have correctly or incorrectly identified which path was chosen or how a specific entrada was routed during a chosen period of time or even what the corridor was called at the time of a specific expedition.



The Handbook of Texas On-line's synopsis for the Camino Real or San Antonio Road is useful in reinforcing the flexible nature of antique trails: *The Old San Antonio road was also known as the Camino Real, the King's Highway and the San Antonio-Nacogdoches Road...Although generally thought of as a single road, it may be more accurate to describe the Old San Antonio Road as a network of trails, with different routes used at different times. Feeder roads branched off the main course. Considerable portions of the route probably existed before the Spanish arrived. Some of the earliest segments of the road were previously links between Indian settlements. Other segments of the road did not appear until much later. The portion connecting Bastrop and Crockett, for example, did not come into use until after 1790, relatively late in the road's history. During the course of the eighteenth century the route between the Rio Grande and San Antonio was gradually shifted southeastward, probably as a result of the Apache and Comanche threat to Spanish travelers.*



Above and below are snippets from two early 19th century maps. The first is a portion of an 1822 map from the Texas State Library & Archives and clearly shows the **San Antonio Road**. And from the same resource, the second map dates from 1837 and is a little more sophisticated with **Road from San Antonio de Bexar to Nacogdoches**. These maps pre-date Adelsverein immigration in the middle 1840's. Less than 8 years after the second map was drawn, a segment of the San Antonio Road would be stitched together with an old Native-American pathway, the Pinta Camino, and utilized in a trail-blazing journey that would have major implications for the expansion of German settlement into the Texas Hill Country...more detail on the critical conduit in our next newsletter.



There are more stories to be told!



2014 Homesteader Homecoming

Mark your calendar...for **2:00** on Sunday, **April 27**

At the **Bergheim General Store** (843 Hwy 46 East)

Learn about Bergheim and the Engel family from Homesteader Homecoming members: Stanley Jones and Max Engel.

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 bemoonjr@aol.com.



The Eagle Lady Returns to GRSP

by Tom Anderson

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 for the members of The Friends of Guadalupe River and Honey Creek, Inc. on Friday evening, January 3rd, beginning at 6 pm at the Bulverde Firehouse. You may join the Friends at that time. In addition to that, she will present talks on Saturday at 9:00am and 2pm as well as join our Park Ranger/Naturalist Craig Hensley for an owl walk Saturday night. Be sure you make plans to see the Eagle Lady and her birds of prey! You won't be disappointed.

**Boy Scout Workday**

by Dave Kibler

Saturday, 12 October, witnessed members of Boy Scout Troop 285, sponsored by Coker Methodist Church of San Antonio, at the park to perform the semi-annual service project for 2013. This event marked the twelfth iteration of this partnership since the beginning in 2007. On this day the main body of the troop worked for three hours on a very humid and cloudy morning to clear brush from the area near the old Weidner place which is on the schedule for a controlled burn in the near future. In addition, another contingent from the troop performed maintenance on the Honey Creek Creek Trail by re-mulching the entire upper trail section. As this work proceeded throughout the morning, another group from the Troop was busy preparing a splendid lunch of chicken, sausage, and all the fixings, for all volunteers. The food for this delightful repast was again provided in part by the Friends of GRSP/HCSNA. A total of 58 Scouts and adults participated.

The troop plans a return to the park in April 2014 to again assist the park in performing significant maintenance task. It should also be mentioned that Troop 285 has also provided eight Scout Eagle projects over these past years with more expected in the future.





Third Grade Program at Honey Creek Fall 2013

by Holly Camero



In a time when people have realized that our children need to get outside for not only their physical health but their mental health, we are proud that our Third Grade Program "A Day of Observation", helps fulfill that need. North East Independent School District has partnered with the Friends of Guadalupe River State Park & Honey Creek State Natural Area and Texas Park and Wildlife to make an educating, fun-filled day in the beautiful HCSNA. It's hard to believe that this program has been running for 15 years! This fall session had 5 schools attend. There were 472 students along with 154 adults, which is the combined total of parent volunteer presenters, teachers and chaperons. It is amazing how so many of the adults & children, who mainly come from San Antonio, have never been in the Park let alone HCSNA! It's a wonderful first encounter with the outdoors, being in the pristine Honey Creek area which includes visiting Honey Creek

itself. A creek that has run throughout recorded history.

What a fantastic setting for learning about nature and the environment. Sometimes they get an introduction to some of our native wildlife. Besides amazing them, it helps to reinforce that they are the visitors in the plant's and animal's home.

With every group that attends we hope their experience will encourage them to want be outside. With a newfound respect and understanding of our natural surroundings, that might be the beginning of appreciating and the desire to protect our natural treasures throughout their lives.

We look forward to our next session in March. One of the most incredible months to be outdoors!



News from Guadalupe River State Park

by Craig Hensley

Guadalupe River State Park staff is busy getting ready to welcome many new visitors and guests in the New Year. Work is currently underway to complete the restoration of all our camp sites. Earlier in the year all the tent pads were refurbished much of the work done by a crew from AmeriCorps. Currently park staff and park hosts are putting in new grills and other camp fixtures. In addition, park hosts are also busy repainting restrooms and working with staff on fixtures, sinks and more.

Another major project is in the final stages of preparation. The bidding process is wrapping up for a major renovation of our water lines throughout the park as well as electrical issues. Both are 30 years old and in serious need of upgrading. Once this project begins, there will be disruptions to service but the park staff will work to minimize the impact on our visitors and guests.

A third project underway is the development and upgrading of our Visitor Orientation Panels (VOPs). These new informational signs will be a huge improvement to our existing signage. Text is currently being written for our new signage which hopefully will be installed within this fiscal year. As a part of this, we are also working on a new trail map for the park.

Add to these improvements the continued success of the Discovery Center and park programming and it is looking to be a great 2014.

On behalf of the Park staff, I want to wish all of you a wonderful holiday season and invite each of you reading this to take advantage of the wonderful resource we have in YOUR Texas state park.

Craig Hensley, Park Ranger

A Note from the President

by Tom Anderson



Members it is time to renew your dues for 2014. The Friends depend on your donations of membership to help us purchase equipment for the Discovery Center and other attractions at both parks. We will be having a reception for the Eagle Lady at the Bulverde Firehouse in January and will notify you by email of the time. You may bring your membership dues at that time. The board thanks you for your generosity in the past.

First Day Bird Hike

Guadalupe River State Park Wednesday, January 1, 2014 8:30-11 a.m.
 Grab your binoculars (or a pair of ours) and join our Park Ranger for the first bird walk of 2014! We'll search for our winter visitors as well as resident birds from kingfishers to kinglets. We'll meet at the Discovery Center inside the park. This program is free with a Park Pass or a \$7 daily pass (children ages 12 and under are free).

Honey Creek First Day Hike

Guadalupe River State Park Wednesday, January 1, 2014 1-4 p.m.
 Our Park Ranger is heading out on the trails of Honey Creek and invites you to join him. We'll meet at the Rust House and hike to and along Honey Creek. This special hike is limited to the first 15 persons that sign up. Please call 830.438.7653 or email craig.hensley@tpwd.texas.gov to reserve a spot. Adults only please. This program is free with a Park Pass or a \$7 daily pass.

Prowlin for Owls First Day Hike with the Eagle Lady

Guadalupe River State Park Wednesday, January 1, 2014 7-8:30 p.m.
 Celebrate the arrival of the Eagle Lady Doris Mager with a special program in search of owls that live in the park. We'll begin with a short presentation followed by a walk to call Barred Owls. We'll conclude the evening with a look at one of Doris' birds of prey. This program is free with a Park Pass or \$7 daily pass (children ages 12 and under are free).

The Eagle (Lady) has Landed!

She will be in the area from January 2-4, 2014. Read below to see where you can see her wonderful program. The park & friends are sponsoring a program at Bulverde/Spring Ranch Library at 11:00am Thursday, January 2, 2014

Saturday January 4, 2014 Programs at 9:30am and 2pm at the Park

Guadalupe River State Park and the Friends of Guadalupe River and Honey Creek are pleased to welcome back Doris Mager, affectionately known as the Eagle Lady! Doris will be at the park to present her wonderful program on birds of prey including presenting a Great-horned Owl, American Kestrel and Eastern Screech Owl. Please bundle up and plan to join us for a sure-to-be-educational and enjoyable presentation. Donations are welcome. These programs are scheduled to be held at the Amphitheatre behind the Discovery Center inside the park. This program is free (donations are welcome) with a Park Pass or \$7 daily pass (children 12 and under are free).

2014 Dues

by J.W. Pieper

2014 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 2014 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!**