



Summer 2014 NEWSLETTER

Friends of Guadalupe River, Honey Creek, Inc.

A non-profit organization

Presidents Letter

by J.W. Pieper

Board of Directors

Tom Anderson is indeed a legend in his own time as a leader of the Friends of GRSP/ Honey Cree, and it is hard to follow a legend. How do you attempt to fill the shoes of someone so dedicated to a vision that for several years he single-handedly led the tours of Honey Creek in order to ensure that the visiting public was made aware of the wonders of this unique piece of real estate that is available to all of us?

Through Tom's leadership in ensuring a close working relationship with the Park staff, His untiring efforts to get others involved, and through leading by example in dealing with schools, visiting groups, and the general public, he has developed an organization that is growing with each passing year.

The Friends organization has reflected Tom's vision, and is fulfilling a growing number of roles to its constituency. To the Park the friends group has been a valuable partner in providing trail guides, rebuilding and mulching the Honey Creek trails, promoting the Saturday night nature programs, providing a much needed gate and garden to beautify the entrance, implementing kiosks to inform visitors, installed outdoor lighting at the amphitheatre, developed educational programs for school children to highlight nature and the beauty of the park, implemented and staffed outreach events to attract visitors to the park, financed and supported a significant increase in equipment and facilities for children's education and entertainment at the park, assisted in serving as a host for visiting groups and dignitaries, and served as members of the Stakeholders of the Park in the Master Planning process to provide long range guidance for the future of GRSP and Honey Creek SNA. All of these partnership roles were led or paved the way for by Tom Anderson with able assistance from a few dedicated members of the Friends.

As we continue to build on Tom's vision for the Friends and to lend a helping hand to the Park and its staff, Tom has indicated his willingness to continue in a vital role of sharing his knowledge, his experience, his leadership and his time and for that we say a very sincere THANK YOU, TOM ANDERSON!

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Director / Hikes Nancy Gray grayabbott@aol.com
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Trails to the Past

by Bryden Moon

Our 8th Homesteader Homecoming The “Crossroads” Experienced a Population Increase

The temperature soared as we gathered in Bergheim for this year’s Homesteader Homecoming (HH) and so did Bergheim’s population. In spite of a record high in temperature, we experienced a record high attendance: well over 150 attended our 8th Homesteader Homecoming.

Tucked into the front end of our homesteader gathering was the presentation of a special Texas Historical



Commission (THC) award to our hosts Stanley Jones and his wife Charlene, owners of the Bergheim Store. The Texas Treasure Business Award, created in 2005 and coordinated through the THC, recognizes well-established Texas businesses (continuously operating for 50 years or more) and their exceptional historical contributions to the state’s economic growth and prosperity. The Engel/Bergheim store easily qualified. A critical part of the submission process for this award is substantiating the date of establishment with a primary resource. Archivists working in the old Kendall County

Courthouse were able to pull 1904 tax records that showed, in addition to his land and a boiler used in his cotton gin, Bergheim founder, Andreas Engel, was taxed on \$100 of **“Goods, Wares and Merchandise of Every Description,”** clear indication that a viable retail operation was in existence 111 years ago.

The Bergheim store became only the third enterprise in Kendall County to receive this special award from the Texas Historical Commission. The award ceremony brought out members of the Kendall County Historical Commission, Kendall County Judge Darrel L. Lux and Commissioner Gene Miertschin and even State Representative Doug Miller. After the award ceremony, our hosts shared stories of Andreas Engel, Bergheim founder and one of his sons Alfred Engel. Genevieve Jones shared her memories and Max Engel profiled another of Andreas’ sons, Rudolph.



With most aspects of the Bergheim/Engel Store operation having passed its 100th year and as the monthly and annual calendar pages continue to turn, there come other accolades for the enterprise at the “crossroads”...with its 111 years of existence; it is recognized as the oldest continuously operating general merchandise retailing store in the county. Many of our homesteaders’ families came to the Bergheim Store to trade and buy goods. One of those who attended our first HH, Adolph Scheel, once confided that he appreciated Andreas Engel’s son, Alfred, giving him a pair of shears on credit, as Adolph was then able to start earning an income as a young man...his memories dated from the 1920s and early 1930’s since Adolph Scheel left the Honey Creek area in 1933.



Regarding post office heritage...as the current Postmaster, Stanley Jones, represents a continuous line of family



members starting with his Great Grandfather Andreas Engel, who have served in this capacity. In the earliest years in this area alone there existed the Guadalupe P. O., the Schiller P. O., and the Panther Creek P. O. and across Kendall County we had Ammann, Block Creek, Bonton, Windsor, South Grape Creek, and Hastings Post Offices, not to mention the more familiar towns such as Welfare and Sisterdale...all had earlier beginnings but no longer serve their locales. Finally, of all the post offices operating in Kendall



County, none comes close to having operated as long at their existing site...it's 113 years and counting...this is living history at the iconic Engel Store.

A big "thank you" to our Friends members who pitched in before, during and after this year's event: Bill Beach, Joan Nitschke, Dave Kibler, Kay Moon, J. W. Pieper, Wilt Shaw. Joel Parker did double duty as GRSP's representative, and his very much appreciated traffic control. And a big thanks to our hosts, Charlene and Stanley Jones, for sustaining the legacy of Bergheim founder, Andreas Engel.



Photo credits - special thanks to Wilt Shaw.

There are more stories to be told!

Education in the Park

by Holly Camero

This year at the spring session of the N.E.I.S.D's 3rd Grade Program at Honey Creek we reflected on the fact that so many children do not spend enough time outdoors. It is our mission to help fill that gap in a child's life. We also hope that the children's experience might spark their parent's interest in the outdoors.

The way the program is set up, each school is required to have a minimum of 6 parent volunteers to present on the 4 activities; Habitat, Fossils, Observation through drawing, and Water. All of these are specific areas, on a mile loop, which starts at the Rust House goes to the creek and then back. If the parents haven't previously been trained they must attend one of the two training dates. Both of these dates include orientation on the Program, the Park and what makes Honey Creek special, and training on two activities. Parents will also walk the same trail as the students. We have found that most of the parents have never seen Honey Creek. Surprisingly many of these San Antonio residents have never been to the Park and some didn't even know it existed!

60 people attended training this year. A number of people were so inspired that they joined the Friend's group that day! Over the course of the Spring Program, which had 6 schools take 13 daily sessions, there were 575 students, 90 trained parent Presenters, and more than 50 volunteer chaperons. Many of the chaperons were visiting the Park for the first time!

This was the first year Thea Platz, head of the Outdoor Education Department, offered Train the Trainer, which is a separate training session for interested people to gain in-depth knowledge of the program's 4 activities. This enables those who have participated in Train the Trainer to assist us in training the parents. People also have the opportunity to learn to be a presenter for the students during regular training. If this is of interest to you please contact: Thea Platz at tplatz@neisd.net or Holly Camero, Site Director at eyesthatfly@aol.com

Director Bios.

by Tom Anderson

As promised in the winter newsletter we now will learn some things about the Board of Directors elected in February 2014. Our Membership Director is **Wilt Shaw** who grew up in San Antonio, graduated from Central Catholic High School and St. Mary's University with a BS in Mathematics. He served our country in the Army Paratroopers. Wilt is a retired exploration geophysicist and is an Emeritus member, of the Society of Exploration Geophysicists. He is past chair of the Pastoral Council, St. Peter's Catholic Church in Boerne. Wilt is a member, board advisor, and past president of the Boerne Native Plant Society as well as a member of the Alamo Area Master Naturalists. He is co-founder of the Cordillera Ranch Nature Club. He has served GRSP Friends as a board member and past president, and Interpretive Guide to Honey Creek State Natural Area. He also is an outdoor classroom teacher at Cibolo Nature Center, and landscape overseer at Bergheim Volunteer Fire Department. He is married to Sylvia for 46 years, three children and eight grandchildren. Our Historian Director is **Bryden Moon**. Shortly after retiring from AT&T in 1998, he got the history bug while living in Bexar County; he served as a docent for the San Antonio Missions National Historical Park for seven years. After relocating with his wife, Kay, to Kendall County in 2005, his focus changed from Spanish-Colonial history to the German immigration and settlement of the Hill Country. He currently serves in many heritage-related volunteer roles: Marker Chair for Kendall County Historical Commission, board member of the Comfort Heritage Foundation, Patrick Heath Public Library – Dietert Archives (*Magical History Tours* and *Echoes* newsletter) and historian/archivist for St. Joseph – Honey Creek Catholic Church. Our Director of Hikes is **Nancy Gray**. She is a retired engineer who now spends the majority of her time volunteering in the out of doors and at church. Nancy is the Director of hikes for the friends group. She coordinates the Honey Creek hikes and guides. It is Nancy who will find you a guide if you want to schedule a special hike. She has a strong love for the out of doors, in particular rivers. Nancy has volunteered with her husband for the past 10 summers as a river ranger assistant on the San Juan River in southeastern Utah. She is a member of the Lindheimer Master Naturalists. Next our Education Director is **Holly Camero**. She was born on Long Island, New York and fell in love with the outdoors at an early age, being a backyard naturalist and a birder by the age 7. She attended the State University of N.Y., New Paltz, moved to the Sierra Nevada's in California for 4 years, returned to N.Y. and then relocated to S.A., TX. where she worked for Penaloza Jewelry and met her husband, Charlie. She is a Master Naturalist, graduated class 5 and served on the board for many years including the presidency. She has served the Friends Group since 2001 as a board member and is also the director of the "Halloween in the Park" Event. Holly is the Site Director for North East Independent School District's 3rd Grade Program at Honey Creek and has been for over 10 years. The final director for this issue is **Tom Anderson** who grew up in Louisville, Kentucky and graduated from Georgetown College. He married Carole and they have 3 sons and 8 and 3/4 grandchildren. He taught for 35 years in the SAISD and NEISD in San Antonio. He has been a member of the Friends since the mid 80's. Other places he volunteers are Meals on Wheels and Julie Semmes library. Tom has been president and hike chairman and currently he is in charge of the Friend's Newsletter.



GSRP Scout Article

by Dave Kibler

On Saturday, 5 April, 29 members of Boy Scout Troop 285, sponsored by Coker Methodist Church of San Antonio, arrived at the park to perform its semi-annual service project for spring 2014. Accompanied by 27 adults, all enjoyed the cool and cloudy weather conditions to remove Ashe juniper from an area along the main park road north of the park headquarters. Aided by a number of chainsaws manned by the adults, the Scouts worked for three hours dragged downed limbs and trunks to the nearby chipper machine, operated by park personnel. This resulted in opening a significant area connecting two nearby areas previously cleared of cedar. All volunteers enjoyed a tasty cooked lunch of BBQ, which was again provided in part by the Friends of GRSP/HCSNA. In addition, the Friends provided an experienced trail guide for a two-hour conducted hike for the troop in the Honey Creek SNA in the afternoon. A total of 56 Scouts and adults participated on 5 April. And the troop is already planning its return to the park in October 2014 to again assist in performing significant maintenance tasks. All volunteers are welcome to participate.

Park Display and Table Cover

by Tom Anderson

The Friends purchased a display and table cover to be used by the park and the friends to help with community awareness of our great parks. The first use was at a wildflower presentation made by park interpreter, Craig Hensley at the Spring Branch/Bulverde Library. Another program that we used the display for was at the San Antonio Zoo. Pam and Roy Yarnold set up the display and manned the table explaining to the guest all the programs offered at our parks. June 8th we will again use the display and table cover at the 170th anniversary of the Battle of Walker's Creek at the Sisterdale Dance Hall and Event Center. This event is sponsored by the Kendall County Historical Society.



Park News & Notes

by Craig Hensley

Park News & Notes

The construction project, which will result in upgrades and improvements to the Park's infrastructure, continues this summer. Work on the water-electricity camping loop, known as Turkey Sink, should wrap up within the next month or so. Work will then continue along the Park Road toward the Cedar Sage camping loop, which will close sometime after Turkey Sink reopens. This work has impacted the Park from the standpoint of visitor attendance but the resulting upgrades will have very necessary, positive improvements to the park.

New Sign Commemorating Texas Legislator Donley "Don" C. Kennard at Honey Creek

Visitors to Honey Creek will learn a bit more about the legacy of the area with a new sign at the gate entrance that honors the late Donley "Don" C. Kennard. Mr. Kennard was a member of the Texas House of Representatives for ten years, from 1953 until moving to the Senate in 1963. An avid outdoorsman, Mr. Kennard had a great influence in enacting the Antiquities Code of Texas in 1969, which helped protect archeological sites and historic buildings on public land. He also advocated for protected monies for the purchase and creation of State Parks, Natural Areas, and Historic Sites. Upon leaving the state Senate, he oversaw the Natural Areas Survey project at the University of Texas in Austin. Much of this work led to the protection of lands managed by TPWD, including Honey Creek. The next time you take a walk at Honey Creek, be sure to stop for a moment and read more about the legacy that Mr. Kennard created through his efforts for all Texans.

Discovery Center Summer Hours

With the hiring of a summer Interpretive Center Educator the Discovery Center will again be open during the summer on weekdays. This popular destination within the park will have weekly operating hours of 9 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Tuesday through Friday as well as our standard weekend hours of 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. on Saturdays and 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. on Sundays. We hope you'll stop in and "Take Another Look" this summer during your visits to the park. The new hours will go into effect on Friday, June 13th.

Archery Equipment Purchased for New Program

The Friends Group has made a significant investment in a soon-to-be new program at the Park. The "Archery in the Park" program, slated to kick off in August, will provide youth and adults the opportunity to learn the skill and art of archery. Archery is a wonderful outdoor activity that teaches discipline as well as providing a wonderful outlet for learning. The Park believes this will provide a new opportunity for children to enjoy the outdoors while learning a new skill, much like our Fishing 101 programs and other educational opportunities provided throughout the year.

June 2014 Programs

by Craig Hensley

River Critters

Saturday, June 7, 2014

10-11:30 a.m.

Join Craig Hensley, Park Ranger at Guadalupe River State Park as we wade into the Guadalupe River in search of tadpoles, fish, insects and more during this sure-to-be-fun morning activity. Meet at the Amphitheater behind the Discovery Center. Be sure to dress to get wet as we will get in the water! This program is free with a Park Pass or a \$7 daily pass (children ages 12 and under are free).

Stories in the Stars

Saturday, June 7, 2014

8-10 p.m.

Head out to Guadalupe River State Park for an evening of stargazing with members from the San Antonio Astronomical Society. Following a presentation at the Amphitheater behind the Discovery Center, you'll get a chance to check out seasonal constellations, moon, Jupiter and other celestial wonders through our telescopes. This program is free with a TPWD Park Pass or after paying the \$7 entrance fee (children ages 12 and under are free).

Mammals of the Park

Saturday, June 14, 2014

7-8 p.m.

Join guest presenter, Honey Creek guide and Friends Board member Tom Anderson for a presentation about the mammals that call the park and environs home. Using skulls and skins you'll learn who's who among the fur-covered critters that roam the area. This presentation will take place at the Amphitheatre behind the Discovery Center. This program is free with a Park Pass or a \$7 daily pass (children ages 12 and under are free).

Creatures that Chirp, Burp and Howl in the Night

Saturday, June 21, 2014

8-9 p.m.

Join Park Peace Officer and Certified Interpretive Guide Ted Stevens for a sure-to-be-fun presentation. You'll enjoy an interactive presentation trying to figure out what animal makes what sound under the cover of dark. This presentation will take place at the Amphitheatre behind the Discovery Center. This program is free with a Park Pass or a \$7 daily pass (children ages 12 and under are free).

July 2014 Programs**River Critters**

Saturday, July 5, 2014

10-11:30 a.m.

Join Craig Hensley, Park Ranger at Guadalupe River State Park as we wade into the Guadalupe River in search of tadpoles, fish, insects and more during this sure-to-be-fun morning activity. Meet at the Amphitheater behind the Discovery Center. Be sure to dress to get wet as we will get in the water! This program is free with a Park Pass or a \$7 daily pass (children ages 12 and under are free).

Stories in the Stars

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Head out to Guadalupe River State Park for an evening of stargazing with members from the San Antonio Astronomical Society. Following a presentation at the Amphitheater behind the Discovery Center, you'll get a chance to check out seasonal constellations, moon, Jupiter and other celestial wonders through our telescopes. This program is free with a TPWD Park Pass or after paying the \$7 entrance fee (children ages 12 and under are free).

Fishing 101

Friday, July 11, 2014

9-11 a.m.

If you are looking for a lifetime gift for your child, consider joining the staff and volunteers at Guadalupe River State Park for an introduction to fishing. We'll provide the rods and reels as well as the bait as we go in search of sunfish, bass and catfish. Your child will learn the basics of casting, setting the hook and how to properly release a fish. We do have a limited number of rods and reels, so please email Park Ranger Craig Hensley at craig.hensley@tpwd.texas.gov to reserve a spot for your child, or call 830.438.7653. This program is free with a Park Pass or a \$7 daily pass (children ages 12 and under are free).

Insect-a-Mania

Saturday, July 12, 2014

10-11:30 a.m.

Join the Park Ranger at Guadalupe River State Park for a morning of chasing six-legged wonders from butterflies to grasshoppers. The Park will provide the nets for this insect-catching fun for children and adults, alike. This program is free with a Park Pass or a \$7 daily pass (children ages 12 and under are free). Please meet at the amphitheatre behind the Discovery Center.

Night Watch

Saturday, July 12, 2014

8:30-10 p.m.

Guadalupe River State Park will present a talk on the natural history of the night. Following a short presentation at the Amphitheatre, located behind the Discovery Center, you'll head into the night in search of bats, owls, spiders and more during this sure-to-be-fun evening hike. Be sure to bring a flashlight. This program is free with a Park Pass or a \$7 daily pass (children ages 12 and under are free).

The Mysterious Case of the Guadalupe Fledermaus: A Ranger Sam Mystery

Friday, July 18, 2014

10-11:30 a.m.

Join birder and Park Ranger Craig Hensley at Honey Creek for a bird walk in search of Painted Buntings, Summer Tanagers, Golden-cheeked Warblers and other spring songbirds. This walk is for ages 10 and above. We'll meet at the Rust House inside Guadalupe River State Park. This event is free with a Park Pass or a \$7 daily pass (children ages 12 and under are free).

Fishing 101

Saturday, July 19, 2014

9-11 a.m.

If you are looking for a lifetime gift for your child, consider joining the staff and volunteers at Guadalupe River State Park for an introduction to fishing. We'll provide the rods and reels as well as the bait as we go in search of sunfish, bass and catfish. Your child will learn the basics of casting, setting the hook and how to properly release a fish. We do have a limited number of rods and reels, so please email Park Ranger Craig Hensley at craig.hensley@tpwd.texas.gov to reserve a spot for your child, or call 830.438.7653. This program is free with a Park Pass or a \$7 daily pass (children ages 12 and under are free).

Honey Creek at Night

Saturday, July 19, 2014

8:00-10 p.m.

Join the Park Ranger at Guadalupe River State Park for hike to the beautiful Honey Creek under the cover of dark. Following a presentation at the Rust House, you'll head out in search of bats, fireflies, owls and more as we venture to creek. Be sure to bring a flashlight. This program is free with a Park Pass or a \$7 daily pass (children ages 12 and under are free).



June 2014 Programs Continue...

by Craig Hensley

Bugs-R-Us

Friday, July 25, 2014

10-11:30 a.m.

Join the Park Ranger at Guadalupe River State Park for a morning of chasing six-legged wonders from butterflies to grasshoppers. The Park will provide the nets for this insect-catching fun for children and adults, alike. This program is free with a Park Pass or a \$7 daily pass (children ages 12 and under are free). Please meet at the amphitheatre behind the Discovery Center.

Geocaching 101

Saturday, July 26, 2014

10-11:30 a.m.

Head out to Guadalupe River State Park to learn the basics of Geocaching. You'll learn to use a GPS unit, and test your skills on the Park's practice course. You'll meet at the Amphitheatre behind the Discovery Center. This program is free with a Park Pass or a \$7 daily pass (children ages 12 and under are free). Due to a limited number of GPS units, please email Park Ranger Craig Hensley at craig.hensley@tpwd.texas.gov to reserve a unit for you and your family.

Creatures of the Night

Saturday, July 26, 2014

8:30-10 p.m.

From frogs and toads, spiders, owls and more, we'll head out in search of the critters that come out after the sun goes down. Following a presentation at the Amphitheatre, located behind the Discovery Center, we'll head out to the river and beyond as we explore the night during this sure-to-be-fun evening hike. Be sure to bring a flashlight. This program is free with a Park Pass or a \$7 daily pass (children ages 12 and under are free).

2014 NABA Butterfly Count

Guadalupe River State Park

Thursday, June 12, 2014

8:30 a.m.-4 p.m.

Each year staff and volunteers spend a day counting butterflies as part of a national effort to monitor butterfly populations throughout the park and surrounding areas. You are invited to join us for the count which will begin at Guadalupe River State Park. We'll meet at 8:30 a.m. at the Discovery Center at which time an orientation will be provided. We'll then head out to count butterflies and their other life stages. This count takes place throughout the day. Appropriate ages for this count are children 10 and up (with adult supervision of children). The count circle extends from Cordillera Ranch west to Hwy 281, including parts of Spring Branch and Bulverde. For more information about the count or to participate, please send an email to the Park's Ranger Craig Hensley at craig.hensley@tpwd.texas.gov. There is a small fee that goes directly to the North American Butterfly Association.

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!**