



Fall 2014 NEWSLETTER

Friends of Guadalupe River, Honey Creek, Inc.

A non-profit organization

PRESIDENT'S LETTER

by JW Pieper

WOW! The summer is almost over and it seems that we were just welcoming warmer weather and the joys of summer vacations! Summertime has been a very busy time in the Park with significant work being done to the campgrounds and the water system. The dry weather has accentuated the burn ban and the need for water throughout the Park. The Guadalupe River has suffered from lack of rain, and the flow rate has been greatly diminished. Because of the campgrounds being closed the number of campers has also been diminished—but this too shall pass. With the onset of fall in the Texas Hill Country the prediction from those who study such things is that El Nino should produce a wet fall and winter for all of Texas. We will welcome whatever we receive and hope that the prognosticators are accurate in their forecasts! Fall is always a time that the Friends of Guadalupe River State Park/Honey Creek SNA look forward to. With cooler weather on the horizon our Saturday morning hikes in Honey Creek SNA have bigger crowds. The big event of this time of year is our Halloween Event in the Park that all who participate find extra enjoyable. This year our "Halloween at the Park" is scheduled for October 26th, and if you haven't been able to attend in the past please mark your calendar this year. Halloween at the Park allows children to walk down a wooded path lit by candlelight and lanterns while being greeted by costumed characters with candy treats along the way. Just the experience of walking through the trees at night, feeling the wind and hearing the night sounds is a special, unique experience. After completing the trail, visitors can have hot dogs, chips and refreshments for a real treat. A storyteller will be telling age appropriate stories at the amphitheater. Volunteers to support this outdoor adventure are always welcomed. Please plan to visit the park this fall and enjoy with us the cooler weather, the beauty of the park surroundings, and a wonderful place to get out to observe a real nature outing.

Parks News

by Craig Hensley

Renovations at the Park continue. The large camping loop, Turkey Sink, is open after replacement of all the water lines and upgrading the electrical capability to 50 amp. Work continues in the Cedar Sage camping loop with a reopening of that loop scheduled for some time in October. This summer has again seen drought conditions impact park operations and thus visitation. Due to extremely low river conditions, water is limited in the park, resulting in the closing of restrooms and water spigots in day use and the closure of restrooms and water during the week in the camping areas. These water conservation practices will continue until drought conditions abate. We ask all visitors to be patient and hope for rains to return to the park and in the Guadalupe River watershed. While program attendance has suffered, we continue to offer a full slate of engaging, hands-on programs on the weekends. A new program that will begin in late September is our new *Archery In The Park* program. Funded by the Friends of Guadalupe River & Honey Creek, this program will allow us to teach children and adults the skill of archery, one of the safest outdoor activities. We will offer programs both at the park as well as through outreach in the coming months and years. We hope to see you at your State Park this fall!

Meet the Ranger

by Joel Parker

We want to welcome a new member to the team here at Guadalupe River State Park/Honey Creek State Natural Area, Laura Horner is the Park's first ever Park Operations Trainee. Laura comes to us from Sea Rim State Park, where she served for seven months as a clerk and assistant office manager. Laura received her Bachelor's degree in History from Sam Houston State University and her Masters in Museum Science from Texas Tech University. Texas Parks and Wildlife created the Park Operations Trainee position in order to provide promising candidates with an avenue to obtain relevant experience to be competitive for future positions in park operations. Laura's duties will include: performing a complete range of tasks to learn all aspects of park administration, operations and management; natural and cultural resource management; facility, grounds and equipment maintenance management; interpretation and education programming and management; customer service, fee collection, revenue control and fiscal accountability; marketing and promotional programming; park patrols to include visitor contact and law enforcement observation. She will attend selected training programs to enhance her overall working knowledge and skills related to operational and management activities. Laura will be working side by side with our rangers to gain these important skills. Laura has also brought new knowledge and enthusiasm to the park. She has been keeping the Park's Facebook page up to date as well as helping in every aspect of our park operations. Whether it be working up at the office or picking up trash and cleaning restrooms, to attending public comment meetings for new State Natural Areas, Laura is getting to see how much hard work and effort go into maintaining your State Park and Natural Areas. She is motivated and will be a great asset to the future of not only Guadalupe River State Park/Honey Creek SNA but the department as a whole.

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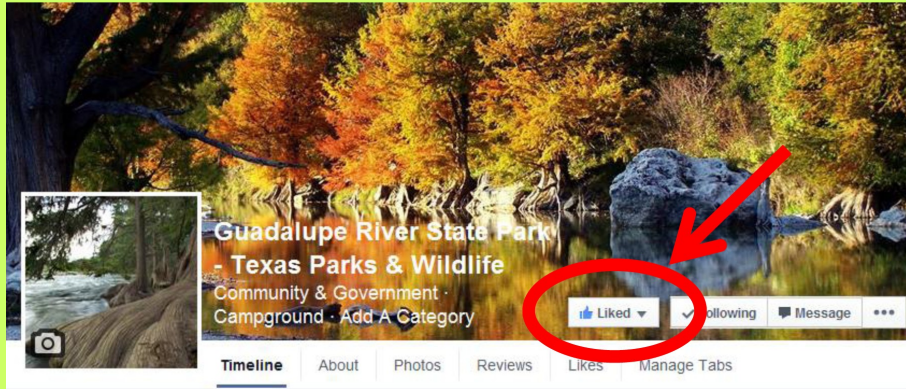
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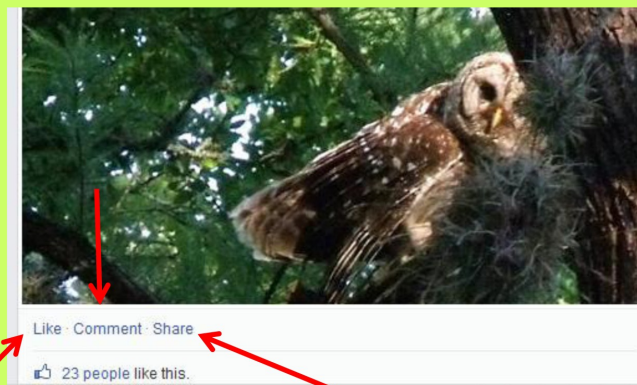
Guadalupe State Park and Facebook

by Laura Horner

It might be a little known fact that is growing but your park is on Facebook and it's easy to find. All you have to do is log-on to your Facebook account and in the search bar type "Guadalupe River State Park - Texas Parks & Wildlife" and you will see the park's profile photo and our cover photo. Just click on the 'Like' button on the cover photo. Once you like the park's page you will see a blue thumbs up and the word liked next to it (see photo below).



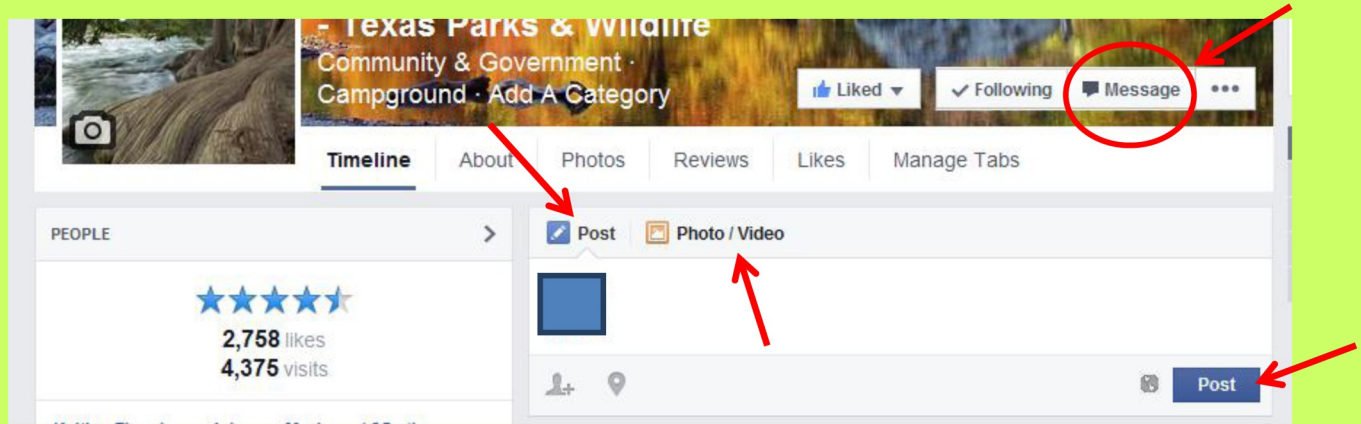
Once you like the park's page, you will see status, photos, events and more from the park in your News Feed. If you see a post from the park that you like, you can Like, Comment, or Share that post. To like the post, just click on the like button. If you want to write a comment, click on the word comment and just type your message in the blank space at the bottom of the post. If you feel like sharing the news about what's happening at the park then click on the 'share' button and you can add our post to your timeline or a friend's timeline. (see photo below)



On our page you can find a variety of posts. Including photos from events, wildlife, insects and scenes from around the park, important information about the park such as loop closures or water notices, and upcoming events and programs that we hope you will attend. Look for links embedded in post that'll take you to other sites for more information such as a complete list of Ranger Programs, articles or videos about the park. (see photo below)



We also like to hear from you! If you have a photo that you want to share or something you would like us to know, you can write on our wall. When sharing a photo with the park- click on the 'photo/video' tab and you can upload what you would like to share with us, write a little message about the photo and click the 'Post' button. If there is something that you would like us to share with us-click on the 'post' tab, write us a little note and when you are done just click the 'Post' button. Also, if there is something that you would like us to know but you don't want to share with our other friends, you can send us a private message. (see photo below)



Thanks for being our Facebook friend and we hope to see you out in the park soon!

Halloween at the Park

Guadalupe River State Park

by Tom Anderson

Sunday night, October 26th, the Friends of Guadalupe River State Park/Honey Creek SNA will host the 11th annual Halloween at the Park for children ages two to twelve. "Halloween at the Park" allow children to walk down a wooded path lit by solar lights and lanterns while being greeted by costumed characters with candy treats along the way. Just the experience of walking through the trees at night, feeling the wind and hearing the night sounds is a special, unique experience. After completing the trail that starts and ends at the amphitheater, visitors can have hot dogs and refreshments. A storyteller will be telling age appropriate stories at the amphitheater. The event will begin at 6:30 PM with storytelling and trick or treat for young children (2-6) followed by the same activities for big spooks (7-12) from 7:00 to 8:30 PM. Hot dogs and drinks will be served between 6:30 and 8:30 PM while they last. The Park has worked with the Friends to expedite Park entry. **The fee at the entrance to the park will be a \$10.00 flat fee per vehicle which includes entrance, parking, and event.** If you wish to make an additional donation to the Friends you may do so at the event. Due to the tremendous response in the past couple of years we need community support to man the trail stations where volunteers in costume will provide and hand out candy. We also need volunteers to assist with food, decorating, donation collection, and Monday morning clean-up. If you or your group is interested in participating in this event, please contact:

Holly Camero at eyesthatfly@aol.com, or
Tom Anderson at tanderson46@satx.rr.com,

If volunteers identify themselves at the gate they will get free admission to the Park.

Trails to the Past

by Bryden Moon

A Skirmish along the Trail Battle of Walkers' Creek (part I)

The anniversary of a rather unique event called the Battle of Walker's Creek was just celebrated in Kendall County a few months ago. And "no" - while the name might lead one to the conclusion, and as we are currently in a window of reviewing 150th anniversaries tied to the Civil War years, it was not a Civil War engagement. This event preceded that era by 20 years; June 8th 2014, was the 170th anniversary of the Battle of Walker's Creek. If you think about it, for this region, there are only a few commemorations that celebrate anything that is a 170 years old...Texas was not a state yet. So what happened, just a few miles (approximately 15 as the crow flies) up the Guadalupe River from here in the Sisterdale region, 170 years ago?

The Battle of Walker's Creek has been described as a watershed engagement, yet Major John Coffee Hays' June 16, 1844 report to the *Republic of Texas' Secretary of Marine & War*, M. C. Hamilton, started out slowly: ***On the first of this month, I left camp, which was near this place (San Antonio), with fifteen men, for the purpose of scouring the country, and, if possible, to ascertain what tribe of Indians were committing so many depredations.***



After spending several days north of San Antonio we learn that on the Rangers' return trip... ***When on Walker's Creek, about fifty miles above Seguin, when encamped, a party of Indians made their appearance, numbering about ten, and endeavored to draw me out. I immediately ordered my men to saddle, and prepare to fight; for I could have no doubt but that their intentions were***

hostile. Hostile intentions should be cause for concern, and even more disheartening was what appeared on the Texas Rangers' horizon as described a little later in the report...***I then fell into the timber, and moved up the creek about a quarter of a mile, when I discovered their number to be between sixty and seventy.*** It is easy to do the math. Major Hays and his Rangers numbered 16...so 70 Native-Americans against only 16 Rangers. With a 4 to 1 advantage stacked against the Rangers, the outcome seemed fairly predictable, and the predictable path wouldn't be pretty. Yet it is obvious that despite the odds, Major Hays survived and that in itself appears to be miraculous.

Does the name John Coffee Hays sound familiar? Hays County is named for him, and a large part of the early Texas Ranger story includes "Captain Jack". Jack Hays was an extraordinary Texas Ranger, Mexican War officer, surveyor, & Indian fighter and was born at Little Cedar Lick, Tennessee. At an early age he left home, surveyed lands in Mississippi, and decided to cast his lot with the "rebels" in the Texas Revolution. In the thirteen years that he lived in Texas after arriving in San Antonio in 1836, Hays mixed a military/ranger career with surveying. After appointment as deputy surveyor of the Bexar District, he surveyed many land grants, including several in future Kendall County land: in December, 1939 he laid out land tracts in the future Sisterdale including land near the Walker's Creek battle site. The more he learned about Indian methods of warfare, the better he protected surveying parties against Indian



Trails to the Past

by Bryden Moon

attacks. Yet his stature, five feet nine inches, his fair complexion, and his mild manners did not match the looks and actions of the legendary ranger in later popular culture. From 1840 through 1846 John Coffee (Jack) Hays first served as captain and then major (1841) to the Company of Spies, Bexar County. In this capacity he was engaged in numerous storied Native-American skirmishes. The Texas Rangers also gained a national reputation in the Mexican War (1846-1848), and under Colonel Hays, served with the army of Gen. Zachary Taylor. Summed up by contemporary author, S. C. Gwynne, who details Hays in his Pulitzer-nominated book, *Empire of the Summer Moon: He was the über Ranger, the one everyone wanted to be like, the one who was braver and smarter and cooler under fire than any of the rest of them...one of the finest military commanders America has ever produced...the rest of the world would not learn until the Mexican War, when he became a national hero and his terrifying rangers passed almost instantly into myth.*

With Major Hays' courage and stature firmly understood, we'll veer back to that day in June 1844. One hundred seventy years ago, the lands of future Kendall County, including the upper reaches of its future first colony, Sisterdale, lay past the outer contours of civilization. Not one settlement existed in the Texas Hill Country. No New Braunfels, no Fredericksburg, since the first wave of German immigrants, tied to the Adelsverein-led surge of German immigration, would only reach the Texas coast much later that year. The closest towns to the BWC's battle site were San Antonio, Seguin and Austin. Due to the lack of landmarks and detailed first hand accounting, some confusion exists as to the exact location of the battle site. Not helping matters are contradicting first-hand look-backs that were gathered from elderly authors, as well as second and third hand renditions of the engagement, and the fact that, to date, no one has been able to find old maps in Kendall County with a creek named Walker's. After reviewing various transcripts, I'm comfortable that the action played out north of the Guadalupe River, along/near the Pinta Trail, in the future Sisterdale region. First, Hays himself says in his report that it occurred **on Walker's creek, about fifty miles above Seguin**; the Pinta Trail crossing in Sisterdale shares a common thread with Seguin...the Guadalupe River. Second, the Secretary of Marine & War, M. C. Hamilton, in his cover report recaps a few of Hays' details and adds, **Hays encountered a party of sixty or seventy on the waters of the Guadalupe**. Finally, an Englishman, whose 1842 – 1844 diaries and journals comprised *William Bollaert's Texas*, posted this June 1844 entry: **News arrived late at night...more fights...40 miles from San Antonio on the Pinta (Trail) between a party Comanche...and Hays and his men.** (The above graphic includes distances and landmarks.)



So what happened 170 years ago just a few miles up the Guadalupe from here? Why is this event described as a watershed? Stay tuned for the conclusion in the next edition.

There are more stories to be told!

Upcoming programs at Guadalupe River State Park

by Craig Hensley

Bird in the Hand

Guadalupe River State Park Saturdays, September 6, October 1, November 4 9:00 a.m. - Noon
Join us for a morning of up-close beak-to-nose looks at the birds of Guadalupe River State Park. We'll set up our mist nets at our bird feeding station to capture cardinals, chickadees and other local songbirds. Meet at the Discovery Center at any time between 9 a.m. and Noon to see what we catch, band and release. This program is free with a Park Pass or a \$7 daily pass (children ages 12 and under are free).

Stories in the Stars

Guadalupe River State Park Saturdays, September 6, October 1, November 4 8-10 p.m.
Head out to Guadalupe River State Park for an evening of stargazing with members of 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, the Moon, Saturn and other celestial wonders through telescopes. This program is free with a TPWD Park Pass or after paying the \$7 entrance fee (children ages 12 and under are free).

Wildflower Walk

Guadalupe River State Park Friday, September 12, 2014 9-11 a.m.
Come out to the Park for a morning walk with our Park Ranger to learn about the wildflowers of late summer and fall. Please email craig.hensley@tpwd.texas.gov to reserve a spot for this walk. This program is free with a TPWD Park Pass or after paying the \$7 entrance fee (children ages 12 and under are free). Plan to meet at the Park's headquarters.

Night Flyers

Guadalupe River State Park Saturday, September 12, 2014 8-9:30 p.m.
From owls to bats a host of winged creatures fill the night sky. Join our Park Ranger for a presentation on who's who among our night flyers followed by a walk in search of them. This program is free with a Park Pass or a \$7 daily pass (children ages 12 and under are free). Meet at the amphitheater behind the Discovery Center and be sure to bring a flashlight.

GRSP Brown Bag Lunch Series at Bulverde-Spring Branch Library

Guadalupe River State Park Saturday, September 20, 2014; 10-11:30 a.m. or 2-3:30 p.m.
Saturday, October 18, 2014; 2-3:30 p.m.
Saturday, November 15, 2014; 10-11:30 a.m. or 2-3:30 p.m.

You are invited to join Guadalupe River's Park Ranger Craig Hensley at the Bulverde-Spring Branch Library for a series of presentations this fall. You'll learn about butterflies, wildflowers and winter birds during these three presentations. Each will be followed up with a field experience at the park (see dates above).species. Join us at any time from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. for the festivities and fun!

Geocaching 101

Guadalupe River State Park Saturday, September 20, 2014; 10-11:30 a.m. or 2-3:30 p.m.
Saturday, October 18, 2014; 2-3:30 p.m.
Saturday, November 15, 2014; 10-11:30 a.m. or 2-3:30 p.m.

Geocaching has become a popular sport and pastime to more than four million people. Join us for an introductory and hands-on workshop on the basics of geocaching. We'll provide the instruction, use of our GPS units and get you started on what is a wonderful individual or family activity you can do anywhere. We do have a limited number of GPS units (one per family) so we ask that you register for the programs by emailing craig.hensley@tpwd.texas.gov. Be sure to specify the morning or afternoon session. This program will be held 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).

Prowlin' for Owls

Guadalupe River State Park Saturday, September 20, 2014; 8-9:30 p.m.
Saturday, October 18, 2014; 7:30-9 p.m.
Saturday, November 30, 2014; 7-8:30 p.m.

We're heading out for a hootin' good time as we call and listen for Barred and possibly other owls that inhabit the park. Join us at the amphitheatre to first learn about owls and their amazing adaptations as well as who's whooooo among the owls of Texas. This program is free with a Park Pass or a \$7 daily pass (children ages 12 and under are free).

Archery in the Park

Guadalupe River State Park Saturday, September 27, 2014 10 a.m.-Noon or 1-3 p.m.
The Friends of Guadalupe River and the State Park are pleased to invite you out for a new program at the park! Archery is one of the safest outdoor activities. You will have the opportunity to learn the skill of archery through a disciplined approach. There are a limited number of slots available for these first two sessions. Please email craig.hensley@tpwd.texas.gov to reserve your slot. Please note this is for persons ages 10 and up. This program is free with a Park Pass or a \$7 daily pass (children ages 12 and under are free). Please meet at the Rust House.

Bauer Unit at Night

Guadalupe River State Park Saturday, September 27, 2014 7-9:30 p.m.
The Bauer Unit of Guadalupe River State Park will be our destination for a walk under the stars. We'll meet at the Park Headquarters and then drive over to the Unit's entrance for a walk in search of creatures of the night. 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).

Special Events

Guadalupe Fishing Festival

Guadalupe River State Park Saturday, October 11, 2014 9 a.m.-2 p.m.
Join staff and volunteers at Guadalupe River State Park for our first fishing festival! Bring your children out to learn all the basics of fishing from casting to line tying. You'll also have the opportunity to learn about the river ecosystem and its importance to a healthy and diverse fish population. We'll even provide you the opportunity to catch a fish or two in the river! This program is free with your admission to the park (Free entry with a Park Pass, \$7 per person 13 and above, free for children 12 and below).



Upcoming programs at Guadalupe River State Park

by Craig Hensley

Butterfly Festival 2014

Guadalupe River State Park Saturday, October 25, 2014 9 a.m.-2 p.m.

Discovery Center at Guadalupe River State Park

Join volunteers and staff to celebrate the migration of the monarch butterfly and all things scale-winged. You and your family will have the opportunity to become a migrating monarch, make a caterpillar or other craft and use our insect nets to capture, study and release butterflies and other insects. Join us for this free event anytime between 9 a.m. and 2 p.m. This event will be held at the Discovery Center in the park.

Volunteer Opportunities

Butterfly Surveys

Guadalupe River State Park Thursdays, September 11 & 25 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Meet at Headquarters

If you would like to help our ongoing efforts to monitor butterfly populations, please plan to join Park Ranger Craig Hensley and volunteers for either one or both of these surveys. Experience is not required (you'll learn as we go along). Please be sure to bring water, dress for hot weather and a sack lunch. Please email Craig at craig.hensley@tpwd.texas.gov with questions or to inquire.

Bird Banding Training

Guadalupe River State Park Wednesday, September 24, 2014 8:30 a.m.-2:30 p.m. Meet at Headquarters

If you are interested in learning more about the bird banding opportunities at our park and Honey Creek, here is an opportunity to learn more. We will begin the training session with nets opening in the field right at 8:30 a.m. with banding going on until 11 a.m. We will then break for lunch and continue with an indoor session on banding specifics at the Discovery Center. We are specifically looking for individuals that want to become directly involved in banding efforts. If you are interested or would like more information, please contact Craig at craig.hensley@tpwd.texas.gov.

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!**