



Fall 2015 NEWSLETTER

Friends of Guadalupe River, Honey Creek, Inc.

A non-profit organization

PRESIDENT'S LETTER

by JW Pieper

Hot and dry has been the forecast all summer long, following the El Nino inspired rains of the spring, and the forecast has been accurate. The rains helped the flow of water through the Park, and many visitors have taken advantage of the cooling water during July and August. The scientists who track such things and use it to forecast have identified warmer waters in the Pacific Ocean this summer which usually translates into a fall and winter with moderate temperatures and above average rainfall. We hope they are accurate in their prognostications.

We have identified an alternate path for a portion of our Saturday morning hikes in Honey Creek State Natural Area, and as cooler weather prevails we will begin developing that new trail. It will probably not be completed and in regular usage until the spring of 2016. Anyone interested in helping to create that trail is invited to call the park headquarters and leave your contact information. Additional manpower is always welcomed.

The highlight of every fall at GRSP is our annual Sunday night before Halloween event. This year the date of the event will be October 25th, with approximately 25 candy stations hosted by volunteers in full costume. If you haven't had an opportunity to join in the fun of watching the costumed kids enjoy the age appropriate ghost stories in the amphitheatre followed by walking along the lighted, half-mile-through-the-woods trail of decorated candy booths to fill their containers with treats, you owe it to yourself to join us this year for the fun-in-the-park evening. After the kids finish the short hike through the string of booths they are treated to hot dogs, chips and drinks. What a treat to see so many smiling faces on the trick-or-treaters in their costumes!

Each year we have new volunteers join us to host a booth or assist in the many fun opportunities available to make this evening in the park happen. If you would like to help please contact the park headquarters, and they will relay your contact information to one of the Friends of Guadalupe River State Park who will contact you.

Halloween at the Park

by Tom Anderson

Sunday night, October 25th, 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 6:00 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 6:00 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.

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Trails to the Past

by Bryden Moon

Back to the Pinta Trail Passing Through...or Already Home?

The Pinta Trail or Camino Pinta was a natural pathway, utilized by Native-Americans and extending approximately 180 miles northwest from San Antonio to near Menard. The Pinta Trail's absence on early Spanish, Mexican and Republic of Texas maps was an indicator that there were no traditional settlements or missions at the "end of the trail," but even worse, its path headed north into a no-man's land populated by nomadic Native-Americans – Apaches and Comanches.

The Pinta Trail has been woven through several past editions of *Trails to the Past*. In three recent articles, fall 2014 thru spring 2015, it was noted that the Pinta Trail was utilized by John Coffee Hays and his Rangers and a landmark for the 1844 Texas Ranger/Native-American engagement, Battle of Walker's Creek. In our spring 2014 edition, you were introduced to the Pinta Trail, as it served as a second leg on the route to settle Fredericksburg in 1846. With post-settlement caravans, the trail's existence was reinforced and it soon became a permanent map fixture.



But its role as a conduit was only part of the picture. Penetrating no-man's land, the success of finding a direct passage with minimal obstructions and water sources, the establishment of a reliable



wagon-road, was an important factor in opening up the unpopulated hill country to settlement. With the exception of the hostile natives, the route's development is not unlike the construction of a new state or county road through pristine farmland today. The opportunity to secure adjacent land along the trail reached from San Antonio all the way to the outer limits of the hill country. In charting the Camino Pinta north out of San Antonio and into Kendall County (left, 1850 Willke map), the defined corridor became a magnet for settlement; subsets of communities and individuals began putting down roots along the route, filling in the empty void. The Pinta Trail was linked to many iconic men (and hamlets). These pioneers were some of the regions' earliest citizens. Today we'll explore three sites along its path...the Guadalupe River, Comanche Spring, and Post Oak Spring.

The northern-most dot (located on the map) designates the Pinta Trail crossing at the **Guadalupe River**. In early 1847, prior to any settlement, Dr. Ferdinand Roemer rides the trail north to the crossing and gushes about the surrounding landscape, noting in his publication, *Roemer's Texas...the rather wide valley on both banks of the Guadalupe had the appearance of a most beautiful natural park. Everything tends to make this an excellent place for several farms.* In his book he footnotes this passage, **Since my return to Germany, a former agent of the Verein, named Zink, has settled here.* When Nicholas Zink (right) settled on the



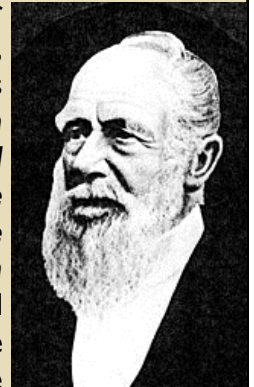
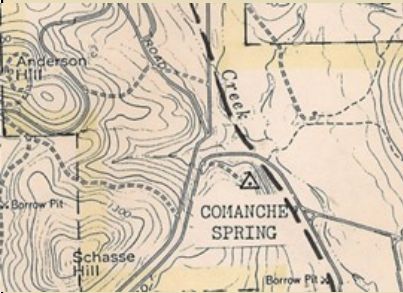
1280-acre Wilson Survey along the old trail (Now rechristened the **New Braunfels – Fredericksburg Road**), this former German Verein engineer did not know he achieved status as Kendall County's first pioneer. No one could have foretold this; the year was 1847 and Kendall County's

Trails to the Past

by Bryden Moon

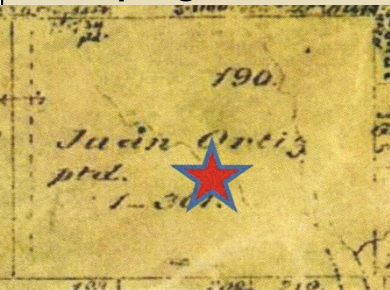
organization was still 15 years away. After Zink, more German immigrants gravitated to this slice of the Guadalupe Valley: Ottmar von Behr, George F. Holekamp, Julius Dresel, Carl Beseler, Ernst Kapp, Louis Donop, Julius Conrad, Eduard Degener, Gustav Theisen, August Siemering, Dr. W. Runge, Edgar von Westphal, Rudolph Carstanjen, Otto Neuber, F. Brunkow, Jacob Kuechler, Johann Perner, Christian Rhodius, Dr. Rudolph Wipprecht and Ulrich Rische. This enclave of individual farms with its highly pedigreed farmers evolved into the well-known Latin Colony of Sisterdale; it officially received its name on October 23, 1851, after Ottmar von Behr petitioned for and received a Post Office commission. At the time it was only the third post office (after New Braunfels and Fredericksburg) in the entire hill country region.

The southern-most “dot” on the Willke map (prior page) is sited in northern Bexar County, at **Comanche Spring**. Taking the Pinta Trail north from San Antonio in 1848, Julius Dresel, future Sisterdale settler and later California vintner, introduces us to its resident: *It was on my way there at Comanche Spring, that I met Otto von Meusebach. He took me to his fairy castle; a small blockhouse located on a hill above...a wild, rocky place from which Comanche Spring runs and converts the surrounding land in a swamp when a wet year occurs in this dry land.* Does the name Meusebach (right) sound familiar? It should, as the second Commissioner for the German Immigration Society, the Adelsverein, he led the



finding of Fredericksburg and was clearly an insider to the attributes of the trail. After resigning his leadership position, he had taken up residence along the Pinta Trail and Salado Creek in today's Camp Bullis. Interestingly, just six years later, due to competing routes, we learn that portions of the trail in the Comanche Spring area of Bexar County are no longer distinguishable. The future Central Park landscape architect, Frederick Law Olmstead attempts an 1854 trek to Sisterdale using the Camino Pinta and shares: *On this second excursion to the mountains, we took the old, now disused, Fredericksburg road, which passes by Comanche spring...The old road-marks were grown over with grass, and quite indistinct...attempting to follow a road which should bring us obliquely to the Guadalupe ...we soon lost the trail...* Olmstead becomes so disoriented, that he ultimately crosses the Guadalupe River by Curry's Creek, just east of Guadalupe River State Park.

Zeroing in on the middle “dot” on the 1850 Willke map (prior page), we find ourselves at **Post Oak Spring** in southern Kendall County, a few miles east of Boerne, where the Pinta Trail cuts northwest



across the large Juan Ortiz survey (survey map left). With his home and ranch headquarters initially sited about five miles outside of New Braunfels, Post Oak Spring Ranch originally served as an auxiliary satellite sheep ranch for George Wilkins Kendall and it encompassed the 4000+ acre Ortiz survey. Although well-



deserved for his acknowledged careers in newspaper publishing, distinguished writing & reporting and his successful sheep enterprise, it is rare that a county is named for an incumbent resident. But that is what happened in 1861, when just prior to the onset of the Civil War and the creation of Kendall County, Mr. Kendall (right) permanently moved his family into a home that was adjacent to Post Oak Creek (less than a quarter mile off the Pinta Trail). This move to his last homestead occurred in February 1861, and the new county of Kendall was created on January 10, 1862.

There are more stories to be told!

Park Update: Expanding the Hiking Experience

By Craig Hensley, Park Interpreter

Since Guadalupe River State Park opened more than 30 years ago, we have provided hiking, biking and horseback riding trails. For most of that time, the trails were creatively marked with numbers 1, 2 and so forth. In addition, the trail map was also the facility map which worked, but also provided some confusion, particularly when it came to river access points. Trailheads were kiosks that held a collection of information sheets tacked up and at times, looked tacky. Over the course of the past 18 months or so, we have had a facelift of sorts in all three areas.

First, last year, we decided to become more creative, or even more interpretive, with our trail names. The numbers went away and suddenly we had trail names like “Painted Bunting Trail,” “Golden-cheeked Warbler Trail,” “Little Bluestem Loop,” “Oak Savannah Loop” and the like. These descriptive names give people an idea of what they might see or be walking through on their hike. In addition, we added “River Overlook Trail” that told folks that while the trail was along the river, it wasn’t at the river, but above it. “Cedar Sage River Trail” was so-named to help people get from that camping area to the river. “Discovery Center Loop” was a short, easy hike beginning and ending at the Discovery Center. And to honor past landowners, three of the trails on the Bauer Unit are named in their honor.

To put those in stone, figuratively and on many occasions, literally, Park Hosts Steve and Laura Paulson installed trail markers for all the trails this past winter (see photo). We then truly cemented this with the creation, working in concert with our Creative Services folks in Austin, of the Park’s first dedicated trail map that includes the entirety of the Park (the current facilities map doesn’t show the Bauer Unit).

The final step in the process was the creation of a series of Visitor Orientation Panels or VOPs. Again, with the input of staff and folks in Austin, these beautiful interpretive panels not only identify where a visitor is in the park, but also provide information about that section of the trail, safety messages and other pertinent information. Several of these signs have been installed by our wonderful crew of maintenance rangers; the

remainder should be in the ground within the next two months, just in time for the fall hiking season.

Currently we are working on a new set of smaller trailside panels that will provide hikers with new opportunities to learn about the resources of the park. All of these efforts have been done as we continue to strive to improve the visitor experience at the Park. We hope you’ll come out soon and enjoy these improvements to YOUR Texas state park.



Example of New Trail Markers.



One of fifteen new Visitor Orientation Panels.

Water Makers of Guadalupe River

By Craig Hensley, Park Interpreter

Guadalupe River State Park is an operation that requires many individuals to make it work. Most of these people are seldom-known but are truly the unsung heroes of this and the other parks throughout Texas. With this article, and continuing for the next year, you will have the chance to meet these folks. So let us begin with who I consider two of the most critically important people in the park.

Have you ever given much thought to the water that comes out of our faucets and showers each day? Ever wonder what happens to it when it goes down the drain or flushes away? Living in Texas I dare say many of us do think about water a fair amount, but mostly from the standpoint of having enough to go around for everyone.

At the Park water is the big attraction. People flock to the Guadalupe River every weekend to enjoy swimming, fishing, floating, kayaking, or just playing in this clear natural resource. But to two people in the Park, water is what they do.

Russell Miller and Terre Davila make water – now the reality is that water can't really be "made" but what they do is take the water nature provides and make it into something we can drink and use for washing and showering. By title, Russell is our Park's Utility Plant Operator (UPO) while Terre is an Operations Ranger 4 and Backup UPO.

Both of these dedicated employees have been around our park between four and five years, both beginning their careers here as Ranger II's, at which time they helped with anything that needed done in terms of maintenance throughout the park. Over time, both decided to pursue careers within the park system dealing with our most precious of natural resources. And lest you think that this is some kind of easy transition, trust me when I say it isn't.

The first time I walked into the water plant, I couldn't believe what I saw. I don't know what I expected, but to see beakers and flasks and test kits and scales and meters was beyond my expectation. I quickly learned that what they do is among – if not the – most important jobs in the Park. In short, they extract water directly from the river – you know, that same water we swim and fish and float and play in – and by the time they have worked their magic, we can drink it free of tadpoles, aquatic insects, fish and all the things that support them – and come out of them, too!

These gentlemen are passionate about water (not to mention the Park and the natural world, in general). They are also among a small group of people with TPWD that operate what is known as a Surface Water Plant, supported by two ground wells. Under the watchful eyes of TCEQ, they run the water through a massive filter, measure and adjust the water's pH, alkalinity, temperature and turbidity, turning raw water into something we can use, known as potable water. But that is not all, they also monitor the "made" water for pH, turbidity and chlorine residue.

Sounds like enough, right? Wrong. They also make sure the water is pumped up to the storage tank at a place we all know as "top well" so it can then flow through the park for all of us to use. But even then the story doesn't end. They also operate what is known in their parlance as a Facultation Waste Water System. Remember, whatever we use has to be taken care, i.e. recycled, so it can go back to the ground for future use.

Oh yeah, and when there is a leak, you guessed it Russell and Terre are there with the backhoe, down in the mud fixing those issues as well.

To do all this requires both men to be certified by the state, which requires not only a great deal of upfront training, but a minimum of 30 CEU's every three years. At present Russell is certified as a B-surface, B-groundwater and B-wastewater operator. Terre is certified as a C-surface, C-groundwater and D-wastewater operator, presently preparing for his C-wastewater license test.

There is so much more that I could tell you about Russell and Terre, but let me leave you with these closing thoughts. Both of them are passionate employees of Texas Parks and Wildlife. Both of these love the outdoors and both of them strive to be the best plant operators possible. As they related to me, their ultimate goal is to set the bar, the standard, by which potable water is compared with by all other parks.

"Thanks to our management team that support the water and wastewater division we continue to improve our system," according to Russell. They have a state-of-the-art monitoring system and continually work for the benefit of all our park visitors.

So the next time you visit the park and take a drink from a fountain, wash your hands, or take a shower, you can thank both Russell and Terre for they are indeed the high quality water makers of Guadalupe River State Park.



Guadalupe River State Park's "Water Makers," Terre Davila (l) and Russell Miller (r).

Upcoming programs at Guadalupe River State Park

by Craig Hensley

We hope you'll make plans to visit one of YOUR Texas state parks!

- Bird in the Hand** Saturdays, September 5, October 3, November 7, December 12 9 a.m.-Noon
Looking for a great way to introduce your children to the wonder of birds? Then join Park Ranger and bird bander Craig Hensley for a morning of nose-to-beak looks at our native songbirds. From cardinals to goldfinches, you and your children will learn about the science and art of bird banding and how you can help. Meet us at the Discovery Center. This program is free with a Park Pass or \$7 daily pass (children ages 12 and under are free).
- Bats of Texas** Saturday, September 5 8-9:30 p.m.
Join Park Ranger Craig for a look at the world of Texas bats. You'll discover who they are and how they make their living. We'll even use a bat detector to search for a few following the presentation. We'll meet at the amphitheater behind the Discovery Center. This program is free with a Park Pass or a \$7 daily pass (children ages 12 and under are free).
- Archery in the Park** Sunday, September 6 9:30-11 a.m. or 1-2:30 p.m.
Archery is one of the safest outdoor activities. You will have the opportunity to learn the skill of archery through a disciplined approach. We'll take the first 25 people on a first-come, first-served basis. Please email craig.hensley@tpwd.texas.gov if you have questions. We provide all the equipment. 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.
- Fishing 101** Saturday, September 12 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. Please meet at the amphitheater located 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 of the Night** Saturday, September 12 8-9:30 p.m.
After the sun sets, not everyone goes to bed. Join Ranger Craig for a look at those critters that come to life under the stars. We'll take a walk in search of bats, owls and more! Be sure to bring a flashlight. Please meet at the amphitheater located behind the Discovery Center. This program is free with a Park Pass or a \$7 daily pass (children ages 12 and under are free).
- Honey Creek Bird Walk** Sunday, September 13 8-11 a.m.
Join Ranger Craig for a bird walk around Honey Creek State Natural Area. You'll need to arrive with vehicle at the front gate at 8 a.m. sharp, at which time we'll drive to the Spring Branch road entrance. We'll provide a limited number of binoculars. This walk will encompass two miles or so and is for anyone ages 10 and up. This program is free with a Park Pass or a \$7 daily pass (children ages 12 and under are free).
- Nature Explorers: Water Wonders** Friday, September 18 9-11 a.m.
Looking for a way to engage your homeschoolers in the natural world? Then join Guadalupe River State Park's Ranger Craig for a year-long, monthly series during which your children will be immersed in the nature of the Park and Honey Creek. Each two-hour session will feature a topic for exploration. We'll kick this adventure off with a look at the life in and around the river so be sure to dress your child and yourself to get wet. Nature Explorers is designed for children ages 5 to 10. For more information about Nature Explorers, please email craig.hensley@tpwd.texas.gov. This program is free with a Park Pass or a \$7 daily pass (children ages 12 and under are free). Please meet at the Discovery Center.
- Bugs-R-U's** Saturday, September 19 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 amphitheater behind the Discovery Center.
- Stories in the Stars** Saturdays, September 19, October 17, November 21, December 19 Times: Vary (check on web site for start times)
Head out to Guadalupe River State Park for an evening of stargazing with members from the San Antonio Astronomical Association. Following a presentation at the amphitheater behind the Discovery Center, you'll get a chance to check out seasonal constellations, moon, Saturn and other celestial wonders through our telescopes. Meet at the amphitheater behind the Discovery Center. This program is free with a TPWD Park Pass or after paying the \$7 entrance fee (children ages 12 and under are free).
- Geocaching 101** Saturday, September 26 9:30-11:30 a.m. or 1:30-3:30 p.m.
Join our Park Ranger to learn how to use a GPS unit to geocache. Described by some as a "worldwide treasure hunt," geocaching can be done in the park, throughout Texas – even worldwide. We'll provide the GPS units and instruction; you'll then practice your newly acquired skills on our practice course. This program is limited to the first ten families/people that sign up. Please email Ranger Craig at craig.hensley@tpwd.texas.gov to sign up. Please plan to meet at the amphitheater, located 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** Saturday, September 26 7:30-9 p.m.
We're heading out for a hootin' good time as we call and listen for Barred and possibly other owls that inhabit Guadalupe River State Park. Join the Park Ranger learn about owls and their amazing adaptations as well as who's whooooo among the owls of Texas. This program will be held at the amphitheater at the Discovery Center and is free with a Park Pass or a \$7 daily pass (children ages 12 and under are free).
- Archery in the Park** Sunday, September 27 9:30-11 a.m. or 1-2:30 p.m.
Archery is one of the safest outdoor activities. You will have the opportunity to learn the skill of archery through a disciplined approach. We'll take the first 25 people on a first-come, first-served basis. Please email craig.hensley@tpwd.texas.gov if you have questions. We provide all the equipment. 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.
- Butterfly Fest 2015** Saturday, October 10 10 a.m.-2 p.m.
Join Park staff and volunteers to celebrate the monarch butterfly as its fall migration to Mexico gets underway. We'll have special guests, games, crafts and opportunities (we hope) to tag a few monarchs, as well as enjoy the other butterflies of the area. Activities will take place at the Discovery Center and new Habiscape native plant garden. For more information, please email Ranger Craig at craig.hensley@tpwd.texas.gov.
- Fall Fish-O-Rama** Saturday, October 17 10 a.m.-2 p.m.
Bring your children out to the park to give them the lifetime gift of fishing! They will learn knot-tying, casting, fish identification and a host of other important skills to become TPWD Anglers, complete with a pin and certificate. Following this, they can check out a fishing pole and cast a line at the river with the help of experienced, trained staff and volunteers. For more information, please email Ranger Craig at craig.hensley@tpwd.texas.gov.



Upcoming programs at Guadalupe River State Park

by Craig Hensley

Santa at the Park!

Saturday, December 5th

4-8 p.m.

It's that time of year again and we're anticipating a visit from the jolly old elf himself. Join us for an evening of holiday fun including a reading of the classic "Twas the Night Before Christmas followed by a holiday movie. Check our website for further details. Be sure to dress for the weather!

Bulverde-Spring Branch Library Brown Bag Lunch Series

Guadalupe River State Park's Ranger Craig Hensley will present a series of one-hour presentations at our local library this fall. You are free to bring and eat your lunch during these Noon-time presentations. There will also be an optional follow-up field experience at the Park – see descriptions. The Library is located at 131 Bulverde Crossing, Bulverde, TX 78163.

Wednesday, September 23: Common Native Trees, Shrubs & Vines of the Hill Country

This will be an informative presentation on the common woody plants found in our area. You'll learn how to go about identifying these plants using a taxonomic key and a PowerPoint presentation. We'll then hold our Friday Follow-up Field Experience on September 25th from 10 a.m. to Noon at the Park. Please note that there is a park entrance fee of \$7 for anyone aged 13 and over (free entrance with a TPWD park pass).

Wednesday, October 28: Monarchs, Milkweeds and More

Ranger Craig will share his love and understanding of the iconic monarch butterfly, including a review of their life cycle and current challenges they face. You'll also learn about the milkweeds they require for survival as well as how milkweeds are important to many other pollinators, as well. We'll have our Friday Follow-up Field Experience on October 30 from 1-3 p.m. to search for migrating monarchs (tagging any we can capture) as well as looking at the other butterflies that are out and about. Please note that there is a park entrance fee of \$7 for anyone aged 13 and over (free entrance with a TPWD park pass).

Tuesday, November 10: Bird Feeder Basics

Whether you are an experienced bird feeding fanatic or just getting started, join Park Ranger Craig Hensley for an introduction and/or refresher to maximizing your success in attracting birds to your yard this winter. You'll learn about different styles of feeders, what to feed the birds and how to identify them. We'll then open our mist nets on the 13th for our Friday Follow-up Field Experience from 9-11 a.m. at our bird feeding station. You'll get to see our native songbirds up close and personal as we band and you help release them. Please note that there is a park entrance fee of \$7 for anyone aged 13 and over (free entrance with a TPWD park pass).

2015 Dues

by Bill Beach

2015 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 2015 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!**

Guadalupe River State Park Trails Map

3350 Park Road 31
Spring Branch, TX 78070
(830) 438-2656
www.texasstateparks.org

LEGEND

- Headquarters
- Restrooms
- Parking
- Playground
- Discovery Center
- Day Use Area
- Dump Station
- Water/Electric Sites
- Tent Camping
- Amphitheater
- Equestrian Trail
- Wildlife Viewing



Barred Owl



POINTS OF INTEREST

(GPS coordinates shown in degrees, minutes, seconds)

- 1 RUST HOUSE**
29° 51' 47.87" N 98° 29' 23.56" W
The Rust House is the starting point to Saturday Honey Creek State Natural Area guided walks. Accessible through guided access only.
- 2 DISCOVERY CENTER**
29° 52' 26.15" N 98° 29' 10.63" W
"Take Another Look" to discover hands-on exhibits and objects in this unique nature center.
- 3 SCENIC OVERLOOK**
29° 52' 22.73" N 98° 29' 23.50" W
Enjoy a scenic treetop view of the Guadalupe River and Bauer Unit from this limestone bluff.
- 4 GUADALUPE RIVER RAPIDS**
29° 52' 15.37" N 98° 28' 56.27" W
Savor the sights and sounds of this picturesque stretch of river under towering cypress trees.
- 5 SWALLOW CLIFF**
29° 52' 31.38" N 98° 29' 03.52" W
This dramatic cliff, home to a nesting colony of cliff swallows during the spring and early summer, creates a beautiful backdrop for your river experience.
- 6 BAUER UNIT**
29° 52' 35.45" N 98° 29' 30.36" W
If you are looking for a more remote hiking experience, head to this area's six miles of trails, and stop by the historic the historic Bauer House.

NOTES:

Equestrian trails are multi-use.
All other trails are hiking and biking.

Bauer Unit Directions:

Turn right onto Hwy. 46 from Park Road 31. Go 3 miles and turn right on FM 3351. Go approx. 3.5 miles and turn right on Edge Falls Road. Continue for 2.4 miles and turn right on Acker Road. Go 2.2 miles to entrance.

Contour intervals are 20 feet.

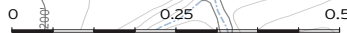
Trail lengths are in miles.

Elevation levels are in feet.

No claims are made to the accuracy of the data or its suitability to a particular use.

Map compiled by Texas State Parks staff.

SCALE IN MILES



Guadalupe River State Park

FOR EMERGENCIES, PLEASE CALL 9-1-1.

Discover the beauty and wonders of Guadalupe River State Park.

Welcome! Now that you are here, slow down, breathe and take in all that our park offers. Cast a line, take a hike, join an interpretive program, visit the Discovery Center, camp, picnic or just enjoy the beauty of the Guadalupe River. We're happy to have you here.

STAYING SAFE

KNOW YOUR LIMITS. Prepare for sun and heat. Wear sunscreen, insect repellent and appropriate clothing/hiking shoes.

DRINK PLENTY OF WATER. Your body quickly loses fluids when you're on the trail. Bring a quart of water per hour of activity.

TELL OTHERS WHERE YOU'LL BE. If possible, avoid exploring alone. Tell someone where you are going and when you plan to return.

WEAR A HELMET. When biking, check with park HQ to match the trail to your skill level. Wear a helmet to protect yourself in case of a crash.

POTENTIALLY HARMFUL PLANTS AND ANIMALS MAY LIVE HERE. Staying on the trail paths makes them easier to see. Do not approach wildlife!

BE CAREFUL IN THE RIVER. Currents can be faster than they appear and river depth is variable; swim at your own risk.

TRAIL ETIQUETTE

Trash your trash. Pack out all of your trash and Leave No Trace.

Leave feeding to nature. Feeding wild animals will make them sick. Please do not feed them.

Don't Pocket the Past. Help preserve Texas heritage. Leave artifacts where you find them and report their location to a ranger.

Campfires are only permitted in fire rings due to potential for ground scarring and wildfires.

TRAIL DISTANCE TIME DIFFICULTY DESCRIPTION

| | | | | | |
|--|-------------------------------------|----------|----------|-------------------------|--|
|  | OAK SAVANNAH LOOP | .5 mi. | 30 min. | Easy | Enjoy a short walk through a restored oak savannah, a landscape that once covered much of this part of Texas. |
|  | PAINTED BUNTING TRAIL | 2.86 mi. | 1.5 hrs. | Moderate | Named for the common summer songbird found along the length of this trail, this is the longest trail within the park. |
|  | RIVER OVERLOOK TRAIL | .77 mi. | 45 min. | Moderate | This level but rocky trail leads you along the cliff overlooking the river, providing picturesque views of the river and Bauer Unit across the valley. |
|  | BARRED OWL TRAIL | .26 mi. | 10 min. | Easy | You'll appreciate this short trail that will give you lots of time to enjoy the peace and beauty of the scenic cliff overlook. |
|  | CEDAR SAGE RIVER TRAIL | .4 mi. | 15 min. | Easy | This destination trail will lead you to both the must-see Discovery Center and the beautiful Guadalupe River at trail's end. |
|  | DISCOVERY CENTER LOOP | .28 mi. | 25 min. | Easy | An easy loop for the family with young children looking for a "walk in the woods" within the capability of our younger visitors. |
|  | TURKEY SINK TRAIL | .23 mi. | 20 min. | Easy to Moderate | A perfect trail for walking access to the stretch of the Guadalupe River where rapids create a dance of rushing water below towering bald cypress trees. |
|  | BAMBERGER TRAIL | 1.7 mi. | 2 hrs. | Moderate to Challenging | From the parking lot you'll head downhill through a beautiful example of Hill Country forest. From mid-March through May, listen for the song of the golden-cheeked warbler. |
|  | HOFHEINZ TRAIL | 1.14 mi. | 45 min. | Moderate | Walk through an Ashe juniper brake and a beautiful, rocky stretch of mixed-deciduous forest, out into a sunlit field. |
|  | GOLDEN-CHEEKED WARBLER TRAIL | .89 mi. | 1 hr. | Moderate to Challenging | This trail includes a steep downhill section that leads to a spectacular segment of old-growth oaks -- but remember, what goes down must go up! |
|  | LITTLE BLUESTEM LOOP | .8 mi. | 30 min. | Easy | Formerly an agricultural field, this floodplain trail encircles a significant stand of native prairie grasses, including its namesake. |
|  | BALD CYPRESS TRAIL | .6 mi. | 30 min. | Easy | This trail provides you with access for a significant length of the Guadalupe River within the park. |