



Summer 2016 NEWSLETTER

Friends of Guadalupe River, Honey Creek, Inc.

A non-profit organization

Trails to the Past

by Bryden Moon

10th Homesteader Homecoming A Lifetime Journey at the Kendalia Schoolhouse

Repurposed from an old two-room schoolhouse, the Kendalia Public Library and Community Center served as the venue for our 2016 Homesteader Homecoming. Here our friends and guests gathered, as Kendalia Library Director Donna Jonas treated us to community stories that she had gleaned through interviews and archival papers. Encouraged to capture the region's heritage, a few years back she distilled the local stories, documents and pictures into a two-volume book-set labeled *Kendalia – A History of the Settlement*. For our 10th Homesteader gathering



Donna reached into her bountiful treasure chest of good times and hard times and entertained us...a young lad taking on man-size responsibilities, a surprise party for an absent guest of honor and water rescues from Curry's Creek. With tenure of 37 years with the Kendalia Library, her memories go back even further, since in earlier times it also served as her childhood classroom.



Introduced by Tom Anderson, Donna Peacock and Amy Stengel presented a dramatic interpretation, called *At the River*. Skillfully written by Donna Peacock, the words were drawn from Kendall County pioneer C. F. Bergmann's translated letters (1854 to 1885). Addressed to the members of his family who remained in Saxony, the letters describe the emotions and experiences of living in a new country on his Guadalupe River homestead



(just two miles as the crow flies west of the Guadalupe River State Park's western boundary). These realities were poignantly communicated in the duos' words and delivery.



It is always nice to see long-time Homesteader Homecoming friends.



Thank you to our Friend's members and park staff who assisted: Dave & Judy Kibler, Kay Moon, Joan Nitschke, and Laura Horner.

There are more stories to be told!



Board of Directors

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Child's Play

By Thea Platz

Who could ever have imagined that a day would come when there would be a movement to get kids outdoors? Certainly not me, but there is and I'm in it.

Many of us remember a time when childhood meant laying on your back in the grass staring up at clouds. Many a summer was spent turning dirt into mud pies and catching fireflies and tadpoles.

Mom sent you outside and you did not come back until called for supper or the "streetlights came on"

We danced in the rain, skinned our knees climbing trees and we learned.

We learned cause and effect, the laws of physics and problem solving. Of course engineering was a must with forts and tree houses to build. We learned what it felt like to be left out or get your feelings hurt- but it didn't last long because neighborhoods were families and ball games in vacant lots could only work if everyone played.

The best games were free, like freeze tag, hide and seek and leapfrog.

Kids were intimately familiar with spiders, snakes, lizards and frogs and at any given time it was not unusual, unbeknownst to mom, to have at least one of them in a jar in your room.

Kids were scrappy, independent and brave. Kids did not worry so much about how they looked. Being barefoot was preferred, but any shoes would do, hair was sun-bleached and "styled" with a bowl. Very few kids were overweight.

Times have changed. Many kids these days spend very little time outdoors. They have little connection to the natural world.

Rather than finding ways to entertain themselves outdoors, most kids have devices that bring the entertainment to them. Technology and changing lifestyles have driven our kids inside and the results are not good. Anxiety, depression and childhood obesity are on the rise. Nearsightedness is at an all-time high. Research has shown that kids that spend time in nature are happier healthier and smarter.

There is in fact a movement that first began, in the mainstream, with the publishing of Richard Louv's book Last Child in the Woods in which he coined the phrase "nature deficit disorder" in fact many pediatricians are prescribing outdoor play (vitamin N).

If you are interested in the research check out the Children in Nature Network.

www.texaschildreninnature.org

If you would like to know about nature oriented events in your area checkout Nature Rocks San Antonio.

www.NatureRocksSanAntonio.org

If you are associated with an organization that offers outdoor events to kids consider joining Guadalupe River State Park and others in the Texas Children in Nature-San Antonio Collaborative.

<http://texaschildreninnature.org/regional-collaboratives>

If you want to make a difference in a child's life – take them outside.

Returning Faces

By Laura Horner

As you visit Guadalupe River State Park this spring and summer, you might recognize a few new faces that look familiar. Last spring and summer Jordi, Bernadette, Megan and Ben worked as clerks and maintenance assistance and have returned again this year to continue that work.

Jordi, Bernadette and Ben are seniors this year at Smithson Valley High School and will be graduating at the beginning of June. Jordi will be attending Texas A&M-Corpus Christi in the fall to study nursing. Bernadette will be attending State University of New York in Syracuse to study environmental science. Ben will be attending Embry Riddle Aeronautical University to study mechanical engineering this fall.

Megan was a freshman at Texas A&M-Kingsville this year and will be transferring to Texas State University this fall to continue studying wildlife biology.

The staff at Guadalupe River State Park is happy to have these four individuals return for another summer of employment here and wish them nothing but the best as they embark for their new journeys this fall.



Not Just a Day in the Park

By Thea Platz

For more than 15 years North East Independent School District in San Antonio has enjoyed a partnership with Guadalupe River State Park/ Honey Creek SNA. Due to the help and support of the park staff and the park's friends group, a dedicated group of individuals that support the park, hundreds of third grade students are able participate in a special program in Honey Creek State Natural Area each school year free of charge. During the months of October and March. The students get to experience the special Honey Creek area and learn about changes in the land from the day of the dinosaurs to early settlement to modern day. On their hike through the protected area they see animal tracks, fossils and flowers. Sometimes, if they are very lucky, may hear the song or catch a glimpse of the beautiful Golden Cheeked Warbler. What fun they have discovering the smallest of organisms while studying water samples and drawing as they sit overlooking the creek. This year the park, with help from the friends group, also graciously hosted 5th grade students that were displaced from their original venue due to flooding. Prioritizing the need for our kids to have these kinds of experiences and helping to make it happen.



All of the outdoor activities the students participate in at the park help to reinforce what they are learning in the classroom. The positive experiences the students have at the park also instill a greater appreciation for our natural resources, conservation and a desire to return.

SERVICE AT THE PARK

By David Kibler

16 APRIL 2016

On Saturday, 16 April, a group of nineteen enthusiastic Scouts and adult volunteers from Boy Scout Troop 285, sponsored by Coker Methodist Church in San Antonio, returned to the park for the seventeenth time since 2007 to perform service work and to make improvements at the park. The primary work performed involved continuing the on-going project of removing Ashe juniper growth in the large field south of the Doeppenschmidt House in the eastern portion of the Honey Creek State Natural Area. A memorable event in the morning involved the spectacular and dramatic fall of a large bull snake from the top branches of a falling cedar tree into a group of Scouts at the foot of the tree. After completing the work, all hands were treated to a fine hot lunch prepared by Roy Schultz of Troop 285. The food was again donated by the Friends of Guadalupe River State Park/Honey Creek State Natural Area.

All volunteers displayed their spirit of cheerful service in performing this work for the park. The boys and adults of Troop 285 always look forward to this semi-annual service project as a way to demonstrate their Scout Spirit and will return to Guadalupe river State Park in the fall of 2016.

Bird Observation Station Gets a Makeover

This past several months, thanks to the funding support of the Friends group and the hard work of volunteers John Prentice and Linda Gindler, the water feature at the existing bird blind has been completely renovated. As a result of their work, we now have solar-powered water feature that runs throughout the day, presenting birds with not only the sound of running water but also small pools of water for drinking and bathing.



As a result, this spring we have seen a great

influx of migrating birds visiting the blind area. Included have been Mourning,

Yellow, Nashville, Wilson's, Orange MacGillivray's, and a pair of nesting Golden

-crowned, -cheeked

Warblers, as well as the Common Yellowthroat, Orchard Orioles and Blue-headed Vireos.



Summer Tanagers have been commonplace and Painted Buntings are providing photographers and birders many opportunities for viewing and photography.



In addition to the water feature, we also changed

out the blind itself by creating a series of drop-down "doors" for

viewing and photography. We have received a large number of compliments from this work, done in large part by Park Host Austin xxxxxxxxxx with help from Park Host Paul Freeman.



During the course of the next year, we hope to create a second bird blind in another part of the park. If you would be interested in donating to it through the Friends group, please contact us.

Many thanks to our dedicated volunteers as well as the contributions of the Friends group, Park staff and volunteers.



Outdoor Cooking Skills 101: New Program for the Park

Thanks to both the Texas Outdoor Family Program and the Friends Group, the park was able to offer a new outdoor skills program this spring. Texas Outdoor Family loaned us the equipment needed for Dutch oven cooking and the Friends Group provided the funds to be able to purchase the food for the cooking programs. We were able to offer this outdoor skill program four times and will be offering it again in the fall thanks to the support of the Friends Group. Overall, the attendance of the new program was great. Between the four classes we had 15 adults and 17 kids participate in learning a new outdoor skill. Each class had the opportunity to make three different type of desserts. There was a three ingredient cake made with cake mix, fruit pie filling and one can of soda. We also made monkey bread,

banana boat s'mores and orange cinnamon rolls. Participates learned the basics of cooking with a Dutch oven from starting the fire, preparing the ingredients, care and cleaning and the hardest part-waiting to enjoy the food. Look for more Outdoor Cooking Skills 101 programs this fall.





Thank you to all of our volunteers!
Your hard work adds so much value to the park! Thank you from the Staff at Guadalupe River State Park





Upcoming programs at Guadalupe River State Park

by Craig Hensley

Join us for one or more of these programs and look for more throughout the winter months by checking the Park's web page: <http://www.tpwd.state.tx.us/state-parks/guadalupe-river>.

June 2016 Programs

Archery in the Park

Saturday, June 4, 2016

9:30-11 a.m.

Archery is one of the safest outdoor activities and here is your chance to learn this wonderful outdoor skill at Guadalupe River State Park. 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-serve basis for each time slot. Please email laura.horner@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 \$7 daily pass (children ages 12 and under are free). Please meet at the Rust House. In the event of rain, these programs will be cancelled.

Prowlin' for Owls

Saturday, June 4, 2016

8:30-10 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 to 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 Amphitheatre at the Discovery Center and is free with a Park Pass or a \$7 daily pass (children ages 12 and under are free).

Stories in the Stars

Saturday, June 11, 2016

8-10 p.m.

Join members of the San Antonio Astronomical Association and Park staff for a night of stargazing! We'll check out the Moon and other celestial wonders following a presentation at the Amphitheatre, located behind the Discovery Center. This program is free with a Park Pass or \$7 daily pass (children ages 12 and under are free).

Friday Morning Story Time: Hurry and the Monarch

Friday, June 17, 2016

9-10 a.m.

Join Ranger Craig for a reading of the wonderful children's book "Hurry and the Monarch." We'll meet at the Discovery Center and head over to the Reading Tree, followed by a look at butterfly and turtle artifacts. This fun hour is perfect for children 10 and under. This program is free with a Park Pass or a \$7 daily pass (children ages 12 and under are free).

River Critters

Saturday, June 18, 2016

9:30-11:30 a.m.

Join Ranger Craig 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).

Creatures of the Night

Saturday, June 18, 2016

8:30-10 p.m.

After the sun sets, not everyone goes to bed. Join Ranger Laura 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).

Friday Morning Story Time: Owl Moon

Friday, June 24, 2016

9-10 a.m.

Join Ranger Laura for a reading of the wonderful children's book "Owl Moon." We'll meet at the Discovery Center and head over to the Reading Tree, followed by a look at owl and hawk artifacts. This fun hour is perfect for children 10 and under. This program is free with a Park Pass or a \$7 daily pass (children ages 12 and under are free).

Geocaching 101

Saturday, June 25, 2016

9:30-11 a.m.

Join our Park Rangers 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 Laura at laura.horner@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 \$7 daily pass (children 12 and under are free).

Honey Creek at Night

Saturday, June 25, 2016

8-9:30 p.m.

Join Ranger Laura for a hike into the night side of Honey Creek State Natural Area adjacent to Guadalupe River State Park. Bring a flashlight and sense of adventure as we go in search of nocturnal goings-on of owls and other critters. Please meet at the Rust House inside the park promptly at 8 p.m. This program is FREE with a Park Pass or a \$7 daily pass (children ages 12 and under are free).

July 2016 Programs

A Froggin' We Will Go

Saturday, July 2, 2016

8:30-10 p.m.

Join Park Ranger Laura for a look at the world of frogs and toads. Following a presentation at the Amphitheater behind the Discovery Center, you'll head to the river in search of the frogs and toads themselves. This program is free with a Park Pass or a \$7 daily pass (children ages 12 and under are free).

Friday Morning Story Time: The Giving Tree

Friday, July 8, 2016

9-10 a.m.

Join Ranger Laura for a reading of the wonderful children's book "The Giving Tree." We'll meet at the Discovery Center and head over to the Reading Tree, followed by a look at trees, leaves and flowers. This fun hour is perfect for children 10 and under. This program is free with a Park Pass or a \$7 daily pass (children ages 12 and under are free).

Geocaching 101

Saturday, July 9, 2016

9:30-11 a.m.

Join our Park Rangers 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 Laura at laura.horner@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 \$7 daily pass (children 12 and under are free).

Upcoming programs at Guadalupe River State Park

by Craig Hensley

Stories in the Stars	Saturday, July 9, 2016	8-10 p.m.
Join members of the San Antonio Astronomical Association and Park staff for a night of stargazing! We'll check out the Moon and other celestial wonders following a presentation at the Amphitheatre, located behind the Discovery Center. This program is free with a Park Pass or \$7 daily pass (children ages 12 and under are free).		
Archery in the Park	Saturday, July 16, 2016	9:30-11 a.m.
Archery is one of the safest outdoor activities and here is your chance to learn this wonderful outdoor skill at Guadalupe River State Park. 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-serve basis for each time slot. Please email laura.horner@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 \$7 daily pass (children ages 12 and under are free). Please meet at the Rust House. In the event of rain, these programs will be cancelled.		
Creatures of the Night	Saturday, July 16, 2016	8:30-10 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).		
Friday Morning Story Time: Stلالuna	Friday, July 22, 2016	9-10 a.m.
Join Ranger Craig for a reading of the wonderful children's book "Stلالuna." We'll meet at the Discovery Center and head over to the Reading Tree, followed by a look at bat artifacts. This fun hour is perfect for children 10 and under. This program is free with a Park Pass or a \$7 daily pass (children ages 12 and under are free).		
River Critters	Saturday, July 23, 2016	9:30-11 a.m.
Join Ranger Laura 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).		
Bats of Texas	Saturday, July 23, 2016	8:30-10 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).		
Bugs-R-Us	Saturday, July 30, 2016	9:30 a.m. - 11 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.		
Honey Creek at Night	Saturday, July 30, 2016	8-9:30 p.m.
Join Ranger Craig for a hike into the night side of Honey Creek State Natural Area adjacent to Guadalupe River State Park. Bring a flashlight and sense of adventure as we go in search of nocturnal goings-on of owls and other critters. Please meet at the Rust House inside the park promptly at 8 p.m. This program is FREE with a Park Pass or a \$7 daily pass (children ages 12 and under are free).		
August 2016 Programs		
Friday Morning Story Time: The Spider	Friday, August 5, 2016	9-10 a.m.
Join the Park Ranger for a reading of the wonderful children's book "The Spider" by Elise Gravel. We'll meet at the Discovery Center and head over to the Reading Tree, followed by a look at spider artifacts. This fun hour is perfect for children 10 and under. This program is free with a Park Pass or a \$7 daily pass (children ages 12 and under are free).		
Fishing 101	Saturday, August 6, 2016	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).		
A Froggin' We Will Go	Saturday, August 6, 2016	8:30-10 p.m.
Join the Park Ranger for a look at the world of frogs and toads. Following a presentation at the Amphitheater behind the Discovery Center, you'll head to the river in search of the frogs and toads themselves. This program is free with a Park Pass or a \$7 daily pass (children ages 12 and under are free).		
Who Goes There?	Saturday, August 13, 2016	9:30-11 a.m.
Join our Park Rangers for a walk in search of traces, scat and other traces of the animals that call the park home. We'll end the walk by dissecting the ultimate animal sign, an owl pellet! Meet at the Amphitheater behind the Discovery Center. This program is FREE with a Park Pass or a \$7 daily pass (children 12 and under are free).		
Stories in the Stars	Saturday, August 13, 2016	8-10 p.m.
Join members of the San Antonio Astronomical Association and Park staff for a night of stargazing! We'll check out the Moon and other celestial wonders following a presentation at the Amphitheater, located behind the Discovery Center. This program is free with a Park Pass or \$7 daily pass (children ages 12 and under are free).		



Upcoming programs at Guadalupe River State Park

by Craig Hensley

Bugs-R-Us

Saturday, August 20, 2016

9:30 a.m. - 11 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.

Bats of Texas

Saturday, August 20, 2016

8:30-10 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).

Geocaching 101

Saturday, August 27, 2016

9:30-11 a.m.

Join our Park Rangers 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 \$7 daily pass (children 12 and under are free).

Creatures of the Night

Saturday, August 27, 2016

8:30-10 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 \(children ages 12 and under are free\).](#)

2016 Dues

by Bill Beach

2016 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 2016 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!**