



Fall 2016 NEWSLETTER

Friends of Guadalupe River, Honey Creek, Inc.

A non-profit organization

News from the Park

by Bryden Moon

Friends of Guadalupe River/Honey Creek To Sponsor Dramatic Narrative, At a River

Ever wondered what life would have been like as an early German immigrant pioneer in the Hill Country...in an era where much of the terrain was natural, all local routes were unpaved, and transportation usually involved at least one mule or horse? The debut of a dramatic narrative



called At a River opens a window into the 19th century experiences of an 1854 German immigrant, Christian Friedrich Bergmann. This "Readers Theater" presentation is sponsored by Friends of Guadalupe River/Honey Creek. In 1857 Mr. Bergmann and his family settled along the Guadalupe River three miles upriver from GRSP's western boundaries; taking up the lifestyle of a farmer/rancher, Christian was prototypical. What sets him apart...his original letters to his family back in Saxony were saved, translated and shared, and are the inspiration for this program. Mr. Bergmann's words and insights have been crafted by Donna Peacock into a time machine, with



actors giving voice to the Bergmanns, bringing the family to life. Also lending his voice, Terry Slezak will sing traditional German songs. Sponsored by the Friends of Guadalupe River/Honey Creek and hosted by the Genealogical Society of Kendall County (GSKC).

At a River it is free and open to the public. **GSKC Symposium @ Boerne Patrick Heath Public Library in the Community Room on Saturday, October 29th @ 10:30 am.**

Contact: Bryden Moon @ (830-336-3375) bemoonjr@aol.com

New Date for HALLOWEEN IN THE PARK Saturday, October 29th by Bryden Moon

It's time to mark you calendars for the Friends of Guadalupe River State Park's annual Halloween in the Park event! There is an exciting change for this years event, instead of Sunday it will be held on Saturday the 29th. We hope the date change will give the people who haven't been able to attend on a Sunday, the opportunity to join us. This event is an evening of fun, stories, food and fright of the fun kind. Hosted by the Friend's, since 2003, this community event is designed for children of every age in a safe not-too-scary environment.

The fee is \$10 per carload which includes entrance, parking & the event.

The program begins at the Amphitheater behind the Discovery Center at 6:00 then continues for trick or treating for the little tots (2-6 years old), on the spooky forest trail. Then at 7:00 the Big Spooks (7-12 years old) get to go out into the haunted trail that's a little more scary. In between there will be Halloween storytelling & complementary refreshments.

The decorated trail along with the rest of the events features are the combined efforts of so many wonderful volunteers. People from School Groups, Scouts, Clubs, Businesses and many local families & friends come to donate their time and effort. Thanks to their help, the event has been a great success!

If you would like to be a part of the volunteers who help make this an awesome community event, once again, there are many areas in which you can help. And It's a great way to get community service hours!

So put on your best costume, load up your family and join us at "Halloween in the Park"!

For information about the event call:
Guadalupe River State Park at 830 438-2656

For information on volunteering contact:
Holly Camera at eyesthatfly@aol.com or 210 490-4882
JW Pieper at jwp@gvtc.com

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djkib@gvtc.com

Vice President
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tplatz@neisd.net

Secretary
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RGrayTX@gmail.com

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bill.beach@sbcglobal.net

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Richard Mizanin
rjmizanin@yahoo.com

Saturday Night Program
Craig Hensley
craig.hensley@tpwd.state.tx.us

Director / Education
Holly Camera
chcamera@aol.com

Director / Hikes
Nancy Gray
grayabbott@aol.com

Director / Historian
Bryden Moon
Bemoonjr@aol.com

Director / Membership
Wilt Shaw
wshawjr888@aol.com

Director / Webmaster
Ed Sypniewski
capted@gvtc.com

Director / Publicity
Joan Nitschke
jenl0@gvtc.com

Director at Large
Tom Anderson
tanderson46@satx.rr.com

Director at Large
J.W. Pieper
jwp1@gvtc.com

Trails to the Past

by Bryden Moon

Scouts & Trail-Blazing in our Own Backyard Trails to the Future

Scouting figures in the rich legacy of Texas and especially in the Hill Country. Born in the Republic of Texas era, John Coffee Hays led the Texas Rangers out of San Antonio in regional skirmishes, yet there were many times the Rangers were only operating in a “spying” mode...simply scouting. Scouting served to determine the strength, logistics, and direction of raiding contingents, and these incursions usually included Apaches, Comanches or the Mexican army. This intelligence, “the what, when, where and who” of marauding aggressors, was then passed on to nascent frontier communities and San Antonio.

Scouting figures in contemporary times. With roving dangers a thing of the past, young men continue to develop skills of life as they master goals both individually and collectively and progress in the Boy Scouts of America (BSA). In 2007 Guadalupe River State Park (GRSP) was fortunate to have entered into a relationship with BSA. Dave Kibler who has had a long association with both our park’s Friends’ group and BSA was the link. GRSP was adopted by Scout Troop 285 out of San Antonio for spring and fall team-building work projects. Scouts and supporting adults have trekked out like clockwork twice a year, pouring their energy into back-breaking tasks, and with our association in its 10th year; our landscape continues to improve with each visit.

Current Friends of Guadalupe River/Honey Creek President, Dave Kibler, takes us back 30 years before Scout Troop 285 out of San Antonio became a part of our heritage: **Another significant category of Scout service has been the specific, on-going project sponsored and organized directly by Troop 285. The earliest of these was the Highway Cleanup program of the Texas Department of Transportation. Troop 285 conducted semi-annual cleanup efforts for about 20 years, beginning in the 1980s. This involved trash pickup on both sides of a 2 ½-mile stretch of US Highway 281 North near the Bexar-Comal County line. However things change over time, Due to the increasing level of vehicle traffic a new project was begun in 2007 in partnership with the Guadalupe River State Park north of San Antonio on Texas Highway 46.**

Dave tells us about the budding partnership - **In the beginning, the effort involved policing trash on both banks of the Guadalupe River within the park and beyond. Troop 285 crews of over 50 Scouts and adults on foot and in canoes again collected large amounts of trash and debris deposited by the periodic flooding of the river.**

(Here is a good group shot involving river cleanup taken in 2010. Several of these “little guys” received Eagle Scout rank within the past year or are in college.)

Dave continues, **Over time, the troop was asked to also take on other maintenance tasks at the park, primarily clearing areas of Ashe Juniper or cedar growth. As the relationship with the park has**



Continued...

Trails to the Past

by Bryden Moon

grown through these efforts, the troop has been afforded annual opportunities to camp in remote areas of the park on the nights following the service projects. A number of Troop 285 Eagle projects have been conducted on park property there, as well. (Evidence of a successful outing, below)



Reinforcing existing trails by removing overhangs, and adding mulch was added to these twice-yearly service projects. In the fall of 2015 the scouts became literal trail-blazers, as Dave Kibler shares: ***The primary target for the morning's work was the creation of a new trail, about one-quarter mile in length, in the Honey Creek State Natural Area, for the use of the Saturday morning guided nature hikers. Scouts and adults cleared Ashe Juniper thickets, removed rocks, and cut grass in the new trail route.***

As the **10th Anniversary** of our partnership unfolds, it is important to take the time to **salute Troop 285** and **thank Dave Kibler**. These scouts have established a legacy with GRSP. However, as we have learned, everything in nature evolves; in time the harvested trees can renew and regenerate. Beneficial rainfalls can alter and wipe out the physical trails, reclaiming the original landscape...but the life experiences these young scouts develop as they join together in various ventures within GRSP will serve as part of our legacy to them and serve them well along the figurative pathways of life, along future trails.



There are more stories to be told!

News from the Park

by Mac Freeborn, Lead Ranger

When the Rivers Run Wild....

As you all know, once again, the rivers in central and east Texas received record rainfall through the Memorial Day weekend. While these rains are welcomed and necessary, with them comes rising waters and rising dangers. Well at Guadalupe River State Park we had our fare share of both. With waters rising upwards of 30 feet and raging at 60,000/+ CFS we had a sense of de ja vu all over again (thank you Yogi Berra). The good news is, these waters will recede and return to normal.

As our beautiful river began to return to its tranquil picturesque self, the visitors started to pour in and enjoy the "wild" river. Some would play near the shore and keep a safe distance from the more swift waters, but others decided to venture out in a more daring manner. In the course of a few days it seemed we were getting more and more calls to rescue



someone who had either missed the take out, fallen off or lost their raft, or who had been swept down river. It was these rescues that showed us a real need for a little more advanced training in swift water rescue.



We as a staff felt that it was pertinent to ours and our visitors safety to have some formal training in the field of swift water rescue. With the huge



number of visitors seen on a weekly basis the number of potential hazards and incidents has increased. The field staff at GRSP were privileged enough to have John Young, from Bulverde/Spring Branch fire department, come out and give us a "swift" but in-depth and hands-on water training. We learned different forms of knot tying such as the figure 8 and the figure 8 with a hitch. We also practiced rescue techniques using the throw bag, carabiners, and PPE.



The training was great and informative but the best part was being able to actually swim in the river that we work so closely by each day! Though this was not the full four day class it was none the less very strenuous but valuable, and we left that day feeling more confident in our swift water rescue knowledge and abilities. The staff that participated and seen in the pictures below were Joel Parker, Mac Freeborn, Ted Stevens, Forrest Hoerster, Ty Powers, Jennifer Monzon, Ben Alino and our volunteer Otniel Negron.

A Fond Farewell

by Craig Hensley

This August saw a significant change at Guadalupe River State Park as our Park Superintendent of more than seven years, Scott Taylor pulled up stake to take over the reins of Mustang Island State Park. Scott leaves behind a chest full of memories and positive change at the park. After joining our staff in 2007 as a Park Peace Officer, he quickly moved through the ranks, becoming Assistant Manager in 2008, taking on the Park Superintendent role in early 2009.

Scott was a significant force for positive change at the park throughout his stay. He oversaw major capital repairs, positively dealt with ever-increasing visitor demand and built what today is a talented and team-centric group of employees. His sense of humor and easy-going manner made him a trusted supervisor. There is no doubt that Scott will do great things at Mustang Island, including buying a bigger boat for fishing on a bigger bit of water!

Scott heads to the coast with his wife of 12 years, Meridith, and their two boys Colton (8) and Easton (6), both of whom literally grew up in the Park. The entire family will be missed by all of us at the park and we only wish him the best in his new endeavor.

Thank you Scott for all you did for Guadalupe River and Honey Creek. You will be missed but never forgotten.



Ted Stevens on the Move

by Craig Hensley



Guadalupe River State Park is also wishing our now former Park Peace Officer a fond farewell and congratulations for his promotion to Park Manager at Cleburne State Park. Ted joined Guadalupe River in November 2013, having worked in various positions with TPWD at Lake Ray Roberts, Brazos Bend, Hueco Tanks and also a stint as an Outdoor Education Specialist with Texas Outdoor Family.

We will certainly miss Ted's sense of humor and dedication to the park, wishing him only the best in this exciting new endeavor. Good luck Ted!

News from the Park

by Craig Hensley

As written elsewhere in this newsletter, our biggest news is the departure of Park Superintendent Scott Taylor and Park Peace Officer Ted Stevens, both moving on two Park Superintendent roles elsewhere.

As for the Park, we saw what will go down as a record year in attendance and revenue for the park with the one million dollar mark surpassed for the first time ever. As any of the staff will tell you, with record numbers comes many challenges including many water rescues, dealing with a few broken bones and other “interesting” encounters. All in all, though, it was a very busy, very challenging but very good summer, particularly with the spring rains providing wonderful river conditions throughout the entire summer.

Come November you may see a little construction work along the road near the entrance to Honey Creek. Several years ago plans were hatched to add two new park host sites to the adjacent ones along the road. The asphalt was poured a couple of years ago and now we will see the finalizing of the project, anticipated to be completed by January 2017.

We continue to work with planners for the major renovation/new construction of restrooms in day use and the two primary camping loops. Work on these should commence within the next year and a half or so. In addition, new trail construction is nearing its final stages of approval and will begin within the next several months, if all goes well, on the Bauer Unit.

In terms of other park news, planning continues to move forward to build a second bird blind at the park. The Friends group is taking the lead on raising money for this project. If you are interested in supporting this effort, please contact board member J.W. Pieper at jwpl@gvtc.com.

As always, the park staff invite you to visit the park this fall. With the great August rains the river is as beautiful as can be and the rainfall will no doubt bring a wonderful display of flowers and autumn colors.

Fall Programs at the Park

by Craig Hensley

This fall the Park will host of wide variety of programs for children and adults. We'll kick off our popular Bird in the Hand programs on Saturday, September 10th from 9 a.m. to Noon. Participants will have the opportunity for nose-to-beak looks at songbirds, from cardinals and chickadees to goldfinches and wrens.

The Park will also host weekly Saturday night programs with topics ranging from snakes to bats, along with an owl prowl or three. You will even have the opportunity to hike into Honey Creek under the light of the moon.

The annual butterfly festival will be held on Saturday, October 8th from 10 a.m.-2 p.m., featuring guests and monarch experts Dr. Kip Kiphart and Cathy Downs. And be sure to put Saturday, October 29th on your calendar for the Friends sponsored Halloween in the Park. Then in December the Park will host its 3rd annual Santa in the Park on Saturday evening, December 10th followed by First Day hikes on January 1st.

To find out more about the Park's public programs, be sure to check out their webpage and look under “Ranger Programs.” The website is: <http://tpwd.texas.gov/state-parks/guadalupe-river>.

Upcoming programs at Guadalupe River State Park

by Tom Anderson



Come join us for safe fun & excitement!

Halloween at Guadalupe River State Park Saturday, October 29

6:00 PM until 8:30 PM

\$10.00 flat fee per vehicle (includes entrance, parking and event)

Additional donations appreciated to Friends of Guadalupe River State Park/Honey Creek, Inc.

Events



- 6:00 to 7:00 - Little Tots Trick or Treat along the forest trail (2 to 6 year olds)
6:30 to 7:30 - Little Tots Halloween story time
7:00 to 8:30 - Big Spooks haunted trail (7-12 yr. olds)
7:00 to 8:30 - Enjoy complimentary refreshments
7:00 to 8:30 - Big Spooks Ghost Story Tellers! (7 to 12 year olds)



Call 830-438-2656 for more information

A community service hosted by Friends of Guadalupe River State Park/Honey Creek, Inc.

and partially underwritten by a generous contribution from HEB

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!**