



Winter 2016 NEWSLETTER

Friends of Guadalupe River, Honey Creek, Inc.

A non-profit organization

Halloween in the Park 2016

by Holly Camero

Board of Directors

This year's Halloween in the Park was a very happy and successful one. The weather cooperated and we were able to have the 13th annual Halloween in the Park! The turnout was great, 539 people total. There were 271 kids and 268 adults counted at the gate. Beside the gate count, there were many people already in the Park that were not included in the tally.



The day of the event went very smoothly thanks to park personnel and park hosts who took care of parking, lighting, set up, and efficiently handling the attendees along with assisting the Friends group throughout the day. A new

addition to this year was face painter, Holly Emrie who worked with those people waiting in line before getting into the amphitheater. Always a favorite is storyteller, Sue Kuntz and her helpers. Their Halloween ghost stories kept the groups thoroughly entertained while they waited for their time to enter the haunted trail.



There were many folks that helped with trail lights and decorations. This year Nancy & Bob Gray worked at getting the lights out along the trail along with the help of high school student, David Beck. The Bell family and friends helped decorate the front area along with assembling an eerie, misty graveyard. The perfect dramatic



entrance to the haunted trail!



Pictures by Tara

President / Maintenance

Dave Kibler
djikib@gvtc.com

Vice President

Thea Platz
tplatz@neisd.net

Secretary

Bob Gray
RGrayTX@gmail.com

Treasurer

Bill Beach
bill.beach@sbcglobal.net

Director / Discovery Center

Richard Mizanin
rjmizanin@yahoo.com

Saturday Night Program

Craig Hensley
craig.hensley@tpwd.state.tx.us

Director / Education

Holly Camero
chcamero@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
jen10@gvtc.com

Director at Large

Tom Anderson
tanderson46@satx.rr.com

Director at Large

J.W. Pieper
jwp1@gvtc.com

Halloween in the Park 2016

by Holly Camero



The haunted trail is manned by a very special group of volunteers; the station sponsors. There are people, families, organizations and businesses who are responsible for the making the haunted trail an awesome experience. Some of the families that took stations this year were the Bassi family, the Thode family along with the Rodriguez's, the Macapura's, the Couteau's, and the Young's who manned the Camero & Friends stations. Several of the very dedicated groups are scouts. They have come back year after year. Some of these are Venture Crew 285 along with Girl Scout troop #848, troop #1136 and troop #1458 along with the Bulverde 4-H. A



newcomer this year is Venture Crew 343. Other very dedicated groups are Cordillera Nature Club, who took 3 areas this



year, Broadway Bank and the Bulverde Spring Branch Library. We are very happy that McDonalds, G.V.T.C. & H.E.B are a big part of the Haunted trail, in addition to Bergheim Volunteer Fire Department who brought their fire trucks out to help light the back trail. Other Texas Parks & Wildlife parks also came to join us. South Llano River came with Ranger Holly Platz & Will & Thea Platz. The TPW Buffalo Soldiers set up an incredible historical display and helped with guidance around the back corner.



Many of these groups consider Halloween in the Park to be like an annual family event. To all sponsors, we thank you; you are the backbone of the Event!



A favorite part of the Halloween event is being able to enjoy refreshments at no extra charge .This due to H.E.B's very generous donation! Tom Anderson is responsible for our long standing relationship with H.E.B. along with many other aspects of the Halloween event.



This year we had a new volunteer, Roy Shultz from Troop 285. He came with a large grill to cook the hot dogs, which streamlined the cooking process. Returning was the group of food volunteers: Carole Anderson, Judy & Dave Kibler, Brydon Moon, Joan Nitschke Bill Beach, and Paige Anderson and friend's. New help was Anthony Beverly and son with friends. Bill & Tara Anderson helped relieve when necessary these were the people that assembled the food and served the condiments, drinks and chips.



To everyone, thank you for this year! And let's look forward to making next year another fantastic Halloween in the Park. The date for next year will be Saturday the 28th of October, so mark your calendars!

Pictures by Tara





News from the Park

by Joel Parker and Craig Hensley

Following a year in which the park saw record revenue, exceeding one million dollars for the first time in its more than 30-year history, the new fiscal year has begun with a flurry of activity. Visitation remains high, even as this is written, with our guests and visitors taking advantage of the late season warm weather (this has been true of the butterflies, too – see article on another page).

By the time fall rolled around we found ourselves six staff down as several of our co-workers moved on to new and exciting challenges. As this is written we are pleased to say that two of those positions have been filled. Joining us from stints at Balmorhea State Park and most recently, Garner State Park, Tara Bayliss will become our newest Park Peace Officer. At headquarters we are soon to be joined by Felicia Lopez, coming in as Customer Service Representatives. Congratulations to both and welcome to the team!

Several projects are beginning in the park that will improve our infrastructure and our guest and visitor experience. Pedernales Electric Company (PEC) has begun what will become a multi-million dollar project to replace electrical lines in much of the park, beginning in the day use area. While this will cause temporary interruptions in service over the course of the next few months, the work they are doing demonstrates their on-going commitment to Texas State Parks and specifically to Guadalupe River through their initiative. Park staff will work in conjunction with them to make the interruptions as brief and smooth as possible for our guests and visitors.

Another project that is being about to commence is the completion of two new park host sites along the park road. This will provide us the capacity to have six park hosts at any one time and will free up a couple of camping sites we have used on and off in Turkey Sink. This project, through TPWD, should be complete by January 1st.

The large project, that of replacing restrooms and showers in both primary camping loops and the day use area, is moving through the planning and design stages right now. We anticipate these getting underway in the fall of 2017. Needless to say we are excited about these upgrades to your Texas state park.

Finally, if you would like to come out to the park to help the staff and Friends Group board members, we will be conducting our semi-annual roadside clean-up of Park Road 31 on Thursday, December 8th, beginning at 10:45 a.m. This adopt-a-road project helps rid the roadside of trash and, importantly, provides an opportunity for all the staff and Friends to spend time together while accomplishing an important beautification project. Plus, there will be tacos afterward!

Curry's Creek - More Than a Watershed An Early Regional Settlement (Part II)

Curry's Creek was one of the earliest enclaves in what would become Kendall County - it anchored its northeast corner. Yet while Kendalia (established in 1883) uses 1847 to celebrate the year of their first pioneers' entry into the Curry's Creek region, it is difficult to corroborate this by land grant records which consistently show dates in the early 1850s. Additionally, the 1850 census details that two of Curry's Creek's oft-repeated first pioneers, Samuel Boyd Patton and William Early Jones, were resident in counties other than Comal County. Thus the status of Kendall County's first settlement at the Pinta Trail crossing of the Guadalupe River (Sisterdale) remains safe as Zink's entry in 1847 and Ottmar von Behr's in 1848, are well documented. Regardless of its rank order, establishing a presence in the early 1850s put Curry's Creek in a small universe of nascent communities in Kendall County, in addition to Sisterdale, the plotted Cibolo Creek settlement of Boerne, Spring Creek's Kreutzberg and later in 1854 Cypress Creek's Comfort.

Two early 1850s "chance" encounters reinforce and document the presence of Curry's Creek settlement and "chance" is no exaggeration, as in both cases the narrators were lost in remote and unfamiliar terrain, accidentally stumbling upon these early pioneers. This should come as no surprise that the first men to reside in the countryside occupied raw land and with exception of a few know Native-American trails, there was no infrastructure; established interconnected pathways were non-existent.

Our first narrator, Born in Wesel, Germany, was Carl Phillip Beseler (left), who as a young man lived in Sisterdale from 1849 to 1854. Carl Phillip established the first Welfare-area Post Office, calling it **Bon Ton**. Faced with having the local P.O. renamed, he opted for **Welfare** and continued as its postmaster. For over eight years during two terms, Beseler also served as an early Kendall County Commissioner, as well as a Justice of the Peace. His reflections on the Sisterdale days of his youth were bundled into a series of eight 1890/1891 articles published in the *Boerne Post*.



One vignette from this series includes a posse from Sisterdale, Kendall County's earliest settlement; the highly-educated Germans have had enough "thieving by the Indians" and decided to launch their first chase and punish them. Based on the Sisterdale participants, especially Zink, this adventure took place in the early 1850s. Ill-prepared for the rough and tumble, Beseler describes them, "**Nearly one half of the men wore spectacles, and looked more like a party of Sunday excursionists.**" While extensive and well-defined trails

were non-existent, it did not help that they encountered a fog. They followed the trail left by the Indians, or so they thought, until it was finally determined that the tracks they pursued were theirs, in Beseler's words, "**they had to give up to the fact that since about two hours they had been chasing themselves...they gradually rode round in a circle without knowing it.**" Due to continued foggy conditions they stopped and waited and then, "**After an hour's rest they started out again, undetermined what to do, but the fog began to rise about this time and the men, to their utmost surprise, now saw that they were between the Two Sister Mountains and the Guadalupe River.**"

Continued...

Trails to the Past

by Bryden Moon

Shortly after resuming their journey, they found their quarry, ***“The Indians were now altogether out of sight on account of the brush and the unevenness of the land between. By dodging and creeping they soon came within shooting range and were about to make a charge, when their attention was drawn by the tramping of horses to the left of them. Having their arms in readiness to fire, they looked a moment, when to their great surprise two white men rode through the brush and right into and amongst them. Both parties were confused for a moment and the horsemen the most, at finding a lot of white men in ambush at their friend’s camp.***

A short explanation satisfied both parties, and the scouts were invited into camp, where they found round the fire the first settlers of Curry’s Creek engaged in roasting fat bear meat... They did not look like Indians, not in the least, and their names became very respectable in this country and were as follows: Judge S. B. Patton, Wm. Sansom, Judge W. E. Jones, Jesse Lawhon, Rev. Daniel Rawls, and John Hodge.

Our scouts were laughed at for a good while...with the kind advice not to scout after Indians in the future, because some white people might get hurt in case the country got settled up thicker, and that the Indians would undoubtedly be the best off. This advice, although it contained the bitter truth, was given by men who had experienced Indian fighting before they settled on Curry’s Creek...

Our second eye-witness traveler is the man who ultimately designed Central Park in New York City. Frederick Law Olmsted, made a trip through Texas and specifically in our area in 1854. In his book, *A Journey Through Texas*, he wrote a couple of pages titled “Currie’s Creek.” The back story is that Olmsted was on the Pinta Trail, desiring to reach Sisterdale, but lost his path and his way, crossing the Guadalupe River, near where Curry’s Creek merges into it - way over in western Comal County; as the crow flies, this was 15 miles east of his intended crossing. Olmsted shares ... ***a Negro came to the opposite side of the ford, who told us it was easy and safe. We found it so, but too deep for our hampers. We were obliged to unpack them, and carry the contents in successive trips of the mare. Not far beyond the thick wood of the bottom of the north side, we came upon Currie’s Creek, and found an American settler, with some Negroes. He is owner of an adjacent sawmill, rented and managed by a German, who appeared a man of education, and, we learned, was one of the exiles who had retreated to the Guadalupe.*** Although never mentioning any names, the owner is said to have been William Early Jones and the millwright Edward Krieger.



After crossing the Guadalupe River, Olmsted travels north along Curry’s Creek and tells us, ***“Our road followed Currie’s Creek, a pleasant brook, bordered by meadows, here and there interrupted by ledges of rock, extending from the hills, and walling the roadside with stunted live oak and cedar. We stopped, a few miles on, near three or four families of American farmers, new settlers, still engaged in finishing their houses.***

Beseler and Olmsted, our two eye-witnesses, confirm early settlement in the Curry’s’ Creek region.

There are more stories to be told!

News from the Park

by Bryden Moon

At A River Debuts to “Standing Room Only”

When Terry Slezak, lead singer of the Boerne Village Band, kicked off the program by belting out a romantic German song, you knew that *At a River*, would contain elements of our region’s Germanic roots. Held at the Patrick Heath Public Library the dramatic narrative, created by Boerne newcomer Donna Peacock, was authentic and Kendall County-centric; it was based on the translated letters of Christian Friedrich Bergmann, an early Kendall County pioneer.

Mr. Bergmann wrote multiple letters to his family in Ebersbach, Saxony, first detailing his family’s



lengthy Atlantic Ocean boat ride to the Texas coast, their interim years in San Antonio, and finally his 31 years of farming and ranching on Kendall County land “at a river” - the Guadalupe, starting in 1857. Three talented actors, the cast of Sarah Fisch, Sam Carter Gilliam and Andrew Thornton, conveyed the Bergmann family’s cascading decades of emotions, packed with successes and struggles, but satisfied that leaving their homeland allowed them to live a better life.

Sponsored by the Friends of Guadalupe River/Honey Creek and hosted by the Genealogy Society of Kendall County, the inaugural production of *At a River* on October 29th was SRO or “standing room only.” With 120 chairs in the Patrick Heath Public Library’s community room, and an audience estimated at 140, some of the guests literally had to stand. But at the program’s conclusion everybody wound up standing (and clapping), an appreciative nod to the creative program by Ms. Peacock, the actors Fisch, Gilliam and Thornton and vocalist Slezak.





Nature opportunities at the Park

by Linda Gindler

Come on out – the birding is GREAT

Winter is great time to go birding at Guadalupe River State Park. As evidence to back up this claim, I can point to the 50 species seen on January 1, 2016. So plan a visit with a pair of binoculars (and camera if you like) and enjoy a quiet time at the bird blind, stroll along the river, or a hike along one of the many trails.

The seasonal migrants and summer residents are long gone by winter, but the winter residents began to arrive in October to mingle with our year round birds. They will call Guadalupe River State Park home until early March. As the park transforms into winter, leaves drop, grasses layover and it becomes easier to spot these feathered wonders.

Watch for winter sparrows throughout the park, especially in the brushy & grassy areas. They include: chipping (in great numbers), Lincoln, savannah, white-throated, field, Le Conte's, grasshopper, and the beautiful spotted towhee. Use your binoculars to zero in on the beautiful feather patterns of the sparrow family. Nature at its finest.



Keep an eye on the sky and you might spot a bald eagle, osprey, red-shouldered hawk, or raven making one of their many daily patrols.

Take a walk along the river and watch for a belted kingfisher, great blue heron, killdeer, spotted sandpiper or lesser scaup.

Make a stop at the bird blind located on the west end of the Day Use Area. The blind offers comfortable sheltered seating with a front row view of all the bird action. Feed is distributed here, but the main attraction is the water feature. Birds of all types and sizes love the shallow pools and flowing water. This gives you an opportunity to get an up close view of a bird enjoying bath time. There is something magical about getting a glimpse of a bird doing a shimmy while it enjoys a bath.

While at the Day Use Area and blind, look to the trees to spot the constant motion of the Bewick's Wren, Carolina wren, ruby-crowned kinglet, golden-crowned kinglet, yellow-rumped warbler, orange-crowned warbler, pine siskin, lesser goldfinch, American goldfinch, northern cardinal, and ladder-backed woodpecker.

So come on out, the birding is great. Happy birding!

Nature opportunities at the Park

by R. Craig Hensley, Park Interpreter

Butterfly Bonanza

Laviana White-Skipper

As I walked from the Discovery Center to our new Habi-scape wildflower garden, I noticed a small yellow butterfly that somehow looked different from the normal yellow butterflies, known as sulphurs, I was used to seeing. I am quite sure I can't put in words what was different – there just was – an impression I suppose. As my binoculars focused on it my brain went into overdrive, flipping through the tens of thousands of flash cards of butterflies identified in the past from my wanderings around Texas until it stopped on the memory of a similar small butterfly I had photographed on a trip to Big Bend National Park. Wait – could that really be right!?



Mexican Yellow

I look again, consult my butterfly identification field guide, look again and realize that, holy cow, it is a Mexican Yellow! Consulting the range map I discover that this is not normal – not out of the complete ordinary, but certainly not a butterfly I or anyone would expect to show up at our park. For the record, it was photographed and once again, another good day was had. Little did I know that this year would turn into one where that Mexican Yellow was but one of a number of unusual butterflies that would drift north from the Rio Grande Valley to visit the park and other areas far north of their normal ranges.

We know these things because for the past 4.5 years I and many volunteers have been conducting bi-monthly (mostly) butterfly surveys to assess population diversity and levels from year to year. To date, nearly 80 species of butterflies have been documented in the park and Honey Creek. For comparison, approximately 130 species have been recorded in all of Comal County. Our records range from more than 1,300 monarchs that were counted migrating over the park on October 1, 2014 – all in about one hour to this year's first records of Tailed Orange, Laviana White-Skipper, Zebra Heliconian, Mimosa Yellow and of course, the aforementioned Mexican Yellow.



Mimosa Yellow

And, of course this was the year of the massive immigration of American Snouts through the entirety of south Texas – at one point I estimated that some 25.4 million snouts, a little brownish butterfly, were passing through each linear mile over the course of a 10-hour day – and this went on for more than two weeks! Add the tens of thousands of Large Orange Sulphurs travelling with them, an influx of Orange-banded Sulphurs and this year's unreal numbers of Common Mestras – 480 observed during a recent two-hour survey – the tip of the iceberg of actual numbers throughout the park -- and it has truly been quite a butterfly year.

My goal for our butterfly surveys is to document long-term changes to our butterfly populations year to year and between months between years. We are only just beginning this work and I would extend an invitation to any of our readers that enjoy butterflies, want to learn more about them, and help us collect data. This year will go down mostly likely as an unusual one to be sure. Was it the rain that occurred in good amounts throughout the year in our area – certainly the rains in the Chihuahan Desert of west Texas contributed to the snout invasion, the persistent south winds or some other factors that created the conditions for what we have witnessed and documented this year? It is hard to draw conclusions from one year, but should this continue to happen, perhaps then we can begin to formulate theories.

Much like surveys of birds we do and other monitoring, assessing our wildlife populations provide us glimpses of how we are doing with our management practices, and perhaps overall environmental quality, as well. Besides those important things – it really is quite fun! Contact me at craig.hensley@tpwd.texas.gov if you would like to join us.



Tailed Orange



Nature opportunities at the Park

by Susan Bogle



So what in the world is a “Habiscape?”

If you have been to the Discovery Center, you may have noticed a garden that has been developed next to the pathway that leads to the Center. Since every plant that is growing in this small area is also found inside the Guadalupe River State Park, it was decided to coin the word “Habiscape” to properly describe this habitat that is a reflection of the park’s native landscape.



The idea of this indigenous garden was conceived by Interpretative Ranger Craig Hensley. It was built by a local scout troop and was developed and planted by members of the Lindheimer Master Naturalist chapter, with the help of an environmental club from Smithson Valley High School. Its maintenance is a continuing effort that is performed by interested volunteers on a monthly basis.

The Habiscape is there to both enjoy and educate. Anyone walking by it has the opportunity to enjoy the plants, along with the wide variety of insects those plants attract. And Ranger Hensley has taken advantage of this convenient outdoor classroom to conduct many of his children’s programs that the adults seem to enjoy as much as the kids.



Anyone interested in helping to maintain the Habiscape should contact Ranger Hensley so they can be added to the list of volunteers who keep it looking its best, but always in the most natural of ways.



Nature opportunities at the Park

by Dave Kibler

SERVICE PROJECT AT THE PARK

22 OCTOBER 2016

On Saturday, 22 October, a group of thirty-two enthusiastic Scouts and adult volunteers from Boy Scout Troop 285, sponsored by Coker Methodist Church in San Antonio, returned to the park for the eighteenth 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. 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. Following the morning’s work, all enjoyed a night of camping in the splendid and cooler fall weather.



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 spring of 2017.

December 2016 Programs

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>.

Introducing Agents of Discovery

Saturday, December 3, 2016;

1-4 p.m.

Guadalupe River State Park has join a new outdoor exploration program known as Agents of Discovery. Using your phone you will go on a scavenger hunt that will get you moving and challenge your knowledge of the park while teaching you new things, as well. Go to the App Store or Google Play to download to your phone before coming out and we'll get you on you and your children on their way to being Discovery Agents! Visit their website at <https://discoveryagents.net/> to learn more and join Ranger Craig! Meet at the Discovery Center. This program is free with your park admission of \$7 for anyone 13 and older (12 and younger free) apply – free admission with your TPWD Park Pass.

T'was the Night at the Guad: Christmas in the Park

Saturday, December 3, 2016;

6-8 p.m.

An evening of holiday fun awaits at Guadalupe River State Park! We'll gather at the amphitheater, where a special appearance by the grand man himself, Santa, will conclude with a reading of the "T'was the Night Before Christmas by Samuel Clements. Afterwards, enjoy the movie "Prancer" under the stars. Be sure to dress for the weather, bring a blanket or two and enjoy the evening. The Friends of Guadalupe River and Honey Creek will provide snacks and hot drinks. This program is free (park admission is \$7 per person 13 and older (children 12 and under free). Your TPWD Park Pass also grants free admission.

Little Naturalists: Who Goes There?

Wednesday, December 14, 2016;

10-11 a.m.

You and your pre-schooler (ages 3-5 years old) are invited to the park for a morning of exploration and learning. We'll learn how to tell who lives in the park even when we can't see them. This special program is limited to the first 12 children that are registered. Please email Ranger Craig at craig.hensley@tpwd.texas.gov to reserve a spot. Be sure to dress your young ones for the outdoors including wearing long pants and close-toed shoes. We will meet at the amphitheater, located behind the Discovery Center. The program is free with park admission of \$7 for anyone 13 and older (12 and younger free) apply – free admission with your TPWD Park Pass.

Prowlin' for Owls

Friday, December 16, 2016;

6:30-8 p.m.

Join Ranger Craig for a hootin' good time as together we explore the world of our denizens of the dark. You'll discover who's whooooo among the owls of Texas and then head out in search of our resident Barred Owls. Be sure to dress for the weather, wear close-toed shoes and meet at the amphitheater, located behind the Discovery Center. The program is free with park admission of \$7 for anyone 13 and older (12 and younger free) apply – free admission with your TPWD Park Pass.

Bird in the Hand

Saturday, December 17, 2016;

9 a.m.-Noon

Join Ranger Craig and his merry "band-ing" of volunteers for a morning of beak-to-nose looks at our area songbirds. From cardinals and goldfinches to titmice and chickadees, you'll learn who's who among our winter songbirds, as well as discover the art and science of bird banding. Dress for the weather and join us any time during the morning. The program is free with park admission of \$7 for anyone 13 and older (12 and younger free) apply – free admission with your TPWD Park Pass.

Bird in the Hand

Wednesday, December 21, 2016;

9 a.m.-Noon

If you missed us on Saturday, here is a second opportunity to join Ranger Craig and his merry "band-ing" of volunteers for a morning of beak-to-nose looks at our area songbirds. From cardinals and goldfinches to titmice and chickadees, you'll learn who's who among our winter songbirds, as well as discover the art and science of bird banding. Dress for the weather and join us any time during the morning. The program is free with park admission of \$7 for anyone 13 and older (12 and younger free) apply – free admission with your TPWD Park Pass.

Nature Scavenger Hunt/Agents of Discovery

Thursday, December 22, 2016;

10 a.m.-3 p.m.

Stop by the Discovery Center any time during the day and pick up our scavenger hunt sheets and challenge yourself for a successful nature challenge. Or, go to the App Store or Google Play to download Agents of Discovery to your phone before coming out and we'll get you and your children on their way to being Discovery Agents! Visit their website at <https://discoveryagents.net/> to learn more. This program is free with your park admission of \$7 for anyone 13 and older (12 and younger free) apply – free admission with your TPWD Park Pass.

All Day Archery

Friday, December 23, 2016;

9:30 a.m.-2:30 p.m.

Looking for something to do other than shopping? Then drive out to Guadalupe River State Park and learn the skill of archery. We'll be at the archery "range" near the Rust house to teach you the steps to successful archery and let you test your new skills. This program is free with your park admission of \$7 for anyone 13 and older (12 and younger free) apply – free admission with your TPWD Park Pass.

Birding for Kiddos

Wednesday, December 28, 2016;

9-11 a.m.

Bird watching is an outdoor activity that not only can be a lot of fun but can last a lifetime. If you have a child with an interest in our feathered friends, bring him/her to the park and join Ranger Craig for a morning of fun and learning. We'll teach you the skills of bird watching and then practice by going on a bird walk in search of everything from cardinals to hawks and everything in-between. We'll provide the binoculars – you be sure to dress your children for the weather, including wearing long pants and close-toed shoes. Meet at the Discovery Center. This program is free with your park admission of \$7 for anyone 13 and older (12 and younger free) apply – free admission with your TPWD Park Pass.



December 2016 Programs

by Craig Hensley

Geocaching 101

Wednesday, December 28, 2016;

1-3 p.m.

Want to learn a new outdoor skill that can be done anywhere? Join Ranger Craig at Guadalupe River State Park and he'll teach you the skills of geocaching – and then send you out on our practice course to test yourself. We'll provide the GPS units – one per family. Please email craig.hensley@tpwd.texas.gov to reserve a unit for your family. Be sure to dress for the weather including long pants and close-toed shoes. Meet at the amphitheater behind the Discovery Center. This program is free with your park admission of \$7 for anyone 13 and older (12 and younger free) apply – free admission with your TPWD Park Pass.

Bird Walk and Talk

Thursday, December 29, 2016;

8:30-11 a.m.

Grab your binoculars and head to the park for a relaxing morning of birding and conversation with our Ranger and birding enthusiast Craig. We will head out in search of everything from sparrows and kinglets to hawks and falcons. Don't have binoculars or lack experience? We have several pair for loan and will provide the on-the-walk training in identification. Meet at the Discovery Center. This program is free with your park admission of \$7 for anyone 13 and older (12 and younger free) apply – free admission with your TPWD Park Pass.

New Year's Eve with the Owls

Saturday, December 31, 2016;

6:30-8 p.m.

Before heading out for your evening festivities, join Ranger Craig for a hike to listen for and perhaps see the Barred Owls (and others) of Guadalupe River State Park. Dress for the weather and enjoy this special night out on the wooded side of town! Meet at the amphitheater behind the Discovery Center – and be sure to dress for the weather! This program is free with your park admission of \$7 for anyone 13 and older (12 and younger free) apply – free admission with your TPWD Park Pass.

First Day Midnight Hike to Honey Creek

Sunday, January 1st, 2017;

Midnight to 2 a.m.

Ring in the New Year with a hike through the woods to the beautiful Honey Creek. Ranger Craig will lead the way as we enjoy the stars above and who knows what along the creek. This hike is recommended for ages 10 and up. Be sure to dress for the weather, including wearing closed-toes shoes. Bring a flashlight as well. Ranger Craig will be at the front gate between 11:30 and 11:50 p.m. to let you in – after 11:50 you are out of luck. This program is free with your park admission of \$7 for anyone 13 and older (12 and younger free) apply – free admission with your TPWD Park Pass.

2017 Dues

by Bill Beach

2017 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 2017 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!**