



# Spring 2018 NEWSLETTER

## Friends of Guadalupe River, Honey Creek, Inc.

A non-profit organization

### Thank you for all you do

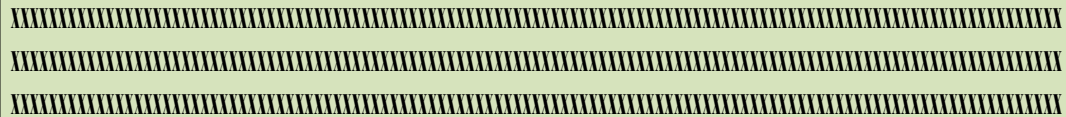
by Thea Platz President

As the new president of the Friends of Guadalupe River State Park and Honey Creek State Natural Area. I would like to thank immediate Past President Dave Kibler for his leadership and dedication to the group not only as past president but also for his many contributions throughout the years and for his willingness to continue serving on the board in the position of vice president. We are so blessed to have each of our wonderful board members that give so much of their time and talents to our beloved park. Thank you for all you do.

In January we celebrated the one year anniversary of the park being under the excellent leadership of Superintendent Barret Durst. He along with assistant Superintendent Joel Parker and the entire staff are an amazing team and a joy to work with as we continue on this joint venture to make the park the most it can be, while also protecting our visitors and this amazing natural resource that is Guadalupe River State Park and Honey Creek State Natural Area. Thank you for all you do.

I would also like to take this opportunity to give thanks to you, our members, who support the park in so many ways. In addition to your annual dues and other financial contributions, many of you are familiar faces volunteering at the park. Without the support of generous people like you the park would not be the true gem that it is. Thank you for all you do.

There are numerous opportunities to volunteer at the park: natural resource management, visitor information, leading hikes and helping with educational programs. We also need your help by being on the committees that help organize and work at events, communicate with members and fund raise, develop programing and so much more. So if you have not already done so, why not take it to the next level and get involved. We have some exciting things planned for the year and could really use your help. Contact me, Thea Platz, or any board member to get started.



## 2018 Homesteader Homecoming

Please mark your calendar...for **2:00 on Sunday, April 29th**

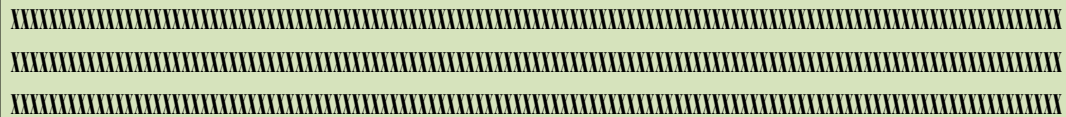
At Guadalupe River State Park's Rust House

Celebrate the Guadalupe River State Park's 35<sup>th</sup> Birthday

Learn about early settlers **Henry and Louise Rust**

As usual, Friends of Guadalupe/Honey Creek will supply the drinks and guests and friends members, are asked to bring a sweet.

Any questions please call Bryden Moon @ (830) 336-3375 or e-mail [bemoonjr@aol.com](mailto:bemoonjr@aol.com).



### Board of Directors

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Trails to the Past

by Bryden Moon

## At the Threshold of the Rust House - 100<sup>th</sup> Year Anniversary Heinrich (Henry) and Louise Mueller Rust – Part II

Sparked by the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Guadalupe River State Park's 1917 Rust house, in our last edition we began tracking Heinrich Rust's family. Henry and Louise Mueller Rust came to their land over 100 years ago. They were the only family who ever lived in the 1917 Rust house and it was here where they both ultimately spent the last 30 plus years of their lives, living in solitude. Over time their former 539 acre holdings, now crisscrossed with paved roads, campsites, and our scenic cliffside day use area, would become the idyllic heart of Guadalupe River State Park (GRSP). This edition we'll recap the Rust family's entry into Texas and then follow Heinrich and his family into his adulthood, marriage and his final move to our future GRSP lands.



Henry and Louise Mueller Rust

Last edition we reached back to the Rust family's origins in the old country and their early days in Texas: Heinrich's German-immigrant father, Friedrich Wilhelm Rust, brought his family on to Texas shores from Hanover in 1855, and initially settled in New Braunfels where Heinrich was born shortly after the 1860 census. In 1864, the family relocated between Spring Branch and Smithson Valley to an area later called Guadalupe Valley. The article closed by highlighting that Friedrich's family was listed on the 1870 **Smithson Valley** census and Heinrich at 10 was the youngest of 5 siblings.

When 1880 rolled around, Heinrich, included in the Friedrich Wilhelm Rust family's census, is now 19, the youngest of 3 household siblings. The family's 1880 neighbors were Becker, Haas, and Haag. In 1882,



Friedrich Rust moves his family once again after purchasing 640 acres of land on the north side of the Guadalupe River. This was a significant move in that it was both prime real estate with a large amount of Guadalupe River frontage and it was also the Rust patriarch's final move...the western boundary of his acquisition is about 7 miles from the Rust House. The Rust family cemetery was plotted on this land. One of the nearby falls was named for the Rust family.

The 1882 move also turned out to be significant for Heinrich Rust. It put his family just across the Guadalupe River from Heinrich's in-laws, Carl Ludwig Mueller and his wife, who had moved onto their land in the early 1870s. In 1882 the Mueller and Rust families were united by Heinrich's marriage to Louisa Mueller; on October 4th they were married by pioneering Pastor August Engel. I'm sure Henry and Louise knew each other from community gatherings and dances well before they were neighbors. That following year in 1883, Heinrich serves as member of the Smithson Valley road crew and that same year their first child Alma is born. Two years later in 1885, Henry & Louise's only son was born. Friedrich or Fritz was named for his grandfather.

Since the 1890 census records were destroyed by a fire, we catch up with Heinrich Rust and family on the 1900 census. The June 1<sup>st</sup> data details that both Heinrich and Louise are now 39 and in addition to Alma and Fritz, who are 17 and 15 respectively they have added two more daughters to their family, Meta 8 and Erna 3. They are now living on land in the Guadalupe Valley region, approximately 7 miles from here.

Continued...

Rust, Henry	Head	W	W	1860	39
Louise	Wife	W	F	1861	37

## Trails to the Past

by Bryden Moon

In addition to Fritz who is now 25 and Erna now 12, the 1910 census reveals Henry's two oldest daughters are no longer living under his roof, his oldest, Alma, has married Willie Gass, and his middle daughter Meta married Otto Weidner. 1910 is also notable as two of Henry Rust's children begin the family's association with our GRSPark and Honey Creek State Natural Area (HCSNA) lands. Their son, Fritz, and daughter Meta's husband, Otto Weidner, partner to purchase more than 2100 acres of land along Honey Creek, and stretching north, all the way to the Guadalupe River and slightly beyond. They paid Adam Doeppenschmidt \$22,000. Unfortunately, after purchasing the land, the Weidner family experienced difficult times and Otto and Meta Weidner sold their half interest in the property to her father Heinrich Rust, and moved back to Smithson Valley. Thus Heinrich and his son owned the land.

The last half of 1915 held ups and downs for Henry and Louise Rust. Their daughter Erna married Hermann Richter on September 23<sup>rd</sup>; now all three daughters were married.

Yet, tragedy struck less than two months later...from an obituary in the November 25, 1915, *Neu Braunfelser Zeitung*, **"Mr. and Mrs. Heinrich Rust of above Smithson's Valley were terrifically shocked on Monday the 15th of November as they were told that their only son Friedrich Wilhelm Rust was found shot to death in the Bergheim area. All evidence points without fail that a cold-blooded murder was cause of his death. The thus tragically deceased only male child of the Rusts was born 25th December 1884 in Comal County. ...Standing deeply mourning around his grave were his parents, 3 sisters Mrs. Willie Gass, Mrs. Otto Weidner, Mrs. Hermann Richter, 3 brothers-in-law, the grandmother on his mother's side and numerous other relatives..."**

After Fritz Rust's death, Heinrich's daughter Meta and Otto Weidner then returned to Honey Creek to partner with her father; in 1917, Henry Rust and his son-in-law Otto Weidner divided the large 2100-acre tract: Weidner purchased 1,589 acres of the property that lay on the east side of Honey Creek, the majority of which forms today's HCSNA. Heinrich and Louise occupied the remainder of land, approximately 539 acres on the north side of Honey Creek stretching all the way to Guadalupe River. And here is where they started a new life. As they continued to live here alone, from census to census their adjacent neighbors were identified. In 1920 the surnames were Scheel, Kneupper, Kunz, Richter, Laubach and Father Dresel from St. Joseph – Honey Creek Church. In the 1930 census the adjacent households included Kunz, Bechtold, Schwartz, Gass, Richter, Lux, & Krause (Gass and Richter were their son-in-laws). In 1940 both Henry & Louise are listed as 79 and their 23-year-old home is valued @ \$1500; their adjacent neighbors are Moos, Kunz, Richter, Bechtold, and Friesenhahn.

Having both lived full lives, in 1950, just 16 days short of his 90<sup>th</sup> birthday Henry Rust passes away, Louise had died exactly 9 months earlier. Both lay side by side in the Comal Cemetery. With the entire park and state natural area's accumulated land details for another day, this house coupled with over 4,000 acres of land including the 2100 acres that the Rust and Weidner families purchased from Adam Doeppenschmidt in 1910, came to form the basis of Guadalupe River State Park and Honey Creek State Natural Area! Today the house draws us together to remember and salute our pioneer families.



Henry and Louise Mueller Rust

**There are more stories to be told!**

**Winter Bird Banding at Honey Creek** by R. Craig Hensley, Park Interpreter/Resource Specialist

Thanks largely to the efforts of volunteer and sub-permittee banders Michael Gamble and Nancy Raginski, as well as Drew Finn, John Prentice, Linda Gindler, Jenni Sorensen and others, we have banded more than 600 native sparrows at Honey Creek State Natural Area this winter. This effort is underway to determine how over-wintering sparrows utilize the grassland/savannah habitats that have been created over the past few years as 2<sup>nd</sup>-growth Ashe juniper breaks were converted to native grasses and wildflowers.

Below are the species and numbers captured to date (as of February 18, 2018):

<b>Savannah Sparrow:</b>	<b>175 (27.87%)</b>
<b>Vesper Sparrow:</b>	<b>154 (24.52%)</b>
<b>Chipping Sparrow:</b>	<b>122 (19.43%)</b>
<b>Grasshopper Sparrow:</b>	<b>59 (9.40%)</b>
<b>Field Sparrow:</b>	<b>53 (8.44%)</b>
<b>Lincoln's Sparrow:</b>	<b>37 (5.89%)</b>
<b>Song Sparrow:</b>	<b>13 (2.07%)</b>
<b>LeConte's Sparrow:</b>	<b>9 (1.43%)</b>
<b>Rufous-crowned Sparrow:</b>	<b>3 (0.48%)</b>
<b>Cassin's Sparrow:</b>	<b>2 (0.32%)</b>
<b>White-crowned Sparrow:</b>	<b>1 (0.16%)</b>

**11 SPECIES; 628 TOTAL BIRDS**

Among the surprises were the presence of Cassin's Sparrows, a bird typically associated with the western Edwards Plateau and Trans-Pecos and the good numbers of Grasshopper Sparrows and LeConte's Sparrows. These are birds that generally require high-quality, tallgrass settings.

Many species of grassland sparrows are declining due to habitat loss and other variables on their breeding grounds. Wintering areas such as the hundreds of "recreated" acres at Honey Creek and in the park provide much needed and ever more critical habitat for these and other northern grassland migrants. In addition to these birds, we have also banded 17 other species ranging from American Kestrel to Eastern Meadowlark.

Many thanks to all the volunteers that have been part of this effort.



The Grasshopper (left) and LeConte's Sparrows have been significant captures this winter.



The biggest surprise thus far has been the capture of two Cassin's Sparrows, better known to west Texas.



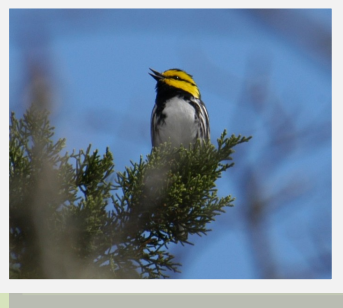
**Golden-cheeked Warblers on the Way!** by R. Craig Hensley, Park Interpreter/Resource Specialist

The Golden-cheeked Warbler will be returning to the mature Ashe juniper woodlands of the park and Honey Creek in early March, and we are on the watch. Each spring a corps of “cedar crushers” as we call ourselves, head into the woods in search of singing males to document their presence and abundance.

The Hill Country of central Texas is the only home to breeding Golden-cheeked Warblers in the world, making it a true native Texan. They depend on the strips of bark from mature Ashe juniper trees for nesting materials, the nests generally placed in the Texas red, shin or live oaks found among the cedars.

As development continues to encroach on the area surrounding the park and natural area, those areas in which they are found will become increasingly important to the continued success of these iconic songbirds. As a result of their presence here, our park and natural area are designated as an important bird area, one of 500 in the United States.

If you have yet to see one of these beautiful birds, be sure to join a Saturday morning Honey Creek hike between March and May to have an opportunity to hear or catch a glimpse. You can also join the effort to monitor the birds by contacting me at [craig.hensley@tpwd.texas.gov](mailto:craig.hensley@tpwd.texas.gov).



A singing male Golden-cheeked Warbler. (photo by John Prentice)



A close-up look at a male Golden-cheeked Warbler.

**Come on out - the birding is GREAT**

by Linda Gindler



Male American Kestrel (Photo by John Prentice)

Time marches on and Spring is just around the corner. You can see it in small ways by looking closely at vegetation where you will find tiny sprouts of green emerging. Even though the park is beginning to say good-bye to winter bird guests and spring migrants have yet to arrive, early spring is still a great time for birding at the park. Vegetation is minimal and temperatures mild making it a great time for an outing to watch for one of the park’s most beautiful bird families – the falcons.

The American Kestrel is the most common and widespread of North American falcons, but it is only at our park for a few months and will be leaving in March for its breeding grounds. It is the smallest of the North American falcons measuring only 9-12”, so it might be overlooked. But take a few minutes to look for it and you will find a real beauty. Look for the striking double vertical slash on the face (found on both the male and female). Both sexes also have a rufous back and a black band near the tip of the tail. Males distinguish themselves with blue-gray wings while the female sport rufous. Kestrels are open country birds that like to perch up high to watch for prey. They are known for bobbing their tail while perched. In the park, look along the power lines or atop a tree in the savannah areas of the Painted Bunting, Prairie, & Bamberger Trails. Kestrels eat large insects, small mammals, birds, and reptiles. They can catch their meals in flight, but most often they leave their perch and pounce at or near the ground. If you are lucky you might find one using the wind to hover above its prey waiting for the right moment to pounce.

**Come on out - the birding is GREAT**

by Linda Gindler

**Crested Caracara (Photo by John Prentice)**

A cousin to the American Kestrel and a park rock star is the Crested Caracara. The Caracara is a year-round resident to the park. Its limited USA range of south Texas, Arizona, and Florida makes it a favorite of out-of-state birding enthusiasts. But even locals will find it a bird worth a closer look. Caracaras are nicknamed "Mexican Eagle" because of their size, appearance, and their large range in Mexico, but they are not true eagles and are falcons. Caracaras are large (19-23"), have dark bodies, and finely barred tail and upper breast. Their most distinguishing characteristic is their black crest, red facial skin, and a blue-gray hooked bill. Both sexes are similar in appearance and you won't be able to make a distinction in the field, but you do often find them in pairs. Caracara can be seen soaring with vultures where you will be able to

pick them out by the head, tail, and wing colors. In addition to watching for them soar, in the park look along the park road sitting atop the power poles and in the open savannah areas of the Painted Bunting Trail. They like to perch in dead trees as well as the ground. They eat carrion, small reptiles, birds, and mammals.

If you would like to learn more about birding in the park, come out for one of Ranger Craig's bird programs. Programs include bird hikes, ID workshops, and the very popular "Bird in Hand" program. Visit the park's Facebook page or the park's page on the Texas Parks and Wildlife web site to learn more about upcoming programs. "Bird in Hand" is a recurring program on the first Saturday of each month March-May 2018 (9:00 a.m. to noon) at the Discovery Center Amphitheater. All programs are subject to change so contact the park for current details or watch for updates on Facebook.

**Additions in the Habiscape**

by Susan Bogle

As is the way in the natural world, nothing remains static in the park's Habiscape – not even during the middle of winter. First, a round cement sign has been mounted at the entrance to the garden. Decorated with whimsical flowers, this sign was created by a local artist who is a regular volunteer in the park. In addition, this same artist has cast clay bricks which relate a verse written by our interpretive ranger, Craig Hensley. This verse invites visitors into the Habiscape to enjoy the many discoveries they will encounter there. These bricks can be found installed in the ground, circling around the inside perimeter of the garden, encouraging visitors to walk through. And as they walk through, they will discover yet another addition. There is now a larger and more comfortable wooden bench that has been built by another pair of volunteers. This bench has been set into a shady area just behind the Habiscape. This will be a perfect spot for visitors to rest while enjoying the garden and all of the variety of its resident insect population. Spring is fast approaching and with it, you will find the plants in the Habiscape will be regenerating, as well as the first appearance of the many new plants that have been seeded in. So the next time you are visiting the park, be sure to drop by the Habiscape to see what you might discover.



**New Employees**

by Joel Parker

Please see the below biographies for two of our new employees. A picture is also attached. Pictured left is Ryan Powers (Park Operations Trainee) and on the right is James Long (Operations Ranger III).



Howdy! My name is Ryan Powers from Cypress, Texas. I am a Texas A&M graduate, class of 2017, with a bachelor's degree in Recreation, Parks and Tourism Science. I went to college knowing I wanted to work for TPWD and focused my studies on parks, administration, conservation and leadership. I was a member of company D-2 and Parsons Mounted Cavalry in the Corps of Cadets at Texas A&M. I'm an avid fisherman from the Gulf coast, but have transitioned into quite the freshwater angler since leaving the Gulf coast.

Hello everyone my name is James Long but I go by Jay. I was born and raised in southern Illinois and graduated from high school there in 2008. I played football and wrestled throughout my childhood and high school. I joined the Marine Corps in 2008 at 17 and served in the Infantry. I deployed twice overseas and served as a Squad Leader, a Platoon Sergeant, and an Operations Chief, along with several other billets. I retired in October of 2017 due to injuries suffered on my deployments. While in the Marine Corps I obtained my Bachelors in Environmental Science with a focus in Wildlife and Fisheries from American Military University. My passion is hunting and fishing while focusing on the conservation of the American wildlife. I am currently engaged and will be married this Sunday (1-14-18) and I am expecting a baby girl, Remington, in June of this year.

## Upcoming Programs at the Park and Honey Creek

by Craig Hensley, Park Interpreter

**We will be hosting a wide variety of programs at the Park and Honey Creek this spring. March programs are outlined below.**

<b>Saturday Morning Honey Creek Hikes</b> Guadalupe River State Park Join one of our trained Honey Creek Guides for our weekly Saturday hike to the beautiful Honey Creek. Along the way you will learn about both the cultural and natural history of the area. Please meet at the Rust House inside the park. Please note that a \$2 donation is requested to help support the educational activities supported by the Friends group, in addition to the regular admission to the park of \$7 per person 13 and above.	Saturdays, March 3, 10, 17, 24 & 31	9-11 a.m.
<b>Bird in the Hand</b> Guadalupe River State Park 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. Join us any time during the morning at the amphitheater behind the Discovery Center. This program is free with a park pass or \$7 for ages 13 and above (12 and under free).	Saturday, March 3	9 a.m.-Noon
<b>Prowlin' for Owls</b> Guadalupe River State Park 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. This program is free with park admission of \$7 for ages 13 and above (12 and under free) or a current TPWD park pass.	Saturday, March 10	7-8:30 p.m.
<b>Spring Break Honey Creek Hike</b> Guadalupe River State Park Join one of our trained Honey Creek Guides for a special spring break week hike to the beautiful Honey Creek. Along the way you will learn about both the cultural and natural history of the area. Please meet at the Rust House inside the park. Please note that a \$2 donation is requested to help support the educational activities supported by the Friends group.	Tuesday, March 13	10 a.m.-Noon
<b>Spring Break Storytime and Craft: Giving Tree</b> Join Ranger Patti for Storytime and Craft at our own "Giving Tree". Meet at the Discovery Center Amphitheater and we will stroll past our Habiscape to our Story-Time Tree to hear the classic book "The Giving Tree". Then we will return to the Discovery Center to explore the hands-on displays and make your own Giving Tree craft. This program is free with park admission of \$7 for ages 13 and above (12 and under free) or a current TPWD park pass.	Tuesday, March 13	10:00 to 11:30 a.m.
<b>Spring Break Bugs-R-U's</b> Guadalupe River State Park Join us for a morning of chasing six-legged wonders from butterflies to grasshoppers. We'll 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.	Wednesday, March 14	9:30 a.m. -11 a.m.
<b>Lunch and Learn: Monarchs and Milkweeds</b> At Bulverde-Spring Branch Library Join Ranger Craig at the Bulverde-Spring Branch Public Library for a presentation on the miraculous Monarch Butterfly. You'll learn about their life cycle, the plants upon which they depend and how you can join conservation efforts of this iconic butterfly. We'll meet at the library at 131 Bulverde Crossing, Bulverde, TX (this is about 10 miles from the park). We'll have a follow-up field experience on Friday afternoon from 1-3 p.m. This program is free.	Wednesday, March 14	Noon-1 p.m.
<b>Spring Break Honey Creek Hike</b> Guadalupe River State Park Join one of our trained Honey Creek Guides for a special spring break week hike to the beautiful Honey Creek. Along the way you will learn about both the cultural and natural history of the area. Please meet at the Rust House inside the park. Please note that a \$2 donation is requested to help support the educational activities supported by the Friends group.	Thursday, March 15	10 a.m.-Noon
<b>Spring Break Bird in the Hand</b> Guadalupe River State Park 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. Join us any time during the morning at the amphitheater behind the Discovery Center. This program is free with a park pass or \$7 for ages 13 and above (12 and under free).	Thursday, March 15	9 a.m.-Noon
<b>Spring Break River Critters</b> Guadalupe River State Park Join Ranger Craig 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).	Friday, March 16	9:30 a.m. -11 a.m.
<b>Monarchs and Milkweeds Field Experience: Lunch and Learn Follow-up</b> Guadalupe River State Park Join Ranger Craig at the park headquarters for a walk as we search of monarch butterflies and the plants upon which they depend. We will be hiking through long grass so wear long pants and sturdy shoes/boots – no open-toed shoes will be allowed. You do not have had to attend the Wednesday library session to attend. This program is free with a Park Pass or a \$7 daily pass (children ages 12 and under are free).	Friday, March 16	1-3 p.m.
<b>Hike with a Ranger</b> Join Ranger Patti for a guided trail hike suitable for all ages. On this guided walk we will search for tracks, scat, sights and sounds of our resident wildlife, and learn about some of the special plants found in our beautiful park. After the hike we will return to the Discovery Center to explore the hands-on displays and create some Nature Art Masterpieces. Meet at the Discovery Center Amphitheater.	Saturday, March 17th	10:00 to 11:30 a.m.
<b>Stalking the Wild Night</b> Guadalupe River State Park While they are out there, we don't always see them. Join Ranger Craig to learn what to look for to figure out what animals are out and about when we aren't. From tracks and scat to other traces, we'll become nature detectives out on the trails of the park. Meet at the amphitheater located behind the Discovery Center. This program is free with park admission of \$7 for ages 13 and above (12 and under free) or a current TPWD park pass.	Saturday, March 17	7:30-9 p.m.
<b>Stories in the Stars</b> Guadalupe River State Park 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).	Saturday, March 24	8-10 p.m.
<b>Bats of Texas</b> Guadalupe River State Park 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).	Saturday, March 31	8-9:30 p.m.



# Homesteader Homecoming 2018

by Bryden Moon

## Happy 35th Birthday, Guadalupe River State Park\* Sunday, April 29 – 2:00 at the Rust House

Homesteader Homecoming 2018 is scheduled for Sunday, April 29th at 2:00 in the afternoon. Last year's homecoming was canceled due to thunderstorms, so this year we are catching up; we'll explore Henry and Louise Rust's time in the region since last year was the 100th anniversary of the Rust House's construction. This year also marks Guadalupe River State Park's 35th Birthday. Sometimes we forget that the 4,000 acres of land that comprises Guadalupe River State Park and Honey Creek SNA, was first occupied by individual pioneer homesteaders starting in the 1850s. So in conjunction with this year's event, we'll also take the time to celebrate Guadalupe River State Park's milestone anniversary by honoring several families who put down early roots on the park's and state natural area's land.





For years our Friends of Guadalupe River / Honey Creek organization has wanted to make historical presentations of our pioneer families, however, respecting the fact that our now 100-year-old Rust House walls are...well, over 100 years old, the installation of graphic wall hangings over and above existing gifted pictures was not allowed. So we sought out assistance and it arrived...Boerne Champion High School's Architecture and Construction classes came to the rescue. Members of Randy Simpson's classes pitched in to solve the dilemma and the solution turned out to be...hall trees. Yes, handsome, rustic, antique-looking, hand-made hall trees will not only grace the Rust House, but will make the transition from clothing racks to stand-alone display easels with the addition of modified easel rests to hold the family heritage story board graphics in place. At our April 29th Homesteader gathering the resulting marriage of the hall trees and historical and pioneer heritage panels will be "unveiled."



Hosted by the Friends of Guadalupe River / Honey Creek, Homesteader Homecoming is free and open to the public, please mention Homesteader Homecoming at the park gate entrance. As usual, Friends of Guadalupe/Honey Creek will supply the drinks and guests and friends members, are asked to bring a sweet. Contact: Bryden Moon @ (830) 336-3375 or e-mail bemoonjr@aol.com. \*Guadalupe River State Park is located off of Highway 46 on Park Road 31 (Park Road 31 is approximately 2 miles east of the Kendall County / Comal County line). \\\

**Philipp & Marie Bauer**

Around 1854, Philipp Bauer immigrated to Texas from Prussia. Marie Poser, his future wife, had traveled to New Braunfels two years earlier, where she was employed in a hotel. She wrote Mr. Bauer explaining that men with his skills, carpenters, were needed in Texas and that he could find work.

On August 12, 1855, Mr. Bauer married Maria Philina in New Braunfels; the entry reads - "Philip lives 24 miles up Guadalupe River and Maria is from here". So that puts Mr. Bauer on the north side of the Guadalupe River in 1855. Of all the different families that put in stakes and ranched and formed in the over 4,000 acres that comprise Guadalupe River S. P. and Honey Creek S.N.A., Philipp Bauer, with his first 166 acre parcel, was the first to settle on and work his land. Philia Bauer received from the State of Texas three separate land patents situated adjacent to each other in Kendall County. In 1870 Kendall County records, Mr. Bauer's assets included real estate valued at \$500 (150 acres, 15 improved), 8 horses, 6 "mitch" cows, 4 working oxen, 30 other cattle, 15 swine, 380 bushels Indian corn, 400 lbs. tobacco, 30 bushels sweet potatoes, 50 lbs. butter, 30 lbs. cheese, 1 ton hay, 10 lbs. beeswax, 44 lbs. honey.

In 1893, Bauer deeded all of his property to his son Ernst. Ernst and his family subsequently lived in the house until his death in 1920. His wife and son Arnold continued living there until 1932.

*Friends of Guadalupe River, Honey Creek, Inc.*

**Bauer Family Historical Panel**

## 2018 Dues

by Bill Beach

### 2018 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 2018 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](http://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!**