



Friends of Guadalupe River Honey Creek, Inc.

A non-profit organization

Volume 2 No. 1

3350 Park Rd 31, Spring Branch, TX 78070 ☎ Voice Mail 210-935-4012 (after 6:00 p.m.) May - July 1995



A Warm Thank You To Pearl Weidner Rahe and family . . .

Raised on Honey Creek Ranch, Mrs. Pearl Rahe (Photo at left - 1926) has generously shared her memories and family photographs from the 1920's through the 1950's. Her valuable personal accounts preserves the history of the land, the early way of life and traditions of the Weidner and Rust families.

The Rust Visitor Center, our trail head for the Honey Creek interpretive walks, is named in honor of Mrs. Rahe's grandparents, Henry and Louise Mueller Rust.

The Rust's built the house in 1917 and resided there until the 1950's. As a special tribute to them, Mrs. Rahe has donated a portrait of Henry and Louise Rust, which will be displayed at the visitor center.

In addition to thanking Mrs. Rahe, we would also like to recognize her family, who have also visited and shared their enthusiasm for preserving the history of Honey Creek: Daughter and son-in-law, Lois and John Newton; Son, Wayne Rahe; Granddaughter, Ashley Newton; Grandson and his wife, Tom and Rebecca Newton.

Great Solar Flare Scheduled for Earth Day!

This April marks the 25th Anniversary of Earth Day. We have great activities lined up this year -- so reserve time to enjoy activities we have planned at the parks. The dates are April 22nd

and 23rd. We will begin the weekend at the Honey Creek SNA with a pleasant trail walk with Naturalist, Penny Solis. We will learn a little about the cultural history of the hill country with interpretation of the unique geology, flora and fauna of Honey Creek Canyon. Walk begins at 9 a.m. at the Rust Visitor Center.

Children's activities commence at the Rust Visitor Center from 2:00 - 4:00 p.m. Somerset High School Science Club will facilitate games in which kids and adults of all ages can participate in Project Wild activities. But that's not all. As a special event on earth day we will demonstrate the cleanest, most ancient power on earth -- Solar power! We will have several solar ovens set up and working to cook tasty treats for you to enjoy. Ovens will be demonstrated by Science Clubs of area schools including Somerset, Boerne, Churchill High Schools. Guests will only be required to bring a bright sunny day in order to take advantage of these amazing ovens that can reach up to 400°.

David McKelvey will end the day's activities at the Park Store amphitheater. Mr. McKelvey is a well known children's book author and area naturalist. His programs are filled with fascinating information about animals and birds and amazing imitations of animal calls (and sometimes behavior).

Sunday promises two very special tours into Honey Creek Canyon. Both are limited attendance events so make reservations early for your choice. The first is a spring birding tour lead by Sue Bayley of S.A. Audubon and the second is an artist & photo outing in another section of the canyon. See calendar, page 5 for reservation information.



Superintendent's Corner

Spring is a special time to enjoy the park and to participate in the numerous walking tours being offered. The 25th Anniversary of Earth Day is April 22nd & 23rd with children's activities, special photographer's outing and birding tour. David McKelvey returns Saturday evening for his popular presentation and his amazing imitations of bird calls.

Products are arriving at the new park store, including a wide selection of nature books and nature related items for children. We are fortunate to have Richard Damron as the Park Store Manager, so please stop by and introduce yourself. In keeping with our goal to promote environmental awareness and education, all teachers receive a 10% discount at our store.

Joan Nitschke
Volunteer Coordinator

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March 6, 1995 marks the 1st Anniversary of Friends of Guadalupe River/Honey Creek, Inc. A huge thank you to our wonderful members, staff of Guadalupe River State Park and all who supported us through this past year. We are looking forward to our annual meeting in July, the time and place will be announced soon.

The "Friends" organization offers many volunteer and service project opportunities! Do you enjoy behind the scenes activities, planning programs, working with kids? We can use your help and your creative ideals in 1995. We want to expand our offering of trail walks for schools into the week as well as expand family activities on the weekends. *And you can help.* It's easy to learn an activity and we will train you. Already got a busy schedule? Spend as little or as much time with us as you'd like. We'll make it work around your needs. We also have the library resources that you can use.

Check our **volunteer opportunities** in the Summer calendar on page 5. Do you know a student or youth group with a service project objective? We can help. Call our voice mail, write us or just drop into Honey Creek SNA on any Saturday morning. Penny is there for the nature hike from 8:40 a.m. - 12:00 and will be glad to fill you in. Check us out! Or contact us on our voice mail line 210-935-4012 (after 6 p.m.). Hope to see you at the park soon.

Spring Break Kid's activities were a great success thanks to Project Wild facilitator, Tom Anderson. Tom teaches Environmental Science at Churchill High School and his class has also helped build many of the Blue Bird nest boxes seen along the park road. Some 30 children and parents enjoyed playing Oh, Dear!, Habitat Lap Sit, Bird and Worm and other activities. My thanks also to member, Charlene Simmons, and Boerne High School students, Faith and Julie who helped out with activities. We all had a fun day. To those who couldn't make it for Spring Break -- see you Earth Day!

Don't see the ever popular Jelly classes scheduled this summer? Not to worry, we will be making Mustang Grape, Mesquite Bean and Cactus tuna jelly again this year. However, thanks to The Coleman Company, I can collect the fruits and pack them away in our walk-in freezer until fall. So watch for dates in the somewhat cooler months of September and October. We may even have better equipment to cook on. If any members have 1/2 pint or pint canning jars and lids they don't need -- we'd love to have them. We'd also love to have 4 oz and Jr. baby jar -- clean, please! I am still seeing baby food jars in my sleep from last year.

The "Friends" Voice Mail system is on-line and ready to take your reservations for the April Photo outing and Woody Plant Identification sessions in May. We have a little "bug" that occasionally disconnects the caller as they are leaving a message. We think perhaps that callers need to speak up when leaving a message, the computer might not be picking up on "soft" voices. So, don't be timid when calling and we will work on raising the sensitivity of the system. Computers, aren't they great?? Our voice mail number is 210-935-4012 and is available after 6:00 p.m.

Listen Up!

Every June, as if on cue from a symphony conductor, the quiet, warm evenings erupt at twilight in the voices of tiny insects. The singing of these insects heralds the transition from Spring and the arrival of summer. If you are camping in the park during June, you will most likely hear the Katydid.

Katydid get their unusual name from the "katy-did, katy-didn't" sound they produce. The male's singing may go on for hours and is used both to defend its territory from other male katydids and to court females.

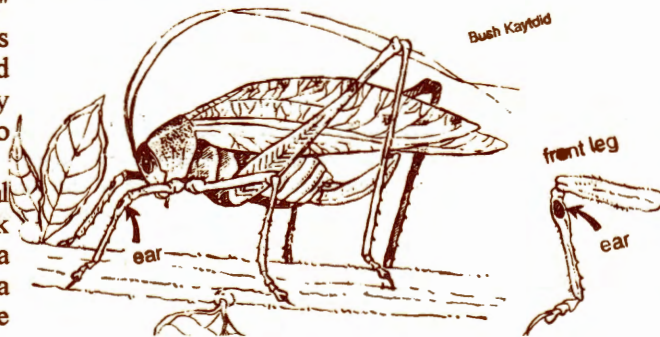
Katydid have very unusual "ear" locations. If you look closely at the front legs of a katydid (or cricket), you'll see a tiny dark spot on each. These are its ears. It may seem strange (even for an insect) to have ears on legs, but it works perfectly well for them.

The katydids are actually a kind of grasshopper and, along with the Long-horned Grasshoppers, are members of the family Tettigoniidae (tet-tih-gon-EE-ih-dee). Katydid have extremely long, threadlike antennae, and have well-developed stridulating (STRID-you-late-ing: sound-producing) organs on their front wings. These organs are equivalent to a "ridge" on one wing edge and a "file" on the other. The sound we hear is not much different in origin from the rhythmic sound of a person using a file. The front wings of many species are also expanded in shape, lending a distinctive outline to their bodies. Katydid are often colored and patterned to look like leaves. Most species in this family are harmless, although the Cone-headed Grasshopper may give a painful nip when handled.

Katydid are best known for their "katy-did, katy-didn't" evening songs, which vary from species to species. Although these grasshoppers are difficult to spot because of their excellent camouflage, they can be located by following their call quietly and slowly, hands cupped to ears to intensify and isolate the sound. Only the males make the "songs" for which they are so well known, although the females can make less obvious sounds. Male katydids may call all night long from bushes and trees during the height of the breeding season, and for many people their call is as much a part of a summer's evening as lightning bugs. Light intensity has a great deal to do with the times at which katydids sing; many species will sing only at very low light levels. But those species that sing at twilight, even the passing of a cloud over the sun may be enough to trigger singing during the day!

Female katydids often have large, bladelike ovipositors (egg-laying tubes). It is their egg-laying, not their appetite, that appears to be most damaging to plants. Katydid cut slits in plant tissue to lay their eggs. If large enough numbers do so, the health of a plant can be affected. The eggs are generally laid in autumn and hatch the following spring, although some southern katydids manage two generations each year. The young look like miniature adults, changing more in size than in shape as they grow.

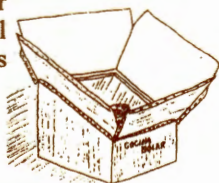
Information courtesy of Right Before Your Eyes, natural history mini-poster series by John Wiessinger



say, Hoot!

Solar Ovens for Earth Day

There are quite a few of us at work on solar ovens for Earth Day. Hoot will do his best to reserve a warm sunny day for April 22nd. All you have to do is bring the oven and show off your favorite recipe to astound visitors with the power of our sun. If you are interested in making your own solar oven call the Friends Voice mail line, 210-935-4012, enter mailbox #11 and ask us for more detailed information on how to build a solar oven to bake cookies, pizza, cake, etc. Leave your name, phone, and address and we'll get it out to you. But call soon, as April 22 is just around the corner.



Let us sing your praises!



We would love to include your article in our next newsletter. Article can be historical, about fun things to do while camping, about nature, etc. Subject matter should be about things that occur in our area. For children or classroom members that submit articles, don't forget that our sponsor has a neat gift for the most interesting received. Deadline for August's newsletter is July 1st.

What Is That Plant?



Antelope-Horns (*Asclepias asperula*), Milkweed Family (*Asclepiadaceae*), Spanish - Immortal -- by Penny Solis

The name milkweed comes from the milky white sap in the stems and leaves. The sap contains latex which may some day yield industrial hydrocarbons. In years past the silky floss of the mature seed pods was used in making candlewicks. During World War II, schoolchildren harvested two million pounds of milkweed floss from the wild for the U.S. Navy's use as a substitute for kapok in life vests. Although most books on edible plants include milkweeds, the edible species are not found in our state. At least eight Texas

milkweeds are deadly poisonous to livestock and probably all 36 of our species contain the toxic cardiac glycosides, resinoids, and alkaloids. So, don't even think about putting Texas milkweeds on the table.

Although species of all of the *Asclepias* are considered very poisonous, they constitute a group of major medicinal herbs. Another common name is Immortal Plant because of its many uses. The name "Asclepias" refers to Asklepios, the Greek god of medicine. Many modern medicines have been derived from poisonous plants and milkweeds have been in use for hundreds of years in folk medicine. One of our more common milkweeds, *Asclepias asperula* (also, one of the more toxic species in Texas) has been used by herbal healers or curanderos... "to ease the final stages of labor, to aid in expelling the afterbirth. A tea is used to stimulate lactation. The grated root is effective in treating shortness of breath and the normal enlarged heart of the aged. It also acts as an energetic expectorant for bronchitis and helps in dry pleurisy. A little bit of the powdered root is sniffed into the sinuses to induce sneezing and copious drainage to relieve sinus headaches and stubborn head colds."

The most interesting use of the toxic glycosides in milkweeds is by the Monarch butterfly. As they journey back in the spring to northern latitudes, along the way lay their eggs on milkweeds and the young caterpillars feed and grow on the plant. The toxic glycosides of the milkweed are incorporated into the body of the caterpillar and the adult butterfly. Birds quickly learn that eating the brightly colored Monarch will make them sick.

Information and illustration of plant from Los Remedios, Traditional Herbal Remedies of the Southwest by Michael Moore and A Practical Guide to Edible & Useful Plants by Delena Tull.

The Texas Hill Country



The cultural and environmental history of the Hill Country of the Edwards Plateau, including Guadalupe River SP and Honey Creek SNA.

In February's issue, we left Prince Carl at Indianola with no grant to settle the first colonist on....

Despite the lose of D'Orvanne's grant the Verein noblemen, not a wit wiser, are now convinced by Henry Francis Fischer to purchase his colonization grant. Mr. Fischer's grant is located between the Colorado and Llano rivers. He also convinced the Verein that the 6,000 families needed to satisfy the conditions of his grant could be transported by the Verein at a cost of only \$80,000 (today's dollars). The Verein was allowed to believe that it owned the Fisher-Miller land, but it did not. The Verein only held the right to settle the grant land. This was a very important point, because the Verein

planned to retain ownership of half the land for later resale. The funds this raised would pay further expenses and bring a profit to the investors. Also, the estimated cost for transporting 6,000 colonist was optimistic to say the least. More conservative estimates by some Verein members warned that \$1,000,000 would be needed.

From Texas, Prince Carl sent word advising that the Fisher-Miller grant was too far away for trade with Mexico and over 300 miles from the coast. The colonist would be dependent upon supplies from Indianola and this could mean months of travel over difficult terrain. The Prince had no way of knowing it, but the land in the Fisher-Miller grant was also too dry and unsuitable for farming, as well as a stronghold of the Comanche Indians.

Prince Carl had been well received by President Sam Houston at Washington-on-the-Brazos and the Texas Congress. They considered the presence of Prince Carl as promising an important immigration of Germans. The Prince could have negotiated a more favorable contract. But again good advice was ignored and this would lead to another major mistake by the Verein. In fact the D'Orvanne and Fisher-Miller contracts are two of Texas's greatest land swindles of the 1800's.

It was obvious to Prince Carl that the Fisher-Miller grant was too far inland to be immediately settled. He hurried to search for land to establish a way station for

immigrants already waiting at Indianola. Prince Carl looked at several sites on rivers in Central Texas until finally he visited the beautiful Comal springs that flowed from the base of the Edwards Plateau along the Austin to San Antonio Road.

It seemed ideally located. It was close to the major settlements of San Antonio and Seguin, but still isolated from other Anglo-Americans. But oddly enough, the deciding factor was a light snowfall. The Prince awoke one morning to find snow on his tent and believed it to be a good omen for his colony. So, on March 15, 1845 Prince Carl founded a settlement and named it New Braunfels for his hometown of Braunfels, Germany. Each of the settlers were immediately given a one half acre town lot and a ten acre farm tract.

Alas, Prince Carl resigned his position less than a year after his arrival to Texas and made a hasty return to Germany. One story attributes his sudden departure to the fact that his fiancée, Lady Sophia, Princess of Salm-Salm has refused to come to Texas after hearing stories of wild Indians and uncivilized living conditions. But actually, his retreat was to evade the financial problems of the Verein.

The unexpected delays and expenses in settling the grant lands had set the Verein deeply into debt. The noble prince had found himself besieged by angry creditors and unhappy colonists.

To be continued in July.....

Call the "Friends" voice mail line at 210-935-4012-- after 6:00 p.m., to make reservations for limited attendance events, to find out the latest information on an event, or to let us know your coming.

Every Saturday morning, walk along Honey Creek Canyon. Topics vary. 9 - 11 a.m. Honey Creek SNA.

Volunteer Opportunities abound with the "Friends" organization. Join us any Saturday on the Honey Creek trail walk at 9:00 a.m. with a hike through Honey Creek Canyon. Afterwards we can talk about projects for individuals or for groups - both adult and youth. Help us with trail walks on a variety of subjects, activities for kids, plant identification sessions, help make jelly, learn your way along the Honey Creek trail system and more. Call and let us know you are coming (Voice Mail box 13#), but reservations not required. Please pets are not allowed on the Honey Creek trail.

April 1 - Lower Edwards Plateau Ecosystem Walk. Honey Creek SNA. 9-11 a.m. Walk along Honey Creek canyon with interpretation of the cultural and environmental history of the hill country.

April 8 - Ethnobotany Walk. Honey Creek SNA, 9 - 11:30 a.m. Easy hike along Honey Creek Canyon with emphasis on native plant identification and cultural uses for food, medicine and fiber. Meet at Rust Visitor Center.

April 15 - Native Plant Landscaping and Ethnobotany Walk. Honey Creek SNA, 9-11:30 a.m. Walk will be joined by Val Roessling who will lend his expertise on native plants and uses and care in home landscaping. Penny will discuss cultural uses for food, medicine and fiber.

April 16 - Artist and Photographers Outing. Reservations required 210-935-4012 - voice mail #17. You will be able to paint or photograph at your own pace along Honey Creek Canyon. (If your camping with us this weekend, check with headquarters for openings).

April 22 - The 25th Anniversary of Earth Day at Guadalupe RSP and Honey Creek SNA. 9 - 11:00 a.m. Begin the morning on the Honey Creek trail with identification of native flora, ethnobotany and geology.

Children's activities are at the Rust Visitor Center from 2 - 4:00 p.m. Kids of all ages can participate in fun play activities that help build awareness of the world around us. This year we will have a solar oven demo stop by to try some sun cooked recipes.

David McKelvey, children's book author and bird imitator, will be at Guadalupe River State Park Amphitheater. 6 to 7:30 p.m.

April 23 - Artists and Photographers Outing. Earth Day Weekend. Reservations required. (see April 16th for details).

April 23 - Spring Birding Tour. 7:30 - 11 a.m. Reservations Required. Lead by Sue Bayley of the San Antonio Audubon Society. For more information call 210-438-2656 or visit park headquarters.

April 29 - Native Grass Id Walk. Honey Creek SNA, 9 - 11:30 a.m. Easy walk along Honey Creek to identify cool season native grasses. Lead by Wesley Blackman.

May 6 - Morning Program. Ethnobotany Walk. Honey Creek SNA, 9 - 11 a.m. (details see April 8th)

May 6 - Morning Program. Spring Birding Tour. Reservations required. 210-438-2656. Lead by Sue Bayley of S.A. Audubon Society. For more info call or visit park headquarters.

May 6 - Afternoon Program. Woody Plant Identification \$5.00 fee and reservations required 210-935-4012 - voice mail #18. Participants will learn to identify common woody plants of the hill country using an easy plant key that you keep. Key is based on leaf characteristics. Guadalupe RSP Amphitheater, 2- 4:00 p.m.

May 8th through May 13 - Spring Science Camp for children. Daily fun in learning sessions offered all week. See newsletter insert for details or information available at park headquarters.

May 13 - Lower Edwards Plateau Ecosystem Walk. Honey Creek SNA. 9-11 a.m. (see April 1 for details)

May 20 - Ethnobotany Walk. Honey Creek SNA, 9 - 11:30 a.m. (details see April 8th)

May 27 - Morning Program. Lower Edwards Plateau Ecosystem Walk. Honey Creek SNA. 9-11 a.m. (see April 1 for details)

May 27 - Afternoon Program. Woody Plant Identification \$5.00 fee and reservations required. 210-935-4012 - Voice mail #18. Participants will learn to identify common woody plants of the area. (see May 6 for details)

June 3 and 10 - Lower Edwards Plateau Ecosystem Walk. Honey Creek SNA. 9-11 a.m. (see April 1 for details)

June 10 - Evening Program. Herbal Medicine, Folk Cures and Curanderos. 7 - 8:00 p.m. Presented by Cindi Gonzales of the University of Texas at San Antonio/ Institute of Texan Cultures. An informative and interesting hour beginning at Guadalupe River SP Amphitheater.

June 17 - Morning Program. Children's Nature Walk to Honey Creek. 9 - 11:00 a.m. Honey Creek SNA. Easy walk to creek with emphasis on flowers and insects along the way. Wade in creek for collection and study of Aquatic insects.

June 17 - Afternoon Program. New Braunfels, 2:30 p.m. Necrogeography - regionality of burial practices. The traditional cemeteries of Texas provide one of the best insights as to the cultural diversity of the state. New Braunfels Old Town Cemetery and Comal Cemetery has some of the best remaining examples of archaic customs and practices. Anyone interested may join Penny Solis in New Braunfels to spend a few hours looking back at the culture and history of our forefathers. We'll meet at New Braunfels Old Town Cemetery on the south end of New Braunfels. The cemetery is on the west side of IH 35, across from the National Guard Armory at intersection (see page 6)

**Friends of Guadalupe River/Honey Creek, Inc.
Membership Application**

Annual Membership Dues and categories:

- \$5.00 Classroom: students or youth organizations ages up to 18.
- \$5.00 Student: Age 13 to 18
- \$8.00 Individual: Adult over 18
- \$12.00 Family
- \$50.00 Sustaining
- \$100.00 Contributing
- \$500.00 Corporate
- \$1,000.00 Life

Friends of Guadalupe River/Honey Creek, Inc. is a tax exempt, non-profit organization. All donations greatly appreciated and tax deductible.

Make check payable to: Friends of GR/HC, Inc., 3350 Park Rd. 31, Spring Branch, TX 78070

Name _____

Address _____

City, State & Zip _____

Phone: home, work, fax _____

I would like to donate \$ _____ beyond dues in support of educational programs at the park.

of Peach Street and Elliot Knox. If you are South bound on IH-35 exit at Walnut Ave and continue on the access roadway, south, to the cemetery. If you are North bound on IH 35 exit at FM 1044 and go left, then right as soon as you pass under the expressway. We have to park on Elliot Knox road (nearest IH-35). We will end up at historic Gruene for early dinner. Please let me know you are planning to come by calling the Friends Voice Mail, box #16.

June 24 - Morning Program.

Ethnobotany Walk. Honey Creek SNA. 9 - 11:00 a.m. (See April 8th for details)

June 24 - Afternoon Program.

Hydrology of Guadalupe River & Snorkeling. 1 - 3:00 p.m. Presented by Professional Diver Allen Furlow. Begin with an interesting discussion of hydrology and then jump in for hands on experience! Bring your bathing suit and mask for a great wet activity.

July 1 - Morning Program. Lower

Edwards Plateau Ecosystem Walk. Honey Creek SNA. 9-11 a.m. (see April 1 for details)

July 1 - Evening Program. The Snake

Lady, Diana Surick will be on hand with her animal friends. A great hands on activity to teach respect and kindness for our fellow creatures. 7 - 8 p.m. Guadalupe River SP amphitheater.

July 8 - Beetles and other Insects.

Honey Creek SNA 9 - 11 a.m. Easy walk along Honey Creek Canyon to find and identify insects. Led by Dan Sunburg, the Bug Man.

July 15 - Morning Program. Children's

Nature Walk to Honey Creek. 9 - 11:00 a.m. Honey Creek SNA. Easy walk to creek with emphasis on flowers and insects along the way. Wade in creek for collection and study of Aquatic insects.

July 15 - Afternoon Program. Woody

Plant Identification \$6.00 fee and reservations required 210-935-4012, voice mail #18. Participants will learn to identify common woody plants of the hill country using an easy plant key that you keep. Key is based on leaf characteristics. Guadalupe RSP Amphitheater, 2- 4:00 p.m.

July 22 - Prehistoric Cultures of Central

Texas. Honey Creek SNA, 9- 11:30 a.m. Archeologist Herb Uecker will lead our trail walk through Honey Creek Canyon and discuss prehistoric peoples, their culture and how they used resources of the land.

July 29 - Morning Program.

Ethnobotany Walk. Honey Creek SNA. 9 - 11:00 a.m. (See April 8th for details)

July 29 - Afternoon Program. Woody

Plant Identification \$6.00 fee and reservations required 210-935-4012, voice

mail #18. Participants will learn to identify common woody plants of the hill country using an easy plant key that you keep. Key is based on leaf characteristics. Guadalupe RSP Amphitheater, 2- 4:00 p.m.

August 5 & 12 - Lower Edwards Plateau

Ecosystem Walk. Honey Creek SNA. 9-11 a.m. (see April 1 for details)

August 19 - Morning Program. Geology

Walk with UT Austin Research Geologist, Chris Caran. Honey Creek SNA. Two mile walk along Honey Creek Canyon with visit to rare basalt dike. Walk moderately strenuous. Dress cool wear hat and bring water - it's August!

August 19 - Evening Program. Walt Schumann and Ethno-herpetology.

Snakes as our culture has used them for food, clothing, spiritual symbols, seasonal predictors, etc. A fascinating program with a visit by Walt's live reptile friends for hands on learning.

August 26 - Children's Nature Walk to Honey Creek.

9 - 11:00 a.m. Honey Creek SNA. Easy walk to creek with emphasis on flowers and insects along the way. Wade in creek for collection and study of Aquatic insects.

This fall study aquatic insects and make jelly from native plants and learn flintknapping.

Friends of Guadalupe River/Honey Creek, Inc. is created on WordPerfect 6.0a, Windows and most images are done with Logitech Scanman. Original copy is printed on HP LaserJet 4L. Editor is Penny Solis. Articles are welcomed for this quarterly newsletter from members and other sources. Please submit articles for publication in July's issue by June 15th. Suggestions for subject matter, reports on activities, etc are encouraged.



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Spring Branch, TX 78070