Grant to Rust Resource Center Allows Project to Move Forward

A generous $6,000 grant from the Amy Shelton McNutt Trust Fund, out of the personal discretion funds of Courtney Johnson Walker, acting as trustee, will be dedicated to the painting and improvements of the Rust Resource and Visitor Center.

Amy Shelton McNutt, a former owner of the renowned Gallagher Ranch in the Helotes/Pipe Creek area, was a long time advocate of the importance of our natural resources and a supporter of philanthropic causes. The Amy Shelton McNutt Trust Fund allows her work to continue through the support of non-profit organizations.

The grant will begin to meet Friends' goals to develop a regional resource center for cultural, historical, and natural resources of the region for use by educators, visitors, school children, researchers, and park staff. The Rust House currently serves as the focus of weekly interpretive nature programs and numerous special educational programs throughout the year.

The renovation of the historical ca, 1917 Rust residence will begin with exterior repairs and painting. The $6,000 grant from the Amy Shelton McNutt Trust Fund, combined with the $1,000 volunteer grant from Texas Parks and Wildlife Department, will provide for significant improvements during the first year of this project. Additional goals are to upgrade the electrical system, install a sewer system and design interior improvements.

The FRIENDS extend a sincere thank you to Courtney Johnson Walker for her commitment and enthusiasm for the Rust Center Project, and to Texas Parks and Wildlife for their continued support of Volunteers in Parks.
**Fall Activities at Rust Resource and Visitor Center and Honey Creek State Natural Area**

**Visitors Welcome at All Activities**

**Mustang Grape and Cactus Tuna Jelly**
Over the next five weekends, Saturdays from 1:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m., Penny Solis will be instructor for the Jelly cooking sessions at the Rust House Visitor Center. In this activity, participants will start with a native fruit and work through the whole process of making jelly from scratch. Everyone is invited to drop in and visit, and helpers are always welcomed.

- **October 14, 21** - Mustang Grape jelly classes from the native wild grape. Class capacity is eight people per session. Participants will take home about 4 1/2 pints of Mustang Grape Jelly.

- **October 28, November 4, 11** - Cactus Tuna Jelly class from the ripe red fruit produced in late summer by the prickly pear cactus. Participants will take home about 3 1/2 pints of Cactus Tuna Jelly.

An activity fee of $10.00 is required to cover costs of supplies. During the jelly-making the Rust Visitor and Resource Center will have open house, and visitors are encouraged to stop in and try some jelly and listen in on the activities. Both the tunas and grapes were collected south of San Antonio. The fruit has been frozen and kept in the walk-in freezers of The Coleman Company, New Braunfels.

**Lower Edwards Plateau Ecosystem Walk**
Fall is the most beautiful time of year in the canyon with colors peaking in late October in Honey Creek.

Each Saturday in October:

- Walks begin at 9:00 a.m. and return by about 11:00 a.m. from Rust Resource Center.

An easy 2 mile walk along Honey Creek with an interpretation of the cultural as well as environmental history of the hill country area. Topics include geology, folklore, plants, animal life, area history set in the charm of the pristine, Cypress-lined, and spring fed Honey Creek. There is a $2.00 per person or $5.00 per family, fee for the walk. FRIENDS members are free.

**Artists and Photographers Outing**
Sunday October 29th and November 5th participants will be able to photograph or paint along Honey Creek Canyon. Both of these dates are still open, but are limited to ten participants. Reservations are required.

A special thanks to The Coleman Company of New Braunfels for the use of their facilities and their generous donations in kind, as well as in material, over the years.
Guadalupe River State Park To Be Self-Sufficient By Year 2000
by Joan Nitschke

The Commissioners of Texas Parks and Wildlife Department (TPWD) have mandated that TPWD be self-sufficient by the year 2000. Faced with this challenge, the Entrepreneurial Budget System (EBS) was implemented at 17 pilot parks in 1994 and statewide in 1995.

The objective of EBS is to provide incentive for park managers to act in an entrepreneurial manner to promote revenue enhancement, and to save money through efficient and economic operations of parks.

The park manager contracts to meet a specific revenue amount, and the park is able to keep 35% of all revenue generated above that target amount. This provides the incentive for finding ways to increase revenues, such as offering programs to attract new people to the park, selling products, seeking donations or raising fees. A budget is also set for expenditures. If costs can be reduced, any budget savings will carry over into the budget the following year.

Volunteers and Local Support Essential
Partnerships are becoming increasingly important for maintaining quality customer services and providing special visitor services such as interpretive programs and special events.

The non-profit Friends of Guadalupe River State Park/ Honey Creek State Natural Area was established in 1994 as a support group for the park. The primary purpose is to raise funds through memberships, donations and grants in order to support park projects that would otherwise not be possible given the current budget situation.

Park Hosts
Park Hosts have become an integral part of park operations by joining park staff in the daily tasks of park maintenance and by applying their skills and expertise to special projects. The opening of the park store in the spring of 1995 was possible only through the many hours of cleaning, repairing and painting provided by park hosts. Hosts reside at one of four specially created campsites on the park, provide at least 32 hours of volunteer services each week, and serve as valuable goodwill ambassadors.

Park Store - "Swallow Bluffs Store"
Products are now for sale at the park headquarters and at the new "Swallow Bluffs" park store during spring and summer. Visitors can find convenience items (ice, firewood, camping supplies), gift items (T-shirts, walking sticks, TPWD catalogue items), nature books, and activity kits for children. Through the sale of these products, we are able to provide a customer service, generate revenue for the park, and promote the appreciation and education of our natural resources.

Park Goals
The goal of self-sufficiency cannot be accomplished alone. Only through the help and commitment of our volunteers and friends will we be able to offer the quality service and the quality outdoor experience that our visitors so richly deserve. The coming year offers many challenges and opportunities, and we look forward to meeting them together.

FRIENDS:

Lessons From Geese....
As each bird flaps its wings, it creates an "uplift" for the bird following. By flying in a "V" formation, the whole flock adds 71% to the flying range than if each bird flew alone.

Moral: People who share a common direction and sense of community can get where they are going more quickly and more easily because they are traveling with the combined thrust of one another.

reprinted from Mal Memos
Officers and Directors

Henry F. Wagner  President
Joe G. Vanecek  Executive Vice President
(in charge of Rust House Renewations)
Linda Sutton  Vice President
(in charge of Programs)
Richard Solis  Vice President
(in charge of Rust House Programs)
Jeanne Manry  Treasurer
Janet Wagner  Recording Secretary
Tink Manry  Parliamentarian

Editor of Swallow Tales Newsletter  Jessica Michaels

Directors (continued)

Dan Baker  Charlene Simmons
Betty Baker  Courtney Walker

Associate Directors
Chuck Janzow  Lois Newton
Allen Perry  Wayne Rahe
Patti Roetman  Ken Sutton

Park Staff
Duncan Muckelroy  Park Superintendent
Joan Nitschke  Park Staff Liaison to Friends

FRIENDS OF GUADALUPE RIVER STATE PARK and HONEY CREEK, SNA, INC.

MEMBERSHIP REGISTRATION

Miss/Mr/Mrs
Name
Address
City/St/Zip
Phone/AC:
Date

Classroom (to Age 18) $5.00
Student (Age 13 to 18) $5.00
Individual (over age 18) $8.00
Family $12.00
Supporting $50.00
Sustaining $100.00
Corporate $500.00
Life Membership $1000.00

A Very Special Thank You To
Deirdre Hisler
for her dedication, continuous support and enthusiasm.

FRIENDS OF GUADALUPE RIVER STATE PARK AND
HONEY CREEK STATE NATURAL AREA, INC.
3350 Park Road 31
Spring Branch, Texas 78070