

SWALLOW TALES

published by the Friends of Guadalupe River State Park/Honey Creek State Natural Area, Inc.

Volume 3 No. 2

A Non-Profit Organization

January, 1996

MARK YOUR CALENDARS!

- **Saturday, January 20**
Membership Meeting: 10:00 a.m.
Rust Resource & Visitor Center:

"Caves of the Glen Rose Formation"

Presentation by Kurt Menking, a member of the Bexar Grotto Association and an experienced spelunker of caves in the hill country.

- Field Trip: 10:30 - 12 noon
Immediately following Mr. Menking's cave presentation, come see a cave formation first hand in the Honey Creek State Natural Area. Bring a sack lunch - refreshments will be provided.
Bring a friend!

CHECK OUT
THE UPCOMING
EARTH DAY
EVENTS

OUR WISH LIST.....

Any of the following items will help support our educational programs and the 2nd annual Outdoor Science Camp:

- ◆ Seining nets (2)
- ◆ Microscopes with slides (5 or more)
- ◆ View boxes for specimens (6-12)
- ◆ Aquarium for aquatic samples (1 or more)
- ◆ Field guides (any subject welcome)
- ◆ Books about insects, birds, nature, science, biology, geology
- ◆ Old encyclopedias, maps (particularly local)
- ◆ Nature resource books for children or adults
- ◆ Tape recorder with microphone for oral history program
- ◆ Binoculars, magnifiers (new or used)
- ◆ Shell, mineral or rock collections
- ◆ Butterfly collections
- ◆ Bones, turtles (not living)
- ◆ Bird feeders
- ◆ Chairs (particularly outside/ folding chairs)
- ◆ Outside tables

Membership Meetings of Friends at Rust Resource Center in Honey Creek State Natural Area are 10:00 a.m. to 12 noon on the Third Saturday of each Quarter Month.

Saturday January 20, 1996
Bexar Grotto Presentation
Saturday April 20, 1996
Earth Day Program
Saturday June 15, 1996
Annual Meeting

Special thanks goes to Councilman Howard Peak, City Council of San Antonio, for his interest, concern, and action on behalf of park resources.

Friends, don't forget to read the December 1995 issue of Texas Parks and Wildlife Magazine where you'll find Executive Director Andrew Sansom's article on the golden-cheeked warbler. He talks about the endangered species in the canyon of our own Honey Creek State Natural Area!

Park Hosts

by Joan Nitschke

The winter months are our most productive months for "behind the scenes" work and maintenance. In December, all park hosts could be found assisting Larry Preiss in leveling, re-seeding, and watering tent pads throughout the park. Although time consuming, this allows rejuvenation and a fresh start for the tent pads each season.

We are fortunate to have the energy and talents of our Park Hosts: Joan and Chuck Murray are locals who will be with us through spring. Chuck works side by side with field staff and will be a major part of our public hunt this year. Joan is the cheerful greeter and fee collector for Saturday morning walks in Honey Creek in addition to assisting at park headquarters. Notice the fresh look of park signs on your next visit. Jewell and Mel Clapp remove each sign, sand, and paint, followed by Jewell's professional lettering. The Clapp's are also responsible for making campsite counts and cleaning restrooms in the electrical camping area.

June and John Johnston also add many special touches. June provides customer services at park headquarters, and, together with Joan Murray, conducts end-of-the-month inventory of products. As a professional electrician, John has assisted with numerous electrical projects. He also used old cypress lumber to create an attractive display stand for our walking canes.

Ruth and Pierce Long and Ruby and Bill Disney are friends from previous hosting assignments and

are great at teamwork. New shelves are being made for our park store, and a trail is being added to provide easier access. Counter and work spaces are being designed and built at headquarters in preparation for going "on-line" with the computer registration system. Pierce has extensive professional experience in the computer field, and we are fortunate to have him as our consultant.

In addition to sharing many talents, the hosts have added a vitality to the park that is invaluable. We hope you will have a chance to meet these special people during your next visit.

Update On Rust Visitor Center Project

A major step forward was made with the recent installation of the sewer line. Guadalupe Valley Telephone Cooperative provided the equipment and labor to dig the trench, valued at \$1,106., and park staff connected the sewer line. This is a tremendous improvement for the benefit of the visitors.

John Johnston, Park Host and professional electrician, provided a thorough check of the electrical system of the Rust Visitor Center, and he pronounced it in good condition. He is preparing a report of his findings and recommendations. John and his wife, June, have worked miracles by cleaning and organizing the north room - the future office of the Friends Association.

Congratulations to Joan Nitschke, who has just been promoted to Park Ranger III, serving as Volunteer Liaison and Park Store Manager, and to **Deirdre Hisler** on her promotion to Administrative Technician II, serving as Office Manager and primarily responsible for the park business plan.

Spring Activities at Guadalupe State Park, the Rust Resource Center and Honey Creek State Natural Area

HONEY CREEK TOUR FEES: \$2.00 PER PERSON OR \$5.00 PER FAMILY
FRIENDS MEMBERS - FREE TO ALL RUST HOUSE ACTIVITIES

Saturdays in Spring: Meet Penny Solis for leisurely hikes through Honey Creek Canyon with interpretation of the environmental and cultural history of the hill country. Walks begin at 9:00 a.m. and return by about 11:00 a.m. from the Rust Resource Center.

- **March 2, 16, 30 • April 6 • May 25**
Lower Edwards Plateau Ecosystem Walk: a two mile hike
- **March 9, 23 • April 27**
Ethnobotany Walk: 1 mile hike along Honey Creek Canyon with emphasis on the use of native plants for food, medicines, and fiber. Taste and smell the wild herbs growing along the trail! Handouts of useful native plants for participants.
- **March 16 6:30 - 7:30 p.m.**
At Outdoor Amphitheater in Guadalupe River State Park. "Toads II: an educational program on the Texas Horned Lizard." presented by Abraham and Noah Holland, 7th and 5th graders who were responsible for Texas State Legislative action to name the horned lizard our the official State reptile. The Holland boys have been conducting educational programs since 1993, and are active members of the Horned Lizard Conservation Society.
- **March 16 - 1:30 - 4:30**
Flintknapping: Come to the Rust House Resource & Visitor Center where Allen Bettis of Austin will teach skills necessary to shape chert into a dart point. Reservations are required: (210) 438-2656 Program is limited to 15 adults. Workshop fee: \$10.00 per person. Visitors and guests are welcome to stop by to quietly observe.
- **Saturday, March 23 6:30 - 7:30 p.m.**
At Outdoor Amphitheater in Guadalupe River State Park
"Endangered Species of Central Texas"
Linda Campbell, of the Endangered Species Program, Texas Parks & Wildlife Department, will present a slide program and discussion on endangered species with focus on the Golden-cheeked Warbler. An activity book for children will be available.
- **April 13 - 9:00 - 11:00 a.m.**
Wildflower and Plant Identification Walk: Join Horticulturist Val Rosseling, of Canyon Lake, for a pleasant walk along Honey Creek Canyon and learn interesting facts about our native plants. Rust Center.
- **May 4 - 9:00 - 11:00 a.m.**
Insect Identification Walk: -Walk with Dan Sundberg of San Antonio through Honey Creek Canyon to catch and identify insects. Meet at Rust Visitor Center.
- **May 11 - 9:00 - 11:00 a.m.**
Native Tree Identification: Paul Cox, Assistant Director of the San Antonio Botanical Center, will lead a 1 mile hike along Honey Creek Canyon to identify native trees and plants. Co-author of Texas Trees, A Friendly Guide.
- **May 18 - 9:00 - 11:00 a.m.**
Native Plants and Folklore: Join Patty Leslie Pasztor at the Rust Visitor Center for an easy 1 mile hike to hear about little known facts and folklore of native plants and flowers.

Public Hunts Scheduled for January...

by Joan Nitschke

A major purpose of Texas Parks and Wildlife Department is to protect wildlife and its habitat. Hunting on state park land provides a biologically sound method of wildlife management and conservation, in addition to offering recreational opportunities. Often overlooked is the economic impact. Hunters contribute more than \$20 million annually (through fees for licenses, stamps and permits, and excise taxes on hunting equipment) to support wildlife programs and the preservation of wildlife habitat.

Public hunts are scheduled at Guadalupe River State Park and Honey Creek State Natural Area beginning Wednesday, January 3rd and ending on Friday, January 26th. Hunts are scheduled during the week only, permitting the park to be open to regular visitors from Friday afternoons through Sundays. Hunters are permitted to take two antlerless or spike white-tail deer, exotic aoudad sheep, and unlimited feral hogs.

A special addition this year is the aging and weighing of the harvest to help provide data on the herd. The collection and recording of the data is being completed by two special volunteers working with the hunt: Chuck Murray, park host, and Joe Vanecek, director of the Friends Association. This work is being done under the guidance of the Conservation Biologist, Tim Lawyer, and will aid him in planning wildlife management goals for the park. Chuck and Joe are a valuable addition to the staff, and they will work the same long hours taking hunters to and from their blinds.

While hunting is a tradition that is passed from generation to generation, as society becomes more urban, youngsters often do not have the opportunity or the role model to learn this tradition. Texas Parks and Wildlife Department is taking an active role in educating youth about the joys and responsibilities of hunting.

The hunter education program (required of anyone born on or after September 2, 1971) combines home-study and a written test with a day in the field learning hunting skills, safety and ethical considerations, and exercises with live firing. Responsible and experienced hunters serve as mentors, introducing youth to the basics of wildlife management practices, the sport hunting ethic, and firearm safety - all with the goal of creating an educational and enjoyable outdoor experience.

A special Youth Hunt is scheduled at Guadalupe River State Park from January 3rd - 5th, and a spring turkey hunt April 17th - 19th at Honey Creek State Natural Area.

A Few Words on Volunteers

from TPWD Annual Report

Volunteers have proven to be a tremendous asset. These volunteers offer their time to guide tours, build trails, staff concessions, mow grass and perform other tasks. In addition, volunteers in education programs contributed over 500,000 hours of teaching angler, boater, and hunter education, Project WILD and other curricula developed and sponsored by the Conservation Communications Division. In other divisions, volunteers conduct wildlife surveys, monitor lakes and streams, perform office duties and help in many other ways.

PROPOSED WILDERNESS SURVIVAL CAMPS PLANNED AT HONEY CREEK...

Anyone interested in attending an adult three-day Wilderness Survival Camp to be held at Honey Creek in the Spring and later dates, please contact Park Office: 210-438-2656 between 8 a.m. and 5 p.m. Ask for Joan Nitschke or Deirdre Hisler.



EARTH DAY ACTIVITIES

Earth Day Events

April 20, 1996

Richard Solis, Vice President, Rust House
Activities

- **Saturday Morning,
9:00-12:00 noon:
Meet at the Rust Visitor Center.**

Chris Caran will lead a **Geology Walk** along Honey Creek Canyon. Visit the unique basalt dike at the mouth of the Honey Creek on this 2 mile, moderately strenuous hike. Kay Caran's family once leased the Honey Creek property, and Chris helped secure the protection of the land by The Nature Conservancy. Chris is a research geologist with The University of Texas and co-author of a book with Birder, Ed Kutec, Birds & Other Wildlife of South Central Texas.

- **Saturday Afternoon, 2:00-3:00 p.m:
Rust Visitor Center**
"Bird Man" David McKelvey will be at the **Rust Visitor Center** for another of his delightful presentations. Known for his imitations of birds and animals and story-telling, the "Bird Man" always brings along a few feathered, prickly, or slithery animals to see and hold.

- **Saturday Afternoon,
3:00 - 4:30 p.m:
Meet at the Rust Visitor Center.**

Immediately following Mr. McKelvey's presentation, kids of all ages will be able to participate in a variety of structured play activities including Project Wild lessons during the **Children's Play Activities**.

A HISTORICAL PERSPECTIVE - EARTH DAY

The Genesis of the Modern Environmental Movement:

Earth Day was inaugurated on April 22, 1970 by Wisconsin Senator Gaylord Nelson, 26 years ago. Initially conceived as a nationwide teach-in to dramatize America's environmental plight, the first **Earth Day** involved over twenty million people in environmental education.

April 22, 1970:

- Congress adjourned for the day with over 500 members attending "teach-ins" and seminars at universities.
- New York City closed Fifth Avenue to autos and held an Ecology Fair in Central Park.
- New York Governor Rockefeller signed a measure coordinating pollution abatement and conservation activities.

FRIENDS:

Officers and Directors

Henry F. Wagner	President
Joe G. Vanecek	Executive Vice President (in charge of Rust House Renovations)
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 (Publicity Chair)
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	Volunteer Liaison

The **FRIENDS** is a non-profit organization which supports the Guadalupe River State Park and the Honey Creek State Natural Area educational and interpretative programs for children and adults.

In addition, the **FRIENDS** provide financial assistance to fund the State Park and the Honey Creek Natural Area maintenance, repairs, and selective improvements, not normally available through State funds. Your dues, gifts, and donations, as well as volunteer service, directly provide the resources to educational and cultural programs as well as much-needed Park support.

Membership in the **FRIENDS** is open to all persons interested in supporting Guadalupe State Park & Honey Creek State Natural Area.

**FRIENDS OF GUADALUPE RIVER
STATE PARK and HONEY CREEK
STATE NATURAL AREA, 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

Donations are tax-deductible.

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