

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

May, 1996

EARTH DAY IS A HUGE SUCCESS!

Earth Day 1996 proved to be a huge success! Organized by Richard Solis, Vice President of Rust House activities, the morning and afternoon activities were filled to capacity. A group of 98 people joined Chris Caran in his two-mile geology hike in the morning, and 125 attended and participated in the afternoon activities. "Bird Man" David McKelvey was also on hand to entertain us with his famous bird and animal imitations.

Later in the afternoon, the kids participated in a variety of games and activities. The group made sundials, sun prints, cast animal tracks, and took part in fun learning games such as Oh Dear! and Turtle Hurdles!

We would like to thank the New Braunfels Middle School Science Club students and teachers who volunteered and helped in facilitating the Earth Day activities: Anita White, Chuck Woods, Kristie Thompson; Chris Millett, Edgar Zamora, Angela Saad, Amy Morton, Justin Baegte, and John Schulze. We would also like to thank Patti Martin who donated small gifts for all of the kids!

Upper Guadalupe River Cleanup

Mark your calendars for **Saturday, May 18!** This is the scheduled date for the Upper Guadalupe River Cleanup this year. The cleanup includes approximately 26 miles from above Bergheim to Canyon Lake. Volunteers will receive a meal and FREE camping Friday and Saturday nights at Weidner Campgrounds. For more information, contact **Deirdre Hisler** at (210) 438-2656.

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 June 15, 1996
Annual Meeting

Saturday July 20, 1996
Archaeology Program

Saturday October 19, 1996
To be Announced

Come by the Park Office to Get Your Upper Guadalupe River Guide Map, for a donation of \$3.00. The Area Covers From Kerrville to Rebecca Creek Road.



The Park Store has your camping and picnic supplies, as well as T-shirts, games, gifts, and more!

NEWS FROM GUADALUPE RIVER STATE PARK

Park Security

by Jimmie Rodriguez, Jr.

At Guadalupe River State Park, park law enforcement provides security, safety, and protection of the natural resources in the area. As a park peace officer, we have the same legal authority as a state trooper or game warden. Even though a park officer's authority extends beyond the park boundary, I restrict activity within it and assist other law enforcement agencies only when requested.

When dealing with the public, I seek voluntary compliance first and use law enforcement techniques as necessary. Loud noise, public consumption of alcohol, and unleashed pets are common violations. When visitors are not aware of state park rules and regulations, I inform them of violations and ask for compliance. Using a friendly approach usually provides adequate results.

Although most offenses are minor in nature, alcohol-related citations account for approximately fifty percent of the problems. Public intoxication, public consumption of alcohol, minor in possession, and disorderly conduct are common violations during holidays and spring break.

Crowd and traffic control are essential at Guadalupe River State Park during the peak visitation periods. We are a highly-visited state park, and the presence of park peace officers provides a greater safety factor at the park.

• *Jimmie Rodriguez, Jr. is Assistant Park Manager and a Park Peace Officer at Guadalupe River State Park.*

Superintendent's Corner

by Duncan Muckelroy

Liz and I recently had the opportunity to spend four days in Mexico. We traveled by bus to Chihuahua City, and as we boarded, Liz commented that she thought she smelled Vodka on the driver's breath.

The bus driver began to doze off when we were on flat open country in the Chihuahua Desert, about three hours from our departure at Ojinaga. The road was very narrow, and cars were passing us every now and then. As the bus driver fell soundly asleep, and being located in the middle of the bus where I could see him in the rear-view mirror, I hollered at him, "Hey, wake up!" This startled him, but he immediately fell back into a heavy slumber.

I and the person seated in front of me rode up front with the driver for the remainder of the trip to keep him awake--only in Mexico. We rode the train through Copper Canyon and then by local bus to Urique City in Urique, Canyon. Our overnight lodging in Urique City cost a total of \$5.00 U.S.--Liz and I love to travel only "primera class".



On May 1, 1996, per person pricing at Texas State Parks goes into effect. It costs \$32 million annually to operate the state park system. With per person pricing, each individual will make a contribution to conserving and preserving the resources they are using.

At Guadalupe River State Park, the new fee is \$3 per person. Children aged 12 and under will have free admission. Regular visitors to Texas State Parks may still take advantage of the new Gold Texas Conservation Passport (TCP), a \$50 pass permitting vehicular entry to state parks and wildlife management areas.

We would like to thank our regular and loyal visitors for their support of these new changes.

Summer Activities at Guadalupe State Park, the Rust Resource and Visitor 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 Summer:

Meet 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. at the Rust Resource Center:
(210) 438-2656.

- **May 25**
- **July 6, 27**
- **August 10, 17, 31**
- **September 7, 28**

Lower Edwards Plateau Ecosystem

Walk: A two mile guided walk, led by **Penny Solis**, with an interpretation of cultural, biological, and geological histories of the Hill Country.

- **May 4**
Insect Identification Walk:
Walk with **Dan Sundberg** of San Antonio through Honey Creek Canyon to catch and identify insects. Dan and his two children make excellent trail leaders!
- **May 11**
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**
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.
- **July 13**
Aquatics Hike:
Hike to Honey Creek to learn about water resources and the relationship with fish and aquatic insects, led by Aquatic Biologist **James White**. A great wet activity!
- **July 20**
Archaeology Walk:
Discussion of prehistoric Indian cultures of Central Texas followed by a guided walk with further interpretation of how the land and resources were used, with Archeologist, **Herb Uecker**.
- **August 3, 24**
- **September 14**
Ethnobotany Walk: **Penny Solis** will lead a guided walk along the canyon to discuss uses of common native plants for food, medicine, and fiber.
- **September 21**
Wildlife and Wildlife Ecology and Plants and Plant Uses of the Texas Hill Country:
Program lead by award-winning Photo Naturalist **Allen Perry**.

Check Out Other Scheduled Fun Things To Do!

Call the Park at (210) 438-3343 for more information. Admission: \$1, unless otherwise indicated. Activities will meet at the Outdoor Amphitheater at Guadalupe River State Park.

- **May 18 - 7:00-9:00 pm**
Texas Wildscapes:
Urban Biologist Rufus Stephens will create a "backyard habitat" using native Hill Country plants, nest boxes, and birdfeeders to attract wildlife, birds and butterflies. A short walk to look at native plants, followed by a slide presentation.

- **June 8 - 8:00-9:00 pm**
Bats and Caves:
Presentation by Kurt Menking and Bob Cowell, of the Bexar Grotto Association, on bats and regional caves, including a slide show: "Bats of America"

- **June 15 - 7:00-8:00 pm: Book Signing**
8:00-9:00 pm: Program
Trees of the Texas Hill Country:
Paul Cox will give interesting facts on native trees and their early uses. Slide presentation preceded by book signing: Texas Trees: A Friendly Guide.

- **June 20 - 1:00-3:30 pm**

- **July 20 - 1:00-3:30 pm**
The World of Aquatic Ecology:
The river will come alive! Seine for aquatic organisms and observe them through microscopes. There will be a river habitat presentation by Aquatic Ecologist Bruce Moring.
Fee: TCP Members - \$3
General - \$5

- **July 6 - 7:00-8:00 pm**
Why Do Animals Do That?!
"Bird Man" David McKelvey will enlighten and entertain with unique facts about animal and bird behavior. Children's books will be available for sale.

- **August 24 - 1:00-3:00 pm**
- **September 21 - 1:00-3:00 pm**

Woody Plant Identification:
Penny Solis will teach the basics of recognizing common plants of the Hill Country. We will use an easy plant key which you will be able to take home.
Reservations Required:
(210) 438-2656 \$6 per person



Coming Later In 1996...

- **October**
- **November**
Look for dates to be scheduled for Penny Solis' Jelly-Making Classes!

Just a Bunch of Birds? That's Not Always The Case!

A Parliament of Owls
An Ostentation of Peacocks
An Unkindness of Ravens
A Covey of Quail
A Gaggle of Geese
A Fall of Woodcock
A Pitying of Turtledoves
A Cast of Hawks
A Murmuration of Starlings
A Congress of Crows
A Flight of Swallows
An exultation of Larks

The 2nd Annual Spring Outdoor Science Day Camp for Fifth and Sixth Grade Levels: May 6th through May 10, 1996

The program is scheduled for all day attendance, and it will be held at Guadalupe River State Park, sponsored by the Friends of Guadalupe River State Park and Honey Creek State Natural Area.

Part I: Primitive Living Skills

with Neal Stilley

Learn more about essential skills used by pre-historic Native Americans in their daily life. Mr. Stilley will explain how different tools and skills were used to hunt game animals, start fires, make tools from bone and stone, and the Native Americans' ability to utilize the natural resources available to them.

The Primitive Living Skills program will include demonstrations of fire starting methods, drills, and atlatl functions. Examples of plant fibers for cordage, sinew, stone axes, rabbit sticks and clubs, and cutting tools will also be shown.

The hands-on experience with the atlatl and throwing spear, and the rabbit sticks and clubs will

provide an opportunity to understand more about the prehistoric Native Americans.

Part II: Outdoor Aquatics

with Aida Pineda

The Outdoor Aquatics Program will introduce a Texas river environment and emphasize its importance as a wildlife habitat, its role in flood control and the recycling of rainwater, and its contribution to outdoor recreation for humans. Ms. Pineda will provide hands-on activities for understanding how important our waterways are to the overall health of our planet.

Come explore the river environment for tracks and other signs of wildlife, and identify inhabitants by the clues that they leave behind. Learn how to collect wildlife samples from the river with seining nets, and learn how to identify each species from observation boxes. Look through the microscope's eye to see creatures that are invisible to the naked eye but live in the water.

We will also hear about pollution and its effects on the water and surrounding habitat. Come and learn about the Adopt-a-River program and how we can help preserve and protect our precious rivers!

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

- ◆ Microscopes with slides (5 or more)
- ◆ Binoculars, magnifiers (new or used)
- ◆ Aquarium for aquatic samples (1 or more)
- ◆ 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
- ◆ Shell, mineral or rock collections
- ◆ Butterfly collections
- ◆ Bones, turtles (not living)
- ◆ Bird feeders
- ◆ Chairs (particularly outside/ folding chairs)
- ◆ Outside tables

THANKS to the following organizations & corporations for supporting the Science Camp

T. and D. Moravits, Inc. - Concrete Contractors

W.O.R.D.- Water Oriented Recreation District of Comal County

Guadalupe-Blanco River Authority

Guadalupe Valley Telephone Cooperative, Inc.

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
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
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

The *FRIENDS* is a non-profit organization which supports the Guadalupe River State Park and the Honey Creek State Natural Area educational and interpretive 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 selected improvements not normally available through State funds. Your dues, gifts, donations, and volunteer service directly provide the resources for 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.**

3350 Park Road 31
Spring Branch, Texas 78070



Friends of Guadalupe River Honey Creek, Inc.

A non-profit organization

3350 Park Rd 31, Spring Branch, TX 78070 ☎ 210-438-2656

Saturday morning Honey Creek Hike fees: \$2.00 per person or \$5.00 per family, other program fees as noted below. Members of Friends of Guadalupe River/Honey Creek, Inc.: Free to Honey Creek SNA Saturday hikes. Rust Visitor Center is inside entrance of Honey Creek SNA off main Park Road. Park Entrance fees are NOT included here. Texas Conservation Passport Holders receive special discounts on Park Entrance fees. Check park headquarters for details.

April 27, from 9 - 11:00 a.m., Ethnobotany and Wildflower walk. Join guest Val Roessling and Penny Solis for an easy 1 mile hike along Honey Creek Canyon and learn interesting facts about native plants, their uses for food, medicines, and fiber. Taste and smell the wild herbs growing along the trail. Handouts of useful native plants for participants. Meet at Rust Visitor Center.

May 4, from 9 - 11:00 a.m., Insect Identification Walk. Great buggy and beetle walk with Dan Sundberg of San Antonio through Honey Creek Canyon to catch and identify insects. Meet at Rust Visitor Center. Don't wear insect repellent!!!!

May 11, from 9 - 11:00 a.m., Native Tree Identification with 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. Paul is a funny and informative trail guide, don't miss him! Meet at Rust Visitor Center.

May 18, from 9 - 11:00 a.m., Native Plants and Folklore. Join Patty Leslie Pasztor for an easy 1 mile hike to Honey Creek Canyon and learn about interesting and little known facts and folklore of native plants and flowers. Meet at Rust Visitor Center.

May 25, from 9 - 11:00 a.m., Lower Edwards Plateau Ecosystem Walk. Join Penny Solis for a leisurely hike into Honey Creek Canyon with interpretation of geology, and cultural and ecological history of the area. Meet at Rust Visitor Center.

June 1, 8, Morning hike from 9-11:00 a.m., Lower Edwards Plateau Ecosystem Walk. (see May 25th for details)

June 8, Evening Program - 8 - 9:00 p.m. Bats and Caves of the Texas Hill Country. Presented by Kirt Menking and Bob Cowell of Bexar Grotto Association. Program fee \$1.00, children 6 and under free. Meet at Guadalupe River SP amphitheater.

June 15th, from 9-11:00 a.m., Lower Edwards Plateau Ecosystem Walk. (see May 25th for details)

June 15 - Afternoon Program - 1 - 4:00 p.m. Snorkeling and River Hydrographics. Presented by professional dive instructor Allen Furlow. Great get wet activity. Hydrographics of the Guadalupe River is the geography, geology and hydrology of the area. Bring your mask and snorkel for a fish's eye view after a land introduction. Meet at Guadalupe River SP, Amphitheater.

June 15 - Evening Program 7 - 8:00 p.m. - Trees of the Texas Hill Country a slide and lecture program on the history and uses of native trees. Paul Cox, author of Texas Trees: A Friendly Guide and assistant Director at San Antonio Botanical Society. Book signing by Paul after the program. Program fee \$1.00, children 6 and under free. Meet at Guadalupe River SP, Amphitheater

June 22, 29th, from 9 - 11:00 a.m., Lower Edwards Plateau Ecosystem Walk. See May 25th for details.

July 6th, from 9 - 11:00 a.m., Lower Edwards Plateau Ecosystem Walk. See May 25th for details.

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 _____

July 6th, Evening Program, 7 - 8:00 p.m. Why Do Animals Do That? The "Bird Man" David McKelvey will enlighten and entertain with unique facts about animal and bird behavior. Fee \$1.00, children 6 and under free. Meet at Guadalupe River State Park Amphitheater.

July 13th, from 9-11:00 a.m., Aquatics Adventure in Honey Creek. Hike down to Honey Creek and learn about water resources and its relationship with fish and aquatic insects. A great wet activity. Lead by James White, Aquatic Biologist. Meet at Rust Visitor Center.

July 20, from 9- 11:00 a.m., Archeology Walk. Discussion of pre-historic Indian cultures of Central Texas followed by a walk along Honey Creek Canyon with interpretation of how the land and resources were used. Lead by Herb Uecker, Archeologist. Meet at Rust Visitor Center.

July 20, Afternoon Program, 1 - 3:30 p.m. The World of Aquatic Ecology. The River will come alive! Seine for aquatic organisms and observe them through microscopes. There will be a river habitat presentation by aquatic ecologist, B. Morning. TCP holders \$3, general \$5. For more information check at Park Headquarters.

July 27th, from 9 - 11:00 a.m., Lower Edwards Plateau Ecosystem Walk. See May 25th for details.

August 3, from 9 - 11:00 a.m., Ethnobotany Walk. Walk along Honey Creek Canyon and learn about uses of common native plants for food, medicine, and fiber. Lead by Penny Solis. Meet at Rust Visitor Center.

August 10, 17th, from 9 - 11:00 a.m., Lower Edwards Plateau Ecosystem Walk. See May 25th for details. August 24th, 9 - 11:00 a.m., Ethnobotany Walk. See August 3rd for details.

August 24, Afternoon Program, 1 - 3:00 p.m., Woody Plant Identification Workshop. Learn the basics of recognizing common shrubs and trees of the Texas Hill Country. We'll use an easy plant key which the participant will keep. Reservations required. Please sign up at park office. Fee is \$6.00 per participant. Friends or family welcome to join you for moral support. Meet at Guadalupe River State Park Amphitheater. Presented by Penny Solis.

August 31, from 9 - 11:00 a.m., Lower Edwards Plateau Ecosystem Walk. See May 25th for details.

The Friends is a non-profit organization which supports Guadalupe River State Park and Honey Creek State Natural Area educational and interpretative programs for families. Your dues, gifts, and donations, as well as volunteer service, directly provide resources for selective improvements, repairs, youth service projects, annual science camp and more.