

SWALLOW TALES

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

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A Non-Profit Organization

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Rust House Project Completed

Come out and see the newly completed **Rust House!** The project funding was made possible through generous grants and donations. See the "Superintendent's Corner" by Duncan G. Muckelroy on Page 2 where he describes the work done on the Rust House and Visitor Center.



Check out the upcoming
scheduled events listed
inside!

Activities include jelly-making classes conducted by Penny Solis, an Outdoor Dutch Oven Cooking session with Charlene Simmons, and a cooking class to be held by Walt Schumann. Don't miss out on all the fun! Be sure to sign up, as many of the events require reservations.

Congratulations to Charlene Simmons!

Charlene Simmons has been named as this year's "Volunteer of the Year". Charlene comes to us from San Antonio, and she has worked tirelessly at events such as Earth Day, Spring Break, in addition to our Jelly programs. In her spare time, Charlene works at USAA. She has also created an exciting new program for us entitled the "Basics of Dutch Oven Cooking". Members who frequent the Saturday morning Honey Creek hikes have been willing food critics for dishes cooked in Dutch Ovens over an open campfire. Be sure to sign up for one of her programs this fall.

Texas Parks and Wildlife Department Communications Services has been working with Penny Solis at Guadalupe State Park recently. Her fall Cactus Jelly Program has been videotaped for a three-minute segment for television broadcast on TPWD Magazine. Airing will be announced, but will most likely be shown in Spring, 1997 on your local PBS station.

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

NEWS FROM GUADALUPE RIVER STATE PARK

Superintendent's Corner

by Duncan G. Muckelroy

The most noteworthy event to report in this edition of Swallow Tales would be the completion of the painting and improvements of the Rust Resource and Visitor Center.

As most of you are already aware, Ms. Courtney Johnson Walker had made available a \$6,000. grant from the Amy Shelton McNutt Trust Fund, out of her personal discretion, funds which initiated the planning process for this restoration project. This generous act, combined with monies from the donation account of Guadalupe River State Park and fees collected by the "Friends" for their spectacular interpretive events, enabled the contracting with Mr. Jim Vanecek (Jim's Rainbow of Colors) in order to give the Rust Resource and Visitor Center a new look. We Have already received numerous complements regarding the finished product and wish to thank Jim and his devoted crew for taking such caring effort during the entire duration of this project.



The Guadalupe River is now flowing at a rate that would be considered normal for this time of the year. However, during the month of July until just prior to Labor Day our river reached its lowest level (3 cfs) since the opening of the park in 1983. What this resulted in was a definite decrease in visitation, an increase in media attention (we received media coverage from Channels 5, 12, and 29 out of San Antonio and Channel 24 from Austin, as well as a feature article on the front page of the San Antonio Express News - with a color photograph of my more reflective side), and

the need to re-engineer our river intake gallery. The situation also created the need to shut off all water in the park with the exception of the park residences, headquarters facility, and the maintenance shop facility which necessitated the utilization of porta-johns for our visiting public. The ordeal was character-building for the entire staff, and we learned valuable lessons; for water is our most precious resource, and conservation shall be a major factor to consider in the management decisions of the future.



We patiently await news from Austin regarding our operating budget amount for fiscal year 1997. I am pleased to announce that even though this final quarter was not at all near the financial levels of our previous fiscal year, we did exceed the income level projections that we had estimated for our fiscal year 1996 EBS Contract negotiations. After a close review of the accounting figures, it was evident that the \$48,000 in gross sales from our "Swallow Bluffs" park store enabled us to be a successful EBS park for the second consecutive year. A special thanks to Joan Nitschke for keeping the store open and successful.



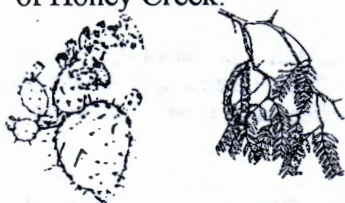
With the temperature getting cooler and hunting beginning in December for the Youth Hunts at Honey Creek State Natural Area, we are busy planning for the Texas Wanderers Volksmarch which is scheduled for February, 1997. The park is filling up again with wonderfully helpful park hosts. We hope that we shall be able to accomplish as many successful host projects as we did last year, and we really look forward to the return of familiar faces.



Fall Activities at Guadalupe River S.P. & Honey Creek SNA

Readme! All programs begin at the Rust House Visitor Center on the trail head of Honey Creek SNA, *unless otherwise noted below*. Activity fees for Saturday hikes into Honey Creek is \$2 per adult or \$5 per family (members of "Friends" are free). Other program fees/reservations as noted. If you are not a Conservation Passport Holder (TCP), please be aware that park entrance fees are extra. Park phone # is 210-438-2656.

Oct 19th - Programs:
Aquatics Adventure. 9 - 11 a.m. Walk down to Honey Creek with Aquatic Biologist, James White to seine for fish and collect aquatic insects for identification. Discussion will follow on water resources and adaptations of fish and insects of Honey Creek.



Cactus and Mesquite Bean Jelly Cooking. 1 - 5 p.m. \$25 per person. Members of Friends of GR/HC, \$15 per person. Reservations required. Program by Penny Solis. Start with raw fruit and end up with a great tasting native plant jelly. All supplies provided.

Visitors welcomed to drop in. We will have Cactus and Mesquite jelly for you to try and purchase.
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Oct 20 (Sunday) Outdoor Dutch Oven Cookin'. 2 - 5 p.m. Reservations required, \$25 per person. Members of Friends Of GR/HC, \$15 per person. Pot Wrangler, Charlene Simmons will teach the basics of using the Dutch oven on a campfire. Plus tin turtle ideals. Participants will eat the prepared meal!!



Oct 26th - Programs:
Ethnobotany Walk. 9- 11 a.m. Interpretive hike to learn about cultural and historical uses of native plants for food, fiber, medicine. Easy one mile hike along Honey Creek Canyon. Lead by Penny Solis.

Cactus and Mesquite Bean Jelly Cooking. 1 - 5 p.m. Reservations required. (see Oct 19th for details)
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Nov 2nd - Programs:
Aquatics Adventure. 9 - 11 a.m. Take a beautiful fall hike along Honey Creek Canyon and join the students of Churchill H.S. as they collect water quality data. Students will discuss water resources, its protection and share their findings with us.

Cactus and Mesquite Bean Jelly Cooking. 1 - 5 p.m. Visitors welcomed to drop in and try some of our jelly. Advance Reservations required for participants. (see Oct 19th for details)

Nov 9th - Programs:
Honey Creek Canyon Walk. 9 - 11 a.m. Join us for a leisurely two mile hike along Honey Creek Canyon with interpretation of the environmental and cultural history of the Texas hill country. Lead by Penny Solis.

Volunteer Work Weekend. 8:30 a.m. - 3 p.m. We will begin the day with a pleasant fall hike along Honey Creek Canyon, break for lunch, then tackle some small projects. Call 210-438-2656 for schedule of work project information. Camping reservations available in Guadalupe River SP.
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Nov 16, 23, 30 Honey Creek Canyon Walk. 9 - 11 a.m. (See Nov 9th for details).

Dec 7th - Programs:
Honey Creek Canyon Walk. 9 - 11 a.m. (See Nov 9 for details).

Volunteer Work Weekend. 8:30 a.m. - 3 p.m. We will begin the day with a pleasant fall hike along Honey Creek Canyon, break for lunch, then tackle some small projects. Call 210-438-2656 for schedule of work project information. Camping reservations available in Guadalupe River SP.
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Dec 14, 21, 28 Honey Creek Canyon Walk. 9 - 11 a.m. (See Sept 7 for details).

January 4 Honey Creek Canyon Walk. 9 - 11 a.m. (See Nov 9 for details).

January 11 Two concurrent activities this morning. 9 - 11 a.m. Both activities start at the Rust Visitor center at the Honey Creek trailhead.
1. Honey Creek Canyon Walk (See Nov 9 for details).
2. Texas Birdhouse Day. Help us clean and secure Blue Bird nest boxes for Spring. Bring phillips and flathead screwdrivers. All other materials to be supplied.

January 18, 25 Honey Creek Canyon Walk. 9 - 11 a.m. (See Nov 9 for details).

February 1 Honey Creek Canyon Walk. 9 - 11 a.m. (See Nov 9 for details).

Feb 8th - Programs:
Honey Creek Canyon Walk. 9 - 11 a.m. (See Nov 9 for details).

Volunteer Work Weekend. 8:30 a.m. - 3 p.m. We will begin the day with a pleasant fall hike along Honey Creek Canyon, break for lunch, then tackle some small projects. Call 210-438-2656 for schedule of work project information. Camping reservations available in Guadalupe River SP.

Pocket-Sized Predator by Penny Solis



As fall approaches, watch for the return to Central Texas of the American Kestrel. Although a common winter resident, it is only a rare summer resident in northern and western Texas. This tiny falcon is only slightly larger than a robin and weighs a mere 3 1/2 to four ounces. Equipped with long, pointed wings, its back and tail are rusty-red. Males are adorned with blue gray shoulder patches. Look for the Kestrel along Texas highways as they love to perch atop highline wires, utility poles, fence lines and trees. Their silhouette is distinctive and both sexes have striking, black-and-white facial patterns.

Kestrels have a varied diet. In spring and summer, insects such as grasshoppers and crickets comprise more than 80% of their diet. In fall and winter they may turn to bats, mice, snakes and sparrow-sized birds, hence the name Sparrow Hawk. When alarmed they utter a loud, rapid "klee-klee-klee" or Killy killy killy"; thus yet another name -- the killy hawk.

Kestrel's belong to the family Falconidae (fal-KON-ih-dee), one of five native species to North America. The word falcon has the same Latin root as the word falx, which means "sickle", and may refer to their characteristically curved talons and/or bill. Outwardly they may look like hawks and eagles to which they are closely related, but all falcon bills are conspicuously toothed or notched, while hawk bills are not. Falcons are also known for their speed and power in flight.



So look for this fascinating bird and enjoy its beauty and grace until it leaves for its summer home next April.

Source for article from Feb 1991 TPWD Mag and illustrations from John Wessinger's "Right Before your Eyes" poster series and Birds of Texas, Roger Tory Peterson.

Jelly Cooking Events of 1996 and Reflections on 1995



As Fall approaches, it that time again for the popular Jelly Cooking Classes! We have three dates set this year for Cactus and Mesquite Bean Jelly. They are October 19th, 26th and November 2nd. Unfortunately, the drought and late spring freezes prevented Mustang Grape production and we will not be able to make that Jelly this year. But oddly, the same weather produced the best crop of cactus I've seen in several years, here in the Hill Country. If you can't join us in making jelly, drop in on one of our Saturdays and buy some cactus and Mesquite bean jelly! All of the funds that these activities raise are used by The "Friends" association to promote educational programs and activities at the Park.

There are some special notes of interest and thanks about last year to report on our guests who participated in making jelly. We had two outstanding age record holders in the Mustang Grape category. Our oldest participants are the parents of James Woolsey of Clear Lake Shores, Mr. and Mrs. Wiley Woolsey. They are 89 and 87 years old respectively. AND, the Woolsey family arrived early to take the Saturday morning Honey Creek trail hike and nudged out the previous 85 year old record holder of 1986.

Friends member, Carla Hornseth, of Canyon Lake brought award winning news upon her return visit last year. Carla made her first homemade jelly at our 1994 Jelly cooking activity. From these modest beginnings, Carla was inspired to continue on and won several ribbons last year at the Comal County Fair in New Braunfels. Carla won second

place for Mustang Grape jelly and first place for fig jelly preserves. She also took home first place for her dehydrated pears and Grandma's Peach Coffee cake. Congratulations, Carla!

Yes folks, lives can be forever changed by joining in on our Jelly Cooking sessions. But make you reservations early as they fill up fast! Last year 48 people participated in making Mustang Grape jelly and Cactus Tuna jelly on 6 Saturday afternoons from October through November. Over a hundred inquiries were received about reservations and requests for recipes. Also, we had many visitors who took us up on our offer to stop in and just watch the fun and activities.

We canned 125 pints of Mustang Grape and 92 pints of Cactus Tuna jelly. We used 220 lbs of sugar and 60 boxes of pectin. We had participants traveling in from Austin, Houston, Kerrville as well as San Antonio and the local area.

Thanks are in order for assistance of the many people who loaned equipment, time and help. My Dad, Louis Lynch, for going with me to pick grapes and prickly pear in 100 degree heat, avoiding tasajillo, bull nettle, fire ants...the usual serene nature stuff. A special thanks to Charlene Simmons, who came out every weekend sporting a leg cast (from foot surgery the previous April) and helped me tirelessly. Moon Moehring for parting with her propane tank for 6 weeks, Dierdre Hisler for hauling it over and taking it back home and for always being there to support and assist our programs. Beldon Peters for the use of his vintage stove, regulator, hoses, fittings and everything else that makes gas flow. Last but not least, the company where I work, The Coleman Company, for making their walk in freezer available for storage of six 28 quart Coleman coolers of fruits.

by Penny Solis



LETTERS TO GUADALUPE RIVER STATE PARK...

We finished up with the work at the Rust House, and we hope it is satisfactory to everyone. If anything's not right, we'll make it right! We did the best we could with the wood; being as old as it is, it is better lumber than the new lumber that can be bought, even new treated lumber. It will be there for quite a while.

We appreciate the help from all. You are a swell bunch of people which are hard to find in this day and time. Thanks to everyone for everything you have done at Guadalupe River State Park.

--Jim and Crew

OUR WISH LIST..... *Any of the following items will help support our educational programs:*

- ◆ Refrigerator
- ◆ Glass Canning Jars - any size
- ◆ 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

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED FOR FRIENDS OF GUADALUPE RIVER / HONEY CREEK, INC.



Friends of Guadalupe River / Honey Creek, Inc. has been organized exclusively for charitable, educational purposes. We rely on the energy of our volunteers to assist these two state parks. It is an excellent opportunity for individuals and organizations to become part of a grass roots effort to benefit present and future Texans in the conservation of its natural and cultural resources.

We have many professionals and local organizations that already generously give of their time to present evening programs and lead trail walks through Honey Creek State Natural Area.

However, we are in need of volunteers to help with everything from habitat restoration to park events and setting up the amphitheater prior to programs for the public. Perhaps just lend a hand now and then - no effort is too small, and all help is appreciated. Let us know if you're available and want to become involved. Let your local scout chapter or high school know we welcome youths that desire to perform a community project.

It is easy to become a volunteer. Contact Deirdre Hisler, our Coordinator at Guadalupe River State Park: (210) 438-2656, or meet Penny Solis, our Park Naturalist on any Saturday at 11:30 a.m. at the Rust Visitor Center at Honey Creek State Natural Area. You may also contact Charlene Simmons at (210) 614-8453. Hope to see you soon!

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
Deirdre E. Hisler	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