



Friends of Guadalupe River Honey Creek, Inc.

A non-profit organization

Issue #15

3350 Park Rd 31, Spring Branch, TX 78070 ☎ 830-438-2656

April - June 1998



Guadalupe River State Park & Honey Creek SNA



Celebrate TPWD's 75th Anniversary with us! Open House all day on April 25, 1998

1998 marks Texas Parks and Wildlife's 75th Anniversary. For this special celebration you and your family are invited to visit Guadalupe River SP for the day - *FREE!* The Friends of Guadalupe River / Honey Creek, Inc. have scheduled exciting Family events throughout the day. All programs will take place at the Rust Visitor Center. Seating is limited, so bring your lawn chair and or blanket!

Honey Creek Canyon Hikes: 8:00 a.m. - Bird Watching, 9:00 a.m. - Interpretive Walk

Children's Wilderness Survival Lessons: 9:00 a.m. - 10:30 a.m.

Monarch Butterfly Spring Research Tagging: 10:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m. (Butterflies Permitting)

Archeology Flintknapping and tool making by Richard Dobie, 10:30 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.

Children's archeology mock dig by UTSA Graduate students- 10:30a.m. - 1:00 p.m.

Dutch Oven Cooking Demonstration 10:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.

Cooking Jelly with native plants 10:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.

Last Chance Forever, Birds of Prey demonstration 2:00 p.m. - 3:00 p.m.



Food and drinks will be provided by Winston Churchill ECHO students.



Superintendent's Corner

by Duncan G. Muckelroy

My most sincere appreciation is extended to Tink and Jeanne Manry. Both Jeanne and Tink have served on our Friends board since its inception. As treasurer, Jeanne has been the "guiding light" for all of our financial transactions. As parliamentarian and president, Tink has "kept us in line", on course, and on time. Their vision and professionalism will be greatly missed. I know everyone joins me in wishing them the best for their future. We will miss them as officers and a board members.

Please mark your calendars for the Guadalupe River State Park/Honey Creek State Natural Area open house and 75th anniversary celebration on Earth Day, Saturday, April 25, 1998. For this special celebration all Day-Use entrance fees are to be waived for the entire day. Scheduled activities throughout the day will celebrate the 75th anniversary of the creation of the Texas State Park System. Attending dignitaries are to be recognized at 2:00 p.m., immediately prior to The Last Chance Forever, Birds of Prey Program. Additional details of the scheduled activities are noted elsewhere in this newsletter.

If the weather is good, Easter Sunday always proves to be the most heavily visited day of the year. This year Easter Sunday is on April 12, the second Sunday in April. If you have never visited our park on a good weather Easter Sunday, I can assure you that it is "a sight to see." For example, when the park entrance gate is unlocked on the morning of Easter Sunday, there are usually about 75 vehicles waiting in line to try to claim one of the forty nine picnic tables in the day use area.

Hope to see all of you in attendance at our Open House and 75th Anniversary!

Eagle Scout Project Planned for April

Daniel Johnson and Boy Scout Troop 421 will build much needed benches for the Rust House Visitor area. We will finally have a some outdoor seating for visitors to our programs. He hopes to complete the project in time for Earth Day. Our thanks, Daniel

Honey Creek SNA Outdoor Classroom

We are pleased to announce that at recent Board meetings the Canyon Lake Action Center (C.L.A.C.) And the Water Oriented Recreation District (W.O.R.D.) have each generously funded this years program with donations of \$2,000 this year and upon review, an additional \$2,000 per year for the next 4 years. Courtney Walker, past Board member also generously funds the educational outreach program from discretionary funds of the Amy Shelton McNutt Trust. Along with grant monies remaining from last year, the program is on solid ground for May.

The Program Administrator and Director this year is Tom Campsey. Terry Urbanczyk will also return this year to help Tom. Terry has recently completed a Master Naturalist training program and will bring with her new knowledge and expertise and perhaps, the help of other Master Naturalists' as activity facilitators in May.

Honey Creek Outdoor Classroom is a day long learning adventure for fifth grade students of Comal County. Before the day begins the students are given a pre-test, then break into four groups that begin rotating through the various sessions. Students will learn about water shed conservation, appreciation of the land and water resources and become aware of the cultural and historical significance of Honey Creek Natural Area and surrounding areas. At the end of the day the students are tested again to document what they have absorbed and return to the classroom.

Volunteers are needed for the classroom sessions in May. If you have a love of the outdoors and for children and can volunteer your time twice a week, each week in May to lead a session with fifth graders, then call Tom Campsey at 210-438-2656. Training for facilitators is provided.

----- Richard Solis

The first part of this column is at the same time both easy and difficult to write. It is difficult to say good-bye to people who have done as much good for the organization as Tink & Jeanne Manry and Linda Sutton. However, they have decided that it's time for a bit of a break, and are moving on to other challenges (and maybe a trip or two...) It is easy to find good memories and good things to say about Tink & Jeanne and Linda. With the Friends group since it's inception, they have been the heart of the organization. Freely giving of their time and talents, they have been crucial to the success of the Friends. We especially appreciate the exceptional work of Tink as President and Jeanne as Treasurer. They will be hard to replace!! While we hate to see them go, we wish them well, and still expect to see them at the Park from time to time.

The coming big event is Earth Day/75th Anniversary Celebration!! We look to have an even bigger and better celebration this year than ever before! Birds of Prey will be returning as our anchor event, but we will also have some superb programs on everything from bird watching to flintknapping!! See more details in this newsletter. If you haven't been to the park in a while, I strongly recommend you come out for this action packed day. I promise you'll have fun AND learn something.

The heart of any organization is new ideas and a fresh look at things. We hope to get more members involved in the Friends group. We're also looking for volunteers who want to carry out projects, or even come up with their own ideas of things we, as a group, should be doing. If you have ideas, energy, or just enjoy the Park/SNA, come out and get involved!

----- Ed Gunter

ASHE JUNIPER (CEDAR) CONTROL

----- by Ed Gunter

To cut or not to cut; that is the question when discussing Ashe Juniper in the hill country. Without getting into the legal aspects and questions of property owner's rights as opposed to authority or regulation by various governmental agencies, this article will delve into some aspects of Cedar. And I will refer to it as cedar rather than Ashe Juniper since "cedar" is easier to type than "Ashe Juniper."

First, cedar is a native plant. Before the arrival of European settlers, it was primarily confined to riparian zones along creeks and rivers. As settlers moved in, they created "firebreaks" by building roads and suppressed fires. This stopped much of the natural control of cedar. Then, overgrazing by sheep, goats, and cattle destroyed native grasses which held the soil in place. Cedar then had minimal competition for the meager soil and water of the hill country, and flourished as it took over the countryside.

On the plus side, cedar does have some uses. Bark from old growth cedar serves as nesting material for the endangered Golden Cheeked Warbler. Heartwood provides sturdy, long-lasting, and insect repellent fencing and construction material. Stands of cedar provide shelter for wildlife. It smells good. And when I was a kid, the highlight of my Holiday season was our annual trek into the hill country where we would steal a cedar tree to use as a Christmas tree. I later found out that most ranchers would have paid us to carry it off!

Unfortunately, the negatives would seem to outnumber the positives. Cedar is very invasive, and will form a canopy that blocks light and water to prevent growth by other plants. This causes erosion that further depletes already thin soil. Some experts say that cedar has a growth inhibitor that further blocks other plants. It also has minimal food value for

livestock and wildlife. It uses a tremendous amount of water. Some studies have shown that an acre of cedar can use 4 times as much water as an acre of native grasses. All of these traits combine to have a very detrimental impact on the land. Clearing cedar can have tremendous positive impact on the land. Springs will begin to flow, natural grasses and forbs will return, and wildlife will flourish because of the improved habitat.

So, what is the best method to control cedar? Much depends on how big an area you want to control. If you have 500 acres, you probably better check the market for bulldozers. If you have 2-3 acres, a good chainsaw will work. In any case, realize that you have a lot of hard work ahead of you.

Initial clearing will be a big job. Then, you must decide what to do with downed cedar. Most people feel that it should NOT be burned. Burning isn't too good for the atmosphere, and there is always the danger of the fire spreading beyond your control. Laying it out in rows will help control erosion, and provide sheltered places for natural grasses to take root. Large piles provide shelter & habitat for a variety of wildlife. Leaving it where it lays makes for less work. No matter where you leave it, it will, over time, decay and turn to soil that will allow further growth, and enrich your land.

Realize, too, that you have committed to a long-term job. According to David Bamberger, 35-40 cedar saplings will sprout for each tree you cut out. These must then be controlled to let your grasses flourish. Controlled burns are one way to do this, but again, can quickly get out of control if you're not sure of what you're doing, and are not recommended for most landowners. A good pair of loppers seems to be the best way to handle this re-growth.

Friends of Guadalupe River/Honey Creek, Inc., Membership Application *Dues are annual and renew each January. Dues paid after June 30th of each year are prorated at half of the full membership fees.* Make check payable to: Friends of GR/HC, Inc., 3350 Park Rd. 31, Spring Branch, TX 78070. \$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 Supporting \$100.00 Sustaining \$500.00 Corporate \$1,000.00 Life

Date Name Renewal New Membership

Street, City, State & Zip

Phone: home, Optional: e-mail, work, fax

1998 Spring Activities at Guadalupe River S.P. & Honey Creek SNA

Readme! Activity fees for Saturday hikes into Honey Creek Canyon are \$2 per person (members of "Friends" are free). Other program fees/reservations as noted. If you are not a TCP pass holder, be aware that park entrance fees are extra. Park phone # is 830-438-2656 for additional information, reservations for special programs and directions.



April 25th is Earth Day!!
Activities all day - All Free!

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9:00 a.m. - Interpretive Walk

Children's Wilderness Survival
Lessons: 9:00 a.m. - 10:30 a.m.

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April May June: Every Saturday morning. 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 Edwards

Plateau and the Texas hill country, as well as botany and geology. Lead by Penny Solis. Meet at Rust House.

Month of April: Monarch Watch Survey every Saturday morning. 10:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.. Hosted by Churchill High School students, you can participate in a **n a t i o n w i d e** scientific program



tracing migration patterns of the Monarch butterfly as they begin their Fall migration south. Our observations will help expand what is known about the Monarch's Texas migration. If you cannot come to the scheduled event, it is still possible to help by counting flybys. Survey forms and instructions will be available in park headquarters. Meet at Rust House.

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