



# Friends of Guadalupe River Honey Creek, Inc.

A non-profit organization

Issue #16 3350 Park Rd 31, Spring Branch, TX 78070 ☎ 830-438-2656 June - August 1998

**Congratulations and best wishes to spanking brand new Park Manager Deirdre Hisler. She will be Manager of Government Canyon. Best wishes from the "Friends" and all your friends.**

### Notes from our *new* President ---- Ed Gunter

For those who missed **Earth Day/75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary**, you missed an outstanding day! We all owe a special thanks to Penny and Richard who put so much effort into the program and achieved so much. Demonstrations in all areas were very entertaining and educational. Personally, I found the flintknapping by Richard Dobie to be enthralling!... and he wouldn't even accept an honorarium for his presentation! Thanks, Richard.

UTSA's Graduate students at the archaeology dig drew a big crowd, and the products of the Dutch Oven cooking and Jelly-making went quick! Thanks to member, Anton Hajek for the delicious Dutch Oven Demonstration and to Penny and Lions Club volunteer, Bill Phillips for making Mustang Grape Jelly. Thanks also to Canyon Lake Lions Club member George Page for constructing 50 bird nest boxes which kids could assemble and purchase to take home. Richard had quite a crowd of children "building" their own bird houses. I can't say enough good things about "Birds of Prey" -- They even got their Falcon back before they left. And we got an extra show when they released a rehabilitated Kestrel. What a day! As I write this, we are in the middle of another highly successful Honey Creek Outdoor Classroom

program. Our "Outreach" program is the very core of our educational efforts. Tom Campsey has done a wonderful job of coordinating the whole operation this Spring, and Terry Urbanczyk has provided corporate memory and a superb knowledge of nature to help keep it going. A special thanks to all of the volunteer guides who are the real heart of the program! When I was at the training session, I even saw some familiar faces from last year. Hope you can all make it next year. At the board meeting last weekend, we decided to pursue a Fall Outreach program. We really believe this is the next logical step to expand this important program that is a perfect fit with the stated objectives of the Friends!

**We have two new Board members.** Tom Anderson has stepped up to help us out. Tom has helped with many projects in the past, such as water quality sampling, the windmill project, Monarch watch, and has provided nature education/appreciation for students and volunteer hours for the park from his students. (Rumor has it that he also got a little dirty one day last July while working flood recovery.) Our other new board member is Penny. I could fill this entire newsletter with good things Penny has done for Guadalupe RSP and Honey Creek SNA. I'll just say "THANKS" once again. Welcome to both.

### Annual Meeting July 25<sup>th</sup>

We are concluding a fourth successful year and want to invite all to come to our Annual meeting July 25<sup>th</sup> from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the Rust Visitor Center at Guadalupe River State Park. Members are asked to RSVP by

calling Penny's message center at 830-935-4730. We've all had a hectic year, the summers gonna be hot, so the get together will be very relaxed and informal.

Elections will be held at the membership annual meeting to confirm candidates for expiring terms of Directors. Members will receive a separate notice of elections.

### Honey Creek Outdoor Classroom Concludes another successful year!

Our Outdoor Classroom program continues to grow. This year 850 sixth graders from Canyon Intermediate School, Mountain Elementary, and Arlon Seay spent the day at Honey Creek SNA learning about conservation of water and other natural resources. The recent purchase by Guadalupe River SP of a small multi-terrain vehicle made it possible to include a young wheelchair bound student, Christian, in all of the educational activities of our program.

As more funding is secured through grants and private donations the program can be expanded year round and to include more kids. Almost all of our equipment has been funded through the TPWD COOP grant. And our remaining goal is to fund a Directors position. This year we successfully received commitments from W.O.R.D. and The Canyon Lake Action Center for \$2,000 per year for the next five years. The McNutt Foundation continues as a vital educational benefactor. These funds will offset our largest overhead expenses such as bus transportation and port-a-potties. We also recently submitted

two grant applications for funds and are hopeful we can secure additional funding from these new sources.

Tom Campsey served as our Grant Administrator and Education Director this year. And Terry Urbanczyk returned to play an important role in the program as well. With her contacts to the Master Naturalists program many new volunteers were recruited to work with the students at each learning station.

This past Saturday we held a thank you bar-b-q at the Rust House as a small appreciation for the efforts of all these fine folks. Please join us in saying thank you to:

- |                                  |                     |
|----------------------------------|---------------------|
| Tom Campsey                      | Terry Urbanczyk     |
| Catherine McKee                  | Maack McDonald      |
| Mike Mitchell                    | Katie Mitchell      |
| Allen Perry                      | Maureen Klevenhagen |
| Tea Platz                        | John Linkhart       |
| Sylvia Rogers                    | Ed Gunter           |
| Kathy Smith                      | Diane Lapierre      |
| Trina Horvath                    |                     |
| City - Year / Environmental Team |                     |

status or high grade point average. They and their parents must simply be committed to the the highest standards of education. Teachers on this campus must also be devoted to these goals. A requirement that is of great interest to the Friends organization is that students must complete 120 hours of internship in their area of interest before graduation. Which means we have an opportunity to expand our educational programs by attracting students to intern at the Park. We look forward to working with these students next fall.

Devon Lee is a science teacher with this campus. She recently made her second visit to Honey Creek SNA with 23 seniors and juniors. Their day was long and challenging. Their trip involved water testing at three sites. Salado Creek, Guadalupe River and finally Honey Creek. Testing included PH, temperature, turbidity, ecoli, oxygen, and macro invertebrates. Finally, their journey allowed the students to compare urban waterways with rivers like the Guadalupe and the relatively protected waters of Honey Creek.



**News from Churchill H.S.**

**Monarch Watch Spring Results.** This Spring the Butterflies seemed to have fluttered right by Guadalupe River State Park. The Churchill ECHO students faithfully manned the nets and stations on Saturday mornings and prepared to tag Monarch Butterflies. However, a combination of weather (the El Nino factor) insect fickleness and plain old bad luck left us without any captures. I and a young aspiring scientist, Aaron Smith, of Canyon Lake managed to rear and tag Monarch caterpillars. But even they were few in numbers this Spring. Oh well! We look forward to the Fall migration.



**Beautiful new Kiosk is finished for the Rust Visitor Center.** Churchill High School Buildings Trade students have built a beautiful cedar Kiosk to interpret the Windmill and Rust House complex. The Buildings Trade instructor, Harry Waller, supervised the construction and the work was paid for with a grant from the Amy Sheldon McNutt Foundation. Students of Tom Anderson will design and complete displays on windmill operation and history.

**International School of the Americas**

We have an exciting new high school science class interested in working with Guadalupe RSP and Honey Creek SNA. The International School of the Americas is an alternative school operating on the campus of Lee High School in San Antonio. Students enrolled in this Magnet campus are not chosen based on their social

**New Multi-Use Trail Nearing Completion in GRSP**  
— by Terry Urbanczyk

Guadalupe River State Park will soon have a new 10 mile long multi-use trail system. The trails will be accessible to hikers, horseback riders as well as mountain bikers. The trail is a collaborative effort between Texas Parks & Wildlife, Bob Ryan and the Texas Equestrian Trail Riders Association and the Alamo Kountry Kickers Trail Riders Association and the Friends of Guadalupe River/Honey Creek. The AKK Trail Riders have agreed to donate all labor and materials necessary to establish and mark the trail, install horse watering troughs and drinking fountains. A 180' x 100' staging area for truck and horse trailers will also be built by the AKK.

The costs for materials and labor to establish this trail will be used by Mr. Bob Ryan to secure matching funds form a TPW trail grant that will complete the funding for the trail project. The AKK has also agreed to maintain the trails on a monthly basis. In return for their efforts, they will be given exclusive rights to a once a year 50 - 100 rider trail ride at GRSP.

Usage of this trail is still being discussed and tentatively the trail will be opened to hikers and bikers for unlimited use. Horseback riders will be allowed use on a one weekend per month by reservation only basis and horseback riding groups will be kept to a maximum of 15 riders at a time.

Educational trail guides will be published specifically for the trail with rules, safety instructions and points of interest that will help the trail be more educational, safe and enjoyable. Look for the Guadalupe River SP multi-use trail to be available for your enjoyment later this fall.

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

**Readme!** Saturday hikes into Honey Creek Canyon are \$2 per person (members of "Friends" are free).

Evening Amphitheater programs 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 information and directions.

**June 6, 13, 20:** Honey Creek Canyon Walk 9 - 11 a.m. Join us for a leisurely one mile hike along Honey Creek Canyon with interpretation of the environmental and cultural history of the Edwards Plateau and the Texas hill country. Meet at Rust House.

### 3 Activities for June 27!

**Honey Creek Canyon Walk** 9 - 11 a.m. (See June 6 for details).

**Dutch Oven Cooking'** Sorry! The Dutch Oven Program scheduled for June had to be cancelled. Watch for it to be rescheduled and have the best time of your life learning the skill of Dutch Oven cooking on a campfire.

**Evening Program. Wildscapes.** TPWD Judit Gowan will talk about Wildscapes in your own backyard.

Learn how you can attract birds, butterflies, and other wildlife and beautify your back yard. You'll enjoy our seasons first Evening Program at Park Amphitheater. 7:00 p.m.

**July 4, 11, 18, 25:** Honey Creek Canyon Walk. (See June 6 for details).

### 2 Activities for July 11!

**Honey Creek Canyon Walk** 9 - 11 a.m. (See June 6 for details).

**Evening Program:** 7:00 p.m. Game Warden, Ron Cramer will talk about the duties of today's game wardens in Comal County. Meet Ron at the Park Amphitheater.

### 2 Activities for July 18!

**Honey Creek Canyon Walk** 9 - 11 a.m. (See June 6 for details).

**Evening Program:** 8:30 p.m. Fisheries Biologist John Tibbs will share his expertise about Trout stocking and management on the tail race of Canyon Dam. Please join us at the Park Amphitheater.

**July 25<sup>th</sup>:** Honey Creek Canyon Walk 9 - 11 a.m. (See June 6 for details).

**August 1, 8, 15, 22, 29** Honey Creek Canyon Walk 9 - 11 a.m. (See June 6 for details).

**September 5, 12, 19, 26** Honey Creek Canyon Walk 9 - 11 a.m. (See June 6 for details).

**Fall Activities are in the works. Make plans for:**

**October weekends:** Monarch Watch Survey. You can participate in a nationwide scientific program tracing migration patterns of the Monarch butterfly.



**October 17<sup>th</sup> & 18<sup>th</sup> -** Texas Wanderers will hold a two day walk in Guadalupe River SP and Honey Creek SNA.

Although this is a Texas Wanderers event anyone may join the walkers and enjoy a wonderful day out. The daily fee for participants in this event will be \$2.00 per person

**Nov 7<sup>th</sup> and Dec 5<sup>th</sup>:** Photo & Artist Outing. Photograph and Paint at your own pace along beautiful Honey Creek Canyon. 8:30 to Noon. Reservations required. \$10 per person, Friends members \$5. 830-438-2656.

**November 14<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup>** Jelly Making using native plants, Mustang Grape and Cactus pear Jelly. 9:30 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. Participants will learn how to make jelly from scratch. Fruit and all supplies are provided. Reservations required, fee \$25, payable in advance (Friends members, \$15). Call 830-438-2656.

Friends of Guadalupe River/Honey Creek, Inc., Membership Application *Dues are annual and renew each January. Dues paid after June 30<sup>th</sup> 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 \_\_\_\_\_

***Best Wishes for a complete and speedy recovery for Larry Priess. Larry is a GRSP Ranger and cheerful friend to all of us. He has been missed these past weeks, but is resting at home after surgery in May. Get well, Larry!!***

***Got Time?*** I would like to add my plea for volunteer helpers! We have a number of interesting and fun programs that we simply can't offer to park visitors and Friends members because we don't have a program facilitator or enough good old all around helpers. You don't have to spend every weekend with us, or even know much about botany or the outdoors. There are a number of local experts and program hosts that we could call upon for their expertise, but they do need one important item – YOU! They need you to help them find the program area, get set up or just lead them along the trail while they do their stuff. Our hummingbirds need their feeders refilled weekly at the Rust House, the bird feeders about every two to three weeks. If you are interested in enjoying a program while you volunteer, then give me a call, Penny Solis, at 830-935-4730. And thank you!

### **Old Trail Guide off in New Directions!**

Since 1985, I've lead many a Saturday morning hike into Honey Creek Canyon. Pretty much year round, from 20 degree mornings, to light rainy days, driving rain and lightning that could be felt and heard on the barbed wire fencing days and quite a few beautiful days. It has been my pleasure to do so. And a pleasure to meet folks from Texas, 51 US states (someone please come visit from Hawaii) as well as Brazil, Canada, England, Ireland, Germany, France, Indonesia and the Netherlands. But I need a little more time in my schedule for me, so, I've had to give up being your usual guide on Saturday morning hikes.

I won't be disappearing. Richard and I are devoting a lot of time this summer and fall to *Texans for State Parks*. But I will also be working on fun new programs to complement the Saturday morning hike, preventing too many defections and kidnappings of present volunteers over to Government Canyon (Joke, okay?) and trying to develop our volunteer base to expand educational offerings at the park for families and our membership.

----- See ya there! Penny

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