



Friends of Guadalupe River Honey Creek, Inc.

A non-profit organization

Issue #17 3350 Park Rd 31, Spring Branch, TX 78070 ☎ 830-438-2656 Sept - Nov 1998

Congratulations to Tom and Kelly Campsey. They were married July 18th! Best wishes from the "Friends" and all your friends.

Notes from our President ---- Ed Gunter

As I write this column, we are preparing for our annual membership meeting, and I'm reviewing all the great things that have happened to the Park over the last year. Probably the highlight of the year was the Outreach Program, followed closely by the Earth Day/75th Anniversary Party in April. We were also able to start some Saturday night interpretive programs in the amphitheater again. Thanks to Judit Gowan, Ron Cramer, and John Tibbs for their wonderful presentations. With these informative and educational programs, we are building for the future. Thanks to Penny and Richard again for setting them up.

Looking to the future, we're starting the new fiscal year off on the right foot! Member Mike Richardson has a group of Scouts coming out on Aug 8th. The tentative plan is to work on the regrowth cedar in the area of the controlled burn. Hopefully, we can keep this area returning to its natural state before civilization left its mark. Thanks to Mike and his

Scouts!!

Again, a plea for volunteers!! We need involvement from more of us. If you have special interests, or an idea for a new program, talk to one of the Board members about it. If it fits with our educational or operation/conservation goals, we want you to set it up!

Hope you all survive the summer!

1998 Annual Meeting

Our Annual Meeting was a hot one, but only because of the weather. Most of our members were wise enough to stay home in the comfort of air conditioning. But a few of us braved the heat and enjoyed Bar-B-Q and drinks.

Welcome new Board Member, Ron Urbanczyk. Ron has worked behind the scenes for the "Friends" organization in supported of many of our programs these past years. It great to have him on our Board and we look forward to the next three years!

Fall Means Jelly, Dutch Oven and Art!

Don't miss out on the Fall schedules of cooking jellies with native plants AND the Artist and Photo Outings. This Fall we have a new Dutch Oven pro, Barbara McKnight. All class sizes will be limited, so sign up early. However,

reservations will be through me, Penny Solis and I will be in beautiful Seattle until August 30th, so please call after that date. The reservations number is 830-935-4730. Please do not call park headquarters for reservations.

Board of Directors of Friends of Guadalupe River/Honey Creek, Inc. for 1998-1999

- Ed Gunter - President
- Joe Vanecek - Vice President
- Richard Solis - Vice President
- Jeanne Manry - Treasurer
- Penny Solis - Secretary
- Tom Anderson - Director
- Ron Urbanczyk - Director

The Business address of Friends of Guadalupe River/Honey Creek, Inc. is 3350 Park Rd. 31, Spring Branch, TX 78070. Further information about the Friends organization may be obtained by contacting Ed Gunter at 830-560-2522 or Richard Solis at 830-935-4011.



Texans for State Park to hold 1st Annual Meeting in Austin, TX. The date will be October

31st. For more information on the annual meeting and how you can help improve our great State Park system, contact Richard Solis at 830-935-4011.

Discover Nature With Your Child

As Fall approaches and brings cooler weather, hopefully, we will be drawn to the outdoors again. To share your enjoyment for the outdoors you needn't be a knowledgeable naturalist. You and your youngster can explore and learn together. You are in a position to teach your child the ability to observe through the process of wondering such things as what does that pretty flower smell like, kneeling to find out, and perhaps discovering that it has no smell – these are actions that can help your child move at his or her own pace.

Pay attention to what the child finds. Things a two year old notices will be different from what her parents sees. Young eyes close to the ground will notice mosses, flowers, or insects along the path – all new to her. Nothing squelches curiosity as effectively as a parent's indicating indifference. Communicate a sharing of interest even if it seems ordinary or perhaps a dead insect or clump of grass.

The conversation stopping effect of naming. "What's this? A response of "Beat's me" or simply naming the object is not really answering the child's question and ends the process of discovery. As adults, we often think the name is the most important fact. But by de-emphasizing naming, a parent can help establish the habit of knowing. "It's blue," or "Let's count the petals," or a discussion of what is important to know about the object.

Making comparisons. A truly rewarding goal of nature exploration is to develop a

sensitivity to relationships – to understand how living things fit into our world. By making comparisons you can help your child fit things together. Start by doing it yourself. "This mushroom has a dimple and that one a bump," you might say, or "Isn't this one shiny!" and later, "There's another shiny one but it's orange. Let's see how else it's different from the yellow one." Your examination notes how things are as different as they are alike. Take this approach to leaves, flower, seeds, or even whole trees. Compare heads of grasses in a meadow. Note the ways in which birds fly, etc.

Become sensitive to the needs of living things. The basic needs of live are simple: food, air, water, a suitable temperature, and living space. It is endlessly fascinating to see how plants and animals have developed systems to obtain these things. You might consider with your child the strategies of different plants for getting sunlight. For example, a tree builds a strong, heavy trunk and branch system to raise its leaves high to catch the sunlight. A twining vine accomplishes this by climbing the tree.

Animals and their traces. Animals capture a child's fancy. Unfortunately, they tend to disappear when someone approaches. But, if you pause to sit quietly on a log or bank, you will gradually become aware of the animal life about you. Watch for movement. Listen for small sounds – rustling, bird song, croaking, buzzing, splashing. Try closing your eyes to enhance your listening abilities.

You don't have to be right. The further you take your child into these explorations, the more speculative your discussions will become. Whenever you

speculate, there is a chance of inaccuracy. Don't worry, when correct answers are discovered later, no harm has been done. In fact, the practice of speculation teaches your child to frame questions, make observations aimed at answering them, and selecting reasonable answers. These are valuable life skills for children and adults.

Some tips for Woods Walks

★Everyone should wear socks and comfortable shoes. Long pants will help to provide protection against poison ivy, thorns, and insects.

★Learn to recognize poison ivy. Avoid any plant with three smooth leaves per stem. Find some and show them to your child. Repeat the lesson at intervals.

★Teach your child to freeze if he or she spots a snake, then to back away – never to attack it. The snake will gladly retreat to safety. Remember all creatures play a vital role in nature, there are no "good animals" or "bad animals", but there are animals we must safely avoid.

★Carry a light backpack with supplies, including water, snacks, magnifying glass, perhaps a jacket. Collecting is a no-no in most nature preserves, but pencil and paper can record observations in sketches or words.

★If a child needs to use a toilet and can't wait? Take the youngster well away from the trail and especially away from streams. Heap dirt or rocks over the traces.

★Suit the distance to the child's ability to walk and interest span.

Reprinted from magazine, Baby Care, year unknown. Author Elizabeth Daniels.

1998 Fall 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). 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.

September 5, 12, 19, 26: 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.

October 3, 10, 17, 24, 31. Honey Creek Canyon Walk 9 - 11 a.m. (See September 5th for details).



October weekends: Monarch Watch Survey. You can participate in a nationwide scientific program tracing migration patterns of the Monarch butterfly. Program is sponsored by Churchill H.S. ECHO students. Meet each Saturday at 10 a.m. - 1 p.m. at the Rust Visitor Center.



October 17th & 18th - Texas Wander+ers 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

November 7, 14, 21, 28. Honey Creek Canyon Walk 9 - 11 a.m. (See September 5th for details).

Nov 7th and Dec 5th: 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 14th and 21st 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.

December 19th: Outdoor Dutch Oven Cookin'. 10 - 1 p.m. Reservations required, \$25 per person. **Members of Friends Of GR/HC, \$15 per person.** Pot Wrangler, Barbara McKnight will teach the basics of using the Dutch oven on a campfire. Plus tin turtle ideals. Participants will eat the prepared meal!! Make your reservations early.



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

Fall brings the most beautiful full moons of the year:

When the months were first named, the year began in March.

September - From the Latin word septem, meaning "seventh." The full moon on the 6th of this month is called the Fruit Moon. In years when it occurs closest to autumnal equinox, it is called, Harvest Moon.

October - From the Latin word octo, or "eighth." October 5th brings a full moon closest to autumnal equinox, so it's known as the Harvest Moon. The full moon rises only a few minutes later each night at this time, of year, so it provides extra light for farmers as they harvest their end-of-summer crops.

November - From the Latin word novem, or "ninth." The full moon on the 3rd is called the Hunters Moon or Frosty Moon since it follows the Harvest Moon.

December - From the Latin word decem, or "tenth." The full moon on the 3rd is called the Long Night Moon or Moon Before Yule.

Turkey Day - Myths of Thanksgiving Make it Special

The Aztecs of Mexico first domesticated the big birds. Spanish explorers sent the first Turkeys home to Queen Isabella in 1519. London merchants sold them as "turkies" in the mistaken belief that the Crusaders had brought the birds back from Turkey.

Turkey, as a bird and nation, is derived from the Byzantine word "tourkoi" meaning strong.

The Pilgrims arrived on the Mayflower with several coops of turkeys on hand. Little did they know that the forest teamed with them around Plymouth.

The thanksgiving image we have been taught, probably took place a year after the landing at Plymouth Rock in 1620. It was called the Harvest Festival, a British tradition, and used primarily the Indians' produce. The main dish was most likely lobster which was abundant in Cape Cod Bay.

Benjamin Franklin, thought the turkey, rather than the bald eagle, should be the symbol for the country. He wrote, "I wish the bald eagle had not been chosen as the representative of our country; he is a bird of bad moral character like those among men who live by sharpening and robbing, he is generally poor, and often very lousy. The turkey is a much more respectable bird and with a true original native of America.

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