

FRIENDS



OF GUADALUPE RIVER STATE PARK
HONEY CREEK SNA



SPRING NEWSLETTER 2019

A NON-PROFIT ORGANIZATION

Announcement for the Homesteaders Homcoming

by Mackenzie Brown

2019 Homesteader Homecoming Please mark your calendar...for 2:00 pm on Sunday, May 19th at the Herff Farm, 33 Herff Road, Boerne, TX 78006. Brent Evans will present on the life of Dr. Ferdinand Ludwig Herff. As usual, Friends of Guadalupe/Honey Creek will supply the drinks. Guests and Friends members are asked to bring a sweet. Any questions please call Mackenzie Brown at (210) 748-1110, or e-mail him at mbrown@trinity.edu.

Introducing a new, revised website for the Friends (along with a little history)

by Mackenzie Brown

Fifteen years ago, at the January 2004 Board meeting, Dan Freeman was introduced as the first webmaster for the Friends website, then with the domain name "honeycreekfriends.com." That domain name no longer links to the new Friends website and, as of February of this year (2019), was for sale to any interested buyer. At the same Board meeting, a motion was approved to start a one-year trial using PayPal for website purchases and membership dues. Dan also requested that members send him information about upcoming events ASAP so he could update the list of activities in a timely manner.

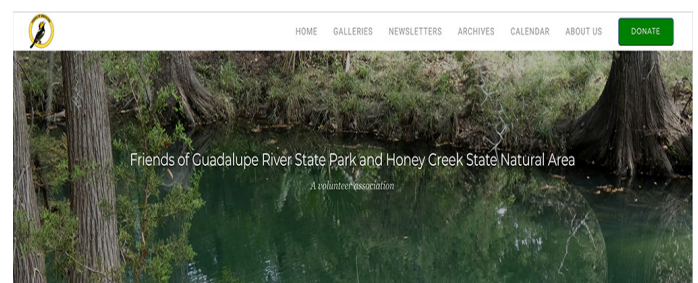
Five years later, in the Spring 2009 Newsletter, Dan wrote to the Friends about the website, calling it a portal to the world of Guadalupe River State Park, providing information about the Park and scheduled activities, Honey Creek hikes, videos and photographs of the park, workshops, and copies of previous Newsletters. In addition, the website included links to environmental information such as the weather, plants, and the like. For those interested in seeing Dan's original website, you can find it archived at: <https://web.archive.org/web/20080512004035/http://www.honeycreekfriends.com/index.html>

In 2011, Dan stepped down from his post as webmaster after seven years, and was succeeded by Ed Sypniewski, who managed the site for another seven years. Many thanks to both Dan and Ed for their years of service as webmasters for the Friends.

In the fall of 2018, Mackenzie Brown was appointed to design a new website that would include a PayPal link, something that was never implemented on the old

website. The new domain name, "friendsofgrhc.org," reflects the fact that the Friends serve both the State Park and the State Natural Area, and that it is an "organization" rather than a "commercial enterprise." This is relevant since we qualify as a non-profit organization, and thus receive a discount on fees that PayPal charges as well as allowing individuals to make tax-deductible donations. The website now includes a PayPal option for payment of annual dues and for donations.

The new website continues many of Dan Freeman's features, plus the PayPal option. The website has a number of photo galleries, archives for various events hosted by the Friends and by the Park staff, copies of Newsletters with one major gap (available on the website are the Newsletters from 1994-1999 and 2006-2018), an "Upcoming Events" page and a calendar. There is also information about the Friends and its Board of Directors, a description of the Discovery Center, a list of volunteer opportunities, and a list of research and restoration projects with links to specific projects.



Homepage banner for the new website (<https://friendsofgrhc.org/>)

Many more galleries will be added as the webmaster obtains more photos of relevant subjects, as well as descriptions and photos of past events and projects. He requests that Friends who have relevant photos and or projects that they have participated in at the Park or State Natural Area contact him. Also, inform him about typos, mistakes, or other needed changes. In particular, does anyone have copies of Newsletters from 1999-2005 and the summer of 2006? The new webmaster, Mackenzie Brown, can be reached at mbrown@trinity.edu.

So paraphrasing Dan Freeman's comments from 2009, "Stop by the new Portal to the Park when you have the chance and explore our site," <https://friendsofgrhc.org/>.

A Conduit for Danger: The Guadalupe River in Flood

by Mackenzie Brown & Charleen Moore

Oh, the Guadalupe; what a river! The water clear as a day, flowing 10 to 20 feet above its rocky bottom. The boulders and the green and verdant plants, the fish, turtles, snakes and alligators do not appear to be in water but floating in a green-hued atmosphere. It is enchanting. The trees and the rocks, how picturesquely they stand at the river's edge and cool their feet in this beautiful bath. There is no river more beautiful than the Guadalupe. How can you see beauty in the murky and muddy waters of the Rhine River, when you have seen the Guadalupe? (Alwin H. Sörgel, *A Sojourn in Texas, 1846-47* [1992], p. 48)

Such was the enthusiastic account of the Guadalupe by one of the early German immigrants to the Texas Hill Country, written in 1846, describing his impressions of the river as he descended to its banks from the hills surrounding the newly-founded town of New Braunfels. The account, part of a letter back home to prospective German immigrants, painted a romantic picture not only of the river but of the prospects for life in Texas, offering peace, work, contentment, freedom, and a simple lifestyle “not crippled by civilization” (Sörgel, p. 42). But the tranquil scene described above gave no hint of the river's darker and more violent side.

While aesthetic beauty had its attraction for early immigrants, their main interest in the river was as a source of water for basic survival, for transportation of goods, and for powering mills. In the mid-1850s, early pioneer John Hodges established a saw mill for cutting cedar and cypress lumber about 30 miles west of New Braunfels on Curry Creek, a few hundred yards from its confluence with the Guadalupe just outside Guadalupe River State Park, on land owned by William Early Jones (cf. Brenda Anderson-Lindemann, *Bridging Spring Branch and Western Comal County, Texas* [ca. 2012], p. 31; for evidence that Hodges Mill and the oft referenced Jones Mill are identical, see Bryden Moon, “Curry's Creek—More Than a Watershed: Early Enterprise—Hodge's Mill,” *Spring 2017 Newsletter*, p. 3). In 1854 a visitor from New York, Frederick Law Olmstead, witnessed an ominous scene at the mill site following a torrential thunderstorm: “At the last freshet, the whole roof of the mill, which is on high ground, and has its power from the creek, was covered by the backwater of the [Guadalupe] river” (Frederick Law Olmstead, *A Journey through Texas* [1857], p. 213).

Fifteen years later in July of 1869, disaster struck a number of stream-side mills in the area. In a letter home to his father in Germany, Christian Friedrich Bergmann described how he had just completed making a “shingles Machine” and produced some 16,000 shingles. He recounts what happened next:

Then it rained non-stop for 4 days and our shingles were gone....During the rain, the Guadalupe rose 53 feet. I had water in my kitchen. I had a masonry smoke house that held right up until the last three hours, but then a large cypress tree floated by and leveled it. I also had a lot of damage in the



Remains of a Mill above Edge Falls. Photo from Donna Doring Jonas, *Kendalia: A History of the Settlement, 1847-1957*, vol. 1, p. 20.

fields—2,000 “Riegel” [fence rails] were washed away, six fields had all the good soil washed away—including the corn that was on it. But the other things suffered, too, because the water was high for several days—so that I had only a tiny harvest. But I comforted myself by saying that I did not cause it and that the others fared no better. Everybody on the larger or smaller rivers had similar damages. Also, all of the mills were damaged—most gears were completely ruined or heavily damaged.” (Quoted in Anderson-Lindemann, p. 340)

As dispiriting as Bergmann's experience was, Heinrich Dietrich Knibbe's was even worse—much worse. Knibbe had bought the mills on Curry Creek from Judge Jones around 1861. The flood of 1869 severely damaged the mills, but Knibbe rebuilt, having recovered some of the components that had washed downstream through a reward offered to finders of mill parts, published in the *New Braunfelser Zeitung*. Among the parts were a “12-foot high water wheel with iron shaft, 8-foot star wheel.... [and] boiler with metal plate” (Anderson-Lindemann, p. 341). Then in October of 1870, another flood completely destroyed the mills and this time Knibbe did not rebuild. His nephew, Dietrich Woehler, whom Knibbe had recently brought from Germany to become manager of the mills, was drowned trying to save them (Anderson-Lindemann, pp. 31, 54; Donna Doring Jonas, *Kendalia: A History of the Settlement, 1847-1957* [2012], p. 45).

To the left we see remnants of another mill above Edge Falls on Curry Creek, sometimes attributed to John Hodges, that was also destroyed in the 1870 flood. According to Bryden Moon, settlers apparently forgot where the original Hodges Mill was at the confluence of Curry Creek and the Guadalupe River (personal correspondence, January 2019).

These were some of the terrifying delugial experiences that introduced early settlers of the upper Guadalupe to “Flash-Flood Alley.” They could hardly have known that the river valleys like the Guadalupe, originating west of the Balcones Escarpment in the Edwards Plateau, constitute one

A Conduit for Danger:

The Guadalupe River in Flood by Mackenzie Brown & Charleen Moore

of the most flash-flood prone areas in the world, and the most prone in North America.

Four factors contribute to the severity of these rains. First, Flash-Flood Alley is located on the North American continent where three large air masses occasionally converge: warm, moist Pacific air currents from the southwest, even juicier tropical air from the Gulf (at times abetted by tropical storms and by pressure highs in the eastern Gulf that keep pumping the moist air into South Texas), and cold air currents from the north out of Canada. Depending on the relative strengths of the fronts, they can stall over the region, producing enormous amounts of rainfall. Second, the Balcones Escarpment forming the eastern boundary of the Hill Country can provide an elevating boost to the currents from the Pacific and especially the Gulf, thus enhancing the uplift of the moist air masses as the cold northern air mass slides under the other two. Third, thin, rocky soils often degraded by overgrazing and readily saturated, plus exposed hard limestone surfaces and steep gradients, result in most of the rainfall during heavy precipitation running off into streams and rivers. And fourth, the dissection of the Eastern Edwards plateau by relatively narrow river and stream valleys, often confined within steep limestone cliffs, create “conduits for danger” (phrase borrowed from Spring Sault, “Why the Hill Country is A.K.A. ‘Flash Flood Alley,’” June 3, 2016, <https://texashillcountry.com/why-the-hill-country-is-a-k-a-flash-flood-alley/>).

Although “crippled by civilization,” as Sörgel would have it, we know much more today than the early immigrants about the dangers and causes of flash floods in the area, yet dozens of lives are still lost in major flood events. The Hill Country leads the U.S. in river-related drownings each year. Even today it is hard for us to imagine how quickly Hill Country rivers can rise. The conduits for danger funnel copious amounts of water into constricted channels that can produce river rises of tens of feet within an hour or two, trapping the unwary. One tragic example is the storm that on the night of May 23-24, 2015 (over Memorial Day weekend), dumped 6-8 inches of rain in the State Park area and 10-13 inches in southern Blanco County, causing the Blanco River at Wimberley to rise from 5 to over 40 feet in 4 hours, and over 20 feet in one hour (<https://www.weather.gov/media/ewx/wxevents/ewx-20150524.pdf>).

Despite the frequent floods, the Hill Country—situated on the eastern edge of the semi-arid desert of West Texas—oscillates between extended periods of drought and torrential, drought-busting rains. The pictures below, showing Curry Creek from the Edge Falls Road crossing, nicely illustrate three different moods of Hill Country streams: in flood, in “normal” times, and in drought. The photo on the left makes clear why the early mills were completely swept away during the much heavier rains of 1869 and 1870. The one on the right, apparently taken during the drought of summer, 2018, demonstrates how creek and river flows can come to a complete halt. In August of 2013, the Park had to shut down

weekday water services in the campgrounds and public restrooms due to the diminished flow of the Guadalupe “to almost nothing,” apparently for the first time in Park history (<http://smmercury.com/2013/08/13/drought-forces-watershutoff-at-guadalupe-river-state-park/>). A similar closing occurred in the summer of 2018.

Periods of drought are no indication of when catastrophic flooding can occur. Among major historic floods was that of September 1952, when 23-26 inches of rain (over 20 inches in one 24-hour period) fell over the eastern Edwards Plateau in the midst of the worst drought on record (1950-1975). The rains helped the Colorado River raise the level of Lake Travis just west of Austin some 57 feet in 14 hours. In August of 1978, rains from Tropical Storm Amelia caused the Guadalupe River at Comfort to crest at 40.9 feet, with a flow of 240,000 cfs (cubic feet per second), with 27 deaths (<http://twri.tamu.edu/publications/txh2o/fall-2016/do-you-live-in-flash-flood-alley/>). This was the second highest crest ever recorded at Comfort. The highest? July 1 of 1869, when the river crested at 42.3 feet (https://water.weather.gov/ahps2/crests.php?wfo=ewx&gage=comfort2&crest_type=historic).

Nine years after the Amelia-generated flood, on July 17, 1987, 10 teenagers leaving a church camp near Comfort drowned when their bus became trapped by the Guadalupe following 10-12 inches of rain and a 29-foot rise (cresting at 31.5 feet), with the river spreading out 2/3 of a mile and speeding downstream at 70 miles per hour (<https://www.weather.gov/ewx/wxevent-19870717>).

Turning to storms directly affecting Guadalupe River State Park, the flood of October 17-21, 1998, resulting from over 20 inches of rain at or near the Park over the first two days, took 31 lives in South Texas, mostly on the



Curry Creek in flood, March 2007.
Photo by Bill Beach.



Curry Creek, “normal” flow, January 2019.
Photo by Charleen Moore.



Curry Creek in drought.
From Google Maps 01/26/2019.
[Probably taken summer 2018]

Continued...

A Conduit for Danger: The Guadalupe River in Flood

by Mackenzie Brown & Charleen Moore

Guadalupe and San Antonio Rivers, with over \$1 billion in damages (<https://digitalcommons.unl.edu/cgi/viewcontent.cgi?article=1870&context=greatplainsresearch>). Included in that total was the Park store. Joan Nitschke's pride and joy was inundated with calf-high muddy waters flowing through the doors. (For Joan's contributions to the Park and the store, see the tribute to her in this Newsletter.)



Novel recreational opportunity: wading outside the Park store (now the Discovery Center), October 1998. Photo from Joan Nitschke collection.



Cleanup opportunity in the Park store, following the October 1998 flood. Photo from Joan Nitschke collection.

In 2002, from June 30 to July 7, the region received up to 35 inches of rain from a storm that stalled over the Edwards Plateau, with over \$1 billion estimated damages and 12 deaths. The Park suffered only minor damage: its sewer lift stations were flooded rendering the restrooms inoperable (http://www.tdtnews.com/archive/article_8d1418aa-7b65-5189-b582-c05f3ad5490e.html). Perhaps most noteworthy, geologically speaking, was the creation of "The Gorge" below Canyon

Lake when the spillway was topped for the only time in its history. The resulting erosion, creating a mini-canyon more than 50 feet deep, hundreds of yards wide, and about a mile long, exposed millions of years of Earth history, uncovering among other things the tracks of dinosaurs, probably either of iguanodon or acrocanthosaurus, who lived about 110 million years ago (<http://www.floodsafety.com/texas/USGSdemo/2001to1975.htm>; https://tpwmagazine.com/archive/2016/apr/threedays_canyon/).

The Park itself has avoided major flood tragedies, suffering mostly the loss of picnic tables, benches, and barbecue pits. In the Fall 2007 Newsletter, the Park Superintendent Mark Abolafia-Rosenzweig reported that 6.75 inches of rain fell on March 11, increasing river flow from a drought level of 61 cfs to 30,000 cfs, washing away picnic tables and trash cans. Then in mid-August, more heavy rains caused the river to rise to levels not seen since the 2002 flood. Again, picnic tables washed away and barbecue pits were uprooted. In the Summer 2015 Newsletter, Park police officer Ted Stevens reported that on Saturday afternoon of May 23 (the same storm mentioned above that caused the Blanco River to rise 35 feet in five hours), rising waters and heavy rain in the forecast prompted Park staff to move valuable items from the Discovery Center to higher ground, along with picnic tables,

trash cans, and vending machines from the day use bathroom. By next morning, the river had risen over 30 feet, reaching almost to the top of the pipe-railing staircase in the day use area. Flow gauges at Comfort and Spring Branch recorded 69,000 cfs and 72,000 cfs respectively. Grills were destroyed, the waste water system damaged, tons of debris left to be cleared, and a picnic table in Honey Creek washed downstream but luckily was caught on a large oak tree (see photos in the Summer 2015 Newsletter). In October of the same year, the Park and State Natural Area received over 20 inches of rain over 4 weeks, climaxing in a 15-foot rise of Honey Creek, with two picnic tables washing downstream. In 2016, another Memorial Day weekend record rainfall resulted in a river rise of 30 feet and a flow rate of approximately 60,000 cfs (2016 Fall Newsletter). And just last fall, after a summer drought, another flood in the Park claimed two Leopold benches in Honey Creek. While there have been at least two drownings in the Park since the 1980s, neither occurred during floods, thanks to the safety measures carried out by Park staff. At the first warning of heavy rains, the day use area is closed to the public.

Circling back to the experiences of the early immigrants and visitors to the Hill Country, we may note that many echoed Sörgel's romantic images of the Guadalupe. Viktor Bracht in 1848 proclaimed that the waters of Hill Country rivers "surpass in their transparency the most beautiful that the mountains of Switzerland and of Norway have to offer" (Viktor Bracht, *Texas in 1848* [1991], p. 10). He also quotes the same passage from Sörgel that began this essay (Bracht, p. 99). A future president of the U.S., Rutherford B. Hayes, who rode horseback through Texas in the winter of 1848-1849, wrote that the German town of New Braunfels was located "at the junction of two of the most beautiful streams I ever saw, the Guadalupe and the Comal...The water is so transparent the fish seem hanging in the air" (quoted in Irene Marshall King, John O. Meusebach: *German Colonizer in Texas* [1967], p. 141). Other visitors, however, realized the darker potential of the Guadalupe. We have already seen Olmstead's ominous warning in 1854. One of the keenest early observers of the Hill Country was the geologist Ferdinand Roemer. In 1846, while describing the Guadalupe "with its abundant, crystal clear, rapidly flowing water, shaded by beautiful cottonwood and other trees," he also recounts how, following torrential rains, the plain surrounding New Braunfels "was often converted into an inland sea within a few minutes," with the Guadalupe itself rising 15 feet and carrying down large trees, and ordinarily small, dry brooks becoming "raging torrents" (Ferdinand Roemer, *Texas* [2011], p. 191). So enjoy the Guadalupe's crystal clear waters in her calmer moments, but beware her angry moods.

Habiscape Happenings

by Susan Bogle



Right on schedule, volunteers from the Texas Master Naturalists appeared in the Habiscape a few weeks ago to begin preparing it for the upcoming spring season. The winter kill was removed from the perennials, annuals were removed, dead grasses were trimmed and some new transplants were introduced. In doing this, the hundreds of new seedlings from the multitude of seeds that were introduced over the last year were revealed. The majority are annual flowers, such as basket-flowers (*Centaurea americana*), Indian blankets (*Gaillardia pulchella*) and bluebonnets (*Lupinus texensis*). But quite a few perennials are also evident, such as rock rose (*Pavonia lasiopetala*) and mealy blue sage (*Salvia farinacea*). The wetter than usual weather we have been experiencing since fall has produced this bumper crop of seedlings and it will be exciting to see how our native garden develops through the upcoming seasons this year.

While viewing the Habiscape, you will notice the usual fencing that is made necessary because of the park's resident deer population. It protects certain plants from the rubbing of the deer's antlers and also their usual predation once the leaves emerge. However, you will also notice a new use for this fencing and also for metal grids. You will find it lying directly on the ground, secured by a few stakes. This is an experiment to find out if this can also work as a successful armadillo deterrent. The park's nine-banded armadillos are on a constant hunt for



underground grubs, worms and other invertebrates, as they are a staple in their diet. As the armadillos burrow along, any plants that might be in the way are easily unearthed. We will be watching to see if this proves to be enough protection to discourage that destructive activity. Our fingers are crossed.

Come on out - the birding is GREAT

by Linda Glinder

Once again Spring is on the way! Spring is an exciting time for those who enjoy bird watching as well as those who just love the thrill of Mother Nature at its best. Spring means migration and that means thousands of birds, both small and large will stream from their winter-feeding grounds in Central and South America into North America. And the best part is that the park is on one of the main flyways making it an ideal place to see these avian wonders as they return. Some will stop at the park only for a few days to fill up on insects and seeds before continuing north. Others will stop at the park and call it home through the summer. Here they will pick a mate, build a nest and raise the next generation. The wet winter we have just experienced may alter some of the timing and even species so it will be a good year to watch and see how things might be different.

One family to watch are the Warblers. The Wood-warbler family has a number of species and spring migration brings many

through our area. They are so colorful they are worth the effort to seek them out. Watch for Nashville Warblers, Tennessee Warblers, Mourning Warbler, Yellow Warbler, and more to pass through March through May. The Golden-cheeked Warbler is one species that will arrive and stay. They are a star attraction and many park patrons will visit just to see and hear its "laxy zrr-zooo-zeedl-zee-twip" of a call. But take time during the Spring and Summer to seek out two other Wood-warblers that will return and breed within the park.

The first, Northern Parula is a colorful wonder all packed into its small 4 1/2" frame. The Northern Parula is more common to the east and is known to winter in southern Florida. The Park lies just within its western most reaches making it a marvel for our area. Look for it in the upper tree canopy where it flutters about at the tip of branches for quick access to insects. They are particularly fond of the deciduous trees along rivers and creeks. Males are bluish gray with a yellow-green patch on their back. They have a bright yellow throat and chest



Northern Parula (Photo by John Prentice)

divided by a chestnut band. The lower bill is yellow to match the throat. Females are similarly marked just a bit duller overall. The males become very vocal just after arrival. Look for their nests hidden within Spanish and Ball Moss.

A second Wood-warbler to seek out is the Black-and-white Warbler. While not as colorful as its cousins, the striking black and white pattern is beautiful. Both males and females have bold striping that starts at the head. Males have a distinctive squeaky sewing machine song that helps to find them. When you find one, take time to watch for other warblers as the B&W often spends its feeding time near other warblers, particularly the Golden-cheeked. B&W act more like nuthatches as they forage up and down along tree trunks and larger branches. They have an unusually long hind toe making movements in all directions possible. Despite spending their days foraging up and down trees they nest on the ground near the tree's base.



Black-and-white Warbler (Photo by John Prentice)

If you would like to learn more about birding at the park, pick up a birding checklist at the entry Ranger Station, Discovery Center, or Bird Blind. The checklist outlines by season what species you may encounter. Follow the park on Facebook to learn about upcoming birding programs with Ranger Holly and park volunteers. Be sure to stop in at the bird blind located in the Day Use Area for up close looks. Many migratory birds stop at the blind to use the water feature which makes for good photo opportunities. The bird blind is supported by the Friends of Guadalupe River and is maintained by a Volunteer Bird Blind Care Team. If you are interested in being a part of the care team contact Linda Gindler (xxgindler@earthlink.net).

Tribute: Joan Nitsche by Mackenzie Brown and Charleen Moore

In this issue we pay tribute to a long-time Friend of Guadalupe River State Park and Honey Creek State Natural Area, Joan Nitschke. She retired last fall from the Board of Directors after devoting many years of service to the Park and to the Friends. Joan was born in San Antonio into a long line of naturalists and became devoted to the Hill Country in the early 60's when her family purchased a ranch in Kendall County. She received her BA in Sociology and worked for the Bexar County Child Welfare Department as a social worker at the Children's Shelter in the King William area. She later moved to Colorado but missed Texas and returned in 1987.

Joan joined the Park staff in April 1988 when she happened to drive by Guadalupe River State Park and decided to ask about job openings. She was immediately hired and started the next week as a clerk. This was before there were computers in the Park, so she was preparing camping permits using carbon copies and card systems for keeping track of camper site reservations. During her career, Joan helped bring the Park into the computer age and developed new ways to increase visitation and revenue such as the Park Host Program, the interpretive programs and her passion, the Park Store, which was originally housed in the building where the Discovery Center is today. However, when the flood of 1998 came along, the Guadalupe River rose 60 feet and filled the store with mud, ending the store's existence in that spot (for photos of the store during the flood, see "A Conduit for Danger: The Guadalupe River in Flood" in this Newsletter).

Over the years, Joan has done everything, including jobs as varied as leading hikes in Honey Creek for school groups, planting and watering rye seed on tent pads, escorting hunters to their blinds (at 5:00 am!), helping with food preparation for Halloween in the Park and at Homesteaders Homecomings, and even cleaning bathrooms. She has also expounded the unique virtues of the Park to the



Joan in the Park Store in 1995. This venue and the store's contents were covered in mud after the Guadalupe River flooded in 1998.

Photo from the personal collection of Joan Nitschke.



Joan with award from Board of Directors for her many years of dedication and service at the 2018 Friends Christmas Party.

Photo by Charleen Moore.

public, as seen in the first 35 seconds of this video: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HI-RLkoFkMk>.

In the first issue of the Friends Newsletter in 1994, the Park Superintendent wrote in his Notes, "The date of March 6th is not one I will soon forget. Because, on that Sunday afternoon a special group of people gathered at the Rust House Interpretive Center and brought life to the Friends of Guadalupe River/Honey Creek, Inc." Thus the Friends organization was created and Joan was immediately asked by the Superintendent to be the Park Staff representative. She became the Park liaison to the group, serving in many capacities throughout the years. After Joan retired from the Park in 2010, she became a Friend in 2012 and served on the Board of Directors as publicity director from 2012 to 2018.

Joan's most memorable moments derive from experiences with the children, especially those who live in urban settings, introducing them to the wonders of nature. They ask such interesting questions, Joan recalls, as "Where do you keep the animals at night?"

Joan is looking forward to spending time on her portion of the family ranch in the Hill Country. As part of her wildlife management plan, she is actively planting native trees to replace those lost during the drought and adding plants to attract pollinators. We wish Joan all the best in her new adventures and thank her for her unique contributions to the Park and to the Friends.

Friends of Guadalupe State Park and Honey Creek State Natural Area (GRSP/HCSNA)

by Thea Platz

The Park, a Fun Alternative to Reach Your Health Goals

by Thea Platz

Calendar of Events

- Ongoing** – Saturday morning hikes in the Honey Creek State Natural Area
- Feb.23** – Rust House assessment/ work day
- April 6** – Presentation on Honey Creek watershed research and a hike to researched area
- May 4** – Scout work day clearing brush in Bauer unit
- May 10** - Hike and Hack - Cedar removal in Bauer unit
- May 18** - Volunteer Appreciation Day /opening of Guadalupe SP portion of paddling trail
- May 19** - Homesteaders Homecoming at Herff Farm Boerne
- Late Sept/Oct TBA.** - Bauer unit cultural experience for persons with limited mobility
- Oct. 19** - Monarch and Friends Pollinator Fiesta
- Oct. 20** - Trail fest race- Bauer unit
- Dec.14** - Friends Christmas Party

For more information about these events see our web page.

<https://friendsofgrhc.org/>

Details on events occurring later in the year will be posted as they become available.



How are those New Year's resolutions working out for you? For most of us they are a long forgotten memory at this point. One of the most popular resolutions is always to get more exercise and make healthier choices. We all know that real transformation comes with permanent lifestyle modifications. If we are going to stick with it, those changes need to be easy to maintain. Most gym memberships go unused and home equipment quickly becomes a drying rack for that after shower towel. Let's face it, it's hard to make time for things that just aren't enjoyable, even important things (can't wait to do those tax returns, right?). Why not renew those resolutions and instead of planning to hit the gym, hit the trails!

Come to the park as part of a resolution to start a healthier, more active lifestyle for yourself or your whole family. Increase your physical activity, create memories and reduce your stress, all while having fun. The park offers safe, healthy, outdoor fun for everyone.

In addition to the park activities you may enjoy on you own, consider regularly attending some the many park programs offered by Ranger Holly Platz or the Friends group. Programs often include a family friendly hike that can help you get those steps in, but while socializing and having fun. If you are looking for a real work out, join us for one of our work days to improve trails or remove brush.

It's never too late to set healthy goals; let us help you adopt a resolution to get healthier, more active and stay active in a way you will look forward to this year. Check this newsletter and on our updated webpage for details on the many programs and events offered at the park that can help you get outside, get moving and stay active.



Cedar Removal and Groundwater Recharge

Lessons from the 10-year controlled experiment in brush management at the Honey Creek State Natural Area, 2001-2010



Control Plot

Experimental Plot



Evapotranspiration tower

Presented by
Ryan Banta, USGS
Richard Slattery, USGS

Saturday, April 6, 2019

10:00 am – 11:00 am
(presentation at CNC)

&

12:00 pm – 2:30 pm
(on site in the study area
at Honey Creek SNA)



Streamflow weir

Register online: see the calendar at www.cibolo.org/

\$20 Members of CNC

\$20 Friends of Guadalupe River SP & Honey Creek SNA

\$30 Non-Members or Non-Friends



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Reserve specific campsites, cabins or shelters in advance. View photos and details of each site online. This also makes it easy for groups to choose sites near each other.

Save the Day

Ensure your day entry to even the most popular parks at the most popular times with this new option. You can reserve your day visit up to 30 days in advance.



Book your next park visit today at
TexasStateParks.org/Reservations



Program Park Highlights

by Holly Platz

All programs are free with a current TPWD park pass or park admission of \$7 per person for ages 13 and up -- kids 12 and under are free! Unless otherwise indicated, programs do not require pre-registration. All programs meet at the Discovery Center unless otherwise noted.

Honey Creek Hikes - Honey Creek State Natural Area (inside the park), Meet at the Rust House Every Saturday from 9 am to 11:30 am

2nd and 4th Saturday of the month a second hike is held from 10 am to 12:30 pm

Join our trained volunteer guides each Saturday morning for a walk to and along Honey Creek. You'll be immersed in both the natural and cultural history of the area as well as come to understand the importance of Honey Creek and our efforts to conserve this important area. These hikes, sponsored by the Friends of Guadalupe River & Honey Creek, request a \$2 donation per person to support ongoing Friends Group support for the park and natural area, in addition to park admission of \$7 for ages 13 and above (12 and under free) or a current TPWD park pass.

Saturday, March 2nd 9 - 10 am: *Birding with the Ranger*
Come birding with us! We'll check out the bird blind to see what birds are coming in to eat, bathe, and drink. Then if time permits, we'll take a short bird walk. A limited number of loaner binoculars provided, or bring your own.

2 - 3:30 pm: *Magical World of Geocaching*
Join us for an introduction to the magical world of Geocaching, where we'll discover a whole new way to explore the outdoors! Loaner GPS units will be provided, but are limited in number. Wear good walking shoes and dress for the weather.

Saturday, March 9th 10 - 12 noon: *Bauer Unit Nature Hike, Bamberger Trail* - meet at the Bauer Unit parking lot

Join us for a hike at the Bauer Unit, and find out more about the plants and animals that live there. This beautiful trail is about 2.25 miles round-trip and is moderate to challenging. Wear close-toed shoes, dress for the weather, and bring drinking water.

2 - 3 pm: *Japanese Fish Printing*
Stop by and try the ancient art of Gyotaku -- a method that Japanese fishermen used to record their catch. Block ink, paper, and rubber fish all provided.

Tuesday, March 12th 2 - 3 pm: *Wildflower Walk*
We'll take a leisurely walk on the trails and check out what flowers are blooming!

7:30 - 9 pm: *Night Hike*
Experience the park after dark! Wear good walking shoes, dress

March 2019 Family Programs

Guadalupe River State Park

3350 Park Road 31

Spring Branch, TX 78070

(830) 438-2656 (Park Headquarters)

Look for more programs and information on the park's webpage:
<http://www.tpwd.state.tx.us/state-parks/guadalupe-river>



Like us on Facebook!

[Facebook.com/GuadalupeRiverStatePark](https://www.facebook.com/GuadalupeRiverStatePark)

for the weather, and bring a flashlight or a headlamp (these work better than cell phone flashlights). This moderate hike is about 2 miles. No dogs, please.

Wednesday March 13th 1 - 3 pm: *Archery in the Park*
at Honey Creek State Natural Area - meet at the Rust House (inside the Park)

Join us for the safe and fun sport of archery! This program is for ages 10 and up. Join us at any time during the afternoon.

Thursday, March 14th 10 am - 12:30 pm: *Bauer Unit Nature Hike: Bauer Trail* - meet at the Bauer Unit parking lot

Join us for a hike at the Bauer Unit, and find out more about the plants and animals that live there. This beautiful trail is about 2.5 miles round-trip and is moderate to challenging. Wear close-toed shoes, dress for the weather, and bring drinking water.

2 - 3 pm: *Japanese Fish Printing*
Stop by and try the ancient art of Gyotaku -- a method that Japanese fishermen used to record their catch. Block ink, paper, and rubber fish all provided.

Friday, March 15th 10 - 11 am: *Birding 101*
How do you tell all those birds apart? Join the park ranger to find out! We'll also go over binocular tips and tricks, and then see what birds we can spot at the bird blind. All skill levels welcome! Binoculars provided, or bring your own.

Saturday, March 16th 2 - 4 pm: *River Overlook Trail Hike*
Join us for a hike on the Live Oak and River Overlook Trails! Along the way we'll find out more about the nature of this area. This moderate hike is about 2.5 miles. Wear good walking shoes, dress for the weather, and bring drinking water.

7:30 - 9:30 pm: *Star Party with San Antonio Astronomical Association* - Held at the large Overflow parking lot (just up the road from the Day Use area)

The San Antonio Astronomical Association will have a variety of telescopes for viewing and will be glad to explain their operation and more. Cloud coverage could cancel this program -- check the park's Facebook page or call the park the day of the event for updates.

Tuesday, March 19th 9 - 10 am: *Birding with the Ranger*
Come birding with us! We'll check out the bird blind to see what birds are coming in to eat, bathe, and drink. Then if time permits, we'll take a short walk. A limited number of loaner binoculars provided, or bring your own.

Continued...

Program Park Highlights

by Holly Platz

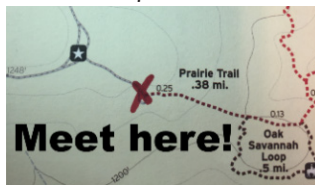
Tuesday, March 19th 9 - 10 am: *Birding with the Ranger*
Come birding with us! We'll check out the bird blind to see what birds are coming in to eat, bathe, and drink. Then if time permits, we'll take a short walk. A limited number of loaner binoculars provided, or bring your own.

Wednesday, March 20th 2 - 3:30 pm: *Magical World of Geocaching*
Join us for an introduction to the magical world of Geocaching, where we'll discover a whole new way to explore the outdoors! Loaner GPS units will be provided, but are limited in number. Wear good walking shoes and dress for the weather.

Thursday, March 21st 7:30 - 9:30 pm: *Honey Creek Night Hike*
Come experience Honey Creek State Natural Area at night! Access to this protected area is limited to guided hikes only, so you won't want to miss it! Wear good walking shoes, dress for the weather, and bring a flashlight or a headlamp (these work better than cell phone flashlights). This moderate hike is about 2 miles. Dogs, please.

Friday, March 22nd 10 - 11 am: *Bug Sweeping Secrets* - Meet at the large Overflow parking lot (just up the road from the Day Use area)
Many different insects and spiders make their homes in the grass, and bug sweeping gives us a little peek into their hidden web of survival. You might be surprised at who lives here, and who depends on each other! Wear close-toed shoes and sun protection, and bring drinking water.

2 - 3:30 pm: *Oak Savannah Loop Hike* - Meet at the Prairie Trail parking lot near Park Headquarters
Join us for an easy hike in this restored prairie and oak savannah! Along the way we'll find out more about the nature of this area. Wear good walking shoes, dress for the weather, and bring drinking water.



Saturday, March 30th 9 - 10:30 am *Golden-cheeked Warbler Walk*
Come find out about the endangered Golden-cheeked Warbler, a true Texas native. Then we'll go on a walk to see if we can spot one! We'll walk up to a mile round-trip, depending on our luck! Wear good walking shoes and sun protection, and bring drinking water. Binoculars provided, or bring your own.

1 - 3 pm: *The Legend of the Bluebonnet at Honey Creek State Natural Area* - Meet at the Rust House (inside the Park)
Join us as we read *The Legend of the Bluebonnet*, and then we'll go on a hike into the protected Natural Area to see bluebonnets! Trail is about 1 mile round-trip, with a steep hill. Wear good walking shoes and sun protection, and bring drinking water. No dogs, please.

2019 Membership Dues Are Now Payable

Become A Friend / Renew Your Friendship Today:

Memberships at all levels directly support Guadalupe River State Park / Honey Creek State Natural Area. You will be kept up to date on all the upcoming programs, events and park news as well as information on volunteer opportunities through our quarterly newsletter and park updates. As a Friends member you and your family will also have access to member only events.

Fill out the section below and mail to the address below:

Name(s): _____

Phone: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____

Zip: _____ Email: _____

Membership Type: _____ New Member _____ Renewal

Friend \$25.____, Good Friend \$50.____, Really Good Friend \$100.____,

Best Friend \$500.____, Best Friend Forever (lifetime level) \$1000. + ____

Other _____

If you are also interested in helping the park through volunteering, please tell us your areas of interest: _____

Make checks payable to Friends of GR/HC, Inc. Mail to:
3350 Park Road 31, Spring Branch, TX 78070
Friends of Guadalupe River/Honey Creek, Inc. is a 501(c) 3 organization.
All donations are tax deductible. Membership dues renew in January.
We will not share your information or clutter your inbox.

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**Friends of Guadalupe River
and Honey Creek, Inc.**

3350 Park Road 31
Spring Branch, Texas 78070

We're on the web!
<https://friendsofgrhc.org>

**The Friends of Guadalupe River and
Honey Creek, Inc. is a
non-profit organization working with
Guadalupe River State Park and
Honey Creek State Natural Area.**

**The "Friends" meet monthly at the Park.
Please join us on the first
Thursday at 5:30 pm.
And bring a friend!**