

FRIENDS OF GUADALUPE RIVER AND HONEY CREEK, INC.

A NON-PROFIT ORGANIZATION
WORKING WITH OUR PARKS



Our History, Our Goals

It was in 1993 that Kevin Good of TPWD Austin, told me about new opportunities for volunteers to form not-for-profit organizations with state parks "Friends Groups". In our case, our organization would support Guadalupe River State Park and Honey Creek State Natural Area. The documents were sent and the work began to set up the organization that would make it possible to raise funds and collect monies to stay and benefit our park. With the blessing of the Park Manager and staff, Friends of Guadalupe River / Honey Creek, Inc. was created. We are a 501(3)(c) corporation born in 1994. Our non-profit status has made it possible for us to seek grants, raise monies through donations and public events - all to further the mission and goals of these two state parks here in our own backyards. There are about 4,000 acres waiting to tell us its story from the ages and all it needs is you! Please join us and find out how you can bring a voice to our Parks.



Penny Solis

Board Members and Program Contacts

President	Tom Anderson	(210) 653-5225	tomander@texas.net
Vice-President	Bill Waldron	(830) 935-3281	jmw@gvvc.com
Secretary	Penny Solis	(830) 935-3282	penny@solis-kanak.com
Treasurer	Terry Jaroszewski	(830) 980-9520	terry_jaroszewski@hotmail.com
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	Bill Smith	(830) 438-7584	wildbillsmith@hotmail.com
	Terry Urbanczyk	(830) 980-2311	urban@gvvc.com
Saturday Night Programs	Ernie Lee	(830) 227-5010	elee@gvvc.com
Saturday Morning Hikes	Holly Camero	(210) 490-4882	CHCamero@aol.com
Publicity Chair	Lisa Cavern	(210) 520-6412	lisacavern@yahoo.com
Web Page	Richard Solis	(830) 935-4730	richard@solis-kanak.com

Feel free to contact any of us for information about our group or about upcoming events.

From the Park Manager

I hope everybody had a joyous holiday season!

Most of our traditional park patrons are hunkered down waiting for warmer weather. Still, this can be a very enjoyable time for a walk in the park. The tall and abundant grasses sway in the breeze; the abundant wildlife, particularly white tail deer, are easy to see through the dormant vegetation; and the serenity you felt while waking in the woods or along the river when there are few, if any, other people you encounter is hard to describe!

Paid park staff and volunteers remain very busy with public hunts (the first two weeks of January), refurbishing and remodeling facilities (the amphitheater is getting a face lift to make it more inviting to

park guests and to be used as a year-round interpretive and guest services center), training (first aid and CPR, customer service, and interpretation), and planning (short and long term, the latter to include a request for a new master plan so the park can adequately meet the challenges it will face over the next several decades). Immediate challenges we (The Friends and Texas Parks and Wildlife) must meet are completing revisions to the Memorandum of Agreement between The Friends and Texas Parks and Wildlife and getting the document signed so we have a valid working agreement; getting and keeping the word out about the Friends so we can increase membership and participation and therefore increase programming and fundraising capabilities; developing criteria for the Honey Creek tours and training or

re-training tour guides so that the main messages we convey on these tours is consistent and meaningful; and moving forward on new education and park operations projects. I know we all bring enthusiasm and great ideas to the process; we will accomplish good things; our park guests will have an improved park experience as a result of our efforts; and we will have some fun along the way!

I'm looking forward to seeing and working with everybody in January and into the spring.

Mark Abolafia-Rosenzweig

Park Manager

Guadalupe River State Park and
Honey Creek State Natural Area

From the President

Happy New Year! I wish the best for you and yours in 2003. I would hope that includes a commitment to be of service to the park.

We reorganized the group in the late summer of 2002 and have made some strides forward to be a good Friend to the park. The greatest of these is reviewing the agreement with the park and have that ready to be approved by the membership at the January 23rd meeting.

We have taken over the Saturday morning walks at Honey Creek State Natural Area and are in the process of having the guides certified by TPWD. The Friends have also taken over the scheduling of the Saturday evening in-

terpretive programs at the amphitheater. We have approved monies for message kiosks at the restrooms and GPS software for use by the park and Friends activities. We also helped with a very successful Halloween Party at the park for local children.

We also have some concerns that must be addressed for 2003. We need to increase membership if we are to successfully complete projects in the future. The present membership and board and officers needs to rededicate ourselves to the everyday issues of the organization. I suggest an increase in the number of board members so that all meetings can be productive even if a board member can not attend. We will discuss this issue at the January meeting. The park would like for

us to take over the soft drink machine operation and this also will be discussed. The park has a bid on the entrance gate and that will need our attention as well.

As you can see we have many exciting things in our future. As always we welcome new members. I encourage you to join us in service to Guadalupe River State Park/Honey Creek State Natural Area. I hope to see you January 23rd at 6:30pm for board meeting and 7pm for general meeting. See you at the park!

Tom Anderson

President

Friends of Guadalupe River and
Honey Creek, Inc.

Upcoming Events

- New Projects** are in the works! In this new year we are hoping to complete a few projects in the park including: installation of information kiosks at key locations in the park, maintenance work and repainting at the Rust House, and improvements to parts of the Honey Creek trail. We need your support in order to complete these projects. Contact a board member or attend a monthly meeting to find out how you can be involved.
- ACCESS RESTRICTED:** Access to the park will be restricted during January due to scheduled hunts. January 5-10, 2003 -10 p.m. Jan 5 to noon January 10. January 12-17, 2003 -10 p.m. January 12 to noon January 17. Please call the park for more details. (830) 438-2656.
- Volkswalk** There will be a Volkswalk event at Guadalupe River S.P. and Honey Creek S.N.A. on February 15-16 sponsored by the American Volkspport Association (AVA). The walk will include two 10-kilometer (6.3 mile) walks. The walk route is open to everyone, AVA and non-AVA members alike. Standard park entry fees will apply. This will be a great opportunity for families to get out together while getting some exercise and enjoying the scenic beauty of the State Park and State Natural Area, the latter normally only being accessible by guided tour. If the weather is good we expect about 500 participants.
- Saturday Evening Programs** will resume in February. On February 1, Kip Kiphart will talk about Monarch butterflies. If you know anyone who would like to make a presentation at the Saturday amphitheater, to please contact Ernie Lee at 830-608-8860 or elee@gvvc.com.
- Saturday Hikes** will continue through the winter. This is a great time to see the park while the weather is cool. Hikes begin at the Rust House at 9:00am. Special tours for interested groups over 10 people may be scheduled through Holly Camero.
- Leading the Way** - We are in need of volunteers interested in leading hikes in Honey Creek. This is a great opportunity to share your love for the area. Training sessions will be provided. Contact Holly Camero for dates and times. This is a great service opportunity for Master Naturalists!
- Monthly Meetings** are held in the amphitheater building on the 3rd Thursday of each month. However, due to the holidays, the January meeting is scheduled on the 4th Thursday, January 23. The Board meets at 6:30pm and the general meeting begins at 7:00pm. Other upcoming meetings will be on the 3rd Thursday. Park admission is waived for those attending the meeting. *Join us and be a part of making our park great!*



Friends of Guadalupe River and Honey Creek, Inc.

3350 Park Road 31
Spring Branch, TX 78070



We're on the web!
www.honeycreekfriends.org

Mark your Calendars! Restricted

Each Saturday Morning **January 23** Board Meeting
Guided hikes in Honey Creek SNA 9:00am 6:30pm, General Meeting 7:00pm

Each Saturday Night **February 15-16** Volkswalk
(beginning again on Feb. 1) event

Guest Speakers at the Guadalupe SP amphitheater **February 20** Board Meeting
7:00pm 6:30pm, General Meeting 7:00pm

January 5-10 Park Access **March 20** Board Meeting
Restricted 6:30pm, General Meeting 7:00pm

January 12-17 Park Access

April 17 Board Meeting
6:30pm, General Meeting 7:00pm

Watch our website for updates and new events
www.honeycreekfriends.org

Is your membership current? If you have not renewed your annual membership yet, please do so at the next meeting.