

Friends of Guadalupe River/ Honey Creek, Inc.

A non-profit organization serving our parks.

Fall 2003

A Word from the President

A year has passed since we reorganized the Friends of Guadalupe River/Honey Creek Inc. It has been a rewarding year for me. We have a dedicated working board of directors and officers. We have laid the groundwork for many new opportunities for the Friends. The park staff has been supportive of our efforts. The organization is moving in the right direction. When I visited with Mark last summer I expressed that as my goal for this year. I see the coming year as a pivotal period for the Friends. We can continue to meet and provide money and projects to assist the park or we can do so much more.

This past year we had discovered the State Comptrollers Office had earmarked 750 acres of park land on the north side of the Guadalupe for possible sale. The park manager Mark Abolafia-Rosenzweig worked with the "Friends" to develop a utilization plan for that area and, I am relieved to say, that although two other parcels of state park lands were sold, Guadalupe River Park property was removed from the list. It is our challenge now to follow through with plans to make this area available for public use without any additional funds from the state. I would like for each member of the Friends to become involved in some way to help the Friends accomplish our goals. There are several ways this can happen. Contact one of the following chairmen to assist with their committee:

Holly Camero chcamero@aol.com Interpretive Walks Ernie Lee elee@nbutexas.com Amphitheater Presentations
Donna & Bill Smith biladon@gvtc.com Historians Terry Urbanczyk urban@gvtc.com Newsletter
David Kibler djkib@earthlink.net Scouts Tom Anderson tomander@texas.net Historical Drama

We will have our Annual Meeting September 18th at the Amphitheater at 6:30pm. We are having a pot luck dinner and would like very much for all to attend. The meeting will follow and officers will be elected for the year and board members will be elected for terms decided by a drawing of years for each board member. If you have suggestions for officers or board members please contact one of the election committee: JW Pieper 830-336-3241, Terry Urbanczyk 830-980-2311, or Donna Smith 830-885-4981. Please make an effort to come to the meeting and help your Friends make the coming year all we want it to be.

Tom Anderson, President

Honey Creek Eagle Scout Project Completed!

During the 3rd Grade Program at Honey Creek late last spring, it was asked if there were possibilities to do Eagle Scout projects at Honey Creek. Chris Lammert and his family approached the Friends Group along with the Park, to be permitted to do his project there. The project that was selected was benches. This community service project will award Chris Lammert his Eagle Scout badge. This ambitious project included the making of four benches and strategically placing them... (see page 2)



Eagle Scout Project (continued from page 1) in areas where resting or presenting might take place without infringing upon the natural beauty of those areas. For those of you who have participated in the walk at Honey Creek, the two areas chosen were the "Lookout" over the Guadalupe River, and the stopping area on the walk up from the creek at the "Big Tree". The placing in these areas was particularly difficult due to the problems of bringing in all supplies, which included water for the cement and the rock content of our Hill Country soil. The benches themselves were sleekly designed with only two legs to be cemented in. Figuring that the soil itself might determine the spot were they were to finally be placed, everything went wonderfully! They are in areas where they can be utilized without obstructing the view or being the main component as you hike into the area. Chris and his helpers did a beautiful job that should be enjoyed for many years to come. A project well deserving of his Eagle Scout Badge and our thanks!



Halloween Party

in the Park

Join us on Saturday, Nov. 1 for a safe, fun filled evening with family and friends!

- **Enjoy walking down the candle lit haunted Halloween Trail and**
- **Watch for (not too scary) ghostly ghouls and nighttime park tenants.**
 - **Roast hot dogs and marshmallows over a camp fire**
 - **Compete for a prize for the best costume!**

Tell all your friends and neighbors,

We'll have a great time!

Cost \$4.00/car Park Admission

From the Park Manager's Desk

By the time you read this Labor Day weekend will have passed, and with it, another busy season and fiscal year will be behind us. Our fiscal year is September through August and our visitation is up about 5% and revenue up about 19% for the year compared to last fiscal year.

We will have many challenges again this year:

1. We will have several key staff changes. Tommy Asher, our Lead Park Ranger retired August 29th with over 30 years of TPW experience, the last 20+ being here at Guadalupe. We will miss his experience and his ability to be a great team player. We are in the process of filling our Utility Plant Operator position which has been vacant since last October and the Assistant Manager/Park Peace Officer position which has been vacant for over two years.
2. Our new park entrance gate has finally been completed. I really appreciate The Friends supporting this project. We have already received several great comments from our guests about this upgrade. The gate automatically closes at 10 p.m. and opens at 8 a.m. each day, saving us at least five staff hours a week. For guests, the gate opens automatically to exit and there is no more fumbling with the gate lock on dark nights to get in creating a much safer and comfortable experience as most guests can open the gate from within their vehicle – a real plus, particularly on rainy, cold, or lightning filled nights.
3. By our September Friends meeting I should have our Fiscal Year 2004 budget in hand. The good news is that I expect our budget will be roughly on par with our FY 2003 budget. The bad news is that it does not provide enough funding to fix everything that breaks or nearly enough staff to provide consistently good customer service during our busiest periods.
4. Guadalupe River State Park and Honey Creek State Natural Areas will jointly go through the master planning process this year as one of four parks or park complexes in the State identified as immediate priorities. This is a tremendous opportunity to have an input on plans for these sites that are likely to be in place for the next 20 years! I'm sure The Friends, as well as other local interested "stakeholders" will have opportunities for input in this process.

The fall and winter will be a time for staff renewal - figuratively and literally – as we look at what we want and are able to accomplish this next year. Our ability to accomplish many things will greatly depend on the commitment of our Friends to provide continued financial and volunteer support to existing programs and new program ideas. My first full year as manager of Guadalupe River State Park and Honey Creek State Natural Area has come to a close. I've had a great time. Work has been very fulfilling and my family is flourishing in this area. I'm looking forward to this next year and meeting the upcoming challenges with my Friends!

Mark Abolafia-Rosenzweig
Park Manager
Guadalupe River State Park and
Honey Creek State Natural Area

Don't Miss Out!

the beautiful spring fed Honey Creek.

Hikes in Honey Creek

Saturday Mornings 9:00 am

Meet at the Rust House

This hike covers about 1.5 miles and features

Saturday Night Programs

7:00 pm in the Amphitheater

Come and learn about the natural world

URGENT MESSAGE: from the Editor

The Friends of Guadalupe River/Honey Creek, Inc. need your help! It has come to my attention that presently, there are only 27 paid members in the organization! If you wish to remain or become a member and receive the quarterly newsletter, please fill out the attached membership form and return it with your check to the address provided. We need every interested person to become an actively involved Friends member in order to save our park land and accomplish our goals.

The Friends and park management have been developing an interpretive master plan for Guadalupe River State Park and for Honey Creek State Natural Area that will give us direction in planning recreational activities, educational programs, historical restoration and facility construction. The rich cultural heritage we have in this area of Native American, Spanish, Mexican and German peoples will become part of the basis of our planning.

Several suggestions have been made as to what development should take place here. Some of these are: 1. build a large group pavilion for school children and private gatherings, 2. provide access and development to the north side of the river (which would triple the river front access), 3. restore one or both of the German homesteads located on park property as living history facilities, 4. restore and utilize a historic structure as an environmental education and research center. These are just a few of the many ideas that have come forth for improving and developing this valuable free space resource we have in this rapidly urbanizing area.

As you can see, these are very lofty goals, especially viewed from where we are today. However, with the participation of interested citizens and organizations, these dreams and goals can be reached. We are in a serious position of losing 750 acres of beautiful riparian land if we do not utilize it properly. A small group of 27 families cannot accomplish the task alone. Please join us at our Annual Meeting and Pot Luck Dinner, September 18 in the Amphitheatre, and bring along some friends. Become part of something truly special!

By Terry Urbanczyk, Newsletter Editor

Saturday Evening Programs

Join us each week at 7:00 pm in the Guadalupe River State Park Amphitheater to hear regional experts share their knowledge about the natural world.

Sept. 13 Bamburger Ranch- The Bamburger Story

Sept. 20 Don Tuff - Wildlife forensics

Sept. 27 Tom Anderson - Hill country animals.

Oct. 4 Steve Star - Wild Snakes

Oct. 11 Jason Arguijo - Camper First Aid

Oct. 18 George Ozuna - Water & Hydrology (U.S.G.S.)

Oct. 25 Kim Hoskins - Legends of the Owls

Nov. 1 Flo Oxley of Lady Bird Wildflower Center on
Texas Wildflowers

Nov. 8 Holly Camero - Creepy Crawlies

Nov. 15 Rufus Stevens - Texas Hill Country Deer

The Friends of Guadalupe River and Honey Creek operate on donations and membership fees only. We are not funded in any way by the State of Texas. All funds are used locally in these two parks to improve them for public use.

What's Happening at the Park?

Hike and Hack Starts this September 28th 9:00am

For those of you that want to get hands on experience of the restoration of a prairie, be able to go off trail and see more of the Honey Creek SNA or need more Volunteer Master Naturalist hours, there will be a hike, initially through the prairie area, and eventually many other areas of HC, removing ashe juniper saplings. We will be armed with clippers, bow saws, etc. Please bring extra equipment, if you have it, along with gloves, water and a snack. Our starting date is a Sunday, but it will be an on-going activity.

The Honey Creek SNA Interpretive Guide Patches Are In!

For all of our dedicated Certified Interpretive Guides and our future guides, the Honey Creek SNA Interpretive Guide Patches have arrived! These beautifully embroidered patches depict the rushing creek in its lush vegetation. Wearing one will signify that you are a hike leader or assistant. To receive one you must complete four hikes either as a leader or assistant and have attended the interpretive training. For those of you that have not been able to complete the training, but have done the four hikes, you will still receive the patch with the understanding that the training will be completed within one year. A future training date will be announced. Some patches will be offered as armbands, thanks to Kathy Cooper, TPW ranger at Guadalupe State Park.

For information on Hike and Hack or Guide Patches please contact: Holly Camero @ chcamero@aol.com or 210-490-4882.

Pot Luck Supper and Annual Friends Meeting

Thursday, September 18 at the park Amphitheatre. Bring a dish and enjoy dinner at 6:30. There will be refreshments and discussion of many great volunteer opportunities, and a special presentation by a well know naturalist! Please join us and see how you can become part of our "Friends".

Board Members and Program Contacts

President	Tom Anderson (210) 653-5225	tomander@texas.net
Vice-President	_____	
Secretary	_____	
Treasurer	Terry Jaroszewski (830) 980-9520	jaro@hotmail.com
At Large	Holly Camero (210) 490-4882	CHCamero@aol.com
At Large	Ernie Lee (830)-227-5010	elee@gvtc.com
At Large	J.W. Pieper (830)-336-3241	jwpieper22@earthlink.net
At Large	Bill Smith (830) 438-7584	wildbillsmith@hotmail.com
At Large	Terry Urbanczyk (830) 980-2311	urban@gvtc.com

Committee Chairs

Maintenance

Evening Program Ernie Lee (830) 227-5010 elee@gvtc.com

Honey Creek Hikes Holly Camero (210) 490-4882 CHCamero@aol.com

Publicity J.W. Pieper (830) 336-3241 jwpieper22@earthlink.net

Historians Bill and Donna Smith (830)885-4981 biladon@gvtc.com

Friends of Guadalupe River/ Honey Creek, Inc.

A non-profit organization serving our parks

3350 Park Rd 31 Spring Branch, TX 78070

Membership Form

Name(s): _____

Address: _____ City, State ZIP: _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____

Membership Type

New membership Renewal Change of address

Level of Membership

\$5 Education or Youth Organization \$50 Sustaining
 \$5 Student (under 18) \$100 Contributing
 \$10 Individual (over 18) \$500 Corporate
 \$15 Family \$1000 Life

Please make checks payable to Friends of GR/HC, Inc.

I would like to help the Friends by working with:

Interpretive Hikes Outdoor Classroom Teacher/ Helper
 Evening Programs Trail Maintenance
 Newsletter Other: _____

How did you hear about the Friends?

Saw a sign/ newsletter in the park Newspaper
 Attended a Hike/ Saturday Program Friend told me about it
 Internet Other: _____

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

3350 Park Rd 31

Spring Branch, TX 78070



We're on the web!
www.honeycreekfriends.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 of Guadalupe River and Honey Creek meet monthly at the Park. Please join us on the third Thursday at 7:00 pm. And bring a friend!