



SPRING 2004 NEWSLETTER

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

A non-profit organization

3350 Park Road 31, Spring Branch, Texas 78070 830-438-2656

**Girl Scouts Project**

by Holly Camero

**Starting Off The New Year Right!**

This year things started happening fast! We had a request from Laurie Herselman for a service project; a Hike & Hack, for her Girl Scout Troop #1065 of the Lone Star Council. The date that worked was 3 days into 2004, January third! The working area was different than our usual site and boy did it need it! The area picked by the Park was the head of the multi-use trail. Instead of the usual 3-5 year old, young *Ashe juniper*, (cedar) we faced a stand of 5-year-old plus trees. This is where the term "troop" really lives up to its name: these girls were troopers! Usually hacking is done with loppers or similar tools without a problem, these stands had to be hacked down with handsaws. It was a pleasure to see young teenagers put in such an effort.



It was also nice to see their Moms working right besides them. In an extra effort, it was decided that they wanted to pull the cut down brush into piles so the area would look even better!

We are always happy to have Scout Troops do service projects at the Park, but we were especially happy to have **Girl Scouttroop #1065 from**

**Kyle, Texas.** A special thanks goes to the daughters and Moms: Jordan & Laurie Herselman, Julie & Michelle Morris, Bailey & Cyndie Holmes, Megan & Elaine Stanfield, Bonnie & Karen Hermann, Tammy & JoAnne McLead, Andie Canales, Taylor Thigpen, Karen Davis and Susan Krieger for a job well done!



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## President's Letter

by Tom Anderson

I want to devote this article to how we can contribute to the park's success. Those of us who have been involved in public service usually understand it is not a perfect world. If we could handle the situations that occur at our level it would work to our satisfaction. However, we must work within the system which is necessary, to make gains for the goals that we consider most important to the success of the organization. We at Guadalupe River SP/Honey Creek SNA are blessed that we have a manager at the park that is dedicated to making the park the best that it can be. The management has always been open to the suggestions that we have and considers each and every one on what it can do to benefit the park.

We need to always remember the management must consider what is best for the park and the Texas Parks and Wildlife and not what we feel is best for our mission to the park. We are extremely fortunate that our mission and the park's mission are working hand and hand. The following are examples:

1. The 3<sup>rd</sup> grade education program (over 2000 children and 250 parents and teachers at the park this year)
2. Saturday Morning Walks (9-11am each and every Sat. provided by the Friends)

3. Saturday Evening Programs (7-8-pm from last week in Feb. to last week in Nov. coordinated by the Friends)
4. Extra Walks arranged by the park for groups.
5. Providing drink machines, candy machines, and ice cream machines at camping areas and day use areas.
  1. Lighting at the amphitheater.
  2. Trail maintenance and construction.
  3. Developing the North side property for primitive camping and multiuse trails.
  4. The South Island (at entrance) Native Plant Area.
  5. Development of a historical drama about the hill country.

Additionally by the time you read this we will have 8 new 2-way radios for the park and Friends to use. This will insure safety on all our walks and educational programs.

These are some of the projects that have made the park and the Friends a good example of what should be occurring in all our parks throughout the state. Join us in making Guadalupe River SP and Honey Creek SNA the best it can be. Our meetings are the 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday at 7pm in the park amphitheater.

## N.E.I.S.D. 3rd Grade Outdoor Program

by Holly Camero

### Spring 3<sup>rd</sup> Grade Program

#### About to Start

After a very successful Fall Third Grade Program the Spring session is about to begin. Last year, 832 students came to the Honey Creek State Natural Area not only to experience the unique beauty of the area, but to be able to utilize it in one of the only ways permitted; education! The program is set up so all students are able to see and experience the different areas there. They also learn about; habitat and what effects it, prehistoric Texas and how to take

fossils home without removing them, observation and appreciation of our natural beauty and our valuable resource, water, and what effects it. Although the students think they are on a really cool field trip, which they are, they are also experiencing a true outdoor classroom, fitting all the requirements of a day at school!

This year we are having six schools from the Northeast Independent School District, thanks to the effort and dedication of the Parents, PTA members etc., who have trained and volunteered to be the presenters. We hope

their experience will be as wonderful as the students who came before them and they learn a greater appreciation and understanding of the amazing world around them!



From the Park Manager's Desk

by Mark Abolofia-Rosenzweig

Just recently all park managers were asked by Commissioner Park of the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department for a vision of what our parks needed and what they could be. Below is an abbreviated version of what I sent in.

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My vision is that the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department will find the resources to meet the needs and manage the current and projected future demands placed on Guadalupe River State Park and Honey Creek State Natural Area so that the beautiful natural settings they offer remain relatively unspoiled for many more generations to enjoy. Further, we will develop top notch environmental education programs on a grand scale so that these sites will be known as much for the quality of available educational learning opportunities as they are for outstanding outdoor recreation opportunities. In doing so, the following points will be addressed

- 1. We will have the facilities needed to meet current and projected future demands
2. We will restore and renovate historic structures to preserve their integrity, educate our guests on the cultural heritage of these areas, and utilize these windows to our past as a learning tool so that future generations will maintain a viable connection with the past.
3. We will develop high quality environmental and cultural heritage learning programs to provide guests with outstanding experiential learning opportunities to develop and enhance their understanding and appreciation of these sites.

- 4. As one means of promoting the health of the natural environment we will actively manage wildlife populations, including controlling exotics, and will provide expanded public hunting opportunities as one of our management tools.
5. While providing varied recreation and learning opportunities we will always maintain the highest standards for conserving the outstanding values of our natural areas and the integrity of our cultural sites because we will recognize that our ability to attract guests diminishes if the quality of these resources diminishes.
6. We will continue to recruit, hire, train, and work to retain highly qualified and professional paid park staff.
7. The park's active constituent base will grow and, through The Friends of Guadalupe River and Honey Creek, continue to expand their active involvement in supporting park programs and significantly supplementing the efforts of paid park staff.

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In ten years I see Guadalupe River State Park and Honey Creek State Natural Area as natural and cultural oases at the edge of or even within a growing urban environment. I can clearly see these sites providing sought after high quality outdoor recreation and learning opportunities to the surrounding populace while maintaining the unspoiled natural and cultural features that make them attractive to so many people.

Membership Renewal Time!!!

By Terry Urbanczyk

Membership renewal is January 1st. If you have not yet mailed in your membership renewal for this year, please take a moment to do so, or use Pay Pal on our website! www.honeycreekfriends.org

A contribution through your paid membership goes a long way in helping us recover the costs for this newsletter in addition to helping fund the various projects the Friends have undertaken. We are a non-profit organization and all monies we collect go directly back into helping improve the quality of facilities and programs right here at Guadalupe River State Park and Honey Creek State Natural Area for our visiting public to enjoy.

Thank you for your past contributions; we look forward to your continued support!

## Hike and Hack

by Holly Camero

### Attack Baccharis!

On February 22<sup>nd</sup> four determined hackers, Melba Jacobson, Gail Cooper, and Cindy & David Simms, braved very inclement weather for selective brush removal on the Eastside of Honey Creek. There was a request to hack on the Eastside by Phillip Wright, USDA. He, along with many other agencies are working on the research involving the removal of *Ashe Juniper* and the effect it has on the watersheds of the area. We were very fortunate to have him there to talk about the HC Research, land management issues and show us the proper way to remove *Baccharis Neglecta*; the cut and stump method. *Baccharis*, False Willow, Roosevelt Weed, Poverty Weed, and you probably know another name, is an invasive woody shrub that loves disturbed areas. Hacking it is different than the *Ashe Junipers* that will die after they are cut off at the base. *Baccharis* is a root sprouter and needs the freshly cut stump to be coated with herbicide

or it will sprout back up.

Despite the cold and rain a good amount of the invasive roadside brush was removed. After looking over the job well-done Phillip was asked about how much more removal was there to do? His reply; about 75 – 80 acres.

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Our next Hike & Hack will take place **March 28th** on the Eastside Honey Creek. We mainly will be focusing on the *Baccharis Neglecta*, Poverty Weed, etc. The removal technique will be the cut and stump method, which involves using a herbicide. Due to the sensitivity of the area the chemical used will be Triclopyr or Remedy. It is premixed with vegetable oil and applied with a sprayer. There are copies of the MSDS for anyone wanting to read up on it. We ask for those owning "brush-whacker" type gas powered whackers to please bring them. This is some pretty tough stuff!

We will meet at the **Honey Creek East Gate at 10:00am. To accommodate Sunday worshippers there will be a second shift starting at 2:00pm.** The East Gate is 3.5 miles down Spring Branch Rd. off Hwy 46. If you have gloves, cutting tools etc., please bring them along with personal effects; water sunscreen, repellent, snacks... And once again, if you have gas powered brush whackers the job will be so much easier!

**For all participants, a tour of the historic Doppenschmidt/Weidner house will be offered along with a general talk about the Eastside research.**

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Please come and join us and become a part of the Research Project at Honey Creek! As with all Hike & Hacks, volunteer hours are approved!

Contact Holly [chcamero@aol.com](mailto:chcamero@aol.com)  
210 490-4882 or 210 861-5004

## Vignettes from "the World of Nature"

by Allen Perry Naturalist Educator's Resource Specialist

Our featured creature is the hummingbird.

This tiny iridescent jewel can hover like a chopper, stop, start and dart about like a UFO and can flap its wings at a record holding cruising rate of 70 laps per second. It has an incredibly long tongue that can lick up nectar at 13 licks per second and prefers red flowers. It also eats insects for protein to build up strength for its annual journey from southern Canada to southern United States, Central and South America.

The smallest member of its 340 member family is the tiny Cuban Bee Hummingbird weighing only 1/14 of an ounce; a little "super bird" that is the smallest bird in the world!

In the park this spring and summer keep your eyes open for these hummers that frequent this area: Ruby-throated (*Archilochus colubris*), Black-chinned (*Archilochus alexandri*), or Rufous (*sclaphorus rufus*). An interesting and informative website for hummer-lovers is [www.hummingbirds.net](http://www.hummingbirds.net).



Female Black-chinned hummingbird  
Photo by Dan True

## GRSP Northshore

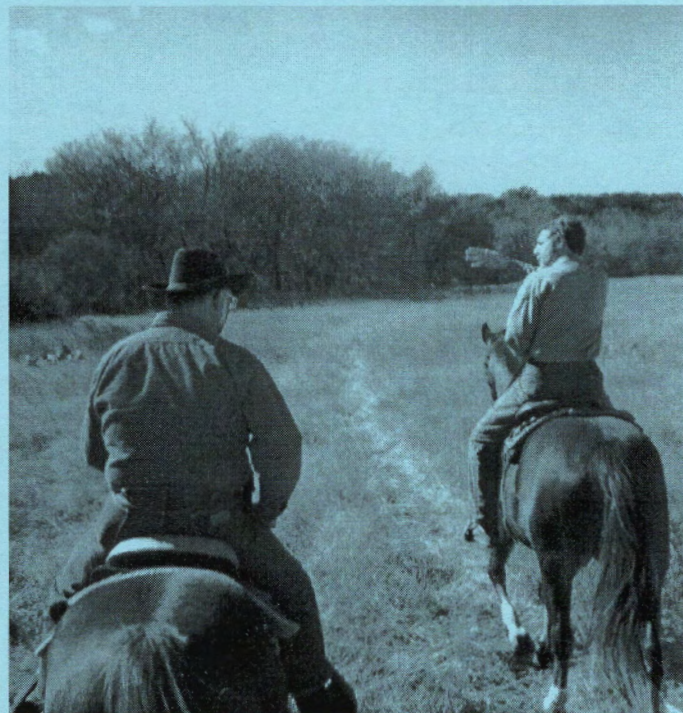
by Terry Urbanczyk

Back in December old New York cowboy Mark, the park manager, donned his boots and spurs and moseyed on over to the north shore of the park with TETRA Regional President Kelly Bessom and me to check out possible multi-use trail areas. We discovered some old road beds in fairly good condition that would make great hiking and riding trails along with wide open grassy areas ideal for large group primitive camping. Kelly's group, TETRA (Texas Equestrian Trail Riders Association) has volunteered to help the Friends with trail building and tree trimming in order to expedite the development of this area.

In January, Mark met with specialists from TPWD who OK'ed the clearing of second growth cedar from previously used ranch roads that criss-cross the area for use as new multi-use trails. They also inspected and marked off the Bauer House and its surrounding yard and windmill for its historical preservation.

The first order of business however was to open up the entryway and road into the north shore area which has become extremely overgrown and nearly impassible with cedar (ashe-juniper) over the past 30 or more years. My husband, Ronnie and I, donated the use of our bobcat and tree shear for clearing the road. A.J. Brunner, our ranch foreman, and Julio Lopez, spent 3 days pushing, cutting and trimming cedar brush and have completed the clearing of the entry road all the way to the Bauer House.

Using the tree shears caused very little disturbance



Mark Abolofia-Rosenzweig and Kelly Bessom riding the rolling hills on the Northshore checking potential trail sites.

to the soil as it cuts off the tree trunk even with the soil surface. As a result, natural litter, native grasses and shrubs such as agarita and persimmon are still present and will help to control erosion of the cleared roadway. Long cedar posts cleared from the road can be utilized for the fence that needs to be built around the old house. Rather than wasting this natural resource it can be used to reduce the costs of fence materials. All we need are a few good hands to trim the cedar posts and get them ready to use as corner and brace posts. The bobcat and auger will be used to drill the post holes when the fence is ready to go up.

The old windmill at the house is over 70 years old and is therefore considered a historic structure by TPWD. Trey Haack of Spring Branch Water Well Service came out to inspect the well and give us an estimate of costs to repair the wind mill and well and get it in working order. Although it has not functioned in at least 30 years, the hole was not collapsed or calcified in, so restoring the well is a definite possibility. Trey will be submitting an estimate of the necessary work to restore the structure very soon.



A.J. Brunner operating the Urban Concrete bobcat clearing the entrance to the Northshore of Guadalupe River State Park.

## Saturday Evening Programs

by Ernie Lee

### MARCH

- 13 Master Naturalist and Friends member **BILL WALDRON** returns to conduct a program on **BACKPACKING**. Knowing what to take and what to leave behind can make all the difference in the world.
- 20 Master Naturalist, John Knox Ranch instructor, and all-around nice guy, **DOUG DAGLISH** will talk about the **TREES OF TEXAS HILL COUNTRY**. You've seen that tree before. What is it? A short walking tour around the amphitheater will reveal several species you walk by every day.
- 27 Bird specialist, and certified bird banding expert **SUMNER DANA** will talk about song birds, with some examples of how to **IDENTIFY BIRDS** from the sounds they make.

### APRIL

- 3 Texas Parks and Wildlife Biologist **RUFUS STEPHENS** will conduct his walking tour of the **SOUNDS OF THE NIGHT**. Day is done. Gone the sun. Do you think all the animals are tucked in their little beds sound asleep? Think

again. The woods come alive with the sounds of life. Rufus will help you interpret those sounds and perhaps identify what makes them. Can you tell a frog from a cricket from a cicada?

- 10 Master Naturalist, John Knox Ranch instructor **DOUG DAGLISH** returns to talk about the **PLANTS OF TEXAS HILL COUNTRY**. The program will feature a short walking tour that identifies plants you walk over every day. Maybe we'll get a treat and he'll bring his guitar and sing his famous song – can you count the number of animals he sings about?
- 17 Friends member **TERRY URBANCZYK** will speak about the **LEGENDS AND TALES OF THE GUADALUPE VALLEY**. How did the early inhabitants of this area live, and what were some of the tales from those experiences? She'll bring some artifacts.
- 24 Master Naturalist and Friends member **ERNIE LEE** will conduct a program on **TEXAS FIREFLIES**. Did you ever wonder how they light up and why? After a short discussion on the nature of fireflies, we'll go on a real fire fly expedition as field

observations and data are taken and collected.

### MAY

- 1 Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center staffer **FLO OXLEY** will come and speak about **TEXAS NATIVE PLANTS**. We guarantee that regardless of your level of knowledge, you will learn something new about plants this night.
- 8 Master Naturalist and Friends member **ERNIE LEE** will return while the **TEXAS FIREFLIES** are still flying. Even if you have seen the program, the fire fly hike is a unique experience every time you take it. Fireflies don't last forever so get them while you can.
- 15 Friends President **TOM ANDERSON** returns, this time with **SCAT** on his mind. Not only will Tom discuss the wide variety and plentiful supply of animal scat, he'll teach you a little song to sing while you are on your Scat hunts.
- 22 The General Manager of WORD (Water Oriented Recreation District) **GEORGE CUSHANIK** will bring information on a new nature trail nearing completion just (continued),

## Saturday Evening Programs

By Ernie Lee

22 below Canyon Dam. Also, George will talk about the gorge created by the overflow of Canyon Lake in 2002. This scenic wonder is being evaluated as a potential tourist attraction and possible future park, along with a hiking trail.

29 It is **MOVIE NIGHT** at GRSP. We'll serve up some **SCI-FI** features and then go on a Flying Saucer Night Hike to see what we can see. Wait! What's that noise --- that whirring sound --- and those bright lights --- what is that? Is it just your imagination?

### JUNE

5 Master Naturalist **GAYE SEKULA** will speak about **MEDICINAL**

**PLANTS OF THE TEXAS HILL COUNTRY.** What? You have a cough? Here munch on this plant. **SAY!** That works!

12 Master Naturalist, and Friends member **HOLLY CAMERO** will come and do her popular **BUGS AND SPIDERS** program. Last year she brought assassin bugs and a tarantula --- and she has the scars to prove it!

19 Master Naturalist **KIM HOSKINS** will speak on the **LEGENDS OF THE OWL** tonight. The amphitheater has several resident owls close by. Maybe we can call some in to visit us while we hear

legends and stories about them. Whoooo? Kim Hoskins --- that's who.

26 Master Naturalist and head of the Texas Heritage Museum **EVERETT DESCHNER** will come and demonstrate **WHAT YOU CAN LEARN FROM A DINOSAUR TRACK.** Though they may be long gone, we can learn a lot from these extinct creatures. Several dinosaur tracks are found in the hill country --- and a good site to see them is at the museum. From the tracks they leave you can determine the size and activities of these giant creatures. Everett will show you how.

### **Friends of Guadalupe River/Honey Creek, Inc. Membership**

**(Membership Renewal date is January 1st)**

Name(s): \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_ City, State, Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

**Membership Type:**    \_\_\_ New Member    \_\_\_ Renewal    \_\_\_ Change of Address

**Level of Membership:**    \_\_\_ \$5 Education or Youth Organization    \_\_\_ \$50 Sustaining Member  
                                      \_\_\_ \$5 Student (under 18)    \_\_\_ \$ Contributing Member  
                                      \_\_\_ \$10 Individual (over 18)    \_\_\_ \$500 Corporate Partner  
                                      \_\_\_ \$15 Family    \_\_\_ \$1000 Life Membership

**I would like to help the Friends by volunteering for:**

\_\_\_ Interpretive hikes                    \_\_\_ Outdoor Ed. Programs                    \_\_\_ Trail Maintenance  
 \_\_\_ Historical Drama                    \_\_\_ Evening Programs                    \_\_\_ South Island Beautification  
 \_\_\_ Trail Ride Event                    \_\_\_ Fundraising                    \_\_\_ Other \_\_\_\_\_

Send checks payable to "Friends of GR/HC, Inc. Mail to: 3350 Park Road 31, Spring Branch, TX 78070

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

3350 Park Road 31

Spring Branch, Texas 78070

We're on the web!  
[www.honeycreekfriends.org](http://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" meet monthly at the  
Park. Please join us on the third  
Thursday at 7:00 pm.*

*And bring a friend!*