



FALL 2004 NEWSLETTER

Friends of Guadalupe River, Honey Creek, Inc.

A non-profit organization

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Presidents Letter

by Tom Anderson

This is the end of the second year of the reorganization of the Friends group. We have accomplished some projects this year and I feel good about that. The South Island Beautification Project is complete and on going as we see what plants survive wildlife and which do not. Bill and Donna give a big thank you to the park staff for helping tend the area. Our third grade program is growing. The evening presentations at the amphitheater have done great. The Sat. morning walks are gaining numbers and special walks have increased. A big thanks to Terry and Ronny as we are about to finish fencing the Bauer House so public hunts and other activities can occur on the North side of the park. We had a huge Halloween Party last year and hope to have the same on Oct. 30. Our sales of soda, candy, and ice cream have almost doubled for the year. Thanks to J.W. for handling that for us. Dan has made our Web site the best ever. The next paragraph was in the Fall Newsletter 2003 and it still needs to be considered by all members.

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 |

I will be giving up the President position at the September meeting. I have enjoyed my time as President and believe it is time to step aside. I will propose at the Sept. meeting that an Education Committee be formed and I will agree to chair that for 2004-2005 if the board agrees. The parks have many ways to help the people that visit and I believe I can help by providing additional educational opportunities. Thanks for coming to the park and I hope to see you working with the Friends in the future.

Park Manger

by Mark Abolafia-Rosenzweig

Happy New Year everyone! Yep, our new fiscal year started September 1. Last year we served about 170,000 people, collected over \$450,000, and spent almost \$270,000 – excluding full time employee salaries. We still have a few stray bills from last year to pay but it looks like we'll end the year within about \$200 of budget. It's been a busy year, but the numbers don't really tell the story. Each one of those 170,000 people took home memories and facilitating the creation of memories of time well spent pursuing outdoor recreation in one of Texas' most beautiful parks is the business that we are in. With your help Friends, we generally succeed.

People leave with memories of time spent enjoying the river in a boat, in a tube, or on one's back; hooking their first fish; experiencing the beauty of Honey Creek; learning about sensitive

ecosystems; sitting around the campfire with family and friends; eating a meal under a clear blue sky; pondering the wonders of a black sky filled with stars; or hunting with a friend, son, or daughter.

Soon I'll be writing you about things we'd like to accomplish this next year but, at least for a short while, I'd like to sit back and enjoy the moment.

Friends, thanks for the memories. Thanks for time well spent!

Mark Abolafia-Rosenzweig

Park Manager

Guadalupe River State Park and
Honey Creek State Natural Area

GRSP Northshore

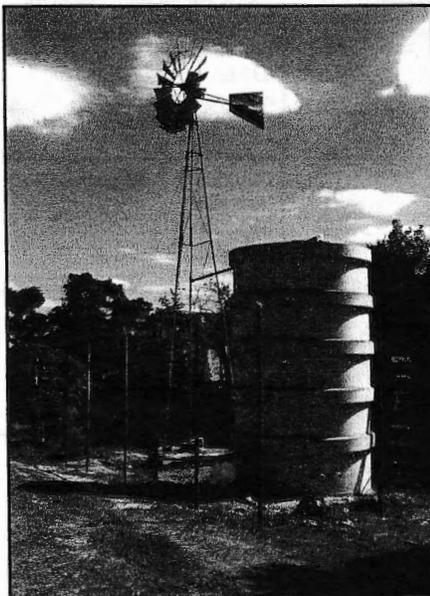
by Terry Urbanczyk

Plans for the use of park property north of the river are proceeding well. As mandated by TPWD, the historic Bauer House is being fenced to protect it from trespassers and curious kids. The fence materials were purchased with funds provided by TPWD and the Friends group. Labor, cement and machinery is being donated by me and my husband, Ronnie Urbanczyk of Honey Creek Ranch. The majority of the work is being done by our ranch foreman Anthony Brunner who is a

native of Bergheim. The fence is made of metal 10 ft pipe and 10 ft t-posts set in concrete and wire mesh with barbed wire on top. Of course, the holes had to be jack-hammered in with a compressor in this tough, limestone area. The fence should hold up for many years, or at least until there are funds to restore the old house.

The windmill was removed and sent to South Dakota where it underwent a facelift. It is back in place and is in top working condition! The five ring water storage tank was added along with a water trough for horses. Everything should be completed before the October public hunts begin.

Plans are underway to mark and clear trails for horseback riding and bicycling in the area, along with group, and primitive camping. Much help is needed to make all this happen. Please come to the meetings and volunteer to help with this project!



Interpretive Guide Training

by Holly Camero

Honey Creek State Natural Area Guide Training

October 16th Saturday at 9:00am – 3:00pm

Join Chris Holmes for the training to become a Certified Tour Guide at Honey Creek SNA. The training curriculum is based on the National Association of Interpretation Certified Interpretive Host and Certified Interpretive Guide Classes. Chris Holmes, the TPW Regional Interpretive Specialist is a sanctioned interpretive trainer and has tailored the training specifically to the Honey Creek Tour. This Class will cover the flora, fauna, geology and history with the emphasis on Interpretation. The class will include time in the classroom along with a tour of HC SNA.

“Interpretation is a communication process that provides opportunities for visitors to forge their own intellectual and emotional connections with the meanings inherent in the resources of our parks, natural areas and historic sites. Interpretive experiences allow visitors to appreciate, learn about and understand the importance of park resources, and to care about and for them, as stewards, supporters and constituents. Interpretation contributes to the overall sense of place, and to the quality of the visitor experience.”

Chris Holms TPWD Interpretive Specialist

Honey Creek is an amazing and unique area, home to endangered and endemic plants and wildlife. The only way to be in this very sensitive environmental area is with a Guide with the purpose being; Research, Education and Appreciation. With so many new people in the area and many requests for specialty tours the need for more guides is great!

If you are interested in this Certification and want to attend training, several things are required:

- **Attending 1 tour at HC SNA –sign up sheet is at the Rust House**
- **Becoming a Member of the Friends of Guadalupe River State Park/Honey Creek SNA**
- **Purchasing the training manual for the HC SNA**
- **Assist with 3 Tours after the Training**

The Training has been **approved for Advanced Training for Master Naturalists** by Alamo Area Master Naturalists (AAMN) Chapter. The initial Training will be 5 hours, along with the extra hours spent assisting tours to increase your knowledge and comfort. Participants might be able to receive all 10 required Advanced Training Hour with this training. Tours led after completion of the training course are approved Service Hours. The fee for this training will be announced at a later date.

You are not required to be a Master Naturalist to take the training and be certified! Certified Interpretive Guides can earn the Honey Creek Interpretive Guide Patch after leading four hikes.

For more information contact:

Holly Camero

210 490-4882 cell - 210 561-5004 email CHCamero@aol.com

Honey Creek State Natural Area

Watershed Studies in the Edwards Region

Honey Creek State Natural Area is hosting a rangeland paired watershed study on about 800 of the 2700 acre property. The area is part of a long-term cooperative project that will evaluate the combined effects of selective removal of Ashe Juniper and habitat restoration on the hydrologic cycle of watersheds in the Texas Hill Country. Surface runoff, spring flow, and deep infiltration from these areas provide recharge needed by the Edwards Aquifer and Trinity Aquifer to support the agriculture and urban needs of the region.

Partnership involved in this project includes:

USDA - Natural Resources Conservation Service

Texas Parks and Wildlife Department

UTSA - Center for Water Research

U. S. Geological Survey

Edwards Aquifer Authority

San Antonio Water System

Guadalupe-Blanco River Authority

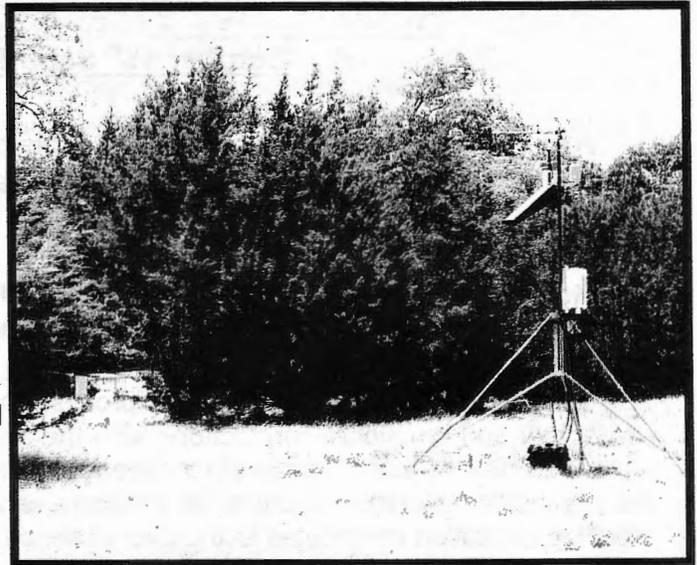
Edwards Region Grazing Lands

Conservation Initiative

Currently the project is collecting information from:

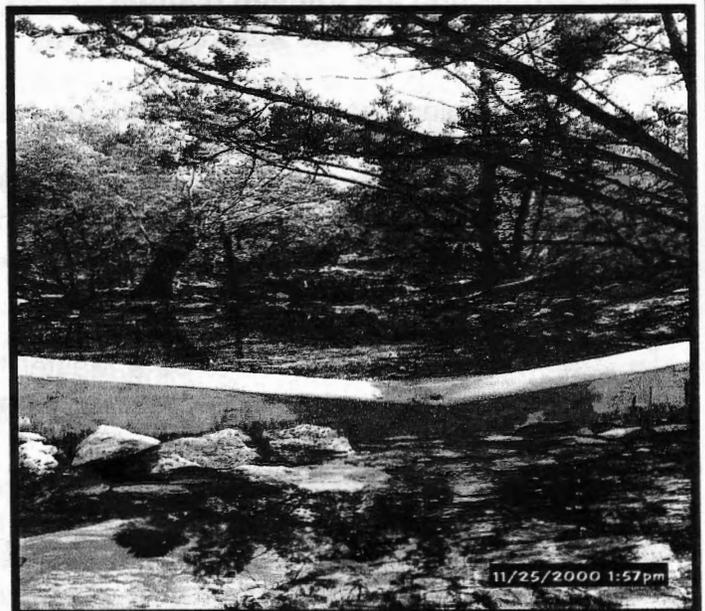
- Six tipping bucket rain gages- measure rainfall amount and intensity.
- Two Bowen energy ratio stations- determine the water balance of the system.
- Four stream flow gages- document surface runoff.
- Three water quality sample sites- are monitored so water quality samples can be analyzed for major ions, nutrients, and suspended sediments.
- Two remote weather stations- installed to record all weather conditions.
- Two wells- are monitored to record groundwater level measurements to determine on site recharge.

The USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service is working with the Texas State Park's Natural Resources Program and the Guadalupe River State Park/Honey Creek State Natural Area complex to undertake this study consistent with the resources conservation plan for the site.



Plans incorporate studies that have addressed potential impacts on sensitive resources such as archeological sites, karst features, rare or endangered plants, animals, birds, and vegetation communities. Best management practices such as selective brush management, re-vegetation with local plant materials and prescribed burning will be utilized as tools in habitat restoration.

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HALLOWEEN AT GUADALUPE RIVER STATE PARK

Saturday, October 30th, 2004



The Friends of Guadalupe River & Honey Creek, Inc., are hosting a **community service opportunity for any local organization or business** to help provide a safe, family oriented activity for children ages 2 to 14 in a natural outdoors setting.

Many local families live in rural areas or on large acreage lots which make it difficult or dangerous to trick-or-treat, so, often families go to unfamiliar subdivisions or shopping centers only to be concerned with traffic hazards and poisoned candy.

“Halloween at the Park” allows children and parents to walk down a wooded path lit by candlelight and lanterns while being greeted by costumed characters with candy treats along the way. Just the experience of walking through the trees at night, feeling the wind and hearing the night sounds is a special, unique experience. After completing the trail, visitors can have hot dogs and refreshments and roast marshmallows over an open fire for a real treat.

Due to the tremendous response we've had our organization is in need of community support if we are to continue to offer this activity to the families of the community. Last year over 400 visitors attended the event! We expect more this year. We need help from all of our community members plus extra volunteers if this event is going to work smoothly.

What we need:

20 Costume Station Sponsors, each to provide:

- 2 or more costumed people to distribute candy and visit with the kids
- 10 to 20 lbs of candy in a container,
- Decorations and lighting for the area.
- Possible rain protection
- Decorate station Saturday morning and clean up Saturday night or Sunday morning.

Organization sign or banner if desired.



Schedule of Events:

The event will begin at **5:30 PM** with costumed candy givers in place around the circular haunted trail leading from the amphitheater and back. Hot dogs, chips, drinks and marshmallows will be served between 6:00 and 8:00 PM. The haunted **trail will close at 8:00**. We are fortunate to have a professional story teller to entertain the children between 7:00 and 8:00 in the amphitheater.

Please call or email if your family, business or organization would like information, to sponsor a station, or help in any way.

The contact person is Terry Urbanczyk

at 830-980-2311, or Cell#- 210-912-4902. E-mail is rturban@gvvc.com.

Please forward this information to anyone who may be interested in helping out!

GRSP Personnel Highlights

by Laura Cauley

Joan Nitschke – Office Manager of Guadalupe River State Park/Honey Creek State Natural Area

Joan has been an employee here at the park for the past 16 years. She started off as a seasonal employee and since then, has performed a diverse array of duties. Joan has done everything from leading school groups on tours of the Honey Creek area to performing administrative duties at the park. Joan even managed the park store for several years when it was located down at the amphitheatre. Joan is now the office manager and has been for the past six years. She oversees all of the headquarter operations such as purchasing and general administration duties. Joan has seen many changes

at the park during her years. Her dental development increase here and was most glad to see near the area. Joan appreciates all of the help and work the park move into the computer age. The automation of that the Friends Group does for things like registration have the park greatly helped the park.

Through all of the changes, there are many things that stay the same such as the people. People still come to enjoy nature and wildlife and enjoy the many interpretive walks and programs that the friends group coordinates. Joan is also proud that Reserve America has voted Guadalupe River State Park one of the top five campgrounds in the United States. She also recognizes that the park is steadily increasing in popularity with local families because of the resi-



How Honey Creek got it's Name

by William Smith

Hello,

I am Rick Kneupper. My great great grandfather was Johann Adam Kneupper. His ranch is now part of Johnny and Anita Gass' place. My grandfather Willie Kneupper was born there and when I was young he used tell this story.

"Now Ricky. Where I was born there was a spring by the house. And it came out of a rocky bluff. And above the spring in the bluff was a crevice where honey bees had made a hive. And from time to time when you reached down and cup your hand and get a drink from that spring. The water would taste sweet. Some honey must drip down into the water to make it taste that way. So we called that place "Honey Creek".

I always liked that story.

Sincerely,

Rick Kneupper

Saturday Evening Program

By Ernie Lee

September 4: Alan Perry, Vignettes from Nature, "Did You Know" Mr. Perry is a naturalist with a long history of environmental studies.

September 11. Mr. Edward Moore. Mr. Moore will present on Native Americans of the Hill Country. Mr. Moore is a respected historian, and operates an informative web site on Texas Indians. He is a member of the New Braunfels Parks Board.

September 18. Rufus Stephens. "Sounds of the Night" TPW Urban Biologist will help us explore those things that go bump in the night – (more likely those things that beep, whirr, buzz, croak, and chirp)

September 25. Sumner Dana. Sumner returns with his bird banding program from Mitchell Lake. Want to learn how to band birds – and why someone would do something like that? Come here Sumner explain the bird banding program.

October 2. Pattie Paztor will speak on Nature and Ethno-botany. Early settlers use of native hill country plants.

October 9. (I am trying to line up an oompah band. You may have to settle for me and my guitar. But I don't know any German songs!)

October 16. George Ozuna. The Water Story. Mr. Ozuna from the National Geographic Survey will speak on the water cycle, and the nature of springs and underground aquifers.

October 22. We move to Friday night for our last program of the year as the San Antonio Astronomical Society brings huge telescopes and equipment out to the park for all to see. What an exciting and interesting program this was earlier this year – we just had to have them back. Ya'll come and see the fall night sky. Lots of wonders to look at.

October 30. Halloween in the Park

Annual meeting and elections September 16th at the Amphitheatre.

We hope to see all of our members there, and bring a friend!

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:

- | | | |
|---|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Interpretive hikes | <input type="checkbox"/> Outdoor Ed. Programs | <input type="checkbox"/> Trail Maintenance |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Historical Drama | <input type="checkbox"/> Evening Programs | <input type="checkbox"/> South Island Beautification |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Trail Ride Event | <input type="checkbox"/> Fundraising | <input type="checkbox"/> 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

*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!