

FRIENDS



OF GUADALUPE RIVER STATE PARK
HONEY CREEK SNA



SPRING NEWSLETTER 2021

A NON-PROFIT ORGANIZATION

Happenings in the Habiscape

by Susan Bogle

A project has been in progress at the Habiscape since the middle of January. A fence made of cedar logs has been built for the purpose of excluding those pesky park armadillos.

The armadillo population flourished in the park this last year and those critters had been constantly wreaking havoc in the Habiscape, unearthing sprouts, seedlings and plants in their never-ending search for grubs and other tasty armadillo delicacies. Using their snouts and front claws, the armadillos were literally plowing up the plants and seeds that had been so carefully transplanted and sown in the Habiscape by our loyal volunteers.

Barrett Durst, the park's Superintendent, suggested a fence as the best option and even designed the original prototype. Rob and Debbie Kyrouac from the Lindheimer Chapter of the Texas Master Naturalists became the project's volunteer construction crew. Rob quickly added his own modifications to the fence design, as the demands of terrain and construction became evident.

Now that the entire Habiscape has been enclosed, the true test will occur to see if any armadillos can penetrate the perimeter. Since they are nimble climbers and can jump as high as 4 feet, we have our fingers crossed that the fence will be an adequate deterrent to keep the armadillos at bay. After all, we only need to redirect their culinary interest to all the other open spaces that are available to them in the park.

You will also notice a top rail set above the fence line. This was added to curb access by deer trying to get to the delicious plants growing inside. Once again, the intent was to discourage these

intruders so that the Habiscape can thrive and therefore provide an environment where the public can learn about the native plants that are found growing in the park and can also observe the pollinators and birds that these plants attract.

So, in our effort to outwit the armadillos, we have wound up with a handsomely rugged fence that does a beautiful job of defining the Habiscape, while still blending into the park's natural surroundings. Please come by and see it for yourself!



Slavery in Texas and the Hill Country Part II

by Mackenzie Brown and Charleen Moore

“Like the death penalty, slaves are a necessary evil” (Seele 82). Thus proclaimed the newly arrived, 20-year-old German immigrant, Hermann Seele, in December of 1843, echoing the views of Stephen F. Austin of a few years earlier (see Part I). Seele was to become the first school teacher in New Braunfels in 1845 and its future mayor (1861-1866) during the Civil War.

We may recall from Part I that the first property of the German Society for the Protection of German Immigrants in Texas was the Nassau Plantation in Fayette County that Count Boos-Waldeck “stocked” with some 15 slaves in 1843. Prince Solms, after visiting Nassau in 1844, had vigorously objected to the Society’s ownership of humans, yet the Plantation with its slave labor was critical to the German immigration effort, especially in supplying food to newly-arrived immigrants and serving as an early base of operations for both Solms and John Meusebach. The German geologist Ferdinand Roemer visited Nassau Plantation in May of 1846, where he observed a negro family of household servants headed by a skilled blacksmith worth at least \$2,000. Regarding this blacksmith, Roemer narrates:

“Since he always conducted himself properly, he was treated with a certain consideration and he boasted that during thirty years he had not received a single beating from his master. A German overseer of the plantation, inexperienced in the handling of negroes, decided to whip him on account of a supposed disobedience, just as done to the ordinary negro working in the field, but he opposed this and ran away, and could only be induced to return on the assurance that he would not be punished. Nor need one wonder that the consciousness of human dignity awakens in such negroes who, in accomplishments and cultural advancement, are almost equal to the whites” (Roemer 178-79).

Roemer noted that the Germans were generally quite inept in trying to run a slave plantation. Boos-Waldeck, for instance, had hired William Bryan, who had grown up on a sugar plantation in Florida, as overseer at Nassau in 1843. Bryan was a cruel, brutal man, having once spread-eagled a slave on the ground with four stakes, whipped him length ways and cross ways, and finished by rubbing salt and pepper into the wounds (Kearney 68). It was this slave, along with two others, who in late November, 1843, ran away, representing a loss of almost \$2,000 for the Society. Two of the slaves permanently escaped, their fates unknown, but one was recaptured, and Bryan fastened a “large iron collar with spikes...around his neck to which ox chains were attached” (Kearney 71). While Boos-Waldeck was disgusted by Bryan’s cruelty, he did not stop using slaves on the Plantation.

Most slaves in Texas lived in the river bottom plantations of East Texas, while the Hill Country remained largely slave-free. None of the western-most German-settled counties (Blanco, Kendall, Gillespie) had over 90 slaves by 1864. Even Comal County had only 206. In comparison, Fayette County (site of Austin’s first colony) had over 4,000 in 1864, still far short of the two highest counties, Harrison and Washington, each with over 8,600 (Campbell 264-66).

In the Kandalia area just north and northwest of Guadalupe River State Park, the earliest settlers were Anglos from the US South, many bringing slaves. Samuel B. Patton, from South Carolina, and his

family were the first, in 1847. While it is unclear as to whether or not he brought slaves, he came from a family of slaveowners. Another early Kandalian pioneer, James Early Jones, settled in 1850 in the upper Curry Creek area, bringing with him several slaves. He built a sawmill on Curry Creek managed by two German immigrants, who probably oversaw the slaves working at the mill. John Hodges, a wealthy landowner from Georgia, came to Curry Creek around 1850 with many slaves. It was these slaves, managed by a German overseer, that Frederick Law Olmstead saw at Curry Creek in 1854 (Olmstead 1981, 212-13). Parson Daniel Rawls arrived in the Curry Creek Settlement around 1850 with some fifty slaves, who built his house, at least four slave houses, and numerous rock fences (see Fig. 1). Captain John Lawhon, his brother Jesse, and their families came to Curry Creek in 1853. Jesse became the slave overseer for Jones for two years, before being killed by Indians in 1855 (see Fig. 2). Three years later, Rawls married Jesse’s widow, and when Rawls died in 1862, left her well off with land, money, horses, and slaves. Henry Merrill arrived in 1856, with a Negro family (the settlers above are described in Jonas 2-23).



Fig. 1. One of the Rawls’s slave houses, 1960 (Jonas 8)



Fig. 2. J. Lawhon’s grave in Jones cemetery 4 miles west of Kandalia (photo by Charleen Moore)

Not all Anglos in the area were slaveowners or supporters of slavery. John William Sansom from Alabama came to Curry Creek in 1850 with his family at age 16. His ancestral background helps to explain his anti-slavery views: his grandfather, John Short, had moved to Texas in 1835 and had supported an underground railroad for runaway slaves in the 1840’s in Fayette County (Lich). He was a close neighbor and friend of Samuel Patton, eventually marrying Patton’s daughter, Helen Victoria. But when the Civil War began, he parted company with the slaveholding Patton, explaining to his family and friends that “he would rather die in defense of freedom, than in defense of slavery” (Collins 30). James Crispin Nowlin, from Kentucky, arrived in Curry Creek in 1859, built a two-story house with his son and five slaves, but these belonged to his wife, the daughter of plantation owners, as he himself had freed all of his own slaves.

Like the Anglos, German Texans were divided about slavery. The German communities in New Braunfels and East Texas were generally conservative, wishing to avoid antagonizing their slaveholding neighbors and fearing being labelled abolitionists. In West Texas (referring to the Hill Country in the mid-19th century), however, in towns like Fredericksburg and especially Sisterdale, abolitionist sentiment prevailed.

Slavery in Texas and the Hill Country Part II

by Mackenzie Brown and Charleen Moore

The most ardent of the antislavery West Texas Germans was a small group in Sisterdale, home of many of the Forty-eighters (so-called as they had fled Germany as a result of revolutions in Europe in 1848). In 1853, Sisterdale residents Ernst Kapp, Ottomar von Behr, and August Siemering formed the abolitionist Der Freie Verein (The Free Society), dedicated to free thinking, free speaking, ending slavery, and recognizing women's rights (Morgenthaler 143). Regarding this group, Adolph Douai, one of the Forty-eighters and editor of the San Antonio Zeitung, wrote in 1854 to his friend Frederick Law Olmsted: "A strong party has lately been formed among the Germans, distinctly and avowedly hostile to the extension of slavery. It includes in it, many brave men who previous to the revolutions of 1848 had gained European reputations as statesmen, lawyers, scholars, merchants and Proprietors; many of whom now support their families solely by their manual labor, and are made directly cognizant of the degradation of labor effected by the presence of slavery" (Olmsted 1854, 3). Douai also advocated for the establishment of a free state of West Texas, while noting that slaveholders and their allies had called for "lynching the leaders of the Free party" (Olmsted 1854, 4; Morgenthaler 148).

The tension between the antislavery Germans of West Texas and the conservative German Texans of New Braunfels and East Texas was clearly revealed in May, 1854, at an all-German convention in San Antonio. The convention had been called by The Free Society earlier in the year to inspire Texan Germans to become engaged in political affairs. Among various issues discussed, the most controversial by far was slavery (Biesele 1930, 25). Two Sisterdale residents, Eduard Degener and August Siemering introduced an antislavery resolution that argued, "Slavery is an evil, the abolition of which is a requirement of democratic principles," but also maintained that slavery was only a concern for individual states, and thus the federal government should not interfere except to help a state that has by itself resolved to abolish slavery (Campbell 215).

The resolution, published in the San Antonio Zeitung, drew outraged responses from the Anglo anti-immigrant members of the Know-Nothings, but also general if somewhat milder criticism from the German communities in New Braunfels and further east. The Neu-Braunfelser Zeitung, edited by the famous botanist Ferdinand Lindheimer, published a letter criticizing anything that made the Germans appear as abolitionists. Lindheimer, himself, similarly spoke out against the antislavery resolution (Biesele 1987, 204). Yet the writers of the 1854 resolution and the majority of Germans protesting against it emphasized that slavery was a state issue, a seemingly moderate position.

However, Adolph Douai fanned the flames of controversy by publishing a severely hostile criticism of slavery in his San Antonio paper. Interestingly, Douai, while living in New Braunfels before moving to San Antonio, had helped Lindheimer establish the Neu-Braunfelser Zeitung. Germans were thus torn between their desire to be loyal Texans, and their ideals of freedom.

Douai was soon subject to persecution, his press vandalized, and he was eventually driven out of Texas. He died in New York in 1888, and an obituary in the Workmen's Advocate noted that "the Negroes

did not forget him." The obituary also cited a newspaper salutatory from 1860 that had been sent to Douai: "This paper, which is owned, edited, and whose types are set by Negroes, is printed upon the same press with which Dr. Adolph Douai first battled for the emancipation of the black men. He has the gratitude of the colored race who will ever remember his endeavors in behalf of freedom." ("Dr. Adolph Douai" 4)

Yet as the historian Randolph Campbell points out, "Considerable evidence...points to the conclusion that many [Texas Germans], and perhaps most, had no moral objections to the institution and remained nonslaveholders from purely practical considerations" (216-17). Thus, Lindheimer claimed that "[t]he majority of the Germans are not against the institution of slave labor and will support this institution in every political struggle. The Republicans [of the 1850s] have, of course, maintained that the Germans own no slaves, because it is not morally right. This is not true." Lindheimer further explained that "it was the high cost of slaves, the relative poverty of the Germans, and the small scale of their farms which made the holding of slaves unknown among Texas Germans" (quoted in Buenger 384).

A year and a half later, just a few months before Texas joined the other southern states in seceding from the US, Lindheimer warned fellow Germans against siding with the Union abolitionists: "If slavery is to be called an evil, then it is in any case a very old evil that can only be cured little by little, like a chronic illness, and not merely by a sudden crisis as with an acute disease, and the worst choice for the Germans in Texas would be to lend their support to inducing an unnatural crisis, which, in any case, would be a greater evil than the evil that would be removed" (quoted in Buenger 391).

Next time, in Part III, we shall look at this "greater evil," this "unnatural crisis," which we today call the Civil War.

References

- Biesele, R.L. *The History of the German Settlements in Texas 1831-1861* (1987; orig. pub. 1930).
- _____. "The Texas State Convention of Germans in 1854," *Southwestern Historical Quarterly*, vol. 33 (no. 4) (1930), 247-261.
- Buenger, W. L. "Secession and the Texas German Community: Editor Lindheimer vs. Editor Flake," *The Southwestern Historical Quarterly*, vol. 82, (no. 4) (1979), 379-402.
- Campbell, R.B. *An Empire for Slavery...* (1989).
- Collins, M.L. *A Crooked River* (2018).
- "Dr. Adolph Douai," *Workmen's Advocate*, vol. 4 (no. 4) (1888), 1-5.
- Jonas, D.D. *Kendalia: A History of the Settlement 1847-1957* (2012).
- Kearney, J.C. *Nassau Plantation* (2010).
- Lich, G.E. "Short, John," *Handbook of Texas Online* (n.d.).
- Morgenthaler, J. *The German Settlement of the Texas Hill Country* (2007).
- Olmsted, F.L. "Extracts from a letter of Adolf Douai," *Olmsted Papers* (1854).
- _____. *Olmsted's Texas Journey* (1981; orig. pub. 1857).
- Roemer, F. *Texas, with Particular Reference to German Immigration...* (2011; orig. pub. 1849).
- Seele, H. *The Diary of Hermann Seele and Seele's Sketches from Texas* (1995).

Winter Wildlife Watching

by Thea Platz

Winter is a great time to visit Guadalupe River State Park and enjoy being outdoors. We could all use a little stress reduction and some uplifting experiences right now. The park is less busy now and often times you will get the feeling that you have the park all to yourself, especially if you can visit during the week.

Wildlife is easier to see this time of the year the animals are often more active and have less cover. Find some peaceful spots to settle in for a while and use your senses to alert you to wildlife nearby. Unless you like to forage (that is a subject for another day), you may have to satisfy your sense of taste with some coffee, cocoa or a snack you brought along, but most of your other senses will help you find many creatures large and small. White-tailed deer are overpopulated across most of Texas, due to increased competition for food, they can be seen browsing at all times of the day, not only dawn and dusk which is when they should be most active. Look for deer in open areas and tree lines. You may also come across shed antlers this time of year, most of last seasons "racks" are shed by mid-February. Beavers have been seen in the branches of trees along the park road and waterways. Listen for the rustle of leaves made as an armadillo rummages through the underbrush using their great sense of smell to find insect larva and other yummy treats to dig up with their impressive claws. You can hear the songs and calls of birds and follow the sound to their perch in the trees, brush or where they are feeding on the ground. You may hear a splash as the birds fish for food, or see them skimming the top of the water for a drink. Visit the woodland bird blind near the parking area for a confident glimpse of many birds and to enjoy their antics along with those of the playful squirrels.

You may not see a coyote, but as evening falls you can often hear their call which travels long distances in the night air; you can find their tracks in muddy areas and their hair packed droppings on the trails. Skunks are very active now, their thoughts turn to "love" beginning in February the month of Valentine's Day. In late evening be on the lookout for the skunks' black and white warning coloration, a unique defense of this much maligned creature. If you spot one, stay calm and enjoy their waddling gait as they scavenge for food and their apparent delight when they find it. They use their signature defense (spray) wisely and only when threatened, so no need to fear them. If you smell that telltale odor you should not only look under and around brush, large rocks and logs for a glimpse of this adorable creature, but also up in the trees- you may have been misdirected looking for a skunk when the source of the smell could be coming from their primary predator the Great Horned Owl! Listen for the deep whoo, whoo that can be heard from the owls while calling for mates. Their breeding season begins as early as December. They often occupy the nests of hawks which you might be able to find in the forks of tall trees more easily while there are no leaves; later you will know where to look for the fuzzy young owlets that may be found in the nest or nearby during the spring months. Young owls require a lot of food, so both parents can often be seen hunting during the day, especially at dawn and dusk. Because of this you may be more likely to see the owls and possibly relocate the nest of this normally nocturnal owl. You won't have to look too hard to find raccoons, each night these cute masked bandits will be using the trails and leaving behind their hand like paw prints and prominently displayed seed filled droppings, but unfortunately they also will be hanging around in the camping areas looking for a hand out - but don't be tempted to oblige! Like all wildlife, human food can make them sick, encourage them to get too accustomed to humans and keep them from doing their job in the balance of nature by working for their natural food.

I hope you will make it out to the park, or a nature spot near your home soon to enjoy some winter wildlife watching, your mind and body will thank you.

Please remember to always keep a safe distance and respect our wildlife and wild places.

Come on out - the birding is GREAT

by Linda Gindler

After February's single digit temperatures, the park is gladly welcoming Spring. Winter bird residents are leaving, spring migrants are passing through, and summer residents are on the way. It all makes for loads of activity with changes happening daily. And the best part is the park is an avian wonderland for both experienced and novice bird enthusiast with miles of trails to explore spanning riparian, woodland, and savannah habitat. For park patrons overnighting, those arriving early or departing late, a nocturnal family of birds to watch for are owls.

The owl family is made up of over 200 species worldwide, but within the park you are most likely to encounter three (Barred, Eastern Screech, and Great Horned). All three are year-round residents and may be encountered at any time with winter and early spring being prime targets. In folklore, owls are thought to be incredibly wise most likely because of their wide-eyed watchful gaze and their ability to see into the night. Interestingly, despite carrying messages in "Harry Potter" novels, they are notoriously difficult to train for human needs. You be the judge if that is a mark of wisdom or not. While it is unusual to see a group of owls, a group is called "a parliament of owls". A term made popular by C.S. Lewis in "The Chronicles of Narnia". If you watch an owl closely it may seem like they can turn their heads all the way around but in fact, they are limited to 135 degrees left and right for a total of 270 degrees. Still, if a human were to try a 270-degree head spin they would suffer arterial damage and interrupt blood flow to their brain.

The best way to find an owl is to plan your outing around dawn or dusk. Before starting, listen to owl recordings and become familiar with the calls. There are several on-line websites and apps for this purpose. Listen at home or in your vehicle and practice being a good park wildlife steward by not using playback calls within the park. Playback greatly disrupt owls and causes unwarranted stress.

Start your owl search for the Barred Owl. The Barred Owl is a good-sized owl of 17-20". They have a rounded head and most importantly for identification no ear tufts. They are mottled brown and white overall with dark eyes. Their rich baritone hooting is unmistakable once you have heard it as they seem to be asking "Who cooks for you? Who cooks for you all?". They might call any time of year, but late winter and early spring is a favorite time as it marks the beginning of mating season. By mid to late spring, they are raising young and not calling but they are out patrolling for food more often making them easier to spot at dawn or dusk. They like wooded areas with little to no openings; often near water so a good place to look is in the park's Cedar Sage Camping Area especially the



Barred Owl (Photo by John Prentice)

Come on out - the birding is GREAT

by Linda Gindler



Eastern Screech Owl (Photo by Joan Lasswell)

nearby River Overlook and Barred Owl Trails. In the Bauer Unit try the Bauer and Little Bluestem Trails.

Next, try searching for an Eastern Screech Owl. They are small owls about the size of an American Robin (7-9"). They can be mostly gray or mostly reddish-brown. Whichever color, they are patterned with bands and spots that provides exceptional camouflage against tree bark. Giving them a bump on a log appearance. They have ear tufts and yellow eyes. Screech Owls do not hoot, nor do they screech. They

have a long mournful whinny that gives the night a frightful feel. Screech owls are woodland birds so listen for them in any of the camping loops, Live Oak Trail, or Hofheinz Trail. They are highly nocturnal and not often seen during the day. Listen for their mating calls from later winter to early spring.

Finally, look for the Great Horned Owl. The Great Horned is the largest of the park's owls and it is an aggressive one too well deserving of its nickname "winged tiger". They are the owl most often represented in children's books and cartoons as the "wise old owl".

Their hooting is a rhythmic series of hoo hoodoo hooooo often heard in sound tracks of movies and television. Great Horned Owls are mottled gray and brown. They have large ear tufts and yellow eyes. Great Horned Owls primarily favor



Great Horned Owl (Photo by John Prentice)

woodlands with open areas, so the Painted Bunting and Bamberger Trails good places to look. Winter is their hooting season when they seek out their mate and nest. By early spring, the adults have a full-time job of gathering food for their young so you might encounter one on patrol at dawn or dusk.

Whether you are looking for owls or other birding delights, head on over to the park where the birding is great. To learn more about birds in the park, pick up a birding checklist at the entry ranger station or Discovery Center. Watch the park calendar and join in on a birding program. Or take a seat at the Woodland Blind in the Day Use Area for an up-close view. And finally, watch for completion of the new Friends' sponsored Savannah Blind being built along the Painted Bunting Trail. See the Friends website for more information and pictures of progress.

Business as Unusual at the Park

by Howell Pugh

While we were all enjoying the late winter snow from the safety of our homes, our fulltime residents of Guadalupe River SP were going about their usual business, only in a much colder and foreign landscape than their usual Hill Country views. This gray fox was caught on camera out looking for a meal hiding somewhere under the snow. I wonder what little mouse or other small mammal was burrowing under the snow that had caught this fox's eye, or more likely its nose. Other predators were out as well during the storm. The sounds of coyotes' calls could be heard drifting on the air along with the snowflakes in the wintery landscape of the park. Armadillos, some of our more cold adverse residents, waited out this strange weather by taking to their warm underground burrows. They were surely counting the hours until it was warm enough to go back out and forage for food because armadillos are unable to build up enough body fat reserves to survive too long without a meal. The park's white-tailed deer seemed not to mind the snow much at all, going about their normal business, foraging for food and burning off the fat reserves they build up over the spring and summer months. Their very distant cousin, the axis deer, or chital deer, did not fare as well in the cold and snow as they come from the much warmer Indian subcontinent. But the park residents that were most affected by the snow and freezing cold temperatures were our poor superintendent and assistant superintendent, Barrett and Ben. With hardly any fat reserves needed to survive such frigid weather, both men braved many long hours outside in the freezing cold to prevent as much winter weather damage to the park as possible. Thanks to their hard work (and warm jackets and gloves), Guadalupe River SP was able to escape any major winter damage and be open back up to the public just a few short days after the winter storm moved away from the Hill Country.



Story Trail at Guadalupe River State Park by Holly Platz

Have you checked out the Story Trail yet? This fun, self-guided activity is perfect for families with young children. As you walk along the trail, you can read the pages of a children's book, which are placed along the trail for you to discover. The Story Trail is sponsored by the Friends of Guadalupe River State Park/Honey Creek State Natural Area, and in partnership with Northeast Independent School District.

The Story Trail can be found along a short section of the Discovery Center Loop Trail, just behind and to the right of the Discovery Center. We change out the book selection seasonally, so there's always something new to discover! This spring our book is *Armadillo Rodeo* by Jan Brett. Follow the adventures of Bo the armadillo as he goes on his own rodeo adventure, deep in the heart of Texas hill country!

Our StoryTrail is a version of The StoryWalk® Project. The StoryWalk® Project was created by Anne Ferguson of Montpelier, VT and developed in collaboration with the Kellogg-Hubbard Library. Storywalk® is a registered service mark owned by Ms. Ferguson.

The project mission is "to promote early literacy, physical activity, and family time together in nature." We have a terrific volunteer duo, 14-year-old Meghan Kopcho and her mom Mary Frances, who have been helping us with the Story Trail. They recently helped put up the newest book installation! Here are some photos of them hard at work, as well as photos of another family enjoying the Story Trail!



Interpreter Update

by Holly Platz, Park Interpreter

Spring at Guadalupe River State Park is always so exciting. Whether it's the high-pitched, buzzy song of our Texas native, the Golden-cheeked Warbler; the wildflowers that pop up alongside the trails and deep in the woods to add color to the warm brown and green earth; or the ferns putting out their delicate fiddleheads of new growth--spring is always such a hopeful time.

To me, this spring especially brings hope and promise of better times to come. No matter what is going on in the world, taking a walk outdoors gives me a new perspective and makes me feel restored—and as the weather warms up in spring, it's a perfect time to get outdoors and take these walks!

I hope that this spring, in the busy-ness and craziness of life, that you can take some time to come out to the park with your family and enjoy the excitement and hope of spring.

Current Park Programs and Ways to Connect:

- We are hoping to resume interpretive programming this spring, but due to the ever-evolving nature of the pandemic, the best way to find out about current program offerings is by checking our online calendar. The calendar features all events, including online programs, and can be found here: https://tpwd.texas.gov/state-parks/guadalupe-river/park_events

Interpreter Update

by Holly Platz, Park Interpreter

• Make sure to check out the latest installment of the Story Trail, our park’s version of a StoryWalk®. This spring we are featuring the children’s book, Armadillo Rodeo by Jan Brett. The Friends of Guadalupe River State Park/Honey Creek SNA sponsor this exciting self-guided program in partnership with Northeast Independent School District. Find out more about the Story Trail and see the latest photos in the “Story Trail at Guadalupe River State Park” article in this newsletter. The StoryWalk® Project was created by Anne Ferguson of Montpelier, VT and developed in collaboration with the Kellogg-Hubbard Library. Storywalk® is a registered service mark owned by Ms. Ferguson.

• We partner with the local library in Bulverde, Mammen Family Library, to provide a children’s program once a month. Currently we’re doing it on Zoom and having a blast! It’s open to the public and you can see details on our online calendar (link above).

• If you have kids in your family, ask at the Park Office for a FREE Junior Ranger activity book! This is a great way for your family to explore the nature of the park on your own. Once a child has completed the number of activities based on their age, stop by Park Headquarters and they will earn their Junior Ranger badge! (You can also download the Junior Ranger activity book—just type “TPWD Junior Ranger” into your favorite search engine and you’ll find it right away).

• Check out the park’s Instagram Instagram.com/guadalupeiverstatepark and Facebook Facebook.com/guadalupeiverstatepark to see park updates, as well as fun and educational videos, photos and stories! (Especially helpful if you’re teaching the kiddos at home!)

A note to volunteers:

It’s hard to believe it’s been a year now since our lives were changed by the pandemic, and we had to put the brakes on in-person outreach and education. We are all hopeful that things can get back to some type of normal relatively soon. Thank you to those who have been able to continue doing research, maintenance projects, social media content, and other volunteer projects. And to those who have been unable to volunteer in person yet, hang in there! We’ll get there soon – there’s light at the end of the tunnel! I can’t wait to all be together again soon once it is safe to do so.

2021 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

Student or Senior (over 62) Friend \$20.____, Individual Friend \$25.____,

Family Friend \$40.____,

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.

President

Thea Platz

Director / Membership

John Prentice

Vice President

Holly Camero

Director / Webmaster

Mackenzie Brown

Secretary

Mackenzie Brown

Director / Education

and Outreach

Holly Camero

Treasurer

Bill Beach

Director / Maintenance

Dave Kibler

Director at Large

Anthony Beverley

Director / Hikes

Nancy Gray

Director at Large

Brady Hansen

Director / Co-Historian

Mackenzie Brown

Director at Large

Janis Merritt

Director / Co-Historian

Charleen Moore

Director at Large

Ryan Bass

**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!**