

# FRIENDS



OF GUADALUPE RIVER STATE PARK  
HONEY CREEK SNA



## SUMMER NEWSLETTER 2021

A NON-PROFIT ORGANIZATION

### Great Texas Birding Classic

by Holly Platz

On May 15th, the park participated in the Great Texas Birding Classic for the 3rd year in a row. This TPWD statewide birding competition is held every spring, and all registration fees go to conservation (after covering tournament costs). There are lots of fun categories to choose from, but we chose to do a “Big Sit”. Often called a tailgate party for birders, in a Big Sit, the idea is to see how many different species of birds you can see or hear from within a 17-foot circle. (This year the circle’s diameter was expanded to 50 feet to allow for physical distancing.) Usually when folks go birding, they hike or walk around looking for birds, so a Big Sit is more laidback—you wait for the birds to come to you!

For our Big Sit, our main goal was to share the fun of birding with park visitors. One of the wonderful things about the park’s bird blind is that it’s so close to the busy, bustling parking lot of the Day Use area (by the river). However, since the bird blind is tucked away in the woods, many park visitors don’t even know that this gem exists. Our job that day was twofold: count birds and be “bird evangelists” to park visitors! The morning of our Big Sit, we measured out our circle carefully, making sure that we included the bird blind. We set up a table at the beginning of the short path that leads from the parking lot to the bird blind, hoping to encourage passersby to borrow a set of sanitized binoculars, walk to the bird blind, and see what they could see!

One of our team members had made a beautiful banner for the event, and she had even brought a large sheet of clear plastic to lay over the table to keep the banner and table dry, as the weather was a bit drizzly. Our snacks, ranging from donuts to granola bars, were at the ready. Our loaner binoculars were cleaned, sanitized, and ready to go.

And the birds were already busy! By 9 am we’d already had a great showing of birds, including the endangered Golden-cheeked Warbler. These little birds nest in the park in the spring and summer, and even though they’re very brightly-colored, they can be super hard to see, as they often like to hang out high in the trees. We were so happy to have a bright male Golden-cheeked drop in for a quick bath in the water feature. Another special bird for the day was a sky-blue Indigo Bunting, seen early in the morning. This spring, Indigo Buntings have been a bit harder to come by, so it was great to see him for the day.

But the best part was the birdwatchers! I was a little bit worried about having a low turnout of park visitors, because the cool temperature and drizzly rain made for a slow start, but as the weather began to warm up, folks started filing into the parking lot. One of the families who stopped by early on was very dedicated – their little girls each had their own set of blue or pink plastic binoculars, and the girls delighted everyone at the blind with their excitement over every bird they spotted. Painted Buntings were one of our stars of the day. The red, neon yellow-green, and blue colors make this bird look like a living rainbow, and we were so excited that almost everyone who stopped by got to see this bird!

We started “sitting” at 8 am, and planned to quit around 1—but then we kept seeing new birds! By the time we decided to finally pack it in around 2:30, we had recorded 33 species. More importantly, we had been able to share the fun of birding with almost 50 kids and adults. Thanks to everyone who stopped by, and a huge thanks to everyone on our team and other volunteers who helped that morning. Whether you wiped down binoculars, recorded bird species, or helped set up and break down tables, you made this event possible!



## Slavery in Texas and the Hill Country. Part III

by Mackenzie Brown and Charleen Moore



Fig. 1. "Aug 10, 1862, at the Nueces" (from *The Southwestern Historical Quarterly*, Vol. 102, No. 4 (Apr., 1999), cover illustration)

It was just after 3:00 am a full moon night, and two Unionist guards, Leopold Bauer and Ernest Beseler, had already been shot dead by Confederate soldiers lying in ambush. At once "fast and furious firing began between the contending parties," as John William Sansom wrote years later (Sansom 109). He had been just ten paces behind Bauer on their way to investigate suspicious noises outside their camp, when the latter was killed. Returning to camp, Sansom was not recognized by his Unionist friends: "[T]hey came very near killing me," he noted, "one ball passing through my clothing and grazing the skin of my stomach, and another cutting the flesh from a finger of my right hand" (Sansom 109). He eventually crawled to safety in a dense cedar brake, then circled around the enemy to scout out their position, but walked into a squad of Confederates near enough to touch them. They let him pass, not recognizing him as Unionist. Again, he attempted to return to his friends, cautiously creeping forward, when he heard the click of gun locks. "Don't shoot," he called out, and this time he was recognized (Sansom 110). Thus commenced the Battle at the Nueces (Fig. 1), escalating at daybreak of August 10, 1862.

Sansom (Fig. 2), the Anglo abolitionist from Curry Creek we met in Part II, illustrates the painful predicament of Hill Country settlers during the Civil War. His brother-in-law, J.M. Patton, alarmed by Sansom's anti-slavery views, had written to the Confederate-sympathizing Governor of Texas, Francis Lubbock, early in 1862 that Sansom had ridiculed him, asking him "If I was willing to fight for Southern men's Negroes that if I was, I was a Damned old fool, that he would not do it: that he made his living thus far by the Sweat of his brow, and did not intend to fight for Southern men's property" (Burrier 175). Proslavery hatred for men like Sansom was surging in Texas. Capt. James Duff, who sent the Confederate troops after the Unionists on the Nueces, had earlier declared: "The God damn Dutchmen [Germans] are Unionists to a man...I will hang all I suspect of being anti-Confederates" (Luther 2). Duff, in May, to enforce the Confederate Conscription Act of April 16, 1862, had arrested two Germans in Gillespie County and executed them for trying to avoid conscription, thereby convincing Sansom and other Unionists to flee to Mexico. Interestingly, slaveholders owning more than 20 humans were exempt from the draft.

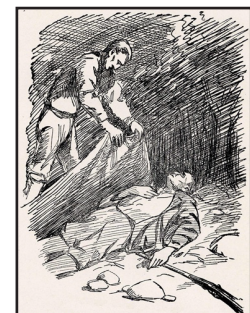
Sansom and over 60 others loyal to the Union, mostly Germans from Gillespie, Kerr, and Kendall counties, had left from Turtle Creek in Kerr County on August 2 or 3, unaware that the Confederates knew their plans and route. The loyalists had only two more days ride, about 40 miles, to reach the Rio Grande. From Mexico many hoped later to join Union forces in Union-controlled New Orleans. On the morning of August 9, after several days of riding through the hot, dry Hill Country of Texas, they had come to an open field with a few scattered cedar trees for shade, surrounded by cedar brakes except for a bluff on the east overlooking the clear waters of the Nueces River 150 yards distant. It was a tempting spot to rest.

The Unionists spent the day hunting and, in the evening, after securing their horses and detailing a night guard, celebrated with a feast of freshly-killed game, sports (leapfrog, summersaults, wrestling), speeches, and song. Reports in the afternoon of possible Confederate soldiers hot upon their heels were dismissed by several in the group, including the commander. Several loyalists, aware of the real possibility of pursuit, were sufficiently distressed that they left that evening, heading back to Fredericksburg. Most of the remaining men bedded down on their blankets, happily anticipating their freedom from Confederate tyranny in less than 48 hours. Sansom, however, who had elected to stay, was an experienced Texas Ranger and Indian fighter, familiar with the territory and wary of ambushes. He had joined the group as a guest of the Germans, serving as scout. Alarmed by the reports, he requested the guards to wake him in the early morning hours. Thus it was that the soon-to-die Leopold Bauer had called to Sansom a little after 3:00 am to investigate a noise. Ironically, the second person to die in the Confederate ambush was guard Ernest Beseler, who 36 days earlier, had ambushed and killed Basil Stewart, an Anglo resident in the Hill Country whom Unionists thought had betrayed their cause (Roland 95).

Once dawn broke on August 10, surrounded by the Confederates shielded by cedar trees, the Unionists with little more than their horses and saddles to hide behind, suffered great losses. By Sansom's reckoning, 19 were killed, 9 wounded or captured—all of whom were rounded up and soon murdered—and 17 finally escaping in various directions. Before leaving the bloody field with four comrades, Sansom stopped to honor the body of his friend Leopold. In his words: "five of us, I carrying my saddle made our way cautiously to the spot where young Bauer lay dead, face downward. Turning the body on its back, I covered it with one of the many blankets the Confederates had left scattered around" (Sansom 37) (Fig. 3).



(Fig. 2) John William Sansom (from Sansom's *Memoir*, p. 1)



(Fig. 3) Sansom covering Bauer's body (from Sansom's *Memoir*, p. 38)

## Slavery in Texas and the Hill Country Part III

by Mackenzie Brown and Charleen Moore

Eight Union survivors tried to reach Mexico, only to be shot at the Rio Grande, some while swimming across. Four made their way back undiscovered to Gillespie Co. Eleven of the original group eventually joined the Union Army. On the Confederate side, just 2 of 94 men were killed, and 18 wounded, half of whom later died from their injuries (Roland 97).

The Nueces Battle epitomizes the tragedy of the Civil War for both German and Anglo settlers in the Hill Country as families and neighbors were pulled apart. We may recall that John O. Meusebach was strongly anti-slavery, yet 3 of his wife's brothers served on the Confederate side, 2 losing their lives (King 160). Even after the war, violence continued for decades stoked by the spirit of revenge. As one historian notes, "Both sides participated in numerous contemptible acts. League [Union] members were not the unarmed, innocent farmers and victims of abuse that many writers portray....The Battle of the Nueces engendered a vicious bushwhacker war....In the aftermath of the battle state troops pursued and hanged at least nine Unionist survivors fleeing the scene of the bloodshed. In retaliation ex-Union Loyal League militia members murdered a number of Confederate sympathizers and officials. Men from both sides were shot dead from ambush. Ambushes were so common that features of the terrain now carry the names Bushwhacker Creek, Bushwhacker Springs, and Bushwhacker Road" (McGowen 85).

As for Sansom, after escaping to Mexico and New Orleans, he joined the Union Army and returned to Texas in 1863, despite Gov. Lubbock having set a price on his head. He recruited dozens of Hill Country men for the Union army, at times with the help of his wife, and engaged in various skirmishes with Confederate forces. Near the end of the war, Sansom reports, the Confederates "were sending squads of soldiers over much of the country to apprehend and kill me..." (Sansom 113). In March 1865 he returned to Curry Creek, learning from his mother that 15 soldiers were hunting for him. On March 20 they arrived in his mother's yard and called for his mother, wife and 2 sisters to prepare them breakfast. The soldiers then ransacked the place, stealing money and jewelry, and on leaving, cursed the women as damned Unionists, avowing "the place ought to be burned and the women thrown into the flame." Sansom, meanwhile, was watching from hiding with friends. He ambushed them later that day, asking "Are you not hunting one notorious John W. Sansom?" On receiving an affirmative, he declared, "I am your man." He vowed he would not be taken captive but would allow them to leave in peace if they promised not to return. Sansom was not bothered again, and after the war, he resumed farming and raising his family at Hodges Mill on Curry Creek (Roland 154-55).

During the war, Confederates forbade the remains of the slaughtered at the Nueces to be collected. After the war, relatives of the dead Unionists traveled to the Nueces, gathered the bones, and held a funeral in Comfort on August 20, 1865 (Fig. 4).



Fig. 4. "Funeral of German Patriots at Comfort, Texas - August 20, 1865" (from *Harper's Weekly*, January 20, 1866)

Sansom, retelling the events 43 years after the battle, "explain[s] why it was the Unionists came to be where they were when attacked by the Confederates" (Sansom 104). The overriding

issue was secession of Texas from the United States. Sansom claimed that the statewide vote on secession, on February 23, 1861, was "very light," and that "only a bare majority of the votes cast spoke in favor of secession." And in "West Texas," he continued, "and notably in the counties of Gillespie, Kerr, and Kendall, and in localities of Medina, Comal and Bexar Counties, the opposition to a severance of the Union remained unchanged by the election [of Lincoln]" (Sansom 104-05). That is, these counties remained strongly opposed to secession. The actual figures show that Sansom was a bit off on the statewide election, but generally correct regarding the Hill Country and adjacent counties. The state vote was 46,153 for secession, and 14,747 against. In Gillespie Co., however, only 16 were for and 398 against secession, and in Blanco Co. (which then included Kendall Co.) 86 were for and 170 against (<https://www.tshaonline.org/handbook/entries/kerr-county>).

The Confederate campaign for secession was vicious, appealing to fear and racist prejudice. An editorial in the *Texas State Gazette* (Feb. 23, 1861), for instance, asked: "are [you] willing to tolerate social and political equality with the negro? Are you willing that they shall control you by their votes? Are you willing that the white and negro races shall amalgamate?" (Timmons 21). These rhetorical questions undermine the claim that Texas' decision to secede was based on the ideal of "States' Rights" rather than slavery.

The claim is also contradicted by the fact that Texas had earlier argued against states' rights when northern states were refusing to return fugitive slaves. Most pointedly, the Texan Declaration of Causes giving the rationale for leaving the Union underscores the belief that protection of slavery was paramount. The document refers to the "beneficent and patriarchal system of African slavery" and "the debasing doctrine of the equality of all men, irrespective of race or color—a doctrine at war with nature." Summing up the basic argument, the documents goes on to say, in chilling parody of the US Declaration of Independence: "We hold as undeniable truths....[t]hat in this free government all white men are and of right ought to be entitled to equal civil and political rights; that the servitude of the African race, as existing in these States, is mutually beneficial to both bond and free, and is abundantly authorized and justified by the experience of mankind, and the revealed will of the Almighty Creator, as recognized by all Christian nations..." (Declaration of Causes).

Slavery and the Civil War was a turning point for German Freethinkers: "Their earlier interest in societies of freethinkers to battle the ecclesiastics, and in utopian schemes for a new social order, was drained off into the more practical political battle for a wholly free America....It provided an opportunity to combine with fellow-Americans of other origins on a practical political issue....Their experiences hastened their Americanization" (Wittke 192). In the Hill Country, Germans like Edward Degener (the man with raised arm giving an oration next to the casket in Fig. 4), who lost 2 sons at the Nueces, worked with Anglos like Sansom, who lost a brother in the war, in their opposition to slavery and dedication to the Union.

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## Troop 285 Service Project

by Dave Kibler

With a cool wind in their faces and a light drizzle falling, a group of thirty-three Scouts and adults from Troop 285 in San Antonio arrived at Guadalupe River State Park to perform its semi-annual service project there, a tradition which began in 2007. Participants were divided into two groups, one of which spent the morning spreading gravel and soil along an eroded trail leading out from the Cedar Sage Campground, while the other group worked along the river bank clearing dead weeds and Cocklebur plants.

The first group consisting mainly of older boys, was tasked with moving by wheelbarrow and then laying down three four-foot high piles of gravel over a 200-yard trail span, completing a work intensive project task for the park staff. The second group was in charge of clearing the invasive species from the river bank. The Scouts could remove much of the vegetation debris by hand, while the adults there were able to come in with loppers to cut anything left. This group managed to fill two large dumpsters up the steep hill in the parking lot with the cut material. This effort cleared a span of about 550 feet along a prominent part of the river bank in the day-use area of this invasive plant material.

Troop 285 is already planning its return to the park in the fall to assist park staff in whatever tasks will be needed at that time.



# TROOP 285

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**Your Friend – Nature**

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by Thea Platz

Wow it has been a long time since we had any sense of normal and we are certainly glad to see that it is getting closer every day.

One of the positive changes that has happened during the pandemic is that people were seeking out nature and visiting parks in record numbers. Some of the people that found solace in nature will return to other things, but with a little encouragement we hope that many will continue to carve a place for nature into their lives permanently. Not only is nature significant for our own well-being, we need as many people as possible to enjoy and appreciate our wild and natural places in order to ensure that they are protected for future generations.

As people ventured out to the parks many were doing so for the first time. Sure some because their options were so limited, but a large portion of them were also seeking the serenity that nature can provide in uncertain times. We have had a lot of change and change is hard, even good changes can be difficult, doing things that are unfamiliar creates anxiety and oftentimes mental barriers. Even doing things that you want to do can be overwhelming to the point of discouraging or stopping us. Very high levels of stress came along with everything else that became the new normal. Changing information, moving targets and uncertain outcomes, the very real possibility of death. Nature heals, soothes and gives hope. Nature for the most part is predictable - the sun will rise and set, the days will warm and the flowers will bloom. The beauty and dependability of nature's rhythms wrap us in a sense of place and belonging if we are lucky enough for it to

be a familiar friend. If we are just beginning a meaningful relationship with that friend for the first time it can be a little scary. If you are reading this, most likely nature is already your friend. You are lucky indeed. Imagine what it would feel like to want to reach out and embrace it but you don't know where to start. There are insects and snakes and you don't know which to be concerned about. You have wanted to try camping, but don't know anything about putting up a tent or cooking outside. Taking off down a trail to the unknown is not in your comfort zone. Maybe it seems like everyone else is older or younger, part of a large group or just doesn't look like you.

As a friend of the park and a friend of nature, you can help lower some of those barriers. The next time you are at the park, or any place in nature, try to help everyone feel as welcome and relaxed as possible. A smile goes a long way and if you can lend a hand- even better. Politely offer information on local plants and wildlife. Be friendly to everyone you meet and practice kindness and patience. You don't know that person's story and we have all experienced a time when the smallest gesture made all the difference. Let's enjoy nature together. Encourage new adventures, however small they may seem to you, it may be overwhelming to someone else. Invite a friend or neighbor to join you, teach a child a new skill, it can be the smallest thing that makes a difference - like skipping rocks or using a blade of grass for a whistle. And don't forget yourself, next time you feel that stress level rising... call your old friend nature.

## Come on out – the birding is GREAT!

by Linda Gindler

As it happens each year, spring finally gave way to summer. The spring caterpillars, we humans found so annoying, are gone now, but they left behind a legacy of nourishment for the summer bird residents who greatly needed the energy boost before settling down to domestic duties of raising young. Summer is an interesting time for bird watchers to look high and low for signs of nesting. Nest building and first flights if you are lucky enough to encounter them are amazing to watch. Early summer is a time for young birds to follow closely behind an attentive adult while they watch and learn. Mother nature has surprises for those who watch closely. One bird to watch is the Brown-headed Cowbird.



Male Brown-headed Cowbird (Photo by John Prentice)

The Brown-headed Cowbird is a member of the family, Icteridae, which also includes Blackbirds, Grackles, Orioles, and Meadowlarks. The Icteridae are known for their stout cone-shaped bills, strong feet, and long wingspan. The family varies in size with the Brown-headed Cowbird smaller than most and measuring 7.5" with a wingspan of 12". Male Brown-headed Cowbirds can be striking in the right light with their iridescent black plumage and brown-head. Females though are just a plain gray-brown color with fine streaking on their belly.



Female Brown-headed Cowbird (Photo by John Prentice)

The male's song is a gurgling liquid "glug-glug-gee" sound that can be confused with dripping water. The Brown-headed Cowbird favors savannah areas, open woodlands, pastures, and residential backyards. They usually forage on the ground eating seeds and insects. They gather in large flocks and readily mix with Blackbirds, Grackles, and Starlings. At the park, they can be found in many areas, but start your search in the Day Use Area or along the Painted Bunting Trail.

Brown-headed Cowbirds get their name from their close association with grazing livestock, particularly cattle. Livestock usually flush up insects while they graze which the Cowbirds can then easily catch. Centuries ago, the Brown-headed Cowbird are thought to have followed bison herds across

Single Cowbird egg with 5 Eastern Phoebe eggs  
(Photo by Galawebdesign - Own work, CC BY 3.0, <https://commons.wikimedia.org/w/index.php?curid=4200741>)

the Great Plains. Like the bison, they were nomadic wanderers. As bison herds shrank in the 1800s, the Cowbird's range expanded with domesticated livestock to all 48 states and into Canada. They also became less nomadic.

And that brings us to the strange behavior that you will want to watch for while at the park. The Brown-headed Cowbird is a brood parasite. Meaning they do not build nests or raise their own young, instead they lay their eggs in a host nest leaving the unsuspecting foster parents to raise their young. During the summer at the park, you may encounter a parent bird actively feeding what appears to be a larger young bird of completely different color markings. Most likely you have

Common Yellowthroat adult feeding juvenile Cowbird.  
(Photo by Agathman - Own work, CC BY-SA 4.0, <https://commons.wikimedia.org/w/index.php?curid=72818668>)

encountered a foster parent feeding a Brown-headed Cowbird. Females Cowbirds watch for other species busily building nests and will wait until the other female has laid at least one egg. The female Cowbird then waits for the host nest to be left untended and will lay 1 or 2 of her own egg in the nest. She may even remove one or more of the host female's eggs. Not needing the extra energy to build a nest and rear young, the Cowbird female expends energy by producing lots of eggs. That can be 25 or more eggs per season laid in multiple nests. In the nest of the new foster parent, Cowbird eggs develop faster than the host eggs and Cowbird chicks grow faster too, giving the Cowbird young a competitive edge over the true host offspring.

The cowbird does not depend exclusively on a single host species to lay their eggs and they have been known to parasitize over 220 different species in North America. At urban backyard feeders Cowbirds with access to plentiful food can produce many eggs and parasitize many of the other nests in the area. They are therefore often thought of as a nuisance species. They are however a native species, so it is unlawful to kill them without a special permit. Instead, if you have them in your backyard you might consider some discouragement techniques including:

- Using feeders that are made for smaller birds. Consider tube feeders with small perches and/or small feeding ports. Avoid platform trays as these are a favorite of Cowbirds.
- Avoid feeding sunflower, cracked corn and millet which are favorites of Cowbirds. Instead offer Nyjer, suet, whole peanuts, or safflower.
- Do not spread seed on the ground and clean up spilled feed quickly.

If you would like to learn more about birds, join one of the park's birding programs. Learn about upcoming programs and events by following the Park's Facebook page. You are always welcome at the Park's Woodland wildlife viewing blind located in the Day Use Area where you can get up close observations perfect for photography. So, visit soon and often – the birding is GREAT!

Interpreter Update

by Holly Platz, Park Interpreter

Summer is here, and this year we are especially eager to get back to "normal" summer activities. At Guadalupe River State Park, that means holding programs like night hikes, Fish with a Ranger, bat walks, archery, and fun arts and crafts programs like Japanese fish printing.

I'm thrilled to say that we are back to normal or "nearly-normal" in terms of educational programs at the park. Check our online calendar to see the latest details -- program calendar and details are posted before the 1st of each month. You can see the calendar here: [https://tpwd.texas.gov/state-parks/guadalupe-river/park\\_events](https://tpwd.texas.gov/state-parks/guadalupe-river/park_events) or just do an online search for "Guadalupe River State Park events".

**Discovery Center:**

After being closed for a year, we re-opened the Discovery Center this spring. Bring your family out and take a closer look at the park's nature through unique interactive exhibits and hands-on displays. Check out a FREE Junior Ranger backpack with tools like magnifying lenses, binoculars, sketchbook, and more to make your own discoveries on the trail! The Discovery Center is always open 10 am to 4 pm on Saturdays and Sundays, and also most weekdays during the summer. Check the park website or stop by the Center to see the latest schedule.

**Save the Date!**

All our events are posted on our online calendar each month (link above), but here are some activities already scheduled:

**Honey Creek Nature Hike:** Join experienced Honey Creek interpretive guides to discover the nature and history of Honey Creek State Natural Area. This hike is sponsored by the Friends of Guadalupe River State Park/Honey Creek State Natural Area. Come experience the beauty of this protected area, and find out why it's important.

- Every Saturday at 9 am, and most Saturdays also at 10 am – Registration is required for this program; check the park online calendar (link above) for details on hike dates and how to sign up.

**Star Parties with San Antonio Astronomical Association:** The experienced and knowledgeable members of the San Antonio Astronomical Association come out to the park every month to share their knowledge and their telescopes with park visitors! Join us as we look at the moon, planets, nebulas, and more!

- Saturday June 19th, Saturday July 17th, and Saturday August 14th (fall and winter dates posted soon). Drop in anytime during the 2-hour star party; no registration needed. Times vary based on sunset; check the online calendar for details!

**4th of July Bike Parade!** Sunday July 4th, 10 am: Bring your bike, your wagon, your friendly dog on a leash, or just yourself, and join us for a patriotic parade through Cedar Sage campground! Campers are encouraged to decorate their campsite for the event. More details on our online calendar!

**Other ways to connect with the park's nature:**

- Make sure to check out the latest installment of the Story Trail, our park's version of a StoryWalk®. This summer we are featuring the children's book, *And Then Comes Summer* by Tom Brenner. The Friends of Guadalupe River State Park/Honey Creek SNA sponsor this exciting self-guided program in partnership with Northeast Independent School District. 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.

- If you have kids in your family, make sure to pick up their 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 the Discovery Center 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).

- Follow the park's Instagram [Instagram.com/guadalupeverstatepark](https://www.instagram.com/guadalupeverstatepark) and Facebook [Facebook.com/guadalupeverstatepark](https://www.facebook.com/guadalupeverstatepark) to see park updates and news, as well as fun and educational videos, photos and stories!

**A note to all park volunteers:**

It has been so wonderful to finally see you again and work alongside you. Thank you for your patience and dedication through this difficult year. I really appreciate how you were able to think outside the box and meet the park's and visitors' needs, sometimes in unique and new ways! I can't wait to see each of you again soon.



**\*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): \_\_\_\_\_  
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Student or Senior (over 62) Friend \$20.\_\_\_\_, Individual Friend \$25.\_\_\_\_,

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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.

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**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!**