

FRIENDS

OF GUADALUPE RIVER STATE PARK
HONEY CREEK SNA

WINTER NEWSLETTER 2024



A Message from the President

by Bob Morris

Howdy Folks,

We have had a great year! Due to the support from Friends' members and donors, we now have a projector, a screen, and a high-quality speaker system for use at Honey Creek Ranch. In addition, our funds were utilized to repair the Bauer Gate and transform the system into a modern solar/battery self-contained unit. Well done, folks!

Park Staff held a Volunteer Appreciation event October 5, which the Friends Group supported entirely. Elizabeth McGreevey was our featured speaker. She did an excellent job of discussing Junipers on the Edwards Plateau. Our thanks to Mackenzie Brown, Board Member, who encouraged Elizabeth to speak at the event.

Our Guides at Honey Creek continue to provide a stellar service for the Honey Creek walks. One highlight: We had the opportunity to host a Honey Creek Walk October 24 for members attending the Texas Master Naturalist Conference, held in San Marcos. The feedback from participants was great. Brandon Lopes-Baca, Park Superintendent, was present to welcome our guests. We are so appreciative of Brandon's presence.

My hat is off to Mary Habib, our Treasurer, who well-coordinated the TMN Conference tour. This took a lot of time and effort. Bar none, we have created a destination for folks to experience the wonders of Honey Creek from across the State of Texas. We are on the map!

We will have our Annual Meeting / Holiday Party on December 7. (See details on p. 9 in this newsletter.)

Volunteer Opportunities:

- Table Outreach at Herff Farmer's Market – Text Pam Lack: 210-478-1300
- Silent Auction – Holiday Party – Text John Lack: 210-478-1500
- Pollinator Fiesta – March 15 2025 – Text Doug Starasinic: 210-273-4051
- Trail Run Fundraiser Oct 2025 – Text Mary Habib: 210-859-3429

Wishing everyone a safe and joyful holiday season!

From the Superintendent's Desk

by Benjamin Shook, Assistant Park Superintendent

We have had a number of changes in park staff roles and personnel, which we are very excited about. In addition to Jessica Bergner's new role as Resource Specialist (see p. 7), we are thrilled to welcome Tim McGee as new Lead Ranger! Tim's exceptional work as a field ranger and park safety officer has proven his commitment to maintaining a safe, welcoming environment for all visitors. Tim's leadership and expertise will undoubtedly continue to benefit our team and the Park.

Additionally, we are pleased to introduce Alice Wiesner as our new Office Manager! Alice's previous role as the Assistant Office Manager showcased her organizational skills and dedication to administrative excellence. Her efforts have been vital in streamlining our office operations. We are confident that Alice will continue to excel in her new position, bringing efficiency and professionalism to the forefront of our administrative team.

All these promotions within the Park have created several vacancies. We are hoping to interview and hire a new Assistant Office Manager, interpreter, ranger/safety officer, as well as a seasonal clerk, in the very near future.

We are enthused to announce the annual youth hunting event at Guadalupe River State Park and Honey Creek State Natural Area that will be held from Saturday, November 23rd through Monday, November 25th, during which time the Park will be closed except for the hunters. This event provides a unique opportunity for youth to learn about wildlife management and the critical role hunters play in conservation efforts. Looking ahead, the Park also eagerly anticipates the Adult Hunt in January 2025, emphasizing responsible and sustainable hunting practices. Closure of the Park will also occur during that time.

Finally, we would like to inform everyone about the scheduled Main Lift Station repair happening the first week of December. These repairs will ensure the continued smooth operation and maintenance of our Park's facilities. We appreciate your understanding and cooperation during this time. The Park's fall and winter seasons coincide with our project season. So, look for many maintenance and improvement operations over the next several weeks.

Where the Buffalo Bison Roam

by Charleen M. Moore and Mackenzie Brown

How many times have we crossed the Cibolo Creek near Guadalupe River State Park and wondered about the origin of its name? The creek forms the borders of several counties and its name points to the presence of bison in the nearby meadows. Although the creek had different names given to it by the Native American tribes and early French and Spanish explorers and priests, the name we use today, “Cibolo,” was given by the Marqués de San Miguel de Aguayo in 1721. It is an Indigenous word for the American bison. Many other names have been applied to this animal: “bison” is the term used by Linnaeus in his classification system in 1758; “boeuf” is the French term; “vaca,” the Spanish term; and “buffalo,” the term used by many English and German settlers and explorers before the 20th century.¹

Where did the bison roam?

Prior to arrival of the Europeans. The American Plains bison (*Bison bison*) prior to the sixteenth century were constantly on the move from Canada to Mexico, through the Central Plains and into Central and South Texas, traveling in great herds that could be miles wide, seeking pastures full of fresh grass. They grazed a given area, then moved on. This movement improved the prairie ecosystem by encouraging new growth, reducing the amount of dead vegetation, and providing fertilizer from the bison’s waste. The animals created “buffalo wallows” that helped with removal of loose hair and alleviated skin problems (see Fig. 1). These also made shallow depressions that created water reservoirs throughout the prairie.



Fig. 1. A “buffalo wallow” in the making. Caprock Canyons SP, Dec. 14, 2019. Photo by authors.

The bison moved into Texas when conditions became cooler and wetter. The Hill Country was lush grassland, while the High Plains was suffering from drought. The Native Americans had become highly mobile hunter-gatherers who traveled in small family groups. This was also the time when the bow and arrow were introduced for killing mammals such as deer, antelope, and bison with smaller arrow points, such as the Perdiz point. The bison in particular became a more substantial part of the Native American diet and a major source of clothing, tools, fuel, and the like. Almost all of the bison could be used with very little waste (see Table 1).

Table 1. Uses of Various Parts of a Bison ²

Beard	ornaments for clothing and weapons	Brain	tanning hides
Hair	halters, headdresses, medicine balls, ornaments, pillows, ropes	Stomach	containers
Skull	ceremonial or prayer objects	Bladder	pouches, medicine bags
Horns	cups, headdresses, ladles, powder horns, spoons, toys	Tongue/ Muscles	fresh meat, dried jerky
Bones	spear handles, awls (needles), knives, paintbrushes, scrapers, shovels, clubs, toys	Tendons	glue, bow strings, thread
Hooves/ Feet	glue, rattles	Tail	teepee ornaments, fly brushes, medicine switches, whips
Hide	tanned (tough): teepee covers, belts, dresses, shirts, leggings, moccasin tops, winter robes, dolls, cradles, bedding, gun cases, bags, pouches untanned (soft): saddles, shields, drums, leggings, headdresses, armbands, belts, ropes, moccasin soles, pouches, rattles, medicine bags, knife cases	Dung	fuel for cooking fires

After arrival of the Europeans. The earliest written description of the American bison is provided by the Spanish explorer Alvar Núñez Cabeza de Vaca in his journal describing his barefoot walk across South Texas and northern Mexico in 1534-1536: “In this country, there are many deer and other birds and animals than those that I have related so far. Cattle [bison] come as far as here. I have seen them three times and eaten them. It appears to me that they will be the size of those in Spain. They have small horns, like Moorish [cattle], and very long, wooly hair, like a rug. Some are brown, and others black. It seems to me that they have better and fatter meat than those from over here [in Spain]. From those that are not large, the Indians make blankets to cover themselves with, and from the bigger ones, they make shoes and shields. These [cows] come from the north, from the land further on, up to the coast of Florida. They are found in all of the country for over four hundred leagues, and in all of this way, through the valleys in which they come, the people who live there go down and subsist on them, and a great quantity of hides are found inland.”³

Other early sightings of bison by Europeans are described in Del Weniger’s book, *Explorer’s Texas, Vol. 2, The Animals they Found*. He based his report on 276 separate entries of eyewitness accounts in Texas before 1860, beginning in the late 17th century. The majority of sightings were from present-day counties of the Hill Country and on the coastal plain just east of the Escarpment. In 1691 Juan Dominguez de Mendoza reported that there were “a great many buffaloes” in the area around San Antonio. In 1788, in an area just west of the Brazos River, Don Athanase de Mezieres reported, “we were passing among innumerable herds – a precious and inexhaustible supply.” In 1808, Amangual wrote from an area in present day Scurry County, “today an infinite number of buffaloes was seen in the arroyo . . . and as far as one could see, the country was covered with buffaloes.” Jean Louis Berlandier, exploring the Hill Country in 1828, reported that near the headwaters of the Guadalupe River in Kerr County there were “vast herds of buffalo,” and in Bandera County “the fog was so great that at times we almost tripped over buffalos.” The stream we mentioned earlier in the Boerne area near Guadalupe River State Park is named Cibolo Creek for good reason and in 1836 was reported by Jose Enrique de la Pena to have “hundreds of buffalo in herds.” Near the Llano and San Saba Rivers in Central Texas, in 1864, one party killed 4,030 bison in one place.⁴

As the bison-slaughter of 1864 indicates, the fate of the animal was changing dramatically in Central Texas. The building of the transcontinental railroad and the hiring of hundreds of buffalo hunters disrupted migratory patterns and decimated the herds. J. De Cordova wrote in 1858 that just above the city of Austin, there were just a few bison. The remaining herds were only found in the northern parts of Central Texas; the settlers and military had pushed them away from the regions they had enjoyed for millennia. Bison were so important to the Indians that General Philip Sheridan knew that exterminating the bison would starve them into submission and in 1875 convinced the Texas legislature not to support a bill that would have protected the animals. With the slaughter that followed, by 1888 less than 1,000 bison remained.⁵

Where do bison roam in Texas today?

Charles and Mary Ann “Molly” Goodnight Bison Herd, Caprock Canyons State Park. The preservation of the remaining southern bison herd left over from the devastation in 19th century in Texas was primarily due to Charles Goodnight and especially his wife Molly. It was started with a few orphaned calves raised by Molly in 1878. The descendants of these animals form the official Texas State Bison Herd of about 240 animals who openly roam 700+ acres in Caprock Canyons SP (see Fig. 2).⁶ Although the herd is descended from 5 of the Goodnight orphans, these animals, and all bison tested to date, have segments of DNA coming from domestic cattle due to crossbreeding experiments to obtain better beef production.⁷

One other state park with a bison herd: San Angelo State Park. The San Angelo State Park bison herd increased in number in May 2024 to 35 bison when four calves were born (see Fig. 3). They have a 350 acre plot in which to roam.

West Texas A&M Mascot. A live bison mascot lives on the campus of West Texas A&M University in Canyon, Texas, and makes on-field appearances at all university home football games. The tradition, now 102 years old, dates back to 1922, when the first mascots were obtained from Charles and Mary Ann Goodnight. The live mascot tradition was suspended for several years but resumed in the ‘70s. Since 1977 a succession of bison have been cared for and trained by the WT Herdsmen, who also serve as university ambassadors. The current mascot is Thunder XIV (see Fig. 4). A new mascot in training is “Doc,” who will become Thunder XV.⁸ (Cont. on p. 5.)



Fig. 2. Bison at Caprock Canyons SP, Dec. 14, 2019. Photo by authors.



Fig. 3. Bison & calves at San Angelo SP. Photo courtesy of San Angelo SP.



Fig. 4. Thunder XIV charges onto the field with the Herdsmen, fall 2024. Photo courtesy of West Texas A&M University.

Golden-cheeked Warblers are long gone, but winter is time for the Butter Butt and other yellow and orange bright-spotted birds.

by Linda Gindler

Is it winter yet? Kind of hard to tell given October was San Antonio's hottest on-record and came in as the second driest. Thankfully, November started with cooling rains that had the added benefit of filling the rain catchment tanks at both wildlife viewing blinds. For those on the Viewing Blind Care Team, it was time to do the happy dance.

But back to the initial question...is it winter yet? I say it is. While the temperatures may not show it, you can see it in other ways. Leaves turning colors, summer birds departing, and winter species arriving. Winter is always one of my favorite times at the Park. It is quieter and even though it is warmer this year, it is still cooler than August, plus there are plenty of birds. That all adds up to a great time to practice identification skills with some of the Park's wintering species, especially morphological species. That is, a species whose name describes a physical characteristic. Sometimes a morphological name is obvious – Blue Bird comes to mind. Other times you must study a bird to discover the reason behind the name. A few to test your id skills and patience on are the Orange-crowned Warbler, Yellow-rumped Warbler, and Golden-crowned Kinglet.

First up, the Orange-crowned Warbler is not the most dazzling warbler, but it harbors a surprise for those with patience. When you first see one, you see a plain 4 ½" to 5 ½" bird with a dull yellowish-olive green (sometimes grayish) body and a faint eyeline. For a warbler that is plain! They have no bold markings except for one – their hidden morphological surprise. When excited they will raise their head feathers to reveal an orange crest, but you must be patient to see it. For photographers a picture of an Orange-crowned Warbler showing the crown is a prize worthy of the wait. After spending their summer in Canada, they head to the southern US and Central America. They begin to arrive at Guadalupe River in October and will stay as late as May, so you have plenty of opportunities to find one. Begin your search at either of the wildlife viewing blinds as they like to use the water features. When out hiking, watch for them as you pass through patches of woodland. Pay attention to low growing vegetation where they tend to hang out the most. They are active birds flitting from one twig to the next in search of their favorite foods – insects and spiders.



Orange-crowned Warbler (Photo by Ken Butler)



Yellow-rumped Warbler-Myrtle (Photo by John Prentice)

Next up, the Yellow-rumped Warbler begins to arrive in late October, staying until April, with peak numbers occurring from November to March. Like the Orange-crowned, they spend the summer in Canada and then winter across the southern states and even going as far south as Panama. Their morphological attribute—yellow rump—gives rise to birder's affectionately calling them "butter butts." The yellow rump is located on the lower back at the base of the tail and is most easily seen when a bird takes flight.

And like the Orange-crowned, every photographer works hard to get a photo showing the yellow rump. When out looking for one, watch for a large warbler (5-6") with a long tail, stout black bill, brownish to grayish backs, yellow under the wing, and white wing bars. During the winter they like to hang out in flocks so if you find one look around for another. And when you do find one, check it carefully as two distinct subspecies visit the Park. The "Myrtle" is the most common and has a white throat. The "Audubon's," while not as common, stands out with a yellow throat. Look for them at either wildlife viewing blind or go for a stroll along the Bald Cypress Trail and check the cypress trees where you may catch a feeding flock.



And lastly, the Golden-crowned Kinglet is a delight to find. At only 4 inches it is one of the world’s smallest perching birds and noticeably smaller than its more common close cousin, the Ruby-crowned Kinglet. A quick look may make you think it is a Ruby as both have an olive grayish body, prominent white and black wing bars and are highly active. But the Golden-crowned has a boldly marked head featuring the gold crown and a very bold black eyebrow line, which sets it apart from the rather plain headed Ruby.



Golden-crowned Kinglet (Photo by Ken Butler)

Like the Orange-crowned and Yellow-rumped, they too spend the summer in Canada, but they have a larger winter territory encompassing most of the lower 48 that does not extend south beyond northern Mexico. At the Park look for them from late October to early March at either viewing blind or along the Bald Cypress Trail. They often feed in mixed flocks where you can pick them out as the bird in constant motion with perpetual wing flicking. They are also known to hang upside down and to hover. The constant motion and the fact that they stay higher in trees makes photography challenging and even more rewarding when you get a good shot of the golden crown.

Be sure to look for morphological species on your next park visit. Taking time to see their special attributes will be a treat you can share with family and friends. While at the Park, stop by either of the viewing blinds and chat with other birding enthusiasts. Or check out one of the Park’s many nature-oriented programs. Hope to see you this winter at the Park.



Where the Buffalo Bison Roam (Cont. from p. 3.)

Fort Worth Nature Center and Refuge. The Refuge has over 3,600 acres. Its herd was established in 1973 and now has ten permanent members, one bull and 9 cows, plus the calves that are born each year and shared with other preserves.

Rescue Bison. A ranch near Honey Creek State Natural Area has adopted a rescue bison bull, named Hulk by the ranch owner’s children. To keep him company they have also adopted a bison cow, known as Smash. The two bison now roam over 400 acres in the Hill Country, along with numerous horses and chickens (see Fig. 5).



Fig. 5. Hulk (left) and Smash (right) at home on the range near Honey Creek State Natural Area. Photos by the authors.

¹ www.tshaonline.org/handbook/entries/cibolo-creek-kendall-county. ² <https://www.texasbeyondhistory.net/kids/buffalo.html>. ³ David Carson: The Account of Cabeza de Vaca. A Literal Translation with Analysis and Commentary, 116. ⁴ Del Weniger, *Explorer’s Texas, Vol. 2, The Animals they Found*, 10-19. ⁵ Del Weniger, *Explorer’s Texas*, 9,13; <https://tpwd.texas.gov/state-parks/caprock-canyons/bison/story>. ⁶ <https://tpwd.texas.gov/state-parks/caprock-canyons/bison/story>. ⁷ <https://vetmed.tamu.edu/news/press-releases/cattle-genetics-in-bison/>. ⁸ <https://www.wtamu.edu/news/2024/09/thunder-to-roll-onto-wts-first-united-field-for-all-2024-home-football-game.html>.



The Park and the Friend's welcome Texas Master Naturalists, other guests, and amateur photographers

by Mary Habib

Tour of Honey Creek by Texas Master Naturalists

The Texas Master Naturalist Program develops a corps of volunteers who provide education, outreach, and services for natural resources for the State of Texas. TPWD and Texas A&M AgriLife Extension serve as sponsors. As part of the Program's annual convention, the Park and Friends welcomed 24 Master Naturalists from across the state to enjoy a field trip through Honey Creek. This enthusiastic group hailed from Denton, Georgetown, Dallas, McKinney, College Station, and beyond.

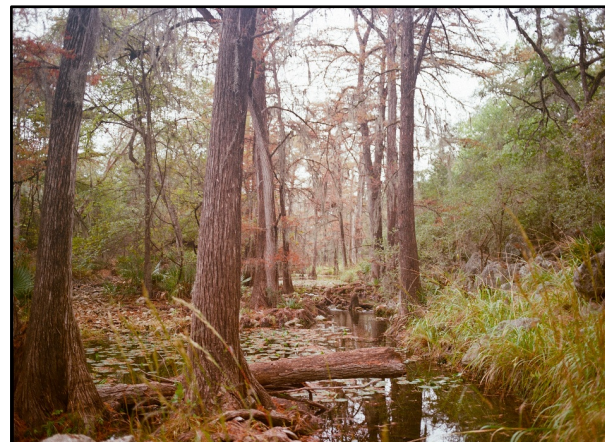


Bob Morris speaks to the Texas Master Naturalists near Honey Creek. Photos by Mary Habib.

Striking Autumn Scenery in Honey Creek

Honey Creek guides were happy to welcome several guests to enjoy cooler autumn temperatures. Mr. Cole Heischman of Austin, a college student and amateur photographer, captured these wonderful photos and was happy to share his work. He captured the relaxing, rejuvenating, and remarkable scenery available to enjoy on a guided walk through Honey Creek. The Spanish moss is always a tranquil, mood-inducing sight, whenever one visits. The Bald Cypress are now living up to their name, as their needles are turning russet-brown and covering the ground beneath them with thick layers of these colorful needles.

Please use this link to sign up to join us on Saturday or Sunday mornings! https://tpwd.texas.gov/state-parks/honey-creek/park_events.



A Heartfelt Thank You as I Embrace a New Role

by Jessica Bergner

A Transition

Serving as the park interpreter for Guadalupe River State Park and Honey Creek State Natural Area has been one of the most rewarding experiences of my professional career with Texas Parks and Wildlife. Over the past two plus years, I have had the privilege of sharing the natural wonders of this beautiful place with visitors from all walks of life. From guided walks to introducing families to the vibrant monarchs in our butterfly programs, every moment has been an opportunity to inspire a deeper connection to nature.

What has made this role truly special is the sense of community that surrounds the Park. I am endlessly grateful for the support and encouragement I have received from my colleagues, volunteers, and the Friends of Guadalupe River / Honey Creek. Your passion for preserving this incredible space has been a constant source of motivation for me. Working alongside such a group of volunteers and supporters has been an honor.

Now, as I transition into my new role as natural resource specialist, my excitement is matched only by my gratitude. While I will miss leading interpretive programs, I am thrilled to focus on the conservation and stewardship of the Park's natural resources. This new position allows me to help protect and enhance the habitats we cherish, ensuring that generations to come can experience the same beauty and biodiversity that make this park so unique.

Taking on this role feels like a natural progression in my journey. As interpreter, I learned to see the Park through the eyes of visitors—marveling at a deer sighting, delighting in a rare birdcall, or simply standing in awe at the clear waters of Honey Creek. Now, I have the opportunity to shift my focus to the health and sustainability of these ecosystems, working behind the scenes to keep them thriving.

Together, we can ensure that Guadalupe River State Park and Honey Creek remain not only a haven for wildlife but also a place where people can connect with the natural world and find their own sense of wonder.



Natural Resource Highlights: A Look at the Work Ahead and Volunteer Opportunities

At Guadalupe River State Park and Honey Creek State Natural Area, our commitment to preserving and enhancing natural resources is stronger than ever. With several exciting projects underway, we're balancing restoration efforts, wildlife management, and conservation programs to ensure the health and sustainability of this incredible landscape. Here's a brief look at some of the key initiatives you can look forward to:

Youth and Adult Hunts

This fall and winter we are hosting both youth and adult hunts, which play a vital role in our exotic and feral animal management plan. These hunts aren't just recreational—they are crucial for maintaining ecological balance. By managing populations of exotic and feral species, we help protect native flora and fauna, ensuring the Park's ecosystems remain healthy and thriving.

Bauer Unit Restoration

Our ongoing work at the Bauer Unit focuses on restoring native prairie ecosystems. Over the past few years, we've targeted invasive grasses, which crowd out native species and reduce biodiversity. Now, we're concentrating on re-establishing Little Bluestem, a native grass that not only enhances habitat quality but also helps naturally suppress invasive plants. This project is a shining example of how focused efforts can restore balance to our landscapes.

Day-Use Area Restoration

Come spring, we'll be advancing the day-use restoration project. This multi-phase effort aims to enhance the area's ecological integrity while continuing to provide a safe, enjoyable space for visitors. Temporary fencing and designated access points, which have already been implemented, will help protect sensitive areas, allowing vegetation to recover and reducing erosion along the riverbank.

Wildlife Management and Surveys

Our commitment to active wildlife management includes completing recent white-tailed deer spotlight surveys to monitor populations and inform management decisions. Moving forward, we plan to be very active in implementing our exotic and feral animal management plan to protect native species and ecosystems.

Upcoming Volunteer Opportunities

We're excited to offer new ways for volunteers to get involved in the coming months!* We'll need help with:

-Golden-Cheeked Warbler Surveys:

Assist in monitoring this endangered species to ensure its continued presence in the Park.

-Breeding Bird Surveys:

Help track bird populations, contributing to long-term data and conservation planning.

These two surveys will be run simultaneously. If you are interested in being on the avian survey team this spring, please email Jessica Bergner at jessica.bergner@tpwd.texas.gov.

**Please note: there are mandatory training sessions which volunteers will need to attend.*

A New Guided Bird Walk at Honey Creek Ranch

by Gilbert Martinez

As we continue to develop our Public Use Plan for the newly acquired Honey Creek Ranch, site Superintendent Gilbert Martinez has begun leading bird walks on the property. This easy, 2-mile walk over level terrain will take you through various habitats in search for birds such as the American Kestrel, Ruby-crowned Kinglet, Rufus-crowned Sparrow, Canyon Wren and others. While this program is labeled as a bird walk, Gilbert will not hesitate to talk about anything that crosses in front of the group! Everything from dung beetles to birds of prey will be admired! Whether you're a seasoned birder or just starting, come learn about the diverse bird species in the area and enjoy a sneak peek at this new property! Registration is required. Please check the Guadalupe River State Park's event page for registration information, https://tpwd.texas.gov/state-parks/guadalupe-river/park_events.



Birding at Honey Creek Ranch with Gil Martinez.

Outreach Table at the Herff Farmers Market

by John and Pamela Lack

The Friends of Guadalupe River/Honey Creek, Inc. is reaching out to potential visitors and volunteers at an outreach table one Saturday per month at the Herff Farmers Market. We started in October, averaging about 40 adults and 20 children per month. Visitors range from those unaware of the Park and State Natural Area to active users. The table displays various small mammal hides and antlers to give children an up close and personal contact with nature. Information on park activities/events and volunteer opportunities lead to interesting conversations with the visitors to the table. Families, in particular, seemed appreciative of the reminder that such a great natural resource is close by. The next outreach table is tentatively set for January 25, 2025. The Farmers Market is open from 9:00am – 1:00pm at 33 Herff Road, Boerne, TX 78006.



Pam and John Lack at Outreach Table, 10/19/24. Photo by John.



Pam greeting visitors, 11/16/24. Photo by John.

We would like to thank the Cibolo Center for Conservation for graciously allowing us to participate at the market at no charge and for their help in starting the process. If you attend the market and see the table, please stop by. If you are a volunteer and would be interested in assisting with manning the table, please reach out to the volunteer coordinator: Pam Lack, 210-478-1300.



Dear Friend,

You are cordially invited to attend the Annual Meeting / Holiday Party on the evening of December 7 for the Friends of Guadalupe River State Park / Honey Creek State Natural Area. Come join us and meet others who have liked-minded interests in supporting our Park and State Natural Area. **Please let us know the number in your party by December 3rd if you plan to attend**, so we can plan appropriately. Reply directly to bsh051998@gmail.com.

Your presence is important as you will vote on Members of the Board of the Friends of Guadalupe River State Park / Honey State Natural Area whose terms will expire December 31, 2024. They are as follows:

C. Mackenzie Brown
Brady Hansen
Charleen Moore

Each of these individuals has indicated they will serve for another term if re-elected. In addition, we have two vacancies on the Board yet to be filled. The Board will accept nominations from the floor and you are most welcome to self-nominate. If you have an interest in serving but have questions, feel free to contact me.

The venue is the Honey Creek Ranch Barn off HWY 46. See directions below.

Please plan to arrive around 6 PM to socialize with fellow Members, Park Staff, and local volunteers, and participate in the Silent Auction. The Gate will open at 5:30 PM. The Annual Meeting will begin promptly at 6:45 PM.

At 7 PM we will begin serving Smokey Mo's famous BBQ with all the fixins' and we are asking members to bring desserts.

We hope to see you there, but if not, I want to express our genuine appreciation on behalf of the Board for your generous support this year as we look forward to an outstanding 2025.

Wishing You and Your Family a Safe and Joyful Holiday Season!

Bob Morris
President, Friends GRSP / HC SNA
210-505-2936
bxxmorris@frontier.com

Directions to Honey Creek Ranch Barn

- Pretty easy to find. It lies on the north side of State Highway 46, east of Park Road 31.
- The Ranch has a big entrance gate with stone gate posts. The entrance is opposite a storage unit facility.
- Entrance lies about 1.1 miles east of Blanco Rd intersection with State Highway 46 and 5.9 miles west of intersection of State Highway 281 and 46.
- Once you enter through the gate, just travel the paved road. No left or right turns. When you get down at the bottom with the ranch buildings, you will see a parking attendant.
- If you or your passengers require special needs, no problem. The parking attendant will assist.
- If you have any issues, text Bob Morris (210-505-2936), Ed Van Reet (432-553-8806), or Mary Habib (210-859-3429).

Friends of Guadalupe River State Park
and Honey Creek State Natural Area present...

Monarch & Friends

Pollinator Fiesta

Saturday, March 15, 2025
10am-2pm

the trails outside
Discovery Center
are exhibits, activities, and
more. Fun for all ages!

Free with park
admission



Photos from Earlier Events
Come join the fun this year!



Holiday Party and Silent Auction

Honey Creek Ranch, December 7, 2024

Photos from Earlier Events
Come join the fun this year!



To submit articles for publication in the Friends Newsletter, email them to one of the Co-Editors:
Mackenzie Brown, mbrown@trinity.edu
Charleen Moore, mackandchuck@gmail.com
Deadlines are the 20th of Feb, May, Aug, Nov.

2025 Membership Dues are January 1, 2025

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. Membership dues renew in January.

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) \$20 _____ Individual \$25 _____

Family \$40 _____ Lifetime \$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.
We will not share your information or clutter your inbox.

Board of Directors

President
Bob Morris

Vice-President
Ed Van Reet

Secretary
Dave Kibler

Treasurer
Mary Habib

Director/Co-Historian and Webmaster
Mackenzie Brown

Director/Co-Historian
Charleen Moore

Director/Membership
Brady Hansen

Director/Honey Creek Interpretive Walks
Nancy Gray

Director/Water Monitoring
John Lack

Director at Large
Bob Gray

Director at Large
Lucy Cruz Hudson

Director at Large
Pamela Lack

Director at Large
Doug Starasinic

Friends of Guadalupe River and Honey Creek, Inc.

3350 Park Road 31
Spring Branch, Texas 78070

**Visit us on the web:
<https://friendsofgrhc>**



**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, usually on the third Thursday
at 2:00 p.m. in the Rust House. Please join us and bring a friend!
For meeting venue and possible change of date or time, contact us
at:**

friendsofgrhc@gmail.com