

SUMMER 2009 NEWSLETTER

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

A non-profit organization



**President's Letter**

by Nancy Gray

**Board of Directors**

The river may be low but our favorite park still offer lots of interesting opportunities for learning, helping and recreation. The Saturday night interpretive programs are in full swing with an interesting variety of subjects. Be sure and check the rest of the News Letter or our website for the schedule. The huge pile of cedar brush on the Bauer, on the north side of the river, has finally been successfully burned. Now work can continue to prepare that part of the park to be opened. Exciting plans for the improvements to the Interpretive Center are in place and the work to implement the plans is scheduled for this summer. Plans for landscaping around the Rust House and displays inside are well under way and will start through the park's system of approval cycle soon. The Friend's historian, Bryden Moon, arranged a wonderful Homesteaders Homecoming in April. We had a great crowd, heard lots of interesting stories and enjoyed an extensive banquet of deserts. Check out the story on this event in this news letter. The training class for new Honey Creek Interpretive guides was well attended and several of the new guides are already active. Don't miss out on all the opportunities for fun and service. We need more of you to help us help the park and Honey Creek. Call or e mail

one of the board members and get involved. There will not be a board meeting in June or July but we will start regular meetings in August on the second Thursday at 6:30 P.M. at the Rust House. We would love to see lots of you there; it is a good way to find out everything on with the Friends group.



New Honey Creek Interpretive Guide trainees.

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## Interpretative Guide Training Class of 09

by Tom Anderson

March 7<sup>th</sup> we had a guide training in which 10 individuals spent the day learning how to assist the Friends with our Honey Creek State Natural Area hikes. The following people attended: Josie Gonzales, Skip Johnson, Chris Menzel, Lisa Whitehead, Dave Skinner, Tom Iwanski, Jo Iwanski, Kerry O'Neal, Deborah Schuler, and David Edgar. Holly Camero a present guide also decided to take a refresher course. Craig Hensley the park's interpreter participated in providing the program as well as Friends members, Wilt Shaw, JW Pieper, Nancy Gray, Kay and Bryden Moon, and Tom Anderson.

Topics covered during the morning included: goals and expectations, principles of interpretation, knowledge of resource (geology, water, flora and wildlife diversity, heritage, and stewardship). Craig then explained how to put all that information into the hike presentation. After lunch the participants took the Honey Creek Hike led by Tom Anderson.

Three of the participants so far have completed their requirements to become a guide and are active. It is my hope that others will complete the walks required as we are having large turnouts for our hikes and could use some additional assistance as back-ups to go with our guides.



The park staff and I agreed that more and more people are taking shorter trips for vacation, and large numbers of people are going to our excellent website and finding out about the hike. If you think you might be interested in becoming a guide email me ([tanderson46@satx.rr.com](mailto:tanderson46@satx.rr.com)) and I will put you on the list for our next training.



# Annual Homesteader Homecoming

by Bryden Moon

3<sup>rd</sup>

On April 19<sup>th</sup> nearly 50 “Friends” and friendly guests convened at Guadalupe River State Park for our 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual Homesteader Homecoming. At this year’s gathering, we shared fellowship, wonderful weather, and special treats, but most importantly, insights into the local history of the ranching and farming pioneers who popu-



lated the beautiful lands in and surrounding Guadalupe River State Park / Honey Creek State Natural Area. Due to its natural beauty, it is easy to forget that the park lands once held family and enterprise. However at this Homesteader Homecoming, the links to the past were hard to miss. The Heinrich Rust home served as the venue for our event. In attendance were Corrine Gass Zunker and Gloria Weidner Voges, who as grandchildren grew up visiting Heinrich & Louisa Rust, their Opa & Oma, at this very same house (many years before the park



was created).

On this beautiful day we learned of local families’ ties to this region (and even of a few rescues). Harvey Adam led off with his accounting of Heinrich Richter, who lived just outside the park’s boundaries (Mr. Richter’s son and grandson lived within the lands of the park). From Andreas Engel’s descendent, Stanley Jones, we discovered that the twin sentinels of water tank and windmill were initially installed at Bergheim not to support the postal business nor the grocery store, but a cotton gin. Barbara Wehe held up a framed copy of the family’s land grant signed by Sam Houston. Clarence Scheel harked back to origins of St.



Joseph Honey Creek, just outside the park’s boundaries – the central point of religion in the region in the early years. Olivia Clements and Susie Duran told of the Martinez family, who hired out to and lived on numerous ranches in the area. Gloria Voges shared a picture of the Rusts which was also gifted to the park.



And about those rescues: Brenda Anderson-Lindemann cradled a clock that was saved by the Hans von Specht family during the historical Guadalupe River flooding in 1869 & 1870. Clinton Acker told of a different rescue, as he held up a beautifully burnished Heinrich Acker branding iron, of which the “rescuer” had taken from his forebear’s land as a

young man but returned (as an older and wiser adult) back into the Acker family where it rightfully belongs.

Our park lands come together at and encompass the extreme reaches of two counties, Kendall & Comal, far from their larger city centers. Due to the nature of farming and ranches, there was plenty of elbow room: large tracts equal an under-populated region.

We are lucky. The same remoteness that caused this area very little commerce during hard times, contributed to leaving the natural beauty as well rich heritage intact. And on April 19<sup>th</sup> our region’s living history was on display - the remote farmland once again populated with spirit and family.



**PROGRAMS & WORKSHOPS @ the PARK**

by Craig Hensley

**Saturday June 6**

**Honey Creek Hike 9-11 a.m.** You are invited to join our trained Honey Creek guides for a walk to Honey Creek. This beautiful stream and surrounding environment is one of the scenic wonders of the Hill Country. You'll learn about both the natural and cultural history of this area during this approximate two-hour hike. Sponsored by the Friends of Guadalupe River and Honey Creek, a suggested donation of \$5 per family or \$2 per individual is requested. Meet at the Rust House.

**Kids in Nature: Bird Brains 9-10:30 a.m.** Birds are among our most fascinating critters. With all kinds of adaptations and more than 400 kinds found in Texas alone, its no wonder there are so many bird watchers. Join us for a look at birds, their adaptations, play the beak adaptation game, and if we are lucky, perhaps we'll get an up close and personal look at one or two. Meet at the Amphitheatre

**Nature Adventurers 101: Dragon Chasing 2-3:30 p.m.** That's right, we're chasing after dragons! Okay, not those kinds of dragons, but dragonflies! Join us and we'll provide the nets and containers to capture, admire, identify and then release dragonflies and their cousins, the damselflies, along the river. Just in case, we may have to get wet. Meet at the Amphitheatre.

**Saturday Night Speaker Series: Butterfly Gardening 8-9 p.m.** Join guest speaker Kip Kiphart for a presentation on the art and fun of butterfly gardening. Now is a great time to consider setting up your own garden for butterflies and Kip will provide tips and tricks for attracting your own gossamer-winged wonders. Sponsored by the Friends of Guadalupe River and Honey Creek, a suggested donation of \$5 per family or \$2 per individual is requested. Meet at the Amphitheatre.

**Friday, June 12**

**Guadalupe River/Honey Creek Butterfly Count 9 a.m. start** Join Park Interpreter Craig Hensley, Master Naturalist Kip Kiphart and others as we set off in search of the butterflies of the area. As part of the North American Butterfly Association annual count, we'll be out and about in search of every butterfly we can find. We'll begin the day with an orientation at 9 a.m. at the Amphitheatre in the park, learning butterfly identification and protocols for the count. Then, depending upon the number of people involved, we'll break into teams and head out in search of our gossamer-winged wonders.

If you are interested in assisting with the count, please contact **Craig Hensley at 830.438.7653** or by email at [craig.hensley\(at\)pwd.state.tx.us](mailto:craig.hensley(at)pwd.state.tx.us) No prior experience is required, only an interest in learning and helping.

**Saturday, June 13**

**Honey Creek Hike 9-11 a.m.** Sponsored by the Friends of Guadalupe River and Honey Creek, a suggested donation of \$5 per family or \$2 per individual is requested. Meet at the Rust House.

**Kids in Nature: Bugs-R-Us! 9:30-10:30 a.m.** We're dusting off our insect nets and heading to the fields in search of butterflies, grasshoppers and more! Join us for adventure as we capture, study and then release a multitude of six-legged, bug-eyed critters. We'll provide the nets and holding containers; all you need is your enthusiasm and sense of adventure. Meet at the Amphitheatre.

**Nature Adventurers 101: Mammal Mysteries 2-3:30 p.m.** From the things they leave behind such as tracks, trails and yes, even scat, to their skulls and skins, mammals provide all kinds of opportunities for learning. Join us for an afternoon of warm-blooded, furry fun as we check out the world of our amazing mammals. Meet at the Amphitheatre.

**Saturday Night Speaker Series: San Antonio Astronomical Society Star Party 8-10 p.m.**

Join members of the San Antonio Astronomical Society for an evening of stargazing and telescope viewing at its best. A wonderful presentation will begin the evening followed by an orientation to the night sky with green lasers. You'll then be able to view galaxies, nebulas and more through one of many telescopes members will have for use. Sponsored by the Friends of Guadalupe River and Honey Creek, a suggested donation of \$5 per family or \$2 per individual is requested. Meet at the Amphitheatre.

**Saturday, June 20**

**Honey Creek Hike 9-11 a.m.** Sponsored by the Friends of Guadalupe River and Honey Creek, a suggested donation of \$5 per family or \$2 per individual is requested. Meet at the Rust House.

**Kids in Nature: River Wonders 9:30-10:30 a.m.** Join us for a morning of wet and wild fun as we wander into the river in search of fish, frogs, funky looking bugs and more! We'll provide the nets, you show up ready to get wet! Meet at the Amphitheatre.

**Nature Adventurers 101: Plant-astic! 2-3:30 p.m.** Without them, where would we be, yet we take them for granted most of the time. Plants come in every shape, size and color and we'll be checking out how they work, why they are important and take a walk to check them out. We'll end the program with a sweet taste straight from flowers thanks to our friends, the honey bees. Meet at the amphitheatre.

**Saturday Night Speaker Series: Hummingbirds of Texas 8-9 p.m.** TPWD's Mark Klym will bring his love of hummingbirds to the park to share with guests. He will provide identification tips as well as give you ideas of how to best attract hummingbirds to your yard and who to look for. Sponsored by the Friends of Guadalupe River and Honey Creek, a suggested donation of \$5 per family or \$2 per individual is requested. Meet at the Amphitheatre.

### **Saturday, June 27**

**Honey Creek Hike 9-11 a.m.** Sponsored by the Friends of Guadalupe River and Honey Creek, a suggested donation of \$5 per family or \$2 per individual is requested. Meet at the Rust House.

**Kids in Nature: Who Goes There? 9:30-10:30 a.m.** The park is full of wildlife, but much of the time they seem impossible to find. Start your weekend by putting on your detective hat and we'll figure out the clues that animals leave behind. After a short introduction, we'll head out on the trails to figure out who does go there. Meet at the Amphitheatre.

**Nature Adventurers 101: Amazing Insects 2-3:30 p.m.** Join us for a first-hand look at the world of six-legged critters. From butterflies to beetles, insects are among our most diverse animals in the world. We'll take a look at their adaptations for survival then head to the forest and fields in search of our six-legged wonders. Meet at the Headquarters parking lot.

**Saturday Night Speaker Series: Bats of Texas 8-9 p.m.** Join Park Interpreter for a look at the fascinating world of bats. With 33 species of bats found in Texas to more than the 1,100 species worldwide, bats play a great many roles in the natural world. Following a presentation, we'll head for the river in search of them. Sponsored by the Friends of Guadalupe River and Honey Creek, a suggested donation of \$5 per family or \$2 per individual is requested. Meet at the Amphitheatre.

### **Saturday, July 4**

**Honey Creek Hike 9-11 a.m.** Sponsored by the Friends of Guadalupe River and Honey Creek, a suggested donation of \$5 per family or \$2 per individual is requested. Meet at the Rust House.

**Kids in Nature: River Wonders 9:30-10:30 a.m.** Join us for a morning of wet and wild fun as we wander into the river in search of fish, frogs, funky looking bugs and more! We'll provide the nets, you show up ready to get wet! Meet at the Amphitheatre.

**Nature Adventurers 101: Dragon Chasing 2-3:30 p.m.** That's right, we're chasing after dragons! Okay, not those kinds of dragons, but dragonflies! Join us and we'll provide the nets and containers to capture, admire, identify and then release dragonflies and their cousins, the damselflies, along the river. Just in case, we may have to get wet. Meet at the Amphitheatre.

**Stories in the Stars 8-9:30 p.m.** Join our interpretive staff for a fun-filled look at the night sky. We'll begin with our crowd-pleasing "Perils of Andromeda" audience participation story followed by a presentation to introduce you to summer's night sky. Then stick around as we point our telescopes skyward to check out some celestial delights. **Sponsored by the Friends of Guadalupe River and Honey Creek, a suggested donation of \$5 per family or \$2 per individual is requested. Meet at the Amphitheatre.**

### **Saturday, July 11**

**Honey Creek Hike 9-11 a.m.** . Sponsored by the Friends of Guadalupe River and Honey Creek, a suggested donation of \$5 per family or \$2 per individual is requested. Meet at the Rust House.

**Kids in Nature: Bugs-R-Us! 9:30-10:30 a.m.** We're dusting off our insect nets and heading to the fields in search of butterflies, grasshoppers and more! Join us for adventure as we capture, study and then release a multitude of six-legged, bug-eyed critters. We'll provide the nets and holding containers; all you need is your enthusiasm and sense of adventure. Meet at the Amphitheatre.

**Nature Adventurers 101: Wet, Wild and Wonderful! 2-3:30 p.m.** Join us for an afternoon of wet and wild fun as we wander into the river in search of fish, frogs, funky looking bugs and more! We'll provide the nets, you show up ready to get wet! Meet at the Amphitheatre.

**Saturday Night Speaker Series: Ethnobotany or How We Use Plants 8-9 p.m.** Join Naturalist and ethnobotanist Peggy Spring from the City of San Antonio's Parks and Recreation Department for a presentation on ethnobotany. You will learn how various native plants were and are used for everything from dyes and medicines to food. **Sponsored by the Friends of Guadalupe River and Honey Creek, a suggested donation of \$5 per family or \$2 per individual is requested. Meet at the Amphitheatre.**

**Saturday, July 18****Honey Creek Hike 9-11 a.m.**

**Kids in Nature: River Wonders 9:30-10:30 a.m.** Join us for a morning of wet and wild fun as we wander into the river in search of fish, frogs, funky looking bugs and more! We'll provide the nets, you show up ready to get wet! Meet at the Amphitheatre.

**Nature Adventurers 101: Mammal Mysteries 2-3:30 p.m.** From the things they leave behind such as tracks, trails and yes, even scat, to their skulls and skins, mammals provide all kinds of opportunities for learning. Join us for an afternoon of warm-blooded, furry fun as we check out the world of our amazing mammals. Meet at the Amphitheatre.

**Saturday Night Speaker Series: Frogs and Toads of the Park 8-9:30 p.m.** Join Park Interpreter Craig Hensley and Intern Traci Guckian to learn about amphibians, with special emphasis on the frogs and toads found in the park. Did you know they use their eyes to eat? To find out the mystery behind this and more, join us for a presentation followed by a flashlight search for them at the river's edge. **Sponsored by the Friends of Guadalupe River and Honey Creek, a suggested donation of \$5 per family or \$2 per individual is requested. Meet at the Amphitheatre.**

**Saturday, July 25****Honey Creek Hike 9-11 a.m.**

**Kids in Nature: Who Goes There? 9:30-10:30 a.m.** The park is full of wildlife, but much of the time they seem impossible to find. Start your weekend by putting on your detective hat and we'll figure out the clues that animals leave behind. After a short introduction, we'll head out on the trails to figure out who does go there. Meet at the Amphitheatre.

**Nature Adventurers 101: Plant-astic! 2-3:30 p.m.** Without them, where would we be, yet we take them for granted most of the time. Plants come in every shape, size and color and we'll be checking out how they work, why they are important and take a walk to check them out. We'll end the program with a sweet taste straight from flowers thanks to our friends, the honey bees. Meet at the amphitheatre.

**Saturday Night Speaker Series: San Antonio Astronomical Society Star Party 9-11 p.m.**

Join members of the San Antonio Astronomical Society for an evening of stargazing and telescope viewing at its best.

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**Saturday, August 1****Honey Creek Hike 9-11 a.m.**

**Kids in Nature: River Wonders 9:30-10:30 a.m.** Join us for a morning of wet and wild fun as we wander into the river in search of fish, frogs, funky looking bugs and more! We'll provide the nets, you show up ready to get wet! Meet at the Amphitheatre.

**Nature Adventurers 101: Insect-ania! 2-3:30 p.m.** They hop, crawl, run and fly – and they are simply everywhere! Grab a net and container and join us for an afternoon of bug-catching at its finest. We'll provide the nets and containers, you show up ready to go on safari. Meet at the Amphitheatre.

**Stories in the Stars 8:30-10:30 p.m.** Join our interpretive staff for a fun-filled look at the night sky. We'll begin with our crowd-pleasing "Perils of Andromeda" audience participation story followed by a presentation to introduce you to summer's night sky. Then stick around as we point our telescopes skyward to check out some celestial delights. **Sponsored by the Friends of Guadalupe River and Honey Creek, a suggested donation of \$5 per family or \$2 per individual is requested. Meet at the Amphitheatre.**

**Saturday, August 8****Honey Creek Hike 9-11 a.m.**

**Kids in Nature: Bugs-R-Us! 9:30-10:30 a.m.** Join us for adventure as we capture, study and then release a multitude of six-legged, bug-eyed critters. We'll provide the nets and holding containers; all you need is your enthusiasm and sense of adventure. Meet at the Amphitheatre.

**Nature Adventurers 101: Mammal Mysteries 2-3:30 p.m.**

From the things they leave behind such as tracks, trails and yes, even scat, to their skulls and skins, mammals provide all kinds of opportunities for learning. Join us for an afternoon of warm-blooded, furry fun as we check out the world of our amazing mammals. Meet at the Amphitheatre.

**Saturday Night Speaker Series: Birds of the Hill Country 8-9 p.m.** Join Master Naturalists and TPWD bird banding volunteers Tom and Patsy Inglet for a presentation on the birds found in the Hill Country. Sponsored by the Friends of Guadalupe River and Honey Creek, a suggested donation of \$5 per family or \$2 per individual is requested. Meet at the Amphitheatre.

**Saturday, August 15****Honey Creek Hike 9-11 a.m.**

**Stories in the Stars 8:30-10:30 p.m.** Sponsored by the Friends of Guadalupe River and Honey Creek, a suggested donation of \$5 per family or \$2 per individual is requested. Meet at the Amphitheatre.

**Saturday, August 8**

**Honey Creek Hike 9-11 a.m. Kids in Nature: Bugs-R-Us! 9:30-10:30 a.m.** Meet at the Amphitheatre.

**Nature Adventurers 101: Mammal Mysteries 2-3:30 p.m.**

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**Saturday, August 15**

**Honey Creek Hike 9-11 a.m.**

**Kids in Nature: Who Goes There? 9:30-10:30 a.m.** Start your weekend by putting on your detective hat and we'll figure out the clues that animals leave behind. After a short introduction, we'll head out on the trails to figure out who does go there. Meet at the Amphitheatre.

**Nature Adventurers 101: Dragon Chasing 2-3:30 p.m.** That's right, we're chasing after dragons! Okay, not those kinds of dragons, but dragonflies! Join us and we'll provide the nets and containers to capture, admire, identify and then release dragonflies and their cousins, the damselflies, along the river. Just in case, we may have to get wet. Meet at the Amphitheatre.

**Saturday Night Speaker Series: Night Watch 9-10 p.m.** Join Park Interpreter Craig Hensley for an evening walk as we go in search of those critters that wake up when we head for bed. We'll look for deer, ringtails, frogs, nighthawks and more on this sure-to-be fun hike. Be sure to bring your flashlight! Sponsored by the Friends of Guadalupe River and Honey Creek, a suggested donation of \$5 per family or \$2 per individual is requested. Meet at the Amphitheatre.

**Saturday, August 22**

**Honey Creek Hike 9-11 a.m.**

**Kids in Nature: Wet, Wild and Wonderful! 9:30-10:30 a.m.** Join us for a morning of wet and wild fun as we search on and under the water for the critters that call the river home. From insect larvae to pollywogs, fish and more, we'll attempt to catch critters of all kinds. Meet at the Amphitheatre and be ready to get wet!

**Nature Adventurers 101: Plant-astic! 2-3:30 p.m.** Without them, where would we be, yet we take them for granted most of the time. Plants come in every shape, size and color and we'll be checking out how they work, why they are important and take a walk to check them out. We'll end the program with a sweet taste straight from flowers thanks to our friends, the honey bees. Meet at the amphitheatre.

**Saturday Night Speaker Series: Dragons and Damsels of the Guadalupe River 7-9 p.m.** Join Park Interpreter Craig Hensley for an evening of Odonata, the damselflies and dragonflies. We'll start with a search for these four-winged masters of the air using bug nets. Following some up close and personal meet and greets with them, you'll learn about them, from their humble beginnings as tiny eggs to their predatory lives in both water on in the air, these ancient critters are not only amazing, but are important members of both aquatic and terrestrial environments. **Sponsored by the Friends of Guadalupe River and Honey Creek, a suggested donation of \$5 per family or \$2 per individual is requested.** Meet at the Amphitheatre.

**Saturday, August 29**

**Honey Creek Hike 9-11 a.m.**

**Kids in Nature: River Wonders 9:30-10:30 a.m.**

Join us for a morning of wet and wild fun as we wander into the river in search of fish, frogs, funky looking bugs and more! We'll provide the nets, you show up ready to get wet! Meet at the Amphitheatre.

**Nature Adventurers 101: Mammal Mysteries 2-3:30 p.m.** From the things they leave behind such as tracks, trails and yes, even scat, to their skulls and skins, mammals provide all kinds of opportunities for learning. Join us for an afternoon of warm-blooded, furry fun as we check out the world of our amazing mammals. Meet at the Amphitheatre.

**Saturday Night Speaker Series: Wildflowers of the Hill Country 8-9 p.m.**

Join Park Interpreter Craig Hensley for a look at the variety and beauty of wildflowers found in our area. From the blue-bonnets of spring to the asters of fall, he'll take you through a wildflower year with up close photos, sharing identification tips and places to find them. **Sponsored by the Friends of Guadalupe River and Honey Creek, a suggested donation of \$5 per family or \$2 per individual is requested. Meet at the Amphitheatre.**

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

3350 Park Road 31  
Spring Branch, Texas 78070

We're on the web!  
[www.honeycreekfriends.com](http://www.honeycreekfriends.com)

*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 second Thursday at 7:00 pm.*

*And bring a friend!*