

*Citizens working to preserve and enhance the state park system for the benefit of the people of Texas and their guests.*

Texans for State Parks – P. O. Box 41480 - Austin, TX 78704-0025



**The Voice, Online – TfSP E-News  
July, 2011**

- LBJ State Park & Historic Site Hosts Birthday Celebration
- Caprock Canyons State Park Hosts Bison Celebration
- Colorado Bend State Park Friends Invite You to Fall Festival, Bluegrass Jam and More
- Water Recreation Still a Good Bet to Beat the Heat but Drought Threatens Fish, Wildlife, Parks in Texas

**A Presidents message on Volunteering in Parks**

Now that we see how the new budget will affect our Parks, this is a time for everyone to volunteer in their site. There are a lot of jobs volunteers can help with. This includes maintenance, mowing, weed eating, working in the office, assisting with special events, fishing clinics, school groups, and many other endeavors. If you can't do outside work, there are plenty of other things you can do to assist.

A few hours every month will do wonders for our Parks. Now is the time to step up and volunteer. Contact your Park and see what they need. Each Park is different and their manager will be able to let you know what you can do to help.

These are your Parks! Keep them in good shape for all our visitors!

John Cobb, President

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**Lyndon B. Johnson State Park & Historic Site Host 103rd Birthday Celebration**

Celebrate the 103rd Birthday of Lyndon B. Johnson Aug 27, 2011 from 09:30 AM to 04:00 PM at the state park that honors this native Texan. Discover the life and accomplishments of our 36th President in the beautiful Texas Hill Country he loved so dearly. See what life was like when the president was a child and where he came to recharge his batteries when he was our nation's leader.

The Sauer-Beckmann Living History Farm will have activities to celebrate the president's birthday throughout the day with old-time games for the whole family. Pack a picnic basket, make it a family outing and enjoy all the park has to offer. Accessible for the mobility impaired.

The park is located 2 miles east of Stonewall, 14 miles west of Johnson City on US Highway 290 toward Fredericksburg. For more information call 830/644-2252 or see [http://tpwd.state.tx.us/spdest/findadest/parks/lyndon\\_b\\_johnson/](http://tpwd.state.tx.us/spdest/findadest/parks/lyndon_b_johnson/).

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**Caprock Canyons State Park Hosts Bison Celebration**

Caprock Canyons State Park, home to the official Texas State Bison Herd, will host a special event Saturday September 17<sup>th</sup> commemorating the bison restoration project.

Texans for State Parks President John Cobb and Directors Barbara McKnight and Ken Pollard are assisting with Caprock Canyons State Park's "Bison Celebration" special event that will be held Saturday September 17<sup>th</sup>, 2011. This is phase I of the bison restoration project where the bison will be released on approximately 1000 acres to freely roam. This will provide a unique and exciting experience for park visitors giving them an up close and personal look at what is probably the last true remaining example of the Great Southern Plains Bison. This experience will be similar to a Yellowstone experience in that the visitor will be in amongst the herd.

This is a great example of what our Parks are doing to expand the visitor's experience. Activities for the event tentatively include:

9:00 am: The official ribbon cutting to mark the completion of phase I

10:00 am: "Meet and greet" - a chance for visitors and the local community to meet with park officials, TPWD officials, politicians, and other bison enthusiasts

12:00 pm: Benefit lunch – Bison burgers catered (All proceeds will go directly to the Bison restoration project)

10:00 am – 5:00 pm: Living history exhibitors (tentatively scheduled are: Bison hunter, Native American, Frontier days, Buffalo Soldier and Period Army camps)

Vendors will be on hand with products relating to bison and the bison industry. Other activities include: horse rides, wagon rides, and a sponsored trail ride. Mark it on your calendar. This is a once in a lifetime event.

**Directions:** The Park is 3.5 miles north of State Highway 86 in Quitaque on FM 1065.

**Latitude** (degrees, minutes, seconds) N: °34 '24 48.31" **Longitude** (degrees, minutes, second) W: °101 '03 32.54". For more information about Caprock Canyons State Park, see [http://tpwd.state.tx.us/spdest/findadest/parks/caprock\\_canyons/](http://tpwd.state.tx.us/spdest/findadest/parks/caprock_canyons/).



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**Colorado Bend State Park Friends Host Fall Festival and Bluegrass Jam October 15**

The fun begins in the park located west of Lampasas, with "Pickin" starting at 9:00 am. A concert by Dueling Hearts & special guests starts at 2:00 pm. The Entrance Fee is \$4 for ages 13 and up. Be sure to bring your camera!

In addition to this special event, Colorado Bend State Park offers a diversity of activities everyday, including:

**Crawling Cave Tours:** Colorado Bend is known for having caves! Cave tours will be offered to those interested. The cost is a suggested donation of \$30 or more per person. Each tour will accommodate up to 10 people. If you would like to sign up for a cave tour, call the park office at 325-628-3240 and reserve a spot. If the tours are full, there will be a waiting list in case of a cancellation. Chances are that those on the waiting list will be able to get in on a cave tour if in the park that day. All donations go directly to support Colorado Bend State Park.

**Hike to Gorman Spring and Gorman Falls:** See where the falls begin with a hike to Gorman Spring. Then hike down to see Gorman Falls, one of the most photographed places in Texas!

**Hike Spicewood Springs Trail:** This is a very scenic hiking trail with small waterfalls, travertine, and several creek crossings.

**Mountain Bike up to 20 Miles of Trail!** The trail building project is in its 4th year! Bring your bike (or your feet!) and check out what has been built. If you would like to get in on helping to build the trails visit with a staff member about joining the crew!

**Fishing:** Colorado Bend is on the Colorado River and fishing is a favorite pastime for visitors.

**Kayaking:** Rent a kayak for a donation and check out the views from the river!

**History:** Colorado Bend State Park, a 5328.3-acre facility, is located west of Lampasas in San Saba and Lampasas counties. The park site was purchased partly in 1984, with the balance acquired in 1987; the park was subsequently opened in 1987. The park is located on the Colorado River at the former sites of the Gorman and Lemons Ranches above Lake Buchanan near Bend, Texas. For

information on volunteer opportunities at Colorado Bend State Park contact the park, 325/628-324, or go to the [Friends of Colorado Bend website](#).

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**Water Recreation Still a Good Bet to Beat the Heat; Drought Threatens Fish, Wildlife, Parks**

As experts nervously watch mounting threats of record drought in Texas, several truths are evident: (1) when water won't fall from the sky, what comes out of the ground is critical, (2) there are important things people can do to prepare to weather a drought, but when you're in one the only quick fix is rain and (3) there are still parks, lakes and spring-fed rivers with water where folks can beat the dry heat.

Water recreation continues to lure Texans to rivers, lakes, spring-fed swimming holes, and **state parks with water features**, air-conditioned cabins and the like. State Parks with constant-level lakes have seen an increase in visitation. Texas is blessed with marvelous spring-fed rivers, which are crowded with paddlers and tubers. However, low lake levels and stream flows have made recreational access difficult. Many boat ramps have closed as water levels decrease. Boaters who do manage to launch sometimes find a smaller surface area, and safety becomes a concern as lakes get crowded and hazards such as trees and sand bars are exposed.

What's on my mind is with continued lack of rainfall we could see impacts on fish and wildlife that could be apparent for years to come," said Cindy Loeffler, Texas Parks and Wildlife Department's top water resource expert. "That's based on reports from our wildlife biologists on poor recruitment of young of the year, very poor available food such as mast for deer and bugs for birds to eat, not to mention lack of drinking water. With fish, when you see these historically low levels of stream flows, we begin to see fish kills from low dissolved oxygen and high temperature." Click on **Drought Threatens Fish, Wildlife, Parks in Texas** for more on water issues.

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**Remember to send e-mail or address changes to [leevans@texas.net](mailto:leevans@texas.net) to continue to receive news and information about park events and other issues impacting the State Park System.** . If you have news or an event you would like to include, send it to [leevans@texas.net](mailto:leevans@texas.net).

**Texans for State Parks Board of Directors**

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Emailed 7-29: TfSP Board of Directors; TfSP - Climbers; TfSP - Caprock Partners Foundation; TfSP - Pks Partners; Galveston SP, Inc.; TfSP Friends; TfSP Texas Volkssport Association Kittinger; TfSP-Central Texas Climbing Committee; TfSP-Friends of Bright Leaf; TfSP-Friends of Garner; TfSP Members; TfSP Members, P&W; State Park Regional Offices



*Citizens working to preserve and enhance the state park system for the benefit of the people of Texas and their guests.*

**PLEASE JOIN TODAY!**

**TEXANS FOR STATE PARKS** invites you to join with us in protecting our Texas treasures. Whether you are an individual, organization, school group or represent a small business or a major corporation, membership categories provide a way for you to become involved. A membership application is included below. For more information about Texans for State Parks, see [www.texansstateparks.org](http://www.texansstateparks.org).

<i>Individuals</i>	<i>Organizations</i>	<i>Business</i>
___\$25 Regular	___\$50 Bronze	___\$100 Bronze
___\$50 Family	___\$100 Silver	___\$500 Silver
___\$100 Supporting	___\$250 Gold	___\$1,000 Gold
___\$1,000 Benefactor	___\$1,000 Platinum	___\$5,000 Platinum
___\$5,000 Life	___\$25 Youth Groups under age 18	

\$ \_\_\_\_\_ **Additional Donation**

\$ \_\_\_\_\_ **Total Amount Enclosed**

**Please note:** New Member \_\_\_\_\_ Membership Renewal \_\_\_\_\_

**Name** \_\_\_\_\_ **Address** \_\_\_\_\_

**City** \_\_\_\_\_ **State** \_\_\_\_\_ **Zip** \_\_\_\_\_ **Phone (H)** \_\_\_\_\_ **(Bs)** \_\_\_\_\_

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**Do you wish to receive TfSP E-news?** \_\_\_\_\_ **Yes** \_\_\_\_\_ **No**

**I don't have e-mail. Please put me on a list to receive e-news items by mail.** \_\_\_\_\_

**Texans for State Parks is a 501(c)(3) organization; membership dues are tax deductible.**

**Mail your check with this form today to:**

**Texans for State Parks – P. O. Box 41480 - Austin, TX 78704-0025**

**Goals**

- *Provide a united, state-wide voice for users of state parks and related groups on park matters of shared concerns.*
- *Serve as an information resource for interested persons on state park matters.*
- *Educate park users, legislators and the general public about state park matters.*
- *Support stable and adequate financing for the state park system.*
- *Work in partnership with local state park support groups and other interested groups on state park matters.*
- *Advise the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department and Commission on State-wide matters of importance to state park users and related groups.*

