



Mission

The Mission of Texans for State Parks is to preserve and enhance the State Park System for the benefit of the people of Texas and their guests.

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Texans for State Parks

Citizens working to preserve and enhance our great state park system

The Voice

July, 2010

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From the President: New Feature Now on TfSP Website

A new "Featured Park" section was added to the TfSP website earlier this year. A different park will be featured each quarter with a short write-up and photographs. On line now, see Fort Richardson State Park and Historic Site, and Lost Creek Reservoir.

The Featured Park has recently been joined by our Featured Friends Group currently featuring The Friends of San Angelo State Park. See <http://www.texasstateparks.org/> to learn more about San Angelo State Park and the Friends of San Angelo.

Look forward to meeting the Friends of Palmetto State Park beginning in August.

The Friends of Palmetto hosts a 2 week summer camp every year. The camp, held during the first two weeks in June, is the main fund raiser for the group.

The F.O.P. group has recently purchased a cabin for the park as a rental unit, adding to the park's amenities.



See www.texasstateparks.org for more photos and information about Palmetto State Park and the Friends of Palmetto.

If you would like to nominate a Friends Group to be featured on the Texans for State Parks website, send an email to me at cobbfarm@airmail.net.

John Cobb, President

Texans for State Parks Board of Directors Meet

The TfSP board of directors held their 3rd quarterly meeting met in Austin Saturday, July 24. Business included welcoming

two new directors, Barbara McKnight and Ken Pollard to fill out terms for directors who vacated due to business or family reasons.

Barbara is a TfSP member and a member of Texas Equestrian Trail Riders Association. She has been a long time member and director with TETRA and has served as secretary and president. As a member of TETRA Barbara has worked with Texas Parks and Wildlife representing trail riding interests in Texas, first opening and constructing equestrian trails in State Parks and with Outreach Rides with support of TPWD. In recent years TETRA has produced events in connection with the TPWD/THC Buffalo Soldiers Living History Division. Barbara has a career teaching both at the High Schools and the University of Houston – Victoria. Although she lived in Victoria County for many years, Barbara has moved back to her roots in Erath County and now lives in Stephenville.

Ken Pollard has recently retired from TPWD where he has a long career including Regional Supervisor for the TPWD State Parks Division. Ken grew up in Lampasas and worked in several parks around the state before moving to Austin and continuing his career with outdoor educational programs about the Buffalo Soldiers, Vaqueros, Frontier Women, American Indians and other cultural groups in Texas. Capt. Ken Pollard was the Commanding Officer and Chaplain for the Texas Buffalo Soldiers Regiment composed of a statewide network of Buffalo

Soldiers, Black Cowboys, Mexican Cowboys, European Cowboys, American Indians, Frontier Women and other cultural groups from across Texas. Throughout his career with Parks and Wildlife and the Buffalo Soldier program, Ken has been involved in numerous outreach and educational programs and has won extensive recognition and awards for his efforts.

Other business included a follow-up on the progress of goals set out during the March planning meeting. The legislative committee reported on their work with Parks and Wildlife and Texas Conservation Coalition in preparation for the coming legislative session. At this point the impact of the State's budget shortfall on parks is still unknown. Texans for State parks will continue to monitor the budget actions and continue to educate the public about the economic benefits the parks bring to communities where they're located.

As discussed during the planning meeting, the By-Laws will be amended to set a specific date for election of officers instead of 'floating' with the date of the annual meeting. Other business included updating the brochure, setting dates for the last quarterly meeting and the 2011 and 2012 annual meetings.

The 2011 Annual Member's meeting is tentatively set for February 6 in Austin, pending confirmation of a meeting place. Notices will be sent to members as soon as the date and location is confirmed.

The board thanks President Emeritus Beth McDonald for providing a conference room and a working lunch!

The Voice Online Readers Respond to Survey

A few weeks ago I sent out an e-mail survey with some questions about The Voice Online, and I appreciate the feedback from all of those who responded. The questions included whether a direct e-mail or a PDF attachment to an e-mail was preferable, as well as the format, and information readers like to see in the newsletter.

The respondents overwhelmingly preferred to receive their newsletter as a direct e-mail rather than an attachment, and because the column format sometimes 'shifts' in an e-mail, we will continue to send the e-news as a plain e-mail, especially for those of you like to copy parts of the news to use in other publications. However, a PDF version in the column format will be posted on the website for those of you who want to print it in the 'newspaper' format for easier reading, or to share with others interested in the parks. For those of you reading in the e-mail, it's best to select print layout in the View selection on your e-mail menu. Otherwise, photos and some formatting may not be visible in the proper layout.

If you have news to share with other 'Voice' readers, or comments about what type information you'd like included,

you're always welcome to contact me.

Linda Evans, News & Administration,
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World Birding Center in Mission Threatened by Rio Grande Flood Waters

Bentsen-Rio Grande Valley State Park staff, along with volunteers, spent the weekend scrambling to secure park buildings south of the levee at the World Birding Center headquarters near Mission from encroaching Rio Grande flood waters. Assistant park superintendent Jennifer Hall received unexpected help from local Rotarian and park supporter Steve Chung, who called on business contacts in Michigan to send portable coffer dams to surround and protect the park's Nature Center. Bentsen staff, Chung and several Boy Scouts from local troops spent Sunday installing the coffer dam to protect the Nature Center, which used to serve as the park headquarters before new WBC facilities were built north of the levee. A smaller set of coffer dams being supplied by Dam It Dams should arrive at the park midweek to be installed around the park residence, which also sits south of the levee that bisects the park and is subject to flooding. Local game wardens with boats last week helped park staff assess flood damages. The park remains closed due to flooding.

Waters from the flooded Rio Grande last week got within a

couple of feet of the Nature Center, but have receded somewhat since then, Hall said. Flood waters still remain about 10 feet from the building. The park's maintenance shop, whose equipment was moved almost two weeks ago to higher ground, remains flooded.

A Flood Advisory from the National Weather Service remains in effect for the extreme southwest and south portions of Hidalgo County, where Bentsen State Park is located. High water levels are expected along the lower Rio Grande this week as releases of flood waters from Falcon Reservoir continue. Most communities just upriver and downriver of the state park remain under voluntary evacuation orders.

Full Slate of Repair Projects to Commence at Bastrop State Park

A host of major repair and renovation projects are set to start Aug. 1 at Bastrop State Park, and while the park will remain open for day use and overnight stays, some cabins and campsites will be temporarily unavailable during construction. In addition, the park's iconic dining hall, built by the CCC of native sandstone and timber, will undergo a modernization of its outdated electrical system. Just down the road, Buescher State Park's popular recreation hall, also built by the CCC more than 70 years ago, is undergoing \$913,000 in renovations.

The park's aging swimming pool and bath house, as well as the golf pro shop, will be also be undergoing improvements in coming months as part of the more than \$2.6 million in repairs and renovations slated for the park, a National Historic Landmark built in the late 1930s by the Civilian Conservation Corps. The pool will close after Labor Day and repairs will begin shortly after. These repairs are slated to be completed by March 31, 2011.

Bastrop State Park, located in the legendary Lost Pines of central Texas 35 miles east of the state capital, draws 150,000 visitors a year to its sylvan setting amid an ancient loblolly pine forest that is home to the endangered Houston toad. In addition to swimming and golf, visitors to the 5,926-acre park enjoy fishing, hiking, picnicking and biking on the 12-mile road joining Bastrop and Buescher state parks. For more about the Bastrop State Park repair projects, click on [Full Slate of Repair Projects to Commence at Bastrop State Park](#).

Upcoming Events in State Parks

July 31, 2010, Copper Breaks SP, Cowboy Poetry: Doc Wood and Hal Newsom return with their award winning show and original Texas poetry. Accessible for the mobility, visually and hearing impaired. 8 p.m.; fee free for Texas State Parks Pass members, \$2 non-members, \$1 senior citizens, free for children 12 and under (940) 839-4331.

July 31, 2010, Goose Island SP, Go Fish!

A Learn-to-Fish Event is for families with children 5 and older. Learn the basics of bay fishing through fun, hands-on activities. Take away a fishing fun pack and enter the drawing for door prizes. Equipment and bait provided or bring your own. Accessible for the mobility impaired. No license necessary. Adults must accompany children. Bring sun protection and water. 9 a.m.-noon (361) 729-2858

July 31, 2010, Government Canyon SNA: Animal Signs

Spend the morning with TPWD Urban Wildlife Biologist Judit Green learning about some of our local Texas wildlife with hands-on activities that will include skins, skulls, tracks and scat. 9 am to 12:00 pm. There is no scheduled hike. This class is for children, but parents are encouraged to attend. Class size is limited to 40. Reservations are required and will be accepted beginning at noon June 31 and ending at noon July 30, 2010. To make your reservations email reservations@friendsofsgc.org. Please include names of each participant, age if under 18, and email address and telephone #. Natural Areas fees apply. (210) 688-9055. Ext 291.

See TPW's complete calendar of events at www.tpwd.state.tx.us/newsmedia/calendar/

Don't forget to send e-mail or other address changes to leevans@texas.net so you will continue to receive news and information about the State Park System.

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.

Please Join Today!!

Individuals

- _____ \$25 Regular
- _____ \$50 Family
- _____ \$100 Supporting
- _____ \$1,000 Benefactor
- _____ \$5,000 Life
- _____ \$25 Youth Groups (under 18, scouts, etc.)

Organizations

- _____ \$50 Bronze
- _____ \$100 Silver
- _____ \$250 Gold
- _____ \$1,000 Platinum

Business

- _____ \$100 Bronze
- _____ \$500 Silver
- _____ \$1,000 Gold
- _____ \$5,000 Platinum

New Membership _____ **Renewal** _____

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State ___ Zip _____

Phone (h) _____ (bs) _____

Email _____

TfSP is a 501(c) (3) organization; Membership dues are tax deductible, as allowed by law.

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