

Fall 2007



Friends' Focus Garner State Park

Rick Myers named GSP Manager

FOG welcomes Rick Myers as the new Garner State Park Manager. Myers took over in September after Park Manager Craig Van Baarle retired effective August 31.

Myers is experienced in the TPW system. He was lead park ranger at Martin Creek State Park (East Texas), manager at Tyler State Park, and, most recently, manager at Inks Lake State Park and Longhorn Caverns (near Austin). Myers began his career with TPW as a Ranger II at Lake Livingston in southeast Texas.

Myers' son, Chase, is serving in the United States Marine Corps in Iraq. Myers and his wife Suzy have a 2-year old daughter named Liberty.

FOG members welcome the Myers family to Garner State Park.



Rick Myers, Garner State Park Manager



(L-R): Rick Myers took over the reins as Manager of Garner State Park when Craig Van Baarle retired effective August 31.

TPW News- VIPs tour Garner; funds allocated for improvements

Texas Parks & Wildlife (TPW) VIP personnel visited Garner on October 15, 2007. Peter Holt, Chairman of the Parks Commission, Walt Dabney, Deputy Director of Parks, Bill Granberry, Region VII Director and Jimmy Rodriguez, Regional Maintenance Specialist toured the park. Rick Meyers, David Allen and Hy Rabon represented Garner.

After viewing the Cypress Springs buildings and area they were treated to a very nice lunch provided by **FOG** and prepared by Suzie Meyers and Lisa Fitzsimmons.

TPW has allotted funds for tree pruning and ball moss removal starting with Pecan Grove in 2008. New restrooms will also replace

old restrooms in Pecan Grove and Oakmont at Rock Beach. Restroom #6 in Shady Meadows near vendor sites will be renovated in 2007-2008. 1.3 million dollars has been allocated to refurbish the cabins in 2009. A new entrance sign was installed, and new glass covered bulletin boards will be in place at some restrooms by next summer.

Friends of Garner State Park Mission Statement:

"The Friends of Garner State Park will solicit members and resources to exclusively support Garner State Park programs in preservation and management of environmental, historical, and cultural resources for the use and enjoyment of present and future generations."

Craig Van Baarle retires 8/31

Craig Van Baarle retired after 33 years of service with Texas Parks and Wildlife.

He began his career with TPW as a college student working at San Jacinto Monument Battleground. He served at numerous state parks before coming to Garner from Sea Rim in Port Arthur. Craig came to Garner as the Assistant Manager then advanced to Manager when Jim Wilson retired three years ago.

The office staff (Lisa Fitzsimmons and Kerry Sanchez) put together quite a party for Craig's retirement.

Craig and wife Kathy will travel and work as park hosts at parks across the United States.



(L-R) Craig, Kathy, and Thomas Van Baarle



Lisa Fitzsimmons and Kerry Sanchez



2007-2008

FOG Officers

President – Hy Rabon

Vice President - George Foshee

Secretary – Mary Ann Abbott

Treasurer – Judy Underbrink

Board Members

Frank Roberts

Chuck Wilks

Mark Manglburger

George Streib

Brent Kinard

David Hassell

Rick Meyers – Park Representative

Board Notes: FOG board votes to hire Visitor Center workers

The **FOG** Board voted to hire Gayle Huckaby and Jackie Thomas to work in the Visitor Center Thursday – Sunday. New fall and winter hours are 9 AM to 3 PM.

The Board also voted to hire Jan Donovan as manager of the Visitor Center. Jan will be responsible for ordering and stocking the Center and for seeing that it runs smoothly. Jan and Pat Donovan spent the summer (June through September) hosting at Garner and did a fantastic job.



(L-R) Jan and Pat Donovan worked as Park Hosts during the summer at Garner. Jan was elected to manage the Visitor Center by the **FOG** Board. Thanks to Jan and Pat for their dedication to Garner and all their assistance to **FOG!**

FOG sends wishes for a speedy recovery to Chuck & Eunice Wilks

FOG members Chuck and Eunice Wilks were injured in a motorcycle accident in Austin on November 27. They regularly rode their motorcycle from Austin to Garner for **FOG** meetings.

Chuck suffered broken ribs and numerous internal injuries, and Eunice sustained a broken collar bone in the

wreck. Chuck has been in an Austin hospital in ICU since the accident occurred.

Because Chuck is normally responsible for emailing our newsletters, this edition will go out by regular mail instead while he is recuperating in the hospital.

Our best wishes for a speedy recovery go out to Chuck and Eunice. They are

valuable **FOG** members and have worked on many projects that help make Garner a better place to visit.

Chuck is shown on page three helping George Foshee in the Frio during the Friends of the Frio River clean up, and Eunice is pictured on page four helping with the spaghetti dinner.

FOG turned out for Friends of the Frio "River Clean Up"

FOG had a good turnout for Friends of the Frio "River Clean Up" on September 7. The weather was beautiful and the river exceptionally pretty. Thanks to all who volunteered to help in this annual clean up effort.

There was not as much trash as usual, probably due to the many river rises caused by the rain in the summer.



By-the-way, for all of you who camped in the rain this summer- we have not had rain

September through November. This kind of weather makes for great fall camping, so come back and enjoy the park again this time of year.



What a crew! We appreciate everyone who came out to help FOG with the annual Friends of the Frio "River Clean Up." It's a great cause, and your help is invaluable.



The Frio River clean up crew enjoyed a free ride back from Magers bridge on the FOG hayride trailer.



New Garner State Park sign



Chuck Wilks gives George Foshee a hand in the swift, slick Frio river during the river clean up.

399 riders take part in Texas River Region Bicycle Classic



Bicyclists get an early start for the Texas River Region Bicycle Classic.

The Texas River Region Bicycle Classic was a great success with 399 bicycle riders. The biggest concern was all the construction on Real and Uvalde County roads, but no serious accidents were reported.

FOG served a spaghetti dinner after the ride and once again received rave reviews. Some were surprised to see a “Five Star Restaurant” with fresh flowers and white tablecloths on the tables. Our menu was wheat or white pasta, homemade vegetarian or meat sauce, Olive Garden-type salad and bread sticks, peach or apple cobbler, and tea, lemonade or water. **FOG** netted \$1900 and a lot of fun.

Thank you to all of our loyal members who continue to come we send out the call for help on events such as this.

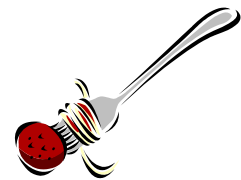


Above: Servers for the spaghetti dinner included Eunice Wilks, Debbie Koehn, Jan Donovan, Mary Ann Abbott, and Karen Gray. Right: Cindy Brown of **FOG** served cobbler at the spaghetti dinner.



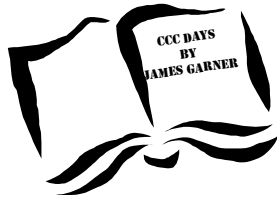
FOG Spaghetti Recipe:

*Boil lots and lots of water, add a whole bunch of pasta; cook until done.
Ladle tons of delicious homemade FOG spaghetti sauce over pasta, have lots of smiling volunteers serve to a group of tired and hungry bicycle riders.
Mix all participants well and have a great time!*



Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) Happenings

Mr. James Garner, who worked for the Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) at Garner as a boy, has written a book about his life and work in the CCC. **FOG** hopes to have this very interesting book printed and for sale in the Visitor Center for around \$5.



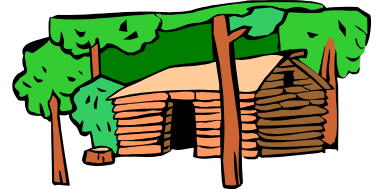
FOG will serve breakfast to CCC veterans attending the State gathering at CCC 75th reunion at Bastrop State Park (March 28-28). If you live in the Bastrop area come on out and meet these fine men. Bastrop State Park is located approximately 30 miles southeast of Austin in Bastrop County.

According to the TPWD calendar, there will be stone masonry and woodworking demonstrations during the event.

The reunion is open to any CCC worker, family members, researchers, and "...anyone else who has been touched by the legacy these great men have left for us to enjoy," says the TPWD website.

If you know of a CCC worker, wherever he may have worked, who has not given his oral history, please contact Frank Roberts at 830-232-6232, Ext. 236.

The reunion will run from 1-8p.m. on Friday, March 28 and from 7:30a.m.-8p.m. on Saturday, March 29 at Bastrop State Park. For information, please call (512) 389-4665 or (512) 321-2101.



Something for everyone at the FOG Visitor Center



The **FOG** Visitor Center has many items of interest for sale— from t-shirts and games to books and maps and much more. We feature books by local authors like our own award-winning cowboy poet Linda Kirkpatrick, wildflower guidebooks, and books about local animals and history. Our stock changes all the time so there is always something new and interesting to purchase.

Be sure to stop by and pay us a visit next time you are camping. If you live locally, stop by and shop any time. Remember, **FOG** members receive a 20% discount!

New fall and winter hours are 9a.m.-3p.m. Thursday—Sunday.

FOG notes and news of note

- A big THANK YOU to Kelly and David Johnson of Lake Jackson for their \$500 donation to **FOG**. Many thanks to Kelly and David for their continued support of **FOG**.



C. J. Smith never missed a hayride when he was camping at Garner. In the summer of 2007, C. J. also made the complete hike on his on. He is shown here with Diane Foshee beside the hayride trailer.



- Wedding bells rang for **FOG** member John Bird. He and Donna (a longtime friend of he and Sally) were married on October 27, 2007. Congratulations to John and Donna.

- **FOG** Treasurer Judy Underbrink now has a connection in Leakey. Her daughter, Jennifer Pigg, is the Vocational Agriculture teacher at Leakey High School. Jennifer's husband, Joel, is the Real County Agent. They have twin boys.



- Linda Kirkpatrick of our Sunset Serenade came home from the National Cowboy Poetry Rodeo in Hot Springs, South Dakota with a trophy and a monetary award. She won high point in her division, and was the only woman that won an award. For her competition she recited several poems including *Round Up Time*, *Cup Full of Memories*, and *Man Who Rides No More*. Congratulations, Linda! You made us proud!



Garner Work Day weekend rescheduled for February 15-18

The annual **FOG** work weekend has been changed this year due to a schedule conflict. The Park will be closed over the Martin Luther King weekend for a youth Axis hunt.

The work day weekend has been rescheduled for February 15-18, 2007, which is President's Day weekend. Park Superintendent Rick Meyers assures us this will not happen next year.

We have a lot of work to do, so please mark your calendars for February 15-18 and come and help during this weekend.



FOG extends condolences on death of park host Tommy Sowders

FOG has lost another longtime friend and Park Host with the death of Tommy Sowders in August 2007. Tommy and wife Ettie have helped with trail work, hayrides, work days and the Suburban Reunion. Tommy was a camping friend to everyone and will certainly be missed. Our condolences go out to Ettie and the family.

LEAVE A LASTING IMPRESSION AT **GARNER STATE PARK**

Monogrammed Brick Campaign

Sponsored by: Friends of Garner State Park
234 RR 1050
Concan, Texas 78838
Make check payable to and send to
a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization at <http://www.friendsofgarner.com>

CONTACT INFORMATION
 Polly Royer - Brick Chairperson
 830-537-3125

Please print legibly

NAME: _____
 ADDRESS: _____
 City/State/Zip: _____
 Phone #: _____
 Email: _____

PAYMENT METHOD
 Cash
 Check #
 Charge

Number of Bricks _____ X \$50.00 = _____
 \$25 FOG Membership for *\$20.00 = _____
 (*Special discount w/brick order)
 Total Amount of Order/Enclosed= _____

INSTRUCTIONS: One character per space
 3/4" letters - maximum of three lines with 11 spaces

Line 1											
Line 2											
Line 3											

3/4" Brick = \$50

5/8" letters - maximum of four lines with 15 spaces

Line 1														
Line 2														
Line 3														
Line 4														

5/8" Brick = \$50

1/2" letters - maximum of four lines with 18 spaces

Line 1																	
Line 2																	
Line 3																	
Line 4																	

1/2" Brick=\$50

Please allow 6 months for installation in the median outside the entrance to the park headquarters.

Updated 6/1/2007

Friends' Focus



Friends' of Garner State Park
234 RR 1050
Concan, TX 78838
830-232-5999

Renew your FOG membership now!

MEMBERSHIP DUES FOR ALL FOG MEMBERS ARE DUE IN MARCH. \$25 FOR A FAMILY MEMBERSHIP. PLEASE NOTE IF YOU WANT YOUR COPY MAILED OR EMAILED. REMEMBER, THIS ALSO ENTITLES YOU TO A 20% DISCOUNT WHEN YOU SHOP AT THE VISITOR CENTER.

I WANT TO BE A FRIEND OF GARNER STATE PARK– SIGN ME UP!

Annual membership dues \$25

Mail to: Friends of Garner, 234 RR 1050, Concan, TX 78838

Name: _____

Mailing Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

E-Mail: _____