

March 2009



Friends' Focus- Garner State Park

Exciting projects planned for Garner 2009-10

WOW!! What exciting news! For years we have been saying Garner is the most popular park in the State, yet it gets less money for repairs and upgrades. Well, Garner has come into her own for 2009 and 2010, with many exciting, wonderful projects taking place. Yes, there will be inconvenience, but progress doesn't happen without some inconvenience.

TPWD approves \$ for projects

Rick Myers, Garner State Park Superintendent reports that the following projects are planned- these are not just wishes, they have already been approved and the money designated by the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department (TPWD).

- **Cabins:**

The cabins will be completely renovated- painted, stonework and rock repaired, new roofs put on- and all furniture will be replaced. The new wood furniture will be copies of that originally made by the Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC). As the furniture is completed, it will be delivered and put in- new beds and mattresses will come first. (For instance, all the dressers will be made and delivered. Next, tables and chairs will follow, etc.) The old furniture will be stored in a huge warehouse in Austin. The proposal also includes air conditioning and heat for the cabins. A kiosk will be placed in each cabin



telling about the history of the CCC in the park. (If you have visited the cabins at Bastrop State Park, the renovations at Garner will be very similar.)

Park Superintendent Meyers hopes to have all the furniture in and complete the project by August 2010.

- **Shelters:**

The shelters will also be refurbished with new roofs, painted and new sidewalks. One shelter in Oakmont and one in Pecan Grove will be made ADA accessible.

Water lines, faucets & electrical work

The Live Oak restroom has been painted and remodeled. The construction contract has been awarded for the installation of new water lines and faucets in Live Oak. Electrical boxes will be upgraded to 50 AMPS. This work is due to be completed by May 22, 2009.

(Continued on page 5)

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."

Pavilion area clean-up looks great; Chuck- not so much!



FOG member Chuck Wilks and friends cleaned up the Pavilion, and took down the unsightly fence behind the “Crows Nest” in the lower part of the Pavilion.

This opens up the view from the Pavilion and beautifies the whole area.

Unfortunately, Chuck got an awful case of poison ivy while working on the project.

We appreciate Chuck’s great sacrifice, and send out a big “thanks” to him and to all who helped with this clean-up.

Garner bulletin board- news of note...

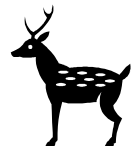
• More tree trimming planned

- \$50,000 has been allocated to do more tree trimming in the cabin area, Pavilion area, and to start on Oakmont. Tree work is very expensive- \$75,000 has been spent to date.



• Axis/White tale deer hunt successful

- Approximately 65 Whitetail deer and 110 Axis deer were taken.



• Trailer ordered for maintenance department

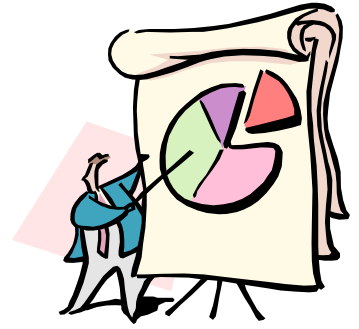
- A new double axel tandem trailer has been ordered for our maintenance department. Park Superintendent Rick Meyers says they spend a lot of time going from the maintenance shed and back to the work site, and gas also, because the park is so spread out. The new trailer will hold all their tools and construction stock. It can be pulled to each site where work is going on, which will save time and also make access to the tools needed for the job more convenient for the maintenance personnel.



FOG general meeting news; thanks to TPWD for Rick Meyers

On Tuesday March 10, 2009 three board members will meet to audit the FOG books, in accordance with the by-laws. On Wednesday March 11, 2009 the board will meet to nominate officers for 2009-2010. The time and place for the election will be decided at the board meeting. Call George Foshee (830-232-5789) for details if you are interested in attending.

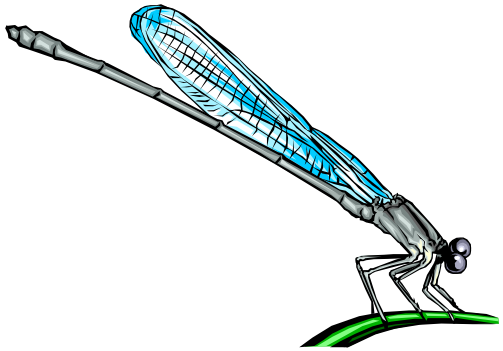
We are so thankful and appreciative to TPWD for sending Rick Meyers as our superintendent. Rick is outstanding, enthusiastic, and very dedicated to improving Garner and assuring that it is the very best park possible.



Nature Quest scheduled for April 21-26

Nature Quest will once again be headquartered at the Day Use Shelter in Shady Meadows. They present a wonderful educational informative seminar with local trips to look at wildflowers and birds, and even possibly a dragonfly search. For more information please visit the Texas Hill Country River Region website at THCRR.com.

FOG will prepare and serve a spaghetti dinner to participants on Tuesday April 21. After dinner, the Sunset Serenade will perform. Dinner will be served in the Day Use Shelter. The site for the performance has not yet been determined. FOG expects to serve between 100-150 people, so we will need some help. Please contact Diane Foshee at 830-232-5789 to volunteer.



Local rancher recounts area drought history

Lanny Leinweber, a local rancher whose parents bought their ranch here when he was just three weeks old, reports that the drought this year is the worst that he can recall.

When asked about the seven-year drought in the 50's, Lanny reported that it did rain some then, and it was measurable- sometimes 3" sometimes 5" with long dry spells in between.



Benches purchased for playground

Memorial donations sent in for FOG members who are deceased have been used to purchase benches for the children's playground. This will give parents a place to sit while watching their children play. There will be memorial plaques on the benches. The benches arrived in February and are slated to be installed by spring break.

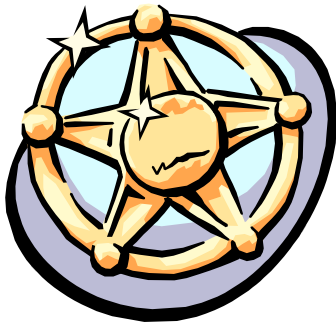
Rainbow trout released into the Frio

Texas Parks and Wildlife Department Fish Hatcheries Division released 2400 Rainbow Trout into the Frio River in January and February. 1200 were released each month.

The release was advertised in local newspapers and radio stations, and the publicity brought out a small number of onlookers.



Brian Riedel joins Garner law enforcement staff



On March 9, 2009 Brian Riedel from Utopia Texas will have completed his law enforcement training with TPWD, and will become one of the Garner staff.

Brian has been a security officer at Galveston State Park and San Antonio Parks System. We are very pleased to welcome Brian just in time for spring break.

Garner publicity attracts visitors

From September, 2007 to August 2008 Garner had 325,300 visitors. Historically, once people discover camping and tubing and all the other fun Garner has to offer, they return year after year.

FOG is pleased to announce that TPWD has produced a new film about Garner that is sure to draw even more visitors who have yet to "discover" our beautiful park. It covers the "Fuentes Family Fourth" of July at Garner, and will be shown locally on PBS on March 29 at 1:00 p.m. For even more publicity, Garner State Park will have a new website by mid-April, 2009. Stay tuned!

I love camping at Garner State Park! Y'all will, too!



TPWD- big plans for Garner (continued)

(Continued from page 1)

The Persimmon Hill restroom also has been remodeled and this area will be open for spring break. Restroom #10 at Rock Beach will be replaced. It will be similar to the Oakmont restroom without showers, but not the same as the new restrooms at Pecan Grove and River Crossing .

Rock to be re-mortared and repaired

The rock wells around the trees at the pavilion dance floor and surrounding area will be repointed.

Some of the stonework in this area is in very bad shape, with loose and crumbling mortar. Any damage to rocks in this area will be repaired. This work will not only improve the look of the rocks, but will also make the pavilion area safer for the dancers and all Garner visitors.

FOG is so pleased about all these projects. We hope the many needed improvements will result in making Garner an even better experience for long-time and new park visitors for years to come.

Interpretive branch of TPWD assists with trailhead plans

Frank Roberts, Interpretative Specialist for Garner, is working on a trailhead project with the Interpretive branch of the TPWD. Bids are being taken for construction of five trailhead entrances. It has not been decided if they will be rock arches, or made of wood.

There will also be kiosks that will tell the history of the park and the CCC trails, what you will see, what to expect on the trail, suggestions of what you need to hike the trail, where you are in relation to the park, and a box for trail maps.

Planning and taking bids will occur in 2009, and the project is scheduled for completion in 2010.

Bridge at River Crossing to be replaced

The Texas Department of Transportation (TXDOT) is surveying the river area in River Crossing camping area for a new bridge across the Frio River. This will enable the park to establish a day use area across the river. The bridge will be a low water crossing and will not have culverts.

This project will cost 1.3 million dollars and is not due to be completed before 2010.



Friends' Focus



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

FOG Officers

President – Hy Rabon
Vice President - George Foshee
Secretary – Mary Ann Abbott
Treasurer – Dawn Bell
Park Representative: Rick Meyers
Interpretive Ranger: Frank Roberts
Membership Chair: Jackie Thomas

Board Members

Chuck Wilks
Mark Manglbürger
George Streib
Brent Kinard
David Hassell
Dub Suttle

FOG MEMBERSHIP DUES: \$25 FOR A FAMILY MEMBERSHIP. PLEASE NOTE IF YOU WANT YOUR NEWSLETTER MAILED OR EMAILED. MEMBERSHIP ENTITLES YOU TO A 20% DISCOUNT WHEN YOU SHOP AT THE VISITOR CENTER.

I AM A FRIEND OF GARNER STATE PARK– THIS MAKES IT OFFICIAL!

(Annual Dues \$25) Check here if Renewal Check here if new membership

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

Name: _____

Mailing Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

E-Mail: _____

Ph: _____

Check here to receive your newsletter by E-Mail at the address you've indicated.