

July 2009



Friends' Focus-

Garner State Park

FOG stalwarts honored by Frio Canyon Chamber

Garner State Park Interpretative Ranger, Frank Roberts, was voted citizen of the year by the Frio Canyon Chamber of Commerce. Many FOG members attended the Chamber banquet where the award was presented. This is a prestigious honor given once a year, and FOG is proud that Frank was chosen as the recipient this year.

At the Frio Canyon Chamber of Commerce banquet, FOG also honored Linda Kirkpatrick, Joe Wells and Frank Roberts as outstanding members of FOG for 2009. This trio's performance is known as the 'Sunset Serenade.' They have been thrilling our Tuesday and Thursday night FOG hayride guests since we began the hayrides in 1997. They are very talented, and we cannot thank them enough for all they do to represent FOG, Garner State Park, and the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department (TPWD).



(Above Left): Frank Roberts accepts Citizen of the Year award from FOG President, David Hassell.

(Above Right): FOG members enjoying Chamber Banquet include Mary Ann Abbott, Secretary; Tom Bell, member; Dawn Bell, Treasurer. The Bell hiking trail is named for Tom and Dawn Bell.



(Left): Frank, Joe, and Linda perform during the Frio Canyon Chamber banquet. Joe Wells, Frank Roberts, and Linda Kirkpatrick received Sunset Serenade award from FOG as outstanding members.

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."

Visitor Center has new manager and new CCC book



Linda Kirkpatrick is the new manager of the FOG Visitors Center. Linda has been involved with the Visitor Center since it was opened, and has ordered the books for many years. Stop by to say Hello and buy a book or t-shirt!



Rick Meyers, James L. Garner, and David Hassell



James L. Gamer has written a book about his life in the Civil Conservation Corps (CCC) titled, 'Two Years at Gamer State Park with the CCC.' Mr. Garner signed the contract with FOG President David Hassell giving FOG permission to sell the book in our Visitors Center. The book sells for \$7.50, so be sure to stop by and get a copy and learn more about the historical times and the men who built Garner and many other State Parks. James L. Gamer is 89 years old and is a delight!

TPWD purchased Baldy; trails will be reworked

Garner State Park Manager, Rick Meyers reports that Texas Parks and Wildlife has purchased Baldy! This purchase includes 192 acres.

The Crystal Cave trail will be reworked and made safe by Parc Smith and Job Corps workers in September. They will appreciate any additional help FOG can give. The exact date is to be announced, so watch for an email on these dates.

Marie Chatfield, granddaughter of George and Diane Foshee, was available to guide hikes, and narrated a hayride down to the river, telling the history of the acquisition of the Streib family ranch, which is known to many as "new Garner." Thanks also to hiking guides Jim O'Dell, Brent Kinard, and Frank Roberts. Hikes have gone very well this year.



Spaghetti dinner served to Nature Quest participants

On April 21, 2009 FOG served a "mini" spaghetti dinner for the River Region Nature Quest attendees. Nature Quest is an opportunity to come and study nature in the Hill Country. Wildflowers, butterflies, birds, etc. are among the seminars offered. We have a great time working for them with



Nature Quest, as well as the annual Bicycle Classic each fall. The Classic will be held October 10 this year.

Area drought history confirmed by locals & park visitors

Frio River - very low . . . Temperature - very hot

In a previous newsletter, we reported a native Real County citizen as saying this is the worst drought he has experienced. Now, many local citizens are vocalizing the same feelings. Temperatures have been 100+ for several weeks and we lose depth and width in the Frio daily. However, the river is still the most popular place to "cool off."



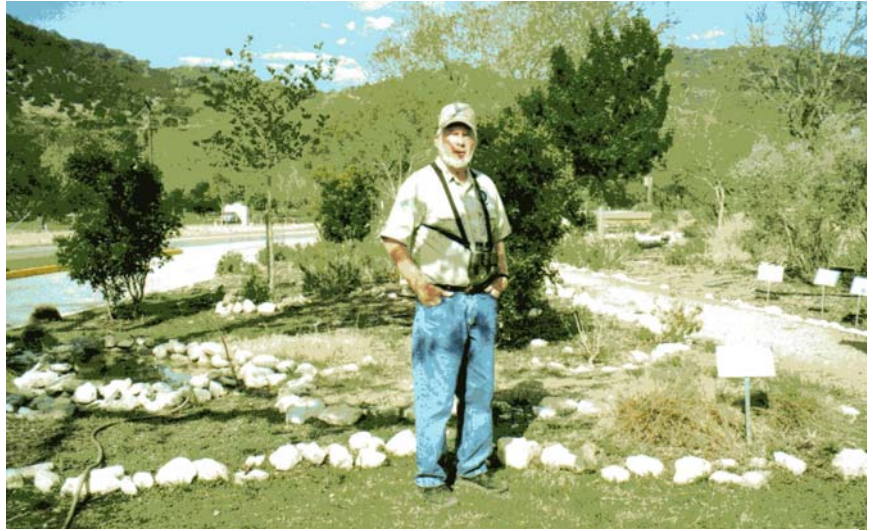
Donovan's renew wedding vows

Jan and Pat Donovan renewed their wedding vows in a beautiful setting at the Enchanted Garden near Texas City. Many of you will know Pat as the hiking guide and hayride narrator and Jan as our former Visitor's Center manager and serving hayride refreshments. They are both back at their jobs in Texas City working full time.



Summer at Garner means, visitors; need for park hosts

Summer volunteer and park host participation has been very slim this summer. We do not have the answer to this problem, but the park depends upon volunteers for most of our summer activities. Some FOG members who were here enjoying their vacations came to our aid, especially with hayrides. Youth FOG members were also helpful. Blake Harvey, fourth generation from the Wahl family, narrated some hayrides. Blake's grandfather, Frank Wahl thrilled and entertained many hayrides with his wonderful stories. Blake was able to once again share many of those stories with us. We had many good comments on Blake's performance. Newcomers to hayrides are Jim and Brenda O'Dell on Tuesdays. Jim and Brenda live in Leakey. Dub and Kathy Suttle and Herschel and Ginger Perkins returned this summer and have done a great job. Thursdays have been David and Cade Clark, Dawn



Birding expert Jim Court also helped out as a park host during the summer.

Bell, Chuck and Eunice Wilks, Guinn Turner, Blake Harvey, Gale Huckaby and NJ Menchacha. George and Diane Foshee and Tom and Dawn Bell are to be found on most Friday rides. In April and May, we were fortunate to have birding expert Jim Court as one of our park hosts. Jim conducted bird talks at the Visitors Center daily. Jim even

shared two hummingbird nests he had discovered in Shady Meadows and River Crossing. It was a joy to see the nests before and after "the hatch." Garner is in need of park hosts. If you find four weeks free in your schedule please call Frank Roberts at 830-232-6132, Extension 236. Help is especially needed in the summer months.

New basketball goal donated by Clay Boone

A new basketball goal has been donated and installed in Shady Meadows on the concrete slab previously used for concert dances.

Thanks to Park Ranger, Clay Boone who donated the goal so basketball players from River Crossing and Shady

Meadows would not need to drive over the hill to practice basketball.



Plans for Garner cabin restoration on track

Restoration of the cabins is right on track. The plan now is to complete one cabin as a sample. The cabins will have all new plumbing and fixtures. They will be heated and air conditioned and decorated with new furniture that will be replicas of the original CCC furniture. The renovated cabins will rent for around \$125 to \$150 per day.

Rick Meyers was able to purchase a large trailer from FEMA for a very low sum to be used in the maintenance area. The trailer will be located behind the new maintenance building and used for offices. The FEMA stipulation is no one can live in it as a residence for 3 years.



FOG and Garner July 4th parade entries

Garner and FOG had three of the one hundred entries in the July Jubilee Parade in Leakey. Frank Roberts, Citizen of the Year, was at the front of the parade with Linda and Joe in the cab of the truck. David Clark drove the tractor pulling the hayride trailer. FOG members, their children and grandchildren rode on the trailer throwing candy. Happy Hollow's fire truck was driven by Park Manager Rick Meyers. The fire truck is housed at Garner. Rick's wife Suzi and daughter Liberty rode on the truck, along with Ranger Wayne Davis and his son William– with a Dalmatian.



Friends' Focus



Friends' of Garner State Park
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FOG Officers

President – David Hassell
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 Manglburger
George Streib
Brent Kinard
Hy Rabon
Dub Suttle

Thanks to all our volunteers who worked so hard to get us through summer 2009!

Just a Reminder- River clean-up is near. It's always the weekend after Labor day. This year that means Friday, Saturday, and Sunday, September 11, 12, & 13.

River Region Bicycle Classic- Scheduled for October 10— plan on being in the park to help with this event. FOG will provide a spaghetti dinner.

Mark your calendar:

Please mark your 2010 calendars! January 16, 17, and 18, 2010, Martin Luther King holiday weekend, will be our trail work days. The park will be open for us this year. There is much work to be done on the trails.

It has been suggested we close the Bird Trail from White Rock Cave to the top where it joins the Foshee Trail. This section of the Bird Trail has eroded and is very steep, raising concern for safety, especially when coming down the trail.