

Spring 2010



Friends' Focus- Garner State Park

Chuck Wilks named FOG "Volunteer of the Year"

Chuck Wilks, FOG board member-at-large, was selected as FOG's volunteer of the year. Chuck will be honored at the Chamber of Commerce banquet in Leakey on April 10, 2010.

Chuck does so very much to help the park and FOG. He is the cook for the park hunts and organizes the park's section of the annual Frio River Cleanup.

He is the person who keeps you updated via

email on all FOG and park events.

Chuck manages FOG's aluminum can recycling project, which includes hauling the trailer to Austin, San Antonio or Del Rio.

Chuck is also an important part of Trail Work Days and the Spaghetti Dinner FOG serves to the bicyclists in October during the River Region Bicycle Classic. Chuck also does much of

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Chuck Wilks- FOG's Volunteer of the Year- helps with the cooking for a FOG event at Garner State Park.

FOG dedicates Oak tree in memory of George Foshee

Friends gathered at the close of the trail work day on Saturday for a ceremony in memory of long time



FOG member, George Foshee.

Neal and Karen Calvert were in charge of this event. Thanks to them for seeing this through.

Frank Roberts selected a nice size Chinquapin Oak tree for the ceremony, and arranged for it to be

planted behind cabin #1, near the Oakmont Camping area.

Thanks to Frank for making the arrangements for the planting and ceremony. The tree survived the hard freezes, and is budding this week!



(R-L) Neal and Karen Calvert, and Frank Roberts

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."

FOG volunteer of the year- continued

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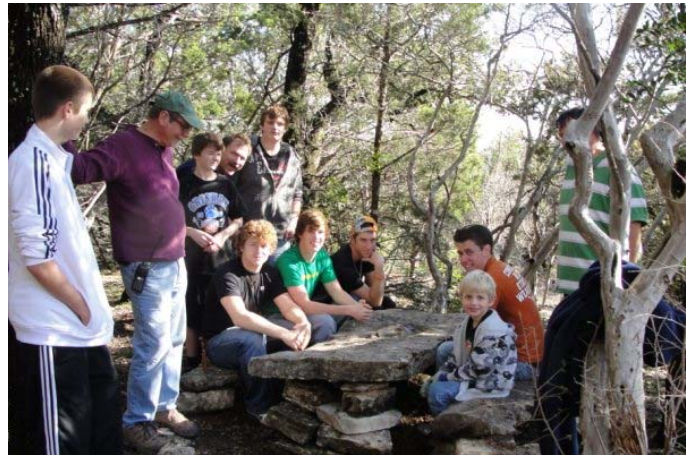
the coke machine stocking. Chuck is from Austin, Texas and owns Chuck's Air Conditioning. He takes care of repairs on our A/C units, ice machines and many, many jobs either FOG or Superintendent Rick Meyer asks him to do. Chuck deserves recognition for the many, many hours he donates to Garner.

Congratulations, Chuck for making Garner a better place to vacation and have fun!

We appreciate all of the volunteers who help support FOG's mission for Garner, and are especially happy to show our appreciation for Chuck, who dedicates so much of his time and effort toward our projects.

2010 Trail Work Days had excellent attendance

There was an excellent turnout for our work days. A good bit of trail and native plant bed work was done. Teams worked on the Nature, Bridges, Campos, Donovan, Bird, Wilks, and Foshee Trails. Vandalism on the Foshee trail was repaired, which included reattaching the top on the "dining table."



Workers replaced the top on the "dining table" on the trail.

The old road was cleared of low limbs, fallen trees and debris, and is now ready for summer hayrides. It was a little too wet to repaint the footprint markers, but we hope to do that when the weather warms up.

On the Nature Trail, which originates at the headquarters, it is a challenge to keep the rock lining clean around the rocks marking the trail, and also difficult to mow between the rocks. It has been suggested that we spread crushed limestone on that trail, so the board voted to obtain some quotes on limestone since it is plentiful in the area.

It was good to have our regular work day weekend on Martin Luther King, Jr. holiday back this year. This is not just a time to work on our park we all love so much- it is a wonderful time of sharing ideas and fellowship.

We would like to thank Pastor Jim O'Dell (also a summer hike leader) for the worship service he provided on Sunday for our volunteers.



Repair is underway on park cabins

The “new” cabins have been gutted in preparation for rehabilitation and installation of updated amenities. Cabin 14 is pictured. Rick Meyers, Garner State Park Superintendent, stated that the work is progressing on schedule, but the entire project, including the Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) cabins, will take about three years.

Wood shingle roofs have been replaced with new wood shingles on most of the cabins. The cabins that were not built by the CCC are being gutted and completely restored. The workers are living in the last cabin and working on the other four. When these cabins are complete and all new CCC replica furniture is in place, the cabins will be available for reservations.

They will restore four cabins at a time until all are completed. The cabins that were not built by the CCC are near the end of the cabin road and are easily identified as they do not have rock fireplaces like the original CCC cabins.



FOG BOARD MEMBER UPDATES— Board member-at-large and hayride narrator **Dub Suttle** underwent a five bypass surgery in January. Dub plans to be back in the saddle come time for summer hayrides. **Diane Foshee**, board member-at-large, had hip replacement in January. Diane, also a hayride narrator and hiking guide, hopes to be back on the trail in July.

Plan now for trail work weekend January 15-17, 2011

Think about joining us on MLK, Jr. weekend, January 15–17, 2011!

Contact **Chuck Wilks** if you plan to help out, and call park headquarters to arrange for your campsite.



Chuck’s email is CWILKS9014@AOL.com. Park headquarters phone number is 830-232-6132.

Friend of Garner holds park host appreciation coffee



FOG held an appreciation coffee for park hosts to acquaint them with FOG activities, and to show our appreciation for their work. The park hosts do so

much for Garner, especially during the winter. The coffee, hosted on February 24, was enjoyed by Friends of Garner members, park hosts and park Superintendent, Rick Meyers.

This was an excellent opportunity for us to get to know one another since our common goal is to make Garner the finest park in the State. We have several host couples from Canada who had to chuckle about how excited we get over our snow flurries!

Bird-viewing blind approval from TPWD

Rick Meyers, Garner State Park Superintendent, received approval from Texas Parks and Wildlife Department Cultural and Architectural offices for construction of a bird-viewing blind. The third and final approval, from Natural Resources, is expected shortly.

The blind, a 12-foot by 16-foot structure on skids, will be located near the Visitor Center and the hayride route in a wooded area. Donations will be utilized for the majority of the blind construction.

Garner is the perfect place for this bird-viewing blind, as it is on the outer edge of the central fly zone, close to Mexico, and on the river.



Sale finalized on TPWD purchase of Baldy

For several newsletters we have been talking about the purchase of Baldy. The purchase is now final! In February, Texas Parks and Wildlife Department purchased Baldy from Barbara Muennink, whose grandparents bought the property around 1920. The sale increased the park's size by 177.2 acres; however, at 1,800 feet above sea level and a 400 foot rise above the Frio River, Baldy is still not the highest peak in the park.

Sometime in the future, plans will be made to utilize the land behind Baldy. The purchase was crucial to help protect the land from development, and this property helps buffer the internal part of the park so you don't see houses and such when you come to Garner.

TPWD also has a contract pending for the purchase of an additional 102 acres located just west of the new Baldy property. This will take the property line out to Hwy 83 across from BEC's RV provided it appraises for the contracted amount.

Weather didn't deter Spring Breaker's— park was full



The weather during Spring Break was very interesting. Some days you could swim or tube in the afternoon, then hug the campfire in the evening, or put on a heavy jacket to dance under the stars.

The dance was cancelled twice due to rain, or severe, cold, North wind.

If you were prepared for cold- or hot- you had a blast. After all— you were at Garner!



FOG purchases equipment for law enforcement officers



FOG purchased two law enforcement mountain bikes for the park officers who are authorized to use bicycles in the line of duty. Bicycles expedite access to problem areas. Look for law enforcement officers riding bikes this summer.

The park law enforcement officers have a new building located in the maintenance area. FOG voted to purchase a new PC for their office, to replace one with a hard drive that had crashed. TPWD had no funding available for computer equipment at this time. It is nearly impossible for the officers to do their work without a computer.



FOG annual meeting set for Wed., April 14, 2010

FOG Annual Meeting will be at 5:00 p.m. on Wednesday, April 14, 2010 at Cypress Springs group building.

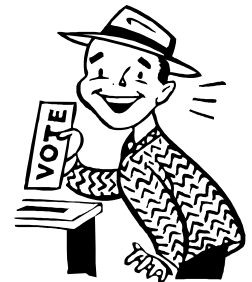
After the meeting, there will be a brisket dinner. Please bring a side dish or dessert.

All members, park hosts, and employees are urged to attend. This is the

meeting when we elect new officers.

Officers with terms expiring are Vice President, Brent Kinard; Treasurer, Dawn Bell; board members- at-large, Dub Suttle, George Streib and Mark Manglberger.

We want to thank all our FOG Board members for another great year for FOG. Thank you for serving!



Friends' Focus



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

2009-2010 FOG Officers

President – Hy Rabon
Vice President - Brent Kinnard
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
Diane Foshee
David Hassell
Dub Suttle

FOG MEMBERSHIP DUES: \$25 annually for a family membership.

- Membership entitles you to a 20% discount when you shop at the visitor center.
- Please provide your email address and check the box below if you want your newsletter emailed.

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

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

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