

Spring 2011



Friends' Faces - Garner State Park

Stocktons donate \$5000 to FOG for stove purchase

Marshall and Mary Stockton generously donated \$5,000 toward the purchase of a new stainless commercial stove for the Shady Meadows day shelter. The new stove has



been purchased and installed, and Mary is anxious to cook a cobbler in the new oven. The Stocktons are 75 years of age and live in Victoria, Texas. They will have been married 55 years in September, and have one son and two grown grandchildren. Marshall worked for Union Carbide for 46 years and retired as senior staff electrical engineer. Mary is a homemaker. They have been coming to Garner for 54 years,

and were among the first group to join the Friends of Garner. Several years ago they took the responsibility for trimming the new trees planted in the park. Each year Marshall and Mary come in the spring and fall to trim the trees.

During the bicycle ride in the fall each year, Mary helped with feeding the bicyclers. Mary cooked and served the cobbler. They realized the existing stoves were very inadequate for the job of preparing the meals. They wanted to do something for Garner and as members of Friends of Garner they decided on a new stove for the day shelter. They were shown the big commercial grade stainless steel stove at the shelter across the river and decided that was what they wanted for the day shelter. They approached Chuck Wilks about donating money



to FOG toward the purchase of the stove, and are very pleased to see it installed and the shelter refurbished. They want to say thanks to Garner and to Chuck for all their help. They have enjoyed their many years of coming to Garner. FOG appreciates their help, and the generous donation!



FOG members honored at Chamber banquet in April

Outstanding 2010 – 2011 FOG members Ruby Sykes and Charmaine Davis were awarded Certificates at the Chamber of Commerce awards banquet at Alto Frio on Saturday, April 16. David Hassell was also honored with a certificate of appreciation for his service. New President, Chuck Wilks presented the awards. Most of the FOG board were in attendance. Charmaine does an outstanding job volunteering in the Visitors Center, as well as

working in the native plant bed, serving refreshments for hayrides and anywhere she is needed. Scott, Charmaine and their girls live in Von Army and travel to the park as hosts every other weekend and several months in the summer.

Ruby Sykes is a full time park host. She is all over the park doing various jobs. Ruby especially helps FOG with our can recycling project. She is a great asset to Garner.

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."

Nature Trail improved and made ADA accessible

David Allen, Assistant Park Manager was responsible for gathering information on how to improve the Nature Trail at Headquarters. It is a beautiful little winding trail 3/4 of a mile long that begins at the North end of the parking lot and ends at the Southwest end of the parking lot. It is now ADA accessible. This was a very large job for FOG volunteers to pave 3/4 mile of trail. Volunteers spent five full days to complete this project, but we are pleased with the outcome. Thanks to David for all his work, and to all the volunteers for making this project a success.



Head of new Nature Trail: L-R Druce Reiley, Director Museumscapes, Linda Power, Diane Foshee, Dawn Bell, and Rick Meyers, Park Superintendent



A big load with too much water overloaded the Mule!



David Allen, Assistant Park Manager drove a Region BobCat paving the Nature Trail and helping to make it wheel chair accessible.



Chuck Wilks drove the tractor paving Nature Trail.



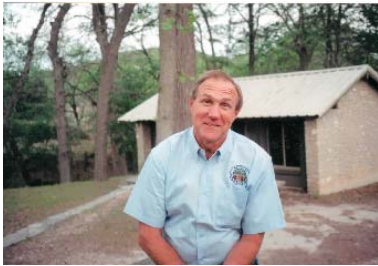
Newly paved Nature Trail at Headquarters



Don Wazel drove the roller paving the Nature Trail.



FOG elects new officers at annual meeting



FOG annual meeting was held on April 13, 2011 at the Cypress Spring facility. It was a regular business meeting with a dinner following. Elections were conducted. The 2011 FOG Board is President- Chuck Wilks, Vice President- Brent Kinard, Secretary- MaryAnn Abbott, Treasurer- Dawn

Bell, Members at Large: Diane Foshee, Jim O'Dell, Mark Manglberger, Linda Power, Don Walzel and Pat Walzel. We are all sad to see David Hassell resign from being President. David did an outstanding job. However, Chuck Wilks certainly has been an extremely active board member and will be an excellent President. We look forward to working with Chuck. Chuck lives in Austin and has a business there, so we will have some adjustments to make.

Meeting attendees included CCC worker James Garner, park hosts Barbara and Pete Timmers, spouses and park personnel.




2011 Officers and Board Members (L-R): Dawn Bell, Jim O'Dell, Chuck Wilks, Mary Ann Abbott, Pat Walzel, Don Wazel



FOG Board Member and local retired minister, Jim O'Dell spoke at the Sunday morning church service on Trail Work Weekend.



2010 FOG Officers L-R: Dawn Bell, Chuck Wilks, David Hassell, Mary Ann Abbott



A recent audit was done on the FOG books by past President, Hy Rabon and President, David Hassell. Everything was found to be in order.

Signs of progress evident throughout the Park

Much of the park is still under construction. The cabin work is slow due to so much unexpected rotten wood, but the shelters in River Crossing are complete. The day use building is close to completion and very nice.



The Texas Parks and Wildlife Department (TPWD) want 80 new trees planted in the park. Dora's nursery, of Leakey, will order and plant the trees. Park hosts will keep them watered.



River Crossing shelter under repair

The Interpretive Signage Project initiated and to be installed by TPWD, should be in place by Memorial Day. FOG is helping with this project by donating \$27, 500 to make up the shortfall in funding by TPWD.

Without this funding, the project would have been discontinued. There will be many signs of improvement for visitors to see this summer.



New posts for Interpretive signs

Nothing deters FOG members from Trail Work Days

Trail work days were celebrated January 14 – 17. We had a good turn out and quite a few first time workers. We accomplished a lot on the trails in spite of the weather.

We divided into groups and each group chose a trail to work on. All trails were cleared of low limbs and brush, and some rock work was accomplished.

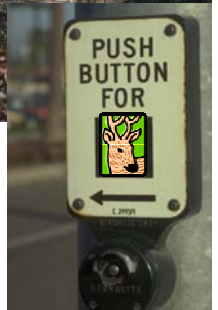
Some work was accomplished in the native plant garden, with more weeding and trimming left to do. New trail signs have been ordered from the sign shop at Bastrop State Park. Footprint markings on the trails were not refreshed, as it was too wet.

We were very disheartened to find another of the beautiful CCC benches destroyed. It is difficult to imagine the mentality of hikers who would deliberately destroy the history of the CCC work at Garner.

If you have never been to a trail work day at Garner, we encourage you to try it. The Park furnishes free camping in Shady Meadows. We enjoy fellowship and meals in the Day-Use building. This building has been renovated and is cozy warm now. A good time is had by all.



Polly Royer, FOG Brick Chairman and grandson Nicholas had a head on collision with a good sized buck traveling on 127 on Friday night. They limped into camp and worked the weekend, and then left to get the auto repaired.



Workers were sad to discover that a historical CCC bench had been destroyed by vandals on the Foshee Trail at Garner.



Museumscapes staff were busy painting and preparing to install new lobby displays in the Headquarters building.



Sam and Christi Shore of Austin have helped with every Trail Work Weekend since they first took a guided hike and heard about it. Their first hike was before they were married and had children, and now they are bringing the children along to enjoy the outdoors as they help with the trail work.

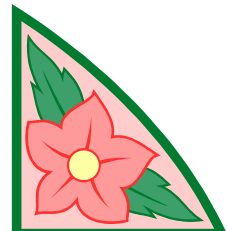
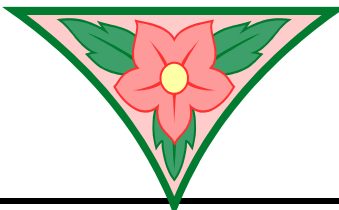
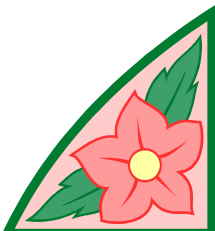
Sam and Christi Shore and children



FOG notes and news, projects and plans



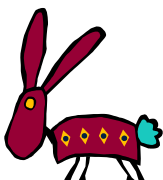
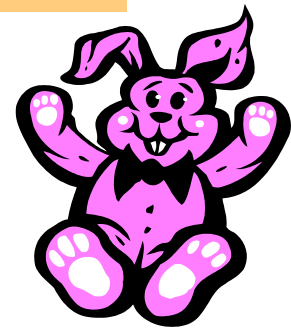
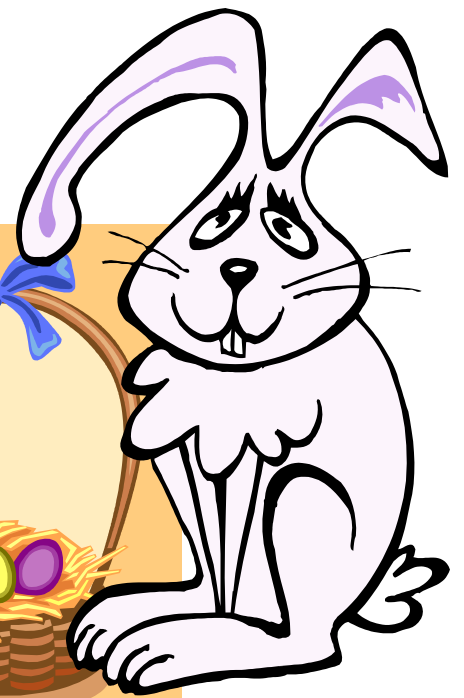
- The bird viewing is our next project. We have tried to locate a fireworks stand, thinking it could easily be converted to a bird viewing blind. At this time we have not located one for sale. Chuck Wilks and Mark Manglberger are working on this project. 84 Lumber will help us with materials if we choose to build a blind.
- A Riparian Workshop, led by Nueces River Authority, was held at Cypress Spring on May 4. This workshop taught about 30 attendees how to protect our natural waterways. FOG prepared and served lunch to the group.
- The Texas Hill Country and Edwards, Real, and Uvalde counties are in stage four drought. It is very severe. There has been no green Spring, thus far. Rain is not predicted and the Frio is very low but still flowing.
- Garner State Park will celebrate it's 70th Anniversary on Saturday, June 4. Guest speakers, local officials and TPWD representatives will speak. The celebration will begin at the Pavilion at 10:00 a.m., followed by activities for the children at the Visitors Center. Linda Power is Chairman of this event.
- FOG hosted a Park Host Coffee on February 23 to show our appreciation for all the work park hosts do to care for our beautiful park. We have hosts from all over the U.S. and even Canada. It was at this coffee we learned about Mr. Veaz's story (see story in this newsletter).
- New faces to the park are Lisa Villanova, Office Manager, who replaces Lisa Fitzpatrick, who was promoted within TPWD. Also new to the park is Peace Officer, Adam Collins. We welcome new Visitors Center employee, Linda Mayer, who is a great support to Manager Linda Kirkpatrick and FOG.
- January 2011 came to the Frio Canyon with frost on her breath. January and February were both very cold months. Ruby Sykes, a long time, permanent Park Host said her little dog kept barking and barking one cold night as she watched TV in her trailer at the Park. She went outside with a flashlight, thinking varmints were out there. She didn't find anything, so she went back to her program. Her little dog started barking again and ran into the bedroom. She finally figured out he wanted her to turn on the electric blanket! There were quite a few days in the teens and low twenties. There was so much damage to pipes and water pumps, that hardware stores could not keep supplies to repair the problems.



**We were sorry to hear of the death of long time Garner visitor Elton McDaniel.
Donations were made to FOG in Elton's memory.
Thanks to all Garner friends who give memorials in memory of their friends and loved ones.**

Easter Bunny hops into Garner again

FOG once again sponsored the Easter Bunny giving out candy to children in the park. The Bunny visited the park on Saturday, April 23, and Sunday, April 24. There were photos taken with the Bunny, followed by drawings for Easter baskets. Kids and parents alike enjoyed the fun!



Hayrides, hikes, and history entertain at Spring Break

Spring Break was well attended this year. FOG sponsored hayrides and guided hikes. Thanks to all who volunteered their time to these events.

Interpretive Ranger, Frank Roberts and Pat Donovan led hikes that were very well attended. This is such a great time of the year for hiking. Historic hayrides were held Monday – Friday and were also well attended. Hayrides brought in \$933. Scott Davis drove the tractor and Diane Foshee, and Ettie Sowders and Pat Donovan narrated.

On two nights we invited special guests, park hosts who had also volunteered at Ft. Davis State Park who told a touching historical story about a young man named Veaz who had joined the Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) in 1933. Priscilla Schaefer and husband Elgin, Park Hosts from New Braunfels heard the story in Ft. Davis and shared it with us. The young man, nearly 17 from a large family in Presidio, TX who heard about the CCC program, and walked barefoot the 68 miles from Presidio to Ft. Davis to apply to work in the program. He thought if he could get into the program, his family would have more food- with one less mouth to feed. His knowledge of how to make hand-made



adobe bricks, which company 879 was making to build Indian Lodge, made him eligible and desirable for work there. Mr. Veaz had never owned a pair of shoes or underwear. He came dressed in one pair of lightweight pants and had two shirts. He was shocked when he was issued three pair of shoes, two for work and one for dress, four sets of work clothes and underwear. He sent the clothes he came in home to his brothers, because he knew they could use them there.

Mr. Veaz was a good hand and when Indian Lodge was completed, he moved with company 879 to help build Garner State Park. He returned to Ft. Davis and with money he earned began to purchase small grocery stores. As the story goes, he retired at age 90 and at that time owned all the large grocery stores in Ft. Davis, Alpine and Presidio. He sold the stores at retirement and it is said he gave more money to charity in Ft. Davis than any other donor. Rumor has it, that Mr. Veaz's mother saved the \$25 a month sent by the CCC and returned it to him. Mr. Veaz celebrated his 91st birthday in 2010. This is a real success story. Other park hosts, Burtrum and Jo Laneheart also rode with the hayride and told the story of the CCC and Mr. Veaz.

Sunset Serenade coming to an end in 2011



The summer of 2011 will be the end of the trail for our outstanding Sunset Serenade performances in the park. Sunset Serenade members are Frank Roberts, Joe Wells and Linda Kirkpatrick. They have been giving their wonderful summer performances for fifteen years.

Many of you who have enjoyed their songs and poetry will want to make your hayride reservations early this summer. Remember they perform Tuesdays and Thursdays beginning June 7.

Call the Visitor Center at 830-232-5999 to make your reservations.



Frank Roberts, Linda Kirkpatrick, Joe Wells

Friends' Focus



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

2011-2012 FOG Officers

President – Chuck Wilks
Vice President - Brent Kinard
Secretary – Mary Ann Abbott
Treasurer – Dawn Bell

Park Representative: Rick Meyers
Interpretive Ranger: Frank Roberts
Membership Chair: Charmaine Davis

Board Members

Diane Foshee
Jim O'Dell
Mark Manglbarger
Linda Power
Don Walzel
Pat Walzel

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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