

Fall 2011



Friends' Focus

Garner State Park

River and trail clean up includes food & fun



FOG had a good group show up for the River Trash Bash. Scott Davis was Trash Bash Boss since Chuck Wilks was on vacation. *FOG* members collected 211 bags of trash, and even had enough time to work on trash on some of the lower hiking trails. We certainly appreciate the attendance and the

work accomplished by all of our volunteers!

A great barbeque dinner with many door prizes was sponsored by **Friends of the Frio**, and drinks and desserts by the **Lions Club**. After the great meal, the local Zumba class gave an exhibition.

Kelly Johnson of Lake Jackson came early on Wednesday to do extra work in the park. She gathered trash on Crystal, Short Cut, Bridges, Bird, Foshee and Baldy Trails. Still with energy left, she tackled river trash Friday and Saturday. We named her Queen of the *FOG*'s Trash Bash.



Volunteers needed to assist with GSP map project

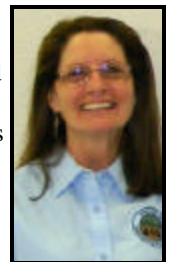
Garner State Park site and trail map printing is no longer going to be subsidized by Texas Parks and Wildlife Department as it has been in the past. This year **Friends' of Garner** must pay the full printing expense for the 50,000 maps that need to be available at Spring Break. *FOG* is seeking donations, both corporate and individual for the 2012 map project printing - or a gift of printing. If you know a vendor who would be willing to discount the printing, please email Dawn Bell at txgm@live.com. Checks should be marked with "map printing" in the memo line.

FOG would also like to ask all members to inquire about corporate sponsorship from employers for our maps for the year 2013 and future year's printing. Sponsors should be advised that the

circulation is a minimum of 50,000, since many maps are taken home with campers, and are shared with friends and family.

The map project has generated around \$10,000 each year in ad sales, and in the past *FOG* made a small contribution to **TPWD** for the printing. Toyota underwrote the printing for the entire State's printing expense. That option is no longer available and **TPWD** has granted *FOG* permission to seek outside assistance for map expenses. This most likely will become more beneficial for Garner.

-Dawn Bell, *FOG* Treasurer



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."

Cowboy poet Linda Kirkpatrick participates in celebration



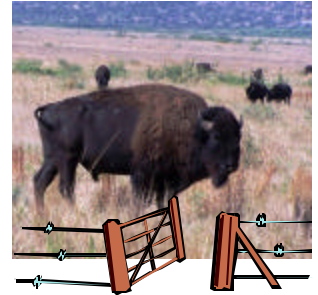
Linda Kirkpatrick

FOG's own Linda Kirkpatrick was invited to recite her poem about Mary Ann Goodnight as part of Texans for State Parks (TfSP) and Caprock Canyons State Park's bison release and ribbon cutting held Sept. 14-16, 2011. Many of you will remember Linda's poem about Goodnight from her **Sunset Serenade** stories at Garner. Charles and Mary Ann Goodnight rescued the herd from extinction in 1879, and the descendents of those bison have been restored to their native land thanks to **Texas Parks and Wildlife Department (TPWD)**. Visitors can drive through the area and view these animals in their native range.

Texans for State Parks (TfSP) took part in the planning and implementation of the "Bison Release" program at Caprock Canyons State Park. **Director Barbara McKnight** organized a trail ride for guests and visitors to the site. The park was open to the public with displays and a barbeque hosted by the **Caprock Partners Foundation**.

Taking part in the official ribbon cutting were **State Park Director Brent Leisure** and a number of dignitaries from **Texas Parks and Wildlife Department, the Stark family, and the Chairman of the Comanche Nation**. The "ribbon" used was a piece of the original Goodnight ranch barbed wire.

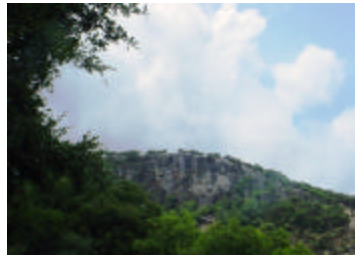
(Excerpt from the *Texans for State Parks* newsletter) (Photos courtesy of Linda Kirkpatrick)



Bison bull at Caprock Canyons State Park

Mule mechanic needed—volunteers will be appreciated

FOG's Kawasaki® Mules, which are a must for our summer activities, need servicing every year. It is very expensive and our funds are low this year. If any of you have a contact with someone who would be willing to work on our mules, with us only purchasing the parts, please contact **Chuck Wilks** to let him know.



FOG hosts open house; spotlights new Garner book by Mary Ann Abbot

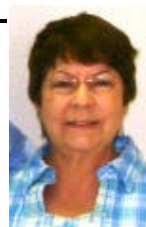


FOG's Christmas open house on Saturday after Thanksgiving was a success. **Mary Ann Abbot** once again served delicious Wassail; and, of course, there were our usual homemade cookies. **Board Members** and **workers** at the Visitor's Center all joined in making some of the best cookies for you to enjoy. A good time was had by all. If you are in the park at Thanksgiving, don't miss this event!



A real treat this year was the first edition of Mary Ann Abbot's new book about Garner. The title of the book is "**Garner State Park, the Music Plays On.**" Mary Ann is the *FOG* Secretary, and has been researching and working on her book for three years. Many park visitors have ask for a book about Garner for a long time.

"The Music Plays On" is a very good account of Garner history beginning with the Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) and the building of the park. The book can be purchased at the Visitor's Center for \$14.95. Mary Ann has graciously donated profits from the sale of the book to Friends' of Garner.



Mary Ann Abbot

CCC building restored & relocated to Garner

An old Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) building was restored by Willis Springfield, and donated to **FOG**. Willis and his brother George Streib moved the building into the park. The location of the building is across from the Visitor's Center.



A Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) building was returned to Garner State Park after about 70 years, Sept. 7, 2011.



Workers leveled the CCC building as they placed it next to the Visitor's Center.



After 70 years, home at last! The CCC building rests next to the Visitor's Center, near CCC Company 879 camp (1935-1941), Garner State Park.

The crew members responsible for returning the CCC building home to Garner State Park smile for the camera.

A dresser, table and chairs were moved into the CCC building Dec. 2011.

Photos courtesy of Mary Ann Abbot.)



Cabin renovations near completion

Park Superintendent **Rick Meyers** reported that renovations to cabins #5 and #7 have been completed. The goal is to have cabins 1-9 completed by Spring Break. The remaining cabins should be furnished and available for summer. It will be so good to have all of our cabins back! Many improvements have been happening at Garner over the last three years that will help restore the park to its original beauty.



Cabin 1, Garner State Park, under renovation - Dec. 2011

Cabin 1, Garner State Park, sports new windows - Dec. 2011.

(Photos courtesy of Mary Ann Abbot.)



Volunteers, deer equal successful 2011 hunt



White Tail Deer



Axis (Exotic) Deer

The hunt this year was condensed to two full weeks, with the exotic hunt that previously ended in January incorporated into the December hunt. Because the White Tail deer are declining more emphasis was put on hunting exotics. More than 70 deer were harvested during this hunt.

There were plenty of Park Hosts to help with the hunt this year. Several families from Canada come to work each year, and two of our faithful summer hosts, Steve Ford and David Clark also returned to help.



Chuck Wilks

FOG president Chuck Wilks is always the hunt cook. He keeps everyone full and happy!

Welcome new Rangers Vestal Odem and Adam Collins



Vestal Odem

Vestal Odem head of maintenance ranger, and Adam Collins, security ranger have joined our **Garner** Staff.

Vestal Odem is from Garwood-Nada in Colorado County. Vestal was the maintenance director for a rock quarry in Ganado. His wife, Becky and their daughter Debra 13, and sons JB 7, and Braden 11 join him. Vestal is a graduate of Cal-Allen High School. Vestal and his family are currently residing in Concan.

Adam Collins (not pictured) comes to us from Edinburg, Texas. Adam was in the oil field business but wanted a career in the wildlife field. He is a graduate of University of Texas, Pan-Am. In Jan. 2012 he will have completed his first year in law enforcement with state parks. Adam is completing his master's degree in Business Administration from Texas A & M.

Adam's wife, Brenda and 17-month old son Edward, join him in residence at Garner in the beautiful old CCC keeper lodge.



Yes, I want to assist with GSP trail/campsite map project!

Donation in the amount of : \$10 __ \$25 __ \$50 __ \$100 __ Other: _____

I will ask my employer for a donation or sponsorship _____

I will seek corporate donations _____

I will request a gift of/discount on printing from _____

Checks should be marked with "map printing" in the memo line.
 (For more information, email *FOG* treasurer Dawn Bell at txgm@live.com.)

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

Name: _____ Address _____

PH #(s): _____ Email _____

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.

FOG Membership email address: friendsogarner.membership@gmail.com

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: _____

Hm Ph: _____ Cell Ph: _____

Email: _____

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

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

Free camping in exchange for trail work Jan.14-16

Mark your calendar and plan to attend Trail Work Days 2012 scheduled for Jan. 14-16 over the Martin Luther King, Jr. holiday weekend. To reserve your free camp site in Shady Meadows for these dates, email FOG President Chuck Wilks (cwilks9014@aol.com). The sites are free to workers but Park Superintendent Rick Meyers needs to coordinate with the State before any work can be done.

Chuck has plans for improving the trail signs to help prevent hikers from getting lost on our trails (which can be especially bad in the hot summer), so come and help with this project.



Adopt-A-Highway Trash Pick-Up Program

In December, Linda and Pat power performed the final clean-up for 2011 on Hwy 83. Linda is FOG's Adopt-a-Highway chairman.

Our next work day will be in January 2012, and volunteers who do not work on the trails will be able to help with the Highway cleanup. FOG has adopted two miles along Highway 83 between RR1050 going south to the end of the Garner property.