

THE GORGE

Wishing you a Happy New Year!

FROM THE GORGE FAMILY



Fun Facts~

Gorge Frog Eggs~
Why do female frogs lay
their eggs in water?

Gorge Crayfish~
How many legs does it have?
What animals eat crayfish?

Gorge Preservation Society
1st Quarter Newsletter
2010

What's Inside?

- Note from the Chair
- Serve the Organization or Volunteer Outdoors
 - Lights, Camera—Action!
- Become a Member of the Gorge~
 - Some great information~

Note from the Chair—Val Schroller

"What a difference a day makes!" is how the saying goes. According to the South Texas weather plan, that 'day' could be anything from a few minutes to a few years! Fortunately for us, Mother Nature saw fit to ease the pain of the current drought by bringing rain before we all dried up and blew away. The winds of change keep blowing.

There are also changes in the wind through the Gorge and the Gorge Preservation Society. Board members are coming, going and changing positions. John Guenzel of Rio Raft will be taking over as Chairman of the Board. Van Green, avid volunteer, will be there as Vice-Chair. Josie Gonzales, one of our guides, steps in as Secretary, and Susan Bogle, also one of our guides, has chosen to keep learning QuickBooks and hang in there as Treasurer for another year.

We have also added three new Board members. Pete Bryant, an active guide in the Gorge and a retired Biology Professor, will be joining us. Barry Brupbacher, a Texas Master Naturalist, will be stepping in to serve the remainder of Dr. Ward's term for 2010. Dwain Blaschke of Dwain Blaschke Law Office rounds out our new additions and will help us make sure we do things right, legally. We say goodbye to J.W. Pieper, Jamie Kinscherff and Dr. Bill Ward. J.W. has been with the Gorge Preservation Society from the beginning and has helped us with financial guidance and advice. Jamie worked creatively with sediment control issues as well as establishing a schedule for required invasive plant extraction. If you see Jamie on the trail, give him a shout out for all his contributions to the GPS. Dr. Bill Ward, our geology resource, like J.W., has been with GPS from the beginning. He made sure we got the geology section of the guide/docent training correct. We are letting him off the hook as far as the regular GPS business is concerned, but are keeping loose reins on him so that we can bring him back for continued guidance with geology specific tours. Thank you gentlemen for your contributions to our growth. You will all be missed.

We've accomplished a lot this year and yet there is much still to be done. We have received the final engineering plans for a road along the north rim of the Gorge from the spillway to the outdoor classroom. The next hurdle will be to solicit funding. Tri-County Land Surveying, Inc.--Richard and Gloria Kinz--Sherwood Surveyors, LLC--Larry Cole, Steven McMillan and Rico Laijas--M&S Engineering, LTD--Keith Strimple, Daniel Konstanski and Stephen Jackson--have all been benefactors of our cause. They have all helped us a great deal and we really appreciate what they have done!

Fortunately for us, the visitors keep coming. Attendance numbers this year far exceeded our expectations. The Gorge waits and offers no criticism and it continues to be our responsibility as Guardian. It will be there when you choose to visit so come along with us and experience the magic.

The Gorge Rocks! Valerie Schroller, exiting Chair

Fun Facts Answers:

Ten—crayfish are our largest freshwater crustaceans and are classified as Decapods meaning "ten legged".

Mammals, fish and birds eat crayfish.

Frogs are amphibians - they live part of their lives in the water where they look and act like fish, even using gills. The adult part of their lives somewhat on land using skin and lungs to breath. Eggs need to be in the water so that the tadpoles can live the first part of their lives as "fish".

Fun Facts by Pete Bryant

Thank you, Gorge Volunteers!



Photo by Vince Monte

Volunteer for Outdoor Gorge

Ordinary citizens. Extraordinary natural resources. Volunteers pull together to promote the enjoyment and conservation of a unique natural phenomenon by encouraging responsible, quality access opportunities through academic partnerships, economic initiatives and citizen involvement.

Get involved by guiding educational tours through the Gorge or trail building & maintenance.

Gorge Guides: Josie Gonzales, Coco Brennan, Susan Bogle, Allen Bartram, Lyle Baie, Barry Brupbacher, Pete Bryant, Earl Dittman, Kerry O'Neal, Paul Mebane, George Wilkes, Dave Wright, Bill Ward, Cinde Jimenez, Dave Skinner, Jamie Kinscherff.

Gorge Docents: Grace & Bob Waggener, Susan Sprole, Margaret Speck, Susan Smith, Val Schroller, Lois Ricci, David & Sherry Reel, Sara Norton, Larry Miller, Skip Johnson, Julie Howard, Mark Henderson, Bob Gray, Lea Gose, Eva Fromme, Kathy Ferguson, Cathy Downs, Sharon Deeny, Lori Campbell, Sheila Bartram, Richard Barnett, Madonna Ballou and Lea Anzalotta.

Gorge Merchandise Sales: Terry Cappetta

Coming soon~

Gorge Outdoor Champion Program

Lights, Camera—Action!

In the Canyon Lake Gorge

Many Canyon Lake residents were startled to see all the activity that was occurring in the Canyon Lake Gorge one evening a few weeks back. The first drop just below the lake's spillway was lit up like daytime with massive flood lights, while white smoke was billowing everywhere. There were even some huge boulders that had not been there that morning. But it wasn't a local catastrophe, just movie magic in action.

Production was in process for the next movie in the series of Predator films. According to Toni Atterbury, a spokesperson for the production, "Central Texas offers a variety of extreme landscapes to filmmakers. The Gorge location near Canyon Lake is striking and believable playing a location on an alien planet. It is one of a handful of locations in Texas, such as McKinney Falls and Hamilton Pool used to create the world of PREDATORS". The stars of the movie include Oscar®-winner Adrien Brody ("The Pianist"), Topher Grace ("Spider-Man 3"), Alice Braga ("I Am Legend") and Walton Goggins ("The Shield").

The Gorge Preservation Society was very careful to assure that the integrity of the Gorge was protected and maintained during this process. Jaynellen Ladd, the GPS natural resource specialist, was on site until 4:30 in the morning to monitor all the activities of the production. She was determined that the area would be left unharmed and undisturbed – which it was. The many volunteers who are guides, docents in the Gorge now have yet another interesting fact to relate about the history of the Gorge.

Susan Bogle
GPS Director

Get Involved...

become a member or renew
your membership today~

The Gorge Preservation Society (GPS) continues its development of the Canyon Lake Gorge to fulfill the goals established in our Master Plan and your membership will help with this effort. As you know, the Canyon Lake Gorge is one of the most unique tour experiences in Texas and the GPS continues its efforts to improve the safety and accessibility of our tours.

Many exciting developments are occurring at the Gorge. The GBRA purchase of the Casteel property adjacent to the Gorge will allow for the relocation of the GBRA/GPS office, starting point for the tours as well as providing a site for a future education center. This spring, the GPS expects to complete an overlook deck on the north rim of the Gorge which will allow visitors who are more physically challenged to experience some of the most notable features found on our interior tour. A nature path is also being developed in conjunction with the overlook deck. All of this expands the Gorge tour experience and allows our visitors more time to appreciate what is so special about the Gorge.

The power of water has created a unique opportunity to gain insight and appreciation of the area's geologic history and the outdoors in general. The GPS continues its efforts to offer opportunities for interpretation, education and outreach to our youth, our community and our visiting public. Gorge membership, along with the tireless efforts of our many volunteers help make this a reality.

Join Us ~ The Gorge Rocks!
830-964-5424

GPS Board Directors 2010

Executive Directors

Chair John Guenzel

Vice Chair Van Green

Secretary Josie Gonzales

Treasurer Susan Bogle

Past Chair Val Schroller

Directors

Dwain Blaschke

Barry Brupbacher

Pete Bryant

Donna Eccleston

Jaynellen Ladd

Tommie Streeter-Rhoad

THE GORGE ROCKS!
JOIN THE PRESERVATION

82 MEMBERS

2009 Tour Totals

132 Public Tours

32 Education Tours

45 Group Tours

11 Corporate Tours

3682 Guest in the Gorge!

GORGE PRESERVATION
SOCIETY

2075 FM 2673, SUITE D
CANYON LAKE, TEXAS
78133

830-964-5424

CANYONGORGE.ORG

SAVE THE DATE!

Moonlight in the Gorge

Wednesday, September 22nd

GUIDES AND DOCENTS

CPR & FIRST AID

2010 CLASS RECERTIFICATION!



Friday, May 21st

First Aid—Noon-2pm

CPR—2pm-3pm

Friday, November 12th

First Aid—Noon-2pm

CPR—2pm-3pm

GPS Guide/Docent 1st quarter

meeting on Tuesday, March 16th, 2010 at 6pm,

Thank You... For your membership!

*We appreciate your annual support of the
Canyon Lake Gorge.*

New website coming soon! www.canyongorge.org

*Newsletter by Natural Resource Specialist
Jaynellen Ladd*

The Gorge Preservation Society is a non-profit organization whose mission is to promote the enjoyment and conservation of a unique natural phenomenon by encouraging responsible, quality access opportunities through academic partnerships, economic initiatives and citizen involvement.

In Partnership:



US Army Corps
of Engineers®

