



### Fun Facts~

Corphosaurus Texanus -- Texas Earless Lizard, see page 2

Gorge Preservation Society  
Summer Newsletter

2010

### What's Inside?

- Note from the Chair
- Volunteer Outdoors—Docent Training Session Coming!
- Become a Member of the Gorge~
  - Education Outreach!
  - State of the Gorge
  - Great information~

# Note from the Chair John Guenzel

What a difference a year makes!

This time last year, the lake level was 13 feet lower than now, inflows were less than 60cfs and outflows were 89cfs or less. The wonderful rains we received have made the great job done by our volunteers even more important in keeping the trails safe and invasive plants in check. Val Schroller has a column about this wonderful group in this newsletter. There are great things coming in the near future for the GPS- our new website has launched, a documentary on the Gorge is coming this summer and thanks to the GBRA and the COE, there are new benches and a kiosk at Overlook Park with great information about the Gorge for our visitors.

Our friends at SWRI made a informative and entertaining presentation at the CRCC building recently - look for their column on research in a future newsletter.

Work is in progress for a 2011 Gorge calendar coming out later this summer - there will be spectacular photos.

Speaking of calendars, be sure to mark yours for September 22, 2010 for Moonlight in the Gorge, our only fundraiser for the year.

Thanks for your support and interest in the Gorge!

The Gorge Rocks! John Guenzel

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## Gorge Testimonies

Victor and I wanted to thank our guide, docents and the Gorge Preservation Society for an absolutely wonderful experience of touring the Canyon Lake Gorge. It was a very enjoyable and informative opportunity to see and learn about this Texas geological site. We wish you and the society the best in further development of a future visitor's center that will allow this remarkable site to be shared with more people. We especially want to express our appreciation for arranging the tour with such a small number of people. We will certainly be passing along the message of this site to our friends and family. Thanks again, Victor and Marjorie Beagle

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On behalf of the Waldorf Homeschoolers, I would like to thank you for such an amazing opportunity. The kids and adults were amazed at the beauty of nature and the wonderful education we received.

Thank you so much,  
Rebekah Newton

## Fun Facts~ Texas Earless Lizard

When you look for images on-line, this species has a lot more color than those we've seen, but that color has been explained as part of the male 'show' during breeding season. Check out the following link for some sub-species variations: <http://www.greglasley.net/greatearless.html>

Please, if you have additional information you would like to share with the rest of us AND/OR any other helpful hints from your Gorge Tour knowledge base, please feel free to forward to Jaynellen for distribution.

## *Thank you, Gorge Volunteers!*

### *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 land management.

**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, 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, 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

## Canyon Gorge 2010 Docent Training Class Coming Soon! Sign Up Now!

August 27, Friday, River/Lake/Flood

September 3, Friday, Biology

September 10, Friday, Interpretation

September 17, Friday Saturday, Geology

September 24, Friday, First Aid

## 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.

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

# Education Outreach

April was quite a busy month for the Gorge Preservation Society's outreach booth, with appearances at both the FolkFest and the Earth Day events that were held in New Braunfels. The GPS outreach booth is designed to educate visitors about the geology and hydrology of the Hill Country, as well as the Gorge itself. It includes a tri-fold display with numerous photos of the flood event, the Gorge and some of the treasures found in the Gorge – eg: fossils and dinosaur footprints. Plastic sample boxes full of actual Gorge fossils also intrigue the visitors. But it is the “*fossil dig*” that draws in the children, who then have an opportunity to actually dig for a fossil and then identify it – just like the scientists do! The crowds at both events were enthusiastic and our volunteers had a great time answering their many questions. The GPS outreach booth was so popular, it has now been invited to come to the Floating Frogfest and the grand opening of the new Phil Hardberger Park being held in May. Keep an eye out for this booth – it's showing up everywhere!

Outreach & Education Committee

Susan Bogle, Josie Gonzales & Jaynellen Ladd



# State of the Gorge

The ballots have been cast, all the votes counted and it's a unanimous decision! 'Nurse Nancy', as she is now so affectionately called, is our Volunteer of the Month. Nancy Arthur spent several hours during our first Volunteer work day of 2010 polishing off the gunk and grime on a large rock area that is the prime spot for discussing and viewing fossils of the Toucasia (see picture top right).

The first two Volunteer days this year also included some folks from Brooke Army Medical Center. It was a real pleasure to have them join us for some good ole fashioned hard work.

Now that Spring has sprung there has been a flourish of activity to spruce up some areas of the Gorge. Thanks to 19 different volunteers we have removed some of the wobble rock steps and replaced them with a more molded stepping stone, added stepping stones where previously there was nothing but muck to walk through, and the hand hewn steps have been addressed and made safer.

Now to the major project for 2010. We will be removing a lot of cattails. We are currently working on a system that will work smoothly to remove these invasive guys. We have work days scheduled through July and they are listed below. If you're interested in seeing a different aspect of the Gorge you don't see on a regular tour and don't mind getting your hands dirty, join us. Everyone is welcome!

Work days:   Tuesdays April 13 and 27  
                  Tuesdays May 11 and 25  
                  Saturdays May 8 and 22  
                  Tuesdays June 8 and 22  
                  Saturday June 26  
                  Tuesdays July 13 and 27  
                  Saturdays July 10 and 24

June/July will be 'power wash' month and the ripples will be washed of the silt that has accumulated over the past year. Also, the area where some crustacean type fossils are will be power washed to remove the red dirt that has drifted off the hillside onto the fossils. Then in August we'll take a break and reassess what we've accomplished and see what else needs to be done in the cooler fall months.

Land Management Committee  
Val Schroller, Van Green & Jaynellen Ladd

Cleaner Toucasia.



Before...



After...



## 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

#### 2010 1st Qtr Tours

29 Public Tours

12 Education Tours

4 Group Tours

3 Corporate Tours

637 Guest in the Gorge!

#### 2009

3682 Guest in the Gorge!

GORGE PRESERVATION  
SOCIETY

2075 FM 2673, SUITE D  
CANYON LAKE, TEXAS  
78133

830-964-5424

SAVE THE DATE!

Moonlight in the Gorge

Wednesday, September 22nd

Rain date: October 20th

## GUIDES AND DOCENTS

CPR & FIRST AID

2010 CLASS RECERTIFICATION!



Friday, November 12th

First Aid—Noon-2pm

CPR—2pm-3pm

*Robert Rodriguez presents*

*“PREDATORS” filmed in the Gorge*

*Coming July 9th*

*Check out the many trailers on You Tube*

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*GPS Guide/Docent 3rd quarter*

*meeting on Tuesday, July 13th, 2010 at 6pm, Sattler office*

*Thank You... For your membership!*

*Check out our new website! [www.canyongorge.org](http://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®

