

Gorge News



www.canyongorge.org

October-December 2008

Greetings to members of the Gorge Preservation Society (GPS)

*In this newsletter,
you will find the following information.*

Chairperson's Letter
Moonlight in the Gorge Event
Ongoing Research
"Thanks" to Gorge Guides and Docents
State of the Gorge
Membership Update
GPS Board, Mission and Gorge Visitor Count



Photo courtesy Val Schroller

FROM THE CHAIR

What a summer we've had! Busy, busy, busy...

The GPS Board held a Summit in July to begin establishing some rules to live by. We are a young organization and Policies and Procedures are necessary to keep us focused. The Tour Policy was the first accomplishment. Cinde Thomas-Jimenez of GBRA and her committee put in a lot of work to come up with the guidelines we use to define our tour size and composition so that every visitor is assured a unique experience. With three to four public tours a week we've already had 1,568 visitors in the Gorge so far this year, some of them coming from as far away as Australia and Europe!

We also established a Tour Guide/Docent Policy for our many dedicated volunteers. Training for these folks is only the beginning, with emphasis on information our visitors ascertain to be consistent and accurate. We have thirteen active guides and twenty active docents currently. The new docent class in October will bring us 25 more enthusiastic volunteers.

A Scientific Research Policy has also been implemented. We have companies wanting to use the Gorge as an outdoor, hands-on classroom for training of their employees. As a matter of fact, Exxon/Mobile will be in the Gorge in October with courses in Geology, Ancient Carbonates and Fault Investigations.

One very important item that came out of our Summit was a Code of Ethics for our Board members. A thank you goes out to Dave Skinner for his tireless efforts in this regard. We, the Gorge Preservation Society, operate the Gorge in trust on behalf of our neighbors, our community and society at large. We intend to uphold the trust placed in us.

We have a lot of maintenance and growth activity taking place as well. Our Outdoor classroom has been adopted by a local Eagle Scout as his project. We look forward to an amphitheatre style setting with benches that will allow us to accommodate groups for special programs. We've had engineers surveying many of the USGS markers that define the Gorge boundaries in order to help design our North Rim passage. This will get us closer to providing access to the Gorge's unique features to those folks who cannot handle the physicality of the interior tour.

Our generous benefactor, GBRA, is to be greatly praised for all their continued assistance. We have been able to add a storage facility as well as tools, materials and a vehicle to facilitate our maintenance activities. In addition, GBRA has established a local presence by placing Jaynellen Ladd, our Natural Resource Specialist, in an office in the Copper Canyon Plaza in Sattler. This allows visitors to stop in and get information on the Gorge well as sign up for a tour. In the very near future they will also be able to view some of the magnificent fossils that have been uncovered in the Gorge.

The fourth quarter tours are set and up on the website, www.canyongorge.org. We have 58 set so far. Since most of you reading this have already realized the magic of the Gorge and have generously become a supporting part of our GPS family, it is now your responsibility to spread the word. Share the enthusiasm! More importantly, become an active part of our family. Volunteer to become a docent, help us with the physical aspects of maintaining the trails and critical educational areas, or extend a hand to our future development. Whether you are an accountant, webmaster, gardener, carpenter, activist, or smiling face and warm heart, we'll find a way for you to contribute.

The Gorge Rocks!

Valerie Schroller, Chair
Gorge Preservation Society

MOONLIGHT IN THE GORGE



OCTOBER 15TH, 2008
WEDNESDAY, 6:30 PM

Photo courtesy Val Schroller

DISCOVER THE GORGE UNDER THE FULL MOON

SHUTTLE STARTS AT 6:30

YOU'RE INVITED!

ENJOY LIVE TEXAS SWING & JAZZ
BY AUSTIN ARTIST "AL SATO"

TAKE A STROLL IN THE ILLUMINATED GORGE
MINI TOURS TO PRIDE ROCK, 6:30-8PM

Savor a delectable menu paired with award - winning wines
presented by Well Seasoned Catering and
Dry Comal Creek Vineyards.

DRESS: GORGE ELEGANT & FLATS
OVERLOOK PARK
\$75 TICKET

SPONSORS PHASES

BLUE MOON SPONSOR—\$1,000 (4 TICKETS)

NEW MOON SPONSOR—\$500 (2 TICKETS)

FULL MOON SPONSOR—\$250

HALF MOON SPONSOR—\$100

Sponsorship logos will appear in the Newsletter, Table Tents and announced at the event.



GUADALUPE-BLANCO RIVER AUTHORITY



BLUE MOON
GUADALUPE-BLANCO RIVER AUTHORITY

NEW MOON

SILVERLEAF HILL COUNTRY RESORTS

FIRST STATE BANK

FULL MOON

AGGREGATE INDUSTRIES

INKIND



TRI-CITY DISTRUBITORS AND HILL COUNTRY SEPTIC & CONSTRUCTION

ONGOING RESEARCH

A Texas flood's aftermath reveals an unprecedented view of geologic faults

Geomorphologists, geologists who study the meaning of landscapes, are interested in the processes by which rivers carve canyons into rock. Over geologic time scales, river erosion is one of the fundamental agents of landscape change and evolution. Canyon-cutting episodes occur infrequently and are difficult to measure.

Dr. Michael P. Lamb is beginning a study on erosion of the Canyon Lake Gorge. The Gorge offers an unprecedented opportunity to study the bedrock and the transport of coarse debris for a flood of known magnitude.

Dr. Lamb received a PhD from the University of California—Berkeley and presently is a post-doctoral research scientist in the Department of Sciences at the University of Texas-Austin. His research is in cooperation with Professor David Mohrig of that department.

Dr. Bill Ward

Special “Thanks” to the Tour Guides & Docents

Lyle Baie, Allen & Sheila Bartram, Susan Bogle, Coco Brennan, Josie Gonzales, Carolyn Hyatt, Jamie Kinscherff, J. W. Pieper, David Skinner, Cinde Thomas-Jimenez, Bill Ward, Dave Wright, Jane Davis-Toerner, Lea Anzalotta, Madonna Ballou, Richard Barnett, Barry Brupbacher, Pete Bryant, Sharon Deeny, Earl Dittman, Eva Fromme, Lea Gose, Robert Gray, Haskell Hart, Larry Miller, Sara Norton, David & Sherry Reel, Lois Ricci, Val Schroller, Margaret Speck and Charles Tubbs.

4th Quarter Guide/Docent Gathering

October 21st, Tuesday

4pm Sattler Office

STATE OF THE GORGE

This summer was a hot one but despite that fact our trail crew made some progress worth noting. We continued our removal of invasives but they seem to sprout faster than we can lop them. The trail way from the pit to the spillway is much less populated with baccharis, salt cedar and tallow trees but further down in elevation and on the north rim trail there is considerable work to be done. We have removed most of the baccharis along the edge of the spillway near the lake before it had a chance to seed out. Other successful work projects were to rid the channels of sedges (the flow rate increase was remarkable) and to clean out the dinosaur tracks. We also spent a bit of time preparing Shell Beach for our Fall Gala.

Good news! The erosion problem we face at the exit gate has been addressed from the top. Thanks to the county for all their help in that matter. We also have a breakaway grating welded to the culverts to keep out intruders. Now that we have slowed the water flow off the road, we can get in there and fill in the erosion channels on our side of the fence.

Even though we had a dry summer, there were some pretty good rains over the gorge. I usually walk the trail after a hard rain to check for hazards and look for changes. Just below the falls area there is a lot of movement on the sides and some recent cave-ins. Mother nature is doing her best to fill the scar created by the '02 flood.

I want to thank all of the trail crew for their hard work. Your dedication is well noticed.

Jamie Kinscherff, Land Management Committee



RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP...HELP US GROW!

184 GPS MEMBERS

114 Membership Renewed for 2008!

70 New Members for 2008!

Members from Texas Cities: Kingwood, Harper, San Antonio, New Braunfels, Roundrock, Waco, Canyon Lake, Austin, Boerne, Blanco, Kerrville, Victoria, Cibolo, Seguin, Houston, Frisco, Helotes, Spring Branch, Pearland, Gonzales, Fischer, Fair Oaks, San Marcos, Dripping Springs, The Woodlands, Ft. Worth, Fredericksburg, Lubbock, Floresville, Garden Ridge, Port Aransas and Boyd.

Out of State Members: Glenview, Illinois and Beelevue, Washington.

Do you have friends or family who should be members of GPS?

Please feel free to forward this newsletter to them.

Membership information, including a printable membership form are available on line.

Make additional tax-deductible contributions to our efforts, checks may be sent to:

Gorge Preservation Society

2075 FM 2673, Suite D

Canyon Lake, Texas 78133

GPS Board Members

Chair: Valerie Schroller

Secretary: John Guenzel

Treasurer: J. W. Pieper

BOARD MEMBERS

Bill Ward

Dave Skinner

Donna Eccleston

Jamie Kinscherff

Susan Bogle

Van Green

Tommie Streeter-Rhoad—GBRA

Jaynellen Ladd—GBRA



Did you know?

Millions of years ago the "Ripples" in the Gorge were the sub-tidal of an ancient sea. Most likely the water was several feet deep with a sandy bottom. The ripples were formed by the wave action of the sea.

The rice-sized grains making up the stones are fossil bivalves called "Corbula". This area would have had shallow water. The ripples are parallel to the ancient coastline.

Gorge Preservation Society

2075 FM 2673, Suite D

Canyon Lake, Texas 78133

830-964-5424

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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.



GUADALUPE-BLANCO RIVER AUTHORITY

Visitors in the Gorge

Oct 07—Sept 08

1,869

4th Quarter Tours Open

Visit www.canyongorge.org

