



Texas Rivers

SPRING, 2009

Texas Rivers Protection Association • 444 Pecan Park Dr. • San Marcos, TX 78666

www.txrivers.org

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Where Would We Be Without Volunteers?

One of the things I have learned over the years is that local leaders are essential for any sort of river protection effort. It takes dedicated volunteers who live in the vicinity of the threat to defeat the evil schemes of those who would destroy our rivers. Here are just a few of the success stories related to the efforts of TRPA volunteers.

The Center Point Rockcrusher. Members John and Cayce Kovacs fought an ill-conceived Rockcrusher that was built on the banks of the Guadalupe River at Center Point. It looks like that rockcrusher may never operate. Read all about it on page 3

The Martindale Waterski Lake. The latest scheme to destroy our rivers involves the construction of water ski lakes on riparian property in order to sell waterfront lots on those impoundments. Sometimes landowners acquire a water right permit when they purchase these large tracts of land. Most of these permits were for irrigation of farmland and the permits generally haven't been used. But these new developers need all of the water they can get. Such is the case with the new Martindale lakes (see what they are doing: www.SanMarcosRiverRanch.com). The developer started pumping water from the river but was told by the TCEQ watermaster that the river was too low for him to pump (this was last summer – so far this winter he has been allowed to pump). So, when it became apparent that he would be stopped from pumping river water, he drilled a well right on the banks of the river and started pumping “groundwater”. Of course, it wasn't groundwater (protected under the right to capture) it was river water. So we complained to the watermaster. But it is hard to keep the pressure on so many evil schemes at the same time. Fortunately, longtime friend and recent TRPA member Mike McClabb entered the scene. He was able to keep the pressure on the watermaster until the well was declared illegal and the developer told that he must remove it. Mike's willingness to keep up the fight paid off!

The Castroville Wastewater Plant. The city of Castroville has a really lousy wastewater plant and they currently are supposed to be using their effluent to irrigate farmland. But locals are convinced that most of it is making its way into the Medina River. The city applied for a permit to legally dump its effluent into the river, and local resident John Hall, called me and asked for help. I told him how to request a public meeting and a contested case hearing. We have done so, and the TCEQ appears to be bent on not allowing this hearing. But I am confident that we will win. And we will win because of folks like John Hall who just don't give up.

TRPA board members making a difference. No article praising volunteerism would be complete without mentioning some of our own board members. Like Steve Daniel, who almost single-handedly made it possible for the TRPA to purchase Hidalgo Falls and preserve the ability of paddlers to gain access there (page 2). Or Ed Lowe, who has been working tirelessly to clean up the Upper Brazos River (page 3) and has helped found the Friends of the Brazos to protect the flow and beauty of that river. Or Duane TeGrotenhuis, who has donated thousands of rental canoes to river clean ups over the years. Or Rich Grayson, who has donated many hours of time to setting up and maintaining web sites for the TRPA and other river groups. In fact, all of our board volunteers their time and money toward this organization. We have no paid staff. We do not pay for an office or phone. Almost every cent we receive goes directly toward river protection efforts. What about you? Are you involved in a battle to save a river? Well, get with it!

Tom Goynes, President

TRPA Financial Report 2008

Beginning Balance, 1/1/08	\$50,101.35
Less \$ Earmarked for Hidalgo Falls, 1/1/08	15,984.13
Less \$Earmarked for Center Point Rockcrusher	8,091.82
= Money available for general fund 1/1/08	\$26,025.40
Plus ending balance of Hidalgo fund	20,027.87
Plus ending balance Rockcrusher fund	7,517.37
Plus contributions received for general fund	11,037.90
Plus interest received for year	122.17
Subtotal	\$64,730.71
Less General Expenses:	
Money transferred to Hidalgo	\$3,000.00
Save Our Springs (Castroville)	1,200.00
Medina River Clean Up	100.00
Newsletter (printing)	232.40
Postage	314.79
River Network (dues)	100.00
Office supplies	102.70
Total expenses general fund	\$5,049.89
Total money available	\$59,680.82
(bank accounts \$59,579.33 plus \$101.49 cash)	
Less \$ earmarked for Hidalgo Falls 12/31/08	20,027.87
Less \$ earmarked for Rockcrusher 12/31/08	7,517.37
Total \$ available general fund 12/31/08	\$32,135.58

Hidalgo Falls Fund 2008

Money earmarked for Hidalgo Falls 1/1/08	\$15,984.13
Contributions received for Hidalgo Falls	6,063.56
Total money available	\$22,047.69
Less Expenses:	
Property Taxes	\$443.20
4/3/08	600.00
4/21/08	188.89
5/14/08	779.73
Bank Charge (checks)	8.00
Total expenses	\$2,019.82
Total money available 12/31/08	\$20,027.87

Center Point Rockcrusher fund 2008

Beginning Balance, 1/1/08	\$8,091.82
Total Donations	355.37
Total money available	\$8,447.19
Less Legal expenses	\$929.82
Ending balance 12/31/08	\$7,517.37

Notes on the financial statement:

The \$1,200 contribution to our friends at the Save Our Springs Alliance served two functions: it supported a great organization which shares our goals, and it made it possible for lawyers from SOS to represent TRPA in our battle to get a better wastewater treatment plant at Castroville.

Hidalgo Falls River Festival Saturday & Sunday, March 21 & 22

The seventh annual Hidalgo Falls River Festival will be held March 21 and 22, 2009 at the TRPA Hidalgo Falls property on the Brazos River near Navasota. The festival, which is the year's major fund-raising event to maintain and improve paddlers' access to the rapid, typically attracts more than 200 paddlers and spectators. Dealer reps and outfitters will have boats and gear available for demos on moving water, and (based on past years) many boaters will come as early as Friday to enjoy the nice play levels on the river and to camp in the upstream and downstream campgrounds.

Events will include a 28-mile downriver race from Koppe Bridge Landing south of College Station to Hidalgo on Saturday morning, a "Boatercross" head-to-head elimination race through the rapids late Saturday afternoon, and a presentation by whitewater expedition kayaker Sam Drevo on Saturday night. World-class kayaker Dan Gravera will join Drevo for paddling clinics throughout the festival. On Sunday there will be a leisurely 3.5-mile float trip from Hidalgo to Hwy 105, a whitewater giant slalom race through the islands in the Falls, and a whitewater rodeo. During the downriver race on Saturday, festival goers can demo different kinds of boats, watch paddling videos, and play in the rapids. The festival admission fee is \$10 for the entire weekend, or \$5 per day; children under 12 are admitted free. Registration for the TCRA downriver race on Saturday costs \$25. The registration fee includes admission to the festival site, camping, opportunities to try out different boats and gear, and the chance to see Drevo's latest whitewater movie on Saturday night. Volunteers who provide at least eight hours of help at the festival are admitted free (contact Patti Carothers patti@paddlesports.com). Limited toilet and water facilities are available in the camping areas at the TRPA property. Motels are available in nearby Navasota.

Directions:

<http://philosophy.tamu.edu/~sdaniel/location.html>. During the festival we will meet visitors at the gate (which is normally locked).

Information about the location of Hidalgo Falls, TRPA ownership, pictures of past festivals, etc. can be found at the HF website: <http://philosophy.tamu.edu/~sdaniel/hf-fest7.html>



San Marcos River Clean Up

24th Annual - March 7, 2009

On Saturday, March 7, folks from all over Texas will be participating in the world's longest river clean up. We will be picking up trash along the entire length of the San Marcos River (approximately 90 miles).

BANK CREWS

Everyone is urged to help. If you are unable to participate in the water, we need volunteers to work the banks of the river, especially at parks and highway crossings. Scuba divers and snorkelers are also urged to participate.

RECREATIONAL PADDLERS

The upper sections of the San Marcos River, particularly just downstream of the City of San Marcos, will require the most attention, and the short mileages set for these sections reflect this. Furthermore, the river becomes less accessible and more hazardous as one goes downstream. For that reason, novice boaters should volunteer for either section 1 or 2 and more experienced boaters for the other sections.

CANOE RACING ENTHUSIASTS

The lower river, from Luling to Gonzales, has several long sections with few bridge crossings and for that reason, we are asking canoe racers (especially teams that have competed in the Texas Water Safari) to volunteer for sections 9 - 11.

CAMPOUT AND GET-TO-GETHER

Everyone participating in this event is invited to camp free at either Shady Grove Campground/ Spencer Canoes or at Pecan Park Retreat for the weekend. Starting at 6 p.m. on Saturday evening there will be a meal provided by the San Marcos River Foundation at Shady Grove/Spencer Canoes.

SUNDAY WORSHIP SERVICE

On Sunday morning at 8 a.m., there will be a non-denominational Christian worship service at Pecan Park.

MEETING TIMES AND SHUTTLES

A group meeting will be held for everyone paddling the sections of river between Pecan Park Retreat and Luling at 9:00 a.m. Saturday morning at Spencer Canoes. Canoe racers paddling the lower river will meet at Palmetto Park at 8:30 a.m. Contact Tim Curry for more info: wildmancurry@yahoo.com Persons working sections 1 and 2 will meet at City Park in San Marcos at 10:00 a.m.

Tom Goynes (coordinator) 512-392-6171

e-mail: goynes@centurytel.net

TRPA Annual Meeting and Election

On **Sunday, March 8 at 10 a.m.** the Texas Rivers Protection Association will hold it's annual general meeting, please come get involved. We will meet at the San Marcos River Retreat (formerly, Pecan Park Retreat) office which is also the home of Tom and Paula Goynes.

To get to the San Marcos River Retreat: coming from Interstate 35 in San Marcos, get on Highway 80 and head toward Luling for 1.8 miles. Take a right on county road 101. Take an immediate left onto county road 102. Go 1/2 mile on 102 and take a right on Pecan Park road. Keep going straight (past TG Canoe Livery) and the road will end at the San Marcos River Retreat Office. For more info call Tom Goynes at 512-392-6171 or visit our website at:

<http://www.sanmarcosriverretreat.com>

6th Annual Brazos River Cleanup

Saturday, April 4, 2009

Meet at Tres Rios Campground at 9:00 A.M.

2322 County Road 312; Glen Rose, TX 76043

*Complimentary Ranch House BBQ dinner after cleanup - 1:30-5:00 pm

*Free canoes and shuttles provided by Low Water Canoes and Rhodes Canoes

*Complimentary camping at Tres Rios 4/4 - 4/6.

Cabins available. Call Tres Rios for info 254-897-4253

Contact Ed Lowe: twtedlowe@sbcglobal.net wk: 214-358-0612, cell: 214-802-6811 www.friendsofthebrazos.org

9th Annual Medina River Cleanup

Saturday, May 2, 2009

Register: 9-12 a.m. at Bandera City Park Maple St. and Hwy. 173 at the Medina River Dam

* Free barbecue: 5-7 p.m. with entertainment

* Free t-shirts for all participants

* Free camping: May 1 and 2 at the Bandera City Park and at Pioneer River Resorts (across 173 from the park). Pioneer River Resorts (formerly Jelleystone Park) is offering free camping and hot showers for all river cleanup campers. RV sites with full hookups are available to river cleanup participants at Pioneer for \$11 per vehicle, less than half their normal rate. They will also cook chili dogs Friday evening if you notify them in advance. For reservations call 1-866-371-3751 or (830) 796-3751 or email Linda or Lloyd Randall at pioneer@sbcglobal.net.

Info about the clean up and the Medina River Protection Fund is available at: www.MedinaRiver.net or write rbrischetto@wireweb.net

The Center Point Rockcrusher

Several years ago we were contacted by some folks in Center Point Texas (just downstream of Kerrville on the Guadalupe River) about a rockcrusher that was being constructed right on the banks of the river and within about a mile of the local school. At first, it appeared that the owners intended to operate the facility without a permit, but local activists stopped that action. So the owners applied for a permit and the long process began. The first thing the public has to demand, in a case like this, is a Public Meeting, then a Contested Case Hearing has to be requested. Fortunately, John and Cayce Kovacs (and later Tom Collins) were willing to fight relentlessly and the TRPA offered money and other support. We established an earmarked account and began collecting contributions for the legal battles associated with such hearings. The contested case hearing was to begin on January 15. But, at the last minute, the applicant withdrew his request and the case ended. It is possible that the owners could start the whole process over again, but it would take several years to get to a hearing, so it seems unlikely. So, congratulations to the folks in Center Point and to those dedicated volunteers!

Texas Rivers Protection Association Membership Application

To join, or renew your membership, fill out the information below and include a check for your dues.

Name _____ Hm Phone _____ Wk phone _____
Street _____ City _____ State _____ Zip _____
E-mail _____

Check here if e-mail version of newsletter is sufficient _____

Levels of membership: (check one)

___Regular\$10 ___Protector\$25 ___Guardian\$50 ___Ranger\$100 ___Bronze\$500 ___Silver\$1000 ___Gold\$5000

Is this a renewal? _____ Check if new address _____

All members receive a bumper sticker, notices and newsletters and get to vote at general meetings. Protectors also receive a cloisonné pin with our emblem. Guardians receive the pin and either a logo cap or logo t-shirt. Rangers and above receive all three. Guardians need to indicate their choice (cap or t-shirt) and Rangers and Guardians wanting t-shirts should indicate their size (M,L,XL, or XXL).

Protectors, Guardians, Rangers, Bronze, Silver and Gold members:

Please send the following:

Protector \$25 _____ Cloisonné Pin
Guardian \$50 _____ Cloisonné Pin and _____ Cap or t-shirt (circle one) M L XL XXL
Ranger \$100 & above _____ Cloisonné Pin and _____ Cap and t-shirt (circle one) M L XL XXL

We will not send any merchandise, unless the above section is filled out.

_____ I would like to receive a new bumper sticker.

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