



Texas Rivers

ANNUAL NEWSLETTER, 2011

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

<http://www.txrivers.org>

Good News, Bad News and other news

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First of all, if you are green, and if you prefer not to get a hard copy of this newsletter, you probably consider getting this paper newsletter to be bad news. But the good news is that we have a way for you to opt out of this paper copy and simply go online to our website (see above) to read the latest news. Some of you may have told us, in the past that you prefer to go paperless, so if you are getting this hard copy it is probably because your e-mail address has changed. The good news is that you can simply e-mail us tom@txrivers.org and tell us your current e-mail address.

Some of you may notice (on your mailing label) that your dues are past due. And, yes, that is bad news. But the good news is that you can send in your dues (or pay online at our website) and we will forgive all of your past dues. Your new due date will be one year from the day that you pay your dues. And, if you are not in a position to pay your dues right now, just make sure that we have a current e-mail address and we will continue sending you e-mail newsletters indefinitely. The bad news is that we can't continue mailing these paper newsletters to you indefinitely, so if your dues have expired and we don't have your e-mail, this is goodbye. And that is really bad news.

The Castroville Wastewater Permit: The City of Castroville applied for a permit to dump "treated" sewage into the Medina River over three years ago. We received a call from John Hall, a concerned citizen in Castroville and advised him on the steps he needed to take to get a contested case hearing. He did a great job, on short notice, and gave the TCEQ all the necessary info for them to grant a contested case hearing. But the TCEQ eventually denied the request. We appealed that TCEQ decision and just got word that the judge has ruled in our favor re. that appeal. She has ordered TCEQ to proceed with our contested case hearing. So, at least for now, we are winning!

The Fence Across the James River. Recently, a paddler contacted us about a new fence that has been built across the James River. The James River flows into the Llano River, not far from Mason Texas. You can view some photos of the fence here: <http://www.txrivers.org/archive/jamesriverphotos.html>

The river appears to be navigable; the average width is close to 150 feet. Paddling the river during low flows involves a lot of dragging, but it is a great run when the water is up. Floodwaters have been known to greatly exceed the height of the new fence. In the event of a major flood this fence will fail and there will be significant debris in the river downstream. TRPA is exploring its legal options. We will keep you guys posted.

Texas Bottle Bill: Nothing can convince you more that we need container deposit legislation in Texas than participating in a river clean up. If every beer can and plastic bottle in our rivers were worth ten cents, then they wouldn't be there in the first place. Since we are all about river clean ups, we also support the Texas Bottle Bill that is being considered this session. For more info: <http://www.texasbottlebill.com/>

State to keep the Devils River State Natural Area: Thanks to a lot of folks who made a lot of noise (including a bunch of TRPA members) the State of Texas no longer plans to trade the SNA for a smaller ranch downstream (in fact, the state received enough donations to buy that ranch outright. So, that is very good news.

Upcoming Events: In addition to the clean ups listed in this newsletter there is a clean up in San Antonio on March 5, called the Basura Bash: contact Sonia Jimenez, at 210 354-2925 media@basurabash.org and a clean up on the Colorado River on March 6 at McKinney Roughs Nature Park: contact Pat Olsen at 512-303-5073 x 8035 patrick.olsen@lcr.org For other events, check the calendar on our website.

TRPA Financial Report 2010

Beginning Balance all accounts 1/1/2010	\$52,982.27
Less \$ earmarked for Hidalgo Falls 1/1	\$10,193.57
Less \$ earmarked for Rockcrusher 1/1	6,970.27
Less \$ earmarked for River Road 1/1	483.90
Less \$ earmarked for Burns memorial 1/1	375.00
Less \$ earmarked for Ash memorial 1/1	255.00
Less \$ earmarked for Waterski lakes 1/1	50.00
Total \$ available general fund 1/1	\$34,654.53
Plus contributions received for general fund	9,520.92
Plus interest received year to date	35.16
Subtotal general fund	\$44,210.61
Less General Expenses:	
Transfer to Hidalgo fund	\$3,000.00
Castroville legal expenses	1,000.00
Bottle law educational materials	1,000.00
T-shirts	720.00
Medina River Clean Up	200.00
Newsletter (printing)	241.50
Postage	308.10
Brochures	230.00
Website	60.00
Total expenses general fund	\$6,759.60
Total general fund 12/31/2010	\$37,451.01
Plus ending balance Hidalgo Falls	\$2,349.17
Plus ending balance Rockcrusher	6,970.27
Plus ending balance River Road	284.33
Plus ending Balance Ash Memorial	582.00
Plus ending balance Burns Memorial	475.00
Plus ending balance Martindale waterski lake	50.00
Plus ending balance Martindale access fund	460.00
Total money available, all accounts	\$48,621.78

Hidalgo Falls Fund 2010

Money earmarked for Hidalgo Falls 1/1/10	\$10,193.57
Contributions received for Hidalgo Falls	6,087.00
Total money available	\$16,280.57
Less Expenses:	
Bath House construction and supplies	\$13,846.63
Gas and supplies for mowing	68.77
Bank Charges	16.00
Total expenses	\$13,931.40
Total money available 12/31/09	\$2,349.17

River Road Fund 2010

Beginning Balance, 1/1/10	\$483.90
Total Donations	255.00
Total money available	\$738.90
Less expenses	\$454.57
Ending balance 12/31/10	\$284.33

Money earmarked for access at Martindale 2010

Beginning Bal. (Burns and Ash funds) 1/1/10	\$630.00
Total Donations Burns	100.00
Total Donations Ash	327.00
Other Martindale Access donations	460.00
Ending balance 12/31/10	\$1,517.00

A few words about the budget

First of all, please note that our budget contains no salaries. Also, please note that there is no rent for a facility, no utilities, no travel expenses etc. So, that means that 100% of your dues and donations goes toward protecting rivers. All of our officers and staff volunteer their time, and the physical office space is donated (along with phone, internet, utilities and so forth). So, you can give with wild abandon. Some notes:

Rockcrusher Fund: TRPA helped a group of citizens in Center Point defeat an air quality permit for a rockcrusher in their town. Hopefully that leftover money can be spent on river access in that community. We are letting them decide.

River Road Fund: The State of Texas is considering allowing an interstate type highway to be constructed across the Guadalupe River along River Road. We have set up a fund to help the locals defeat this project. You can read more at: <http://www.save-river-road.net/>

Access to San Marcos River at Martindale: Guadalupe County has recently rebuilt the bridge at Scull's Crossing. We are hopeful that the county will still allow boaters to load their canoes in the no parking zone along the road on the west side of the river. We are also working with the City of Martindale to secure a parking area on the east side at Sculls and we are helping them purchase more riverfront property for their new river park. All donations to our existing memorials (the Ash and Burns Funds) as well as donations to the new Lillie Cochran Memorial have been earmarked for securing this access. To help, just specify that your donation is for one of the memorials or simply dedicate your donation to river access at Martindale. http://www.martindaletexas.org/Allen_Bates_Park.htm

Hidalgo Falls River Festival Saturday & Sunday, 4/16 and 17, 2011

The 10th annual Hidalgo Falls River Festival will be held April 16 and 17, 2011 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.

Overall, this year's event will be like our early events, where paddlers, their families and friends come simply to explore the property, check out the tidepool-like river features, play in the rapid, have relaxing floats up and down the river, and enjoy hanging out with and meeting other boaters from around the state.

The schedule is very fluid: we hope that people will offer to coordinate float trips down to Hwy 105 (3.5 miles), do impromptu tours of the property (e.g., identifying plants or talking about the geology of the falls) when interested people are around on Saturday and Sunday, and swap information on where to paddle in the state. This year we are asking people to donate at least \$5/day/person and \$10/weekend to help cover expenses (e.g., toilets, electricity) and to support the costs of our new bathhouse.

As in years past, on Saturday there will be a 28-mile downriver race from the Koppe Bridge Landing south of College Station to Hidalgo. Recreational division paddlers will leave from the Koppe Bridge starting line at 9:00, and

competition division paddlers will leave at 10:00. Registration opens at 7:30 at the put-in. Racers are required to pay \$15 to register for the race in addition to their donations for the festival (\$5/day, \$10 weekend/person).

Directions:

<http://philosophy.tamu.edu/~sdaniel/location.html>. During the festival, the gate, which is normally locked will remain open.

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/hidalgo.html>

San Marcos River Clean Up 26th Annual - March 5, 2011

On Saturday, March 5, 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). 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. The upper sections of the river 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 the upper sections. 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 below Luling. Everyone participating in this event is invited to camp free at either Shady Grove Campground/ Spencer Canoes or at the San Marcos River 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. A group meeting will be held for everyone paddling the sections of river between the San Marcos River 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. Persons working the upper sections will meet at City Park in San Marcos at 10:00 a.m.

Tom Goynes (coordinator) 512-392-6171

e-mail: tomgoynes@mac.com

TRPA Annual Meeting

On **Sunday, March 6 at 10 a.m.** the Texas Rivers Protection Association will hold its annual general meeting. We will meet at the San Marcos River 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 Old Bastrop (aka CR101, aka CR266 – it's the new traffic light right after the overpass). Take an immediate left onto county road 102. Go 1/2 mile on 102 and take a right on Pecan Park Dr. Keep going straight (past TG Canoe & Kayak) 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>



8th Annual Brazos River Cleanup Saturday, April 2, 2011

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

Cabins and RV hook ups available. Call Tres Rios for info 254-897-4253

For tent camping info or other questions, Contact Ed Lowe:

twtedlowe@sbcglobal.net wk: 214-358-0612, cell: 214-802-6811 <http://www.friendsofthebrazos.org>

11th Annual Medina River Cleanup Saturday, May 7, 2011

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

* Free barbecue: 5-8 p.m. with entertainment

* Free t-shirts for all participants

* Free camping: May 6 and 7 at the Bandera City Park and at Pioneer River Resorts (across 173 from the park). Pioneer River Resorts 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. For reservations call 1-866-371-3751 or (830) 796-3751 or email Linda or Lloyd Randall at pioneerrr@sbcglobal.net.

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

rbrischetto@wireweb.net



Start a Cleanup on Your River

The Texas River Protection Association will help you organize a river cleanup on any river in Texas. The tools are available on our website and we will provide consulting at no charge: <http://www.txrivers.org/cleanups/index.html>



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