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Friends for the Preservation of Historic Landa Park
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A Tribute to
William L. Schumann and William J.Kolodzie

Photo: Bill Schumann
Caption:
William L.(Bill)Schumann

Yesterday, October 20, Arbor Day was once again celebrated in Landa Park. Due to rainy weather the dedication portion of the celebration was postponed. Tim Barker, PhD, the former president of Friends for the Preservation of Historic Landa Park was to make the presentation. This he will do in the near future at a date soon to be announced. With him we note the following:

On Arbor Day 2017, two women were memorialized who not only were great coworkers in Landa Park, but were also good friends: Dolores Schumann and Joyce Kolodzie. Their individual park benches are placed side-by-side and are sentinels to watch over the Founders Oak.

On Arbor Day 2018, the plan was to honor and memorialize two men, William L.(Bill) Schumann and William J. (Bill) Kolodzie, who were not only great coworkers in Landa Park, but also good friends, and the corresponding spouses of last year's honorees.

What a foursome these two couples were as advocates and hands-on workers for Landa Park. Although Arbor Day has been recognized in New Braunfels for 84 years, the designation as a "Tree City USA" by the National Arbor Day Foundation was earned 30 years ago when the Guada Coma Garden Club recognized the extraordinary number of species of trees in Landa Park and established an arboretum there. This inspired the city of New Braunfels to adopt a tree ordinance on public property.

At a future date in recognition of Arbor Day, 2018, another set of side-by-side park benches will be dedicated alongside the Comal Springs in Gazebo Circle with one in honor of Bill Schumann and one in memory of Bill Kolodzie. The benches will serve as sentinels of the crystal-clear babbling waters of Spring Run #3.

Both men have an impressive long history of community involvement. The November 4 Friends' column is dedicated to Bill Kolodzie. Today's column recognizes Bill Schumann's many contributions.

Bill Schumann, born in Sugarland, Texas, is a graduate of Texas A&M University and a Korean War veteran. He along with his wife Dolores and their four children, Diane, Lawrence, Ronald, and Glenda came to New Braunfels in 1966. Bill served as the Comal County Agricultural Extension Agent for the next 21 years. He remains an active

member of Sts. Peter and Paul Catholic Church and Knights of Columbus Council#4183.

Shortly after his arrival Bill assisted with preparation for the opening of Natural Bridge Caverns. By 1968 he served on the committee that organized the Comal County Livestock Show and Sale and he developed the point system for 4H and FFA club members who exhibited. He then established the Leadership Club Members Camp for 4H Exchange Program in Central Texas.

Also requiring his time was a weekly column in the Herald-Zeitung along with a weekly radio show "Gardening Around the House" produced with Ron Friesenhahn at KGNB Radio. In 2003 the station honored Bill for his 37 years of excellence in broadcasting, 1966-2003.

A Garden for all Seasons was co-authored by Bill with Dr. Dorris Brown. He also established the Antique Rose Garden at Conservation Plaza fulfilling Dr. Brown's wish to preserve the antique roses found in New Braunfels and Comal County. Bill began the Men's Garden Club and introduced Afghan Pines to the area. In addition, he started a new organization, the South Texas Christmas Tree Association.

As County Extension Agent, Bill introduced drip irrigation to the county to conserve water in gardens and landscaping. For many years he served on the Water Development Committee of the Edwards Aquifer Authority. When tubing and rafting became a problem on the Guadalupe River he presented a plan to the Comal County Water Commissioners Court that created Comal County Water Oriented Recreation District (WORD) in 1987.

In 1997 when Guada Coma Garden Club and the Texas Agriculture Extension Service sponsored the Comal County Big Tree contest, Bill along with Mark Peterson measured all the trees entered in the contest. In 2006 Bill conducted a complete Urban Forestry Plan for the Landa Park Arboretum and Prince Solms Park. Also in 2006, the Schumanns chaired the very successful Water Symposium-"The Edwards Aquifer and You".

By 2016 New Braunfels was home to the Schumann's for fifty years. During that time they gave continually to the community. In return they also were recognized. Today we address mainly Bill's recognitions. In 1987 he received the President's Award from the Greater New Braunfels Chamber of Commerce for Community Service and the Silver Unicorn from the New Braunfels Independent School District. In 1991 Bill received the Melvin Jones Fellow Award from the International Lions Club Foundation. In 2011 he was named a Living Legend by the New Braunfels Foundation Trust. In 2007 in recognition for all they did regarding the arboretum in Landa Park and their many years of devoted efforts to the city Mayor Bruce Boyer officially named the arboretum The

William and Dolores Schumann Arboretum.

This column is based on the book New Braunfels' Historic Landa Park, Its Springs and Its People by Rosemarie Leissner Gregory and Arlene Krueger Seales. For more information visit www.friendsforlandapark.org and Facebook.