

Friends of Garner

JUNE 2020

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I
remember
that old
Frio River
where I
learned to
swim...

Welcome to the Friends of Garner June 2020 Newsletter!

Garner is beautiful in June! The wildflowers are blooming, the birds are singing, the stars and fireflies are twinkling. It's a great time to be at Garner State Park!

The Park is currently open for both day use and overnight camping. Both require a paid reservation which must be made online.

The Friends of Garner Nature and Visitor Center is open. Hours are 9-3 Monday thru Saturday and 9-1 on Sunday.

The Center's fossil and rock exhibits are unavailable and we are not able to check out Junior Ranger backpacks, fishing rods, or GPS devices until further notice because of Covid-19 restrictions. However, we're open for trail maps and shopping, and the Native Garden is beautiful this time of year!

Due to Covid-19, the management will have procedures for social distancing and disinfecting. Please practice 6' social distancing inside the Visitor Center building. Hand sanitizer is located just inside the door for use when entering the building. A limit of 6 people may be inside at one time because space is limited. Children are welcome if a parent holds their hands. Visitors are encouraged to wear face masks.

For other Friends of Garner Information see our new and improved website at <https://friendsofgarner.org/>

You can even make a donation to Friends of Garner online at <https://friendsofgarner.org/donate-online>

Membership is now due in January – are you current? Renewal information can be found here <https://friendsofgarner.org/membership>

Like us on Facebook at:

Friends of Garner State Park
Friends of Garner State Park Nature & Visitor Center
Ranger Shaylee



Trail Cleanup Volunteers January 2020

Along the River by Debbie Jackson

Thank you for sticking with us!. These times are like no other in our lifetime and the Friends of Garner are like all of you in wanting to get back to friendly handshakes and unrestricted traveling. As our park opens up once more, we anxiously await your support of our effort to keep Garner State Park beautiful, relaxing and entertaining for all people. As you know, all our proceeds go back into the park through your membership and participation in fundraising.

So, please come by our Nature and Visitor Center in person or visit us on Facebook at Friends of Garner State Park and Garner State Park Visitor and Nature Center. Our website is www.friendsofgarner.org.

Our hayrides will start up in July on Tuesday and Thursday nights. The flyer is located elsewhere in this publication and on the above information locations. Sorry that space is limited but we must abide by state of Texas' rules for social distancing.

As you enter the park, you will note the construction and implementation of an automatic gate system for after-hours entrance and exiting. With your support, the FOG Board of Directors donated most of the money for its construction.

Have a great visit to the most popular state park in Texas. Go online for reservations or for day and/or evening visit permits. Until, we meet again, happy hiking and wash your hands.

Debbie Jackson,
President, Friends of Garner



NATURE & VISITOR CENTER REPORT

The Friends of Garner State Park Nature and Visitor Center is one of the best kept secrets in the park. It's more than a place to pick up a Trail Map (although we love giving those out and giving advice about what hike is right for your group) - it's also an Interpretive Center, an Information Center, a non-profit Gift Shop, a native garden, a nature center, a prime birdwatching spot, and a WiFi hot spot!

It's the place to pick up a Jr. Ranger handbook, check out a Jr. Ranger backpack, and get sworn in by the Garner State Park Interpretive Ranger Shaylee Burns or one of the Visitor Center staff.

It's the place to get a list of geocache sites and check out a GPS device.

It's the place to check out a fishing rod and a few basic tackle items.

It's the place to get a list of birds that frequent the park and check the bird board to see what's been seen where. We've been told that our native garden is one of the best butterfly and birdwatching spots in the park.

It's a place where you and your children can touch rocks and fossils which were found in the park. Unlike a museum where you can't touch the exhibits, ours are meant to be handled and experienced.

It's the place to learn about the Civilian Conservation Corp boys who built the park and see artifacts, photographs, and documents relating to the history of Garner State Park.

It's an Interpretive Center - John Muir, one of the earliest preservationists and founder of the Sierra Club, said "'I'll interpret the rocks, learn the language of flood, storm and the avalanche. I'll acquaint myself with the glaciers and wild gardens and get as near the heart of the world as I can.'" (John Muir, 1896). We like to think that we are visitor experience specialists. We try to provide orientation, information and inspiration in the right amounts and at the right times so that visitors will have more enjoyable, meaningful and complete experiences.

And last, but not least, it's a Gift Shop specializing in gifts that are commemorative or nature related. The profit made in the Visitor Center stays in Garner State Park, helping to fund items and projects for the park.

We look forward to seeing you next time you visit Garner!

SUMMER HAYRIDES ARE BACK

Presented by

FRIENDS OF GARNER STATE PARK

TUESDAYS AND THURSDAYS IN JULY



JOIN US for a narration of the history, resources and culture of the Frio Canyon and Garner State Park.

**Register and pay at the Visitor Center* or call (830 232 5999) by 2:45 pm.
Limited seating.**

\$8 per person 13 and over, \$4 for children 4-12. All children 17 and under must be accompanied by parent, grandparent or legal guardian.

State Park entry fee in addition

Meet at Nature and Visitor Center at 6:45 pm. Hayride leaves at 7:00 and returns at 8:00 pm.


***The Nature/Visitor Center is the log cabin building on the west end of the park in the Shady Meadows camping area. All proceeds are returned to the park for special projects and programs.**

Due to Covid-19 and instructions from governor, FOG will limit participants. Masks are recommended. Wagon will be cleaned after each ride.



Leave No Trace by Shaylee Burns, Interpretive Ranger

A woman and her son were hiking in the park recently when they came across some fossils. The mother wanted to keep the fossils, but her 17 year old son pointed out that is in fact illegal to take any artifacts from a state park. After some deliberation, they decided the right thing to do was to turn them into headquarters on their way out. Office staff let me know that some fossils were turned in, so I picked them up for identification. I called said "fossil lady," and emailed her articles I used to help identify a particularly unique fossil in great condition. She was very grateful and kind. I assured her that they did the right thing and I will now use this fossilized echinoid in interpretive programs to help depict what the hill country landscape consisted of millions of years ago! Pretty fun way to start my Monday morning.

 Below are links to the articles I utilized to identify and learn more about echinoids.

<http://www.discoveringfossils.co.uk/echinoids.htm>

<https://www.nhm.ac.uk/our-science/data/echinoid-directory/intro/introduction.html>

From the Junior Ranger Activity Journal:

LEAVE NO TRACE! Junior Rangers "Leave No Trace" of their stays at Texas State Parks. They help their friends and families do the same.



1. Know before you go. Be prepared. Pack clothes to protect you from cold, heat or rain. Always carry a park map. Learn about the park from books, websites or other people.
2. Choose the right path. Stay on trails to protect the park and yourself. Set up camp in marked places. Campsites should be at least 200 feet away from lakes and streams.
3. Trash your trash. Pack it in and pack it out. Keep this park natural by picking up litter and putting it in its place.
4. Leave what you find. Take only pictures and memories. Leave plants, rocks and historical items as you find them. Dead wood has life, too. Please don't collect firewood.
5. Be careful with fire. If you're allowed to build a fire, only use existing fire rings. Keep your fire small. Make sure it is out and cold before you leave.
6. Respect wildlife. Keep wildlife wild by not feeding them. Leash your pets. This will protect them and the park's animals.
7. Be kind to other visitors. Remember you share the park with other people. Listen to nature. Try not to yell or make loud noises. You will see more wildlife if you are quiet!

MY GARNER STORY



A Garner State Park Success Story

(as presented to the Alsatian Pioneers Chapter, Daughters of the the Republic of Texas, November 12, 2016)

by MaryAnn Laughlin Abbott

Guy Raymond Laughlin was born May 31, 1917, in Barksdale, Texas. Guy was eighteen months old when his parents divorced; his mother worked hard to clothe and feed her son with zero assistance from his father. Music was his life; he could play fiddle, guitar, banjo, mandolin, and his later favorite – steel guitar. In 1939 twenty-year-old Guy joined the Civilian Conservation Corps (C.C.C.) and supported his struggling mother. He learned many skills in his two terms at Garner State Park. He also met and married a feisty, blue-eyed sixteen-year-old girl from D’Hanis who loved to dance as much as he did. When Company 879 closed operations at Garner, he left the C.C.C. and joined the Army Air Corps. While serving his beloved country, he and Selma had a brown-eyed “Gal” they named MaryAnn.

Guy regularly held three jobs to care for his family and achieve his dream of a Master’s Degree in Electrical Engineering. He was constantly learning: repairing objects from watches to cars, building musical instruments and homes, and more. An item of interest: his C.C.C. discharge papers stated he trained as a mechanic at Garner State Park!

A quiet, thoughtful man, he never complained about his early struggles and hardships but enjoyed his many successes. He always said his time at Garner was the best of his life. There’s a photograph of him with his C.C.C. group in the Friends of Garner Visitor Center.

Guy Raymond Laughlin not only gave me life, determination, curiosity, values, and respect for education, he gave me Garner State Park and the Daughters of the Republic of Texas!

GOD BLESS AMERICA!
GOD BLESS TEXAS!

For more information about the C.C.C.: <https://u-s-history.com/pages/h1586.html>
<https://tpwd.texas.gov/spdest/programs/ccc/>

For more information about the C.C.C. and Garner State Park: <http://texascccparks.org/parks/garner/>

Or read MaryAnn Laughlin Abbott’s excellent book *Garner State Park – The Music Plays On* – if you can find a copy! We hope to have it back in stock at the Visitor Center soon!

MY GARNER STORY CONTEST!



Do you have a Garner Story you'd like to share? Send it to FOGConcan1.TX@gmail.com. If your story is chosen for publication you'll receive your choice of one of our new Garner mugs.

Stories must be a personal memory of Garner State Park and include a picture suitable for publication. Good luck!

UPCOMING EVENTS



JULY EVENTS

All events are tentative and subject to change.

- ❖ Ranger Shaylee is working hard to plan interpretive events that will fit within social distancing guidelines. The number of participants in any events will be limited and participants will be required to register in advance. Please come to the Visitor Center to see if any events are scheduled during your stay and to register for those events.
- ❖ Leakey will be having its annual July Jubilee over the 4th of July weekend, featuring a rodeo, parade, arts and craft show, street dance, and food trucks.
- ❖ Utopia will host the Utopia Fireworks Show on July 4th.

VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT

JUNE VOLUNTEER – KAY ROBBINS



If you've had the chance to visit the Friends of Garner Native Garden or the Bird Blind recently you will have seen the handiwork of Park Host Kay Robbins.

Kay fell in love with Garner State Park back in 1971 and has been a visitor ever since. She became a member of Friends of Garner this year while completing her first ever assignment as a Texas State Park Host. She came to us specifically to work in the garden and bird blind because she became a Texas Master Naturalist in 2019. The Texas Master Naturalist organization is supported by Texas Parks and Wildlife and Texas Agri-Life and promotes education about Texas natural resources and the maintenance and restoration of Texas wild places. Kay's contribution during her stay from March to early July this year has made a remarkable difference in the park!

Kay grew up in the Chicago area but got here as fast as she could, moving to Texas right out of High School. Kay's passion is birding and her favorite Texas bird is the Indigo Bunting. Her work on restoring the water features at the bird blind has made the Indigo Bunting a frequent visitor to that area of the park. She also enjoys fly fishing, hiking, kayaking, and interacting with visitors to provide information and promote appreciation and maintenance of our Texas natural resources. Her favorite Garner hike is the Bridges Trail.

Kay is Sister on the Fly #1354 and enjoys camping in her vintage 1955 Silver Streak "Jetta June". She plans to Park Host at Garner in October and again in the Spring. We're so glad that she'll "be back again next year"!

To learn more about the Texas Master Naturalist program click on the following links:

<https://txmn.tamu.edu/> <https://txmn.org/about/become-a-master-naturalist/> <https://txmn.org/about/>

Current Board Members:

President:	Debbie Jackson
Vice President:	Scott Davis
Secretary:	MaryAnn Laughlin Abbot
Treasurer:	Terry Berkstresser
Members-at-Large:	Ed Mack, Johnnie Jackson, Charmaine Davis, Robert Adams, Dirk Foshee, Debbie Armentor

Park Superintendent: David Allen, Garner State Park

Newsletter Contact: Brenda Seidenberg, Visitor Center Manager
FOGConcan1.TX@gmail.com

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again next
year...
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