



Mission

The Mission of Texans for State Parks is to preserve and enhance the State Park System for the benefit of the people of Texas and their guests.

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Texans for State Parks

Citizens working to preserve and enhance our great state park system

The Voice

October, 2010

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From the President:

We are quickly approaching another Legislative Session. This coming February, our annual Membership Meeting will take place at McKinney Falls State Park on the 12th. We plan to have Texas State Parks, Texans for State Parks, and hopefully Members of the Legislature in attendance to help us plan our activities for the Session. It will be important for all our Members, Friends Groups, and other interested parties to send representatives to this event.

In order to present a unified voice for our Parks and Historic Sites, we need to have planning sessions. This is important to see that all our Parks have adequate funding through the next two years. Please make your plans to attend or send someone from your group. More information is available in the following pages.

John Cobb, President

TfSP Board of Directors Meeting November 6

The Texans for State Parks Board of Directors will hold their last 2010 quarterly meeting November 6 in the conference room at The Heritage at Gaines Ranch Loop Road. The Heritage

is off Loop 1 between Hwy 360 and Hwy 290. The board meeting will begin at 11 am and end around 3 P.M.

Directors, and any others planning to attend, please respond regarding your attendance around the first of that week if you can so we can make lunch arrangements.

Business will include finalizing the amendment to the by-laws setting a fall date for the election of directors, and plans for the 2011 annual meeting.

The board will also address any new information regarding the ongoing budget reduction measures and how they will impact parks. According to the Parks and Wildlife staff, they are working to identify additional 10% cuts requested by the Legislative Budget Board. However, the LBB's initial budget won't be released until late November, when we will have a better idea of what steps will have to be taken.

The LOCATION for 2011 Annual Member's Meeting Has Been Changed.

The 2011 Annual Meeting will be held at McKinney Falls State Park February 11-12 instead of Buescher State Park.

The September newsletter announced the date and location of the 2011 Annual Members Meeting as February 11-12 at Buescher State Park. However, we have since been notified that the construction work updating the facility has been delayed and will not be completed before sometime in March.

We still have a hold on some cabins at Bastrop State Park Feb 11th – 13th, 2011 with accommodations ranging from 2 – 6 people. These cabins are only on hold until November 1. After that date, reservations will be open to the general public, so this may be your best chance to reserve one of these popular facilities. The cabins are currently undergoing repairs, but are scheduled to be available by the date of the TfSP meeting.

More details about the meeting will be available to all on our mailing list, our e-mail lists and on the website, www.texansstateparks.org as the date nears.

TPWD Proposes Land Acquisition for New State Park on Devils River

The Texas Parks and Wildlife Commission on Nov. 4 will consider a proposal to acquire a 17,638-acre property for a new state park on the Devils River in Val Verde County. Texas Parks and Wildlife Department will hold public meetings about the proposal Oct. 20 in Del Rio and Oct. 26 in San Antonio.

The proposal would result in the exchange of the existing Devils River State Natural Area as partial payment for a privately owned ranch downriver, which would become a new state park. The ranch has significantly more

river frontage and better public access as well as outstanding natural and cultural features.

“By repositioning our existing assets along the Devils River, we can increase public access to and awareness of this spectacular river, as well as expand protection of this region’s uniquely important natural and cultural resources,” said Carter Smith, TPWD executive director.

“A permanent conservation easement on the existing state natural area property will prevent unsuitable development and ensure continued protection there,” Smith said. “The new property, which is also protected by a conservation easement, will become a premiere park to boost the regional economy and provide enhanced recreation options to Texans for decades to come.”

The ranch has 10 miles of frontage on the Devils River and Amistad Reservoir with spectacular views from mesas and canyons, and a variety of wildlife habitats.

If the commission approves this proposal, TPWD is committed to a comprehensive master planning process, involving a broad spectrum of stakeholders, including landowners, paddlers, traditional park users, and local officials, resulting in a public use plan outlining how and when people can enjoy the property.

“The agency’s goal is to balance landowner rights along the river with public recreational access and effective stewardship of this region’s incredible natural and cultural resources,” says Scott Boruff, Deputy Executive Director of Operations.

The department is working to inform elected officials, Devils

River landowners, key stakeholder groups and the public about the proposal.

The agency will hold two formal public meetings where they will explain the proposal and answer questions:

- 6 p.m., Wednesday, Oct. 20 – Del Rio Civic Center, Mesquite Room, 1915 Veteran’s Blvd., Del Rio, TX (830-774-8641)
- 6 p.m., Tuesday, Oct. 26 – Central Public Library, 600 Soledad, San Antonio, TX (210) 207-2500

The public may comment on the proposal at the Nov. 4 Texas Parks and Wildlife Commission meeting in Austin. Questions or comments about the proposal can be sent by email to ted.hollingsworth@tpwd.state.tx.us or by regular mail to Ted Hollingsworth, Texas Parks and Wildlife Department, 4200 Smith School Road, Austin, TX 78744. On the Net: http://www.tpwd.state.tx.us/news/media/news_images/?g=devils_river_land_acquisition

Bluegrass Music Highlights Colorado Bend State Park Fall Festival Oct. 23

The bluegrass sound of Dueling Hearts from Waco will highlight a day-long celebration of autumn in the outdoors Saturday, Oct. 23, as the Friends of Colorado Bend State Park host the park’s eighth annual fall festival at the park on the Colorado River near Bend.

Festivities run 9 a.m.-5 p.m. in the lodge area above Gorman Falls, the largest travertine waterfall in Texas, located an easy half mile walk from the festival area. Festival admission is free, but normal park entrance fees apply.

The festival supports the state park friends group, founded in 2000, which has led volunteer efforts to expand the park hike and bike trail system from 17 to 28 miles in the past few years, including several new intermediate to advanced mountain bike trails. The friends group also created an extensive **Trails of Colorado Bend** website with maps and information about the expanded trail system.



www.Tpwd.state.tx.us/spdest/findadest/parks/Colorado_bend

Festival visitors are invited to bring a lawn chair, blankets, cooler and sack lunch, as well as a guitar, banjo, fiddle, bass, mandolin, or Dobro for a full day of great bluegrass music jamming. Those that wish to stay overnight may reserve tent camping reservation through the Texas State Parks reservation center at (512) 389-8900.

Colorado Bend State Park, located near the small town of Bend on the Colorado River above Lake Buchanan boasts a variety of outdoor recreation opportunities, including tent

camping, hiking, mountain biking, picnicking, and birding. The park offers six miles of Colorado River frontage for fishing, tubing, kayaking and swimming.

Day use entry fees are \$4 per adult, free for children 12 and under. For more information, phone at the park at (325) 628-3240

Sheldon Lake SP Hosts a Natural Halloween October 23

A Wilderness Oasis on the edge of Houston, the park specializes in nature study, environmental education and family fishing.

Enjoy the park's Halloween fun searching for owls and spider eyes or walking the spooky trail. Night fishing and campfire tales are also a part of the evening activities at this family-oriented event. October 23, 2010 from 07:00 PM to 09:00 PM. (281) 456-2800 x230

State Parks Host Tours of Bond Repair Project Sites

The second of four scheduled legislative briefings and media tours at four Texas State Parks to showcase how state parks are "getting better all the time" will be held Wednesday, Oct. 13 at Bastrop State Park.

The first show-and-tell for media and invited officials took place Oct. 6 at Daingerfield State Park in far northeast Texas.

The final two events will take place on Oct. 20 at Garner State Park and Oct. 27 at Cleburne

State park. The four parks are among more than 40 state parks undergoing major rejuvenation projects resulting from the sale of \$44 million in voter-approved bonds authorized by the Texas Legislature to fund repairs and renovations to park cabins, bathrooms, electrical and water systems and other park infrastructure. To learn more, visit:

www.tpwd.state.tx.us/newsmedia/releases/news_roundup/state_parks_getting_better/

Texans for State Parks invites you to join in protecting Texas treasures.

Texans for State Parks is a statewide, not-for-profit organization that works exclusively in support of the preservation and enhancement of the state parks, state historic sites, and state natural areas of Texas.

Whether you are an individual, organization, school group or represent a small business or a major corporation, membership categories provide a way for you to become involved.

Your tax deductible dues help fund advocacy and education efforts, and contributions to special parks activities as funds are available.

Please *Join Today* if you aren't already a member!

[Click Here for Membership Application](#), print, complete and mail to Texans for State Parks, P. O. Box 41480, Austin, TX 7804-0025.

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