



# Texas Rivers

## Annual Newsletter, 2013

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

[www.txrivers.org](http://www.txrivers.org)

### Email addresses; access to rivers; and sewage

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First off, did you get a paper copy of this newsletter mailed to you when you had specifically asked that it be sent by e-mail? Well, that can only mean that we don't have a working e-mail address for you. You can fix this problem by sending me a short e-mail (my address is to your left) and letting me know your current address. Or, if your dues aren't current, you can either mail in the application (back page) or go to our webpage (address above) and renew your membership online. You can pay your dues with a PayPal account, or you can use a credit card (through PayPal). If you renew or join online, be sure to send me an e-mail requesting t-shirts, caps or whitewater videos if you want them. And let us know if the electronic version of this annual newsletter is OK. Printing and postage costs money and we are trying to run a tight ship here. Thanks for your help.

#### Access to our rivers at highway rights of way

As I'm sure you are aware, it's getting harder and harder to access some of our waterways. The problem is often caused by irresponsible paddlers (or, most often, non-paddling river floaters) who throw out their trash, foul the air with their language and generally make life miserable for folks who live nearby. One solution would be for the state to close access to our rivers at state owned highway crossings; but obviously, that solution is not acceptable to us. Highway rights of way have traditionally been the most common means of accessing rivers and this organization is unwilling to lose that access.

A case in point is the **Devil's River** in West Texas. The Texas Parks and Wildlife Department has decided that only 24 people per day may launch on the Devils River at the Highway 163 right of way (12 folks doing one day trips and 12 folks launching for multiple day trips). I personally find it odd that only 24 people can launch to float the Devils, whereas as many as 5,000 drunken tubers can launch from Westerfield Crossing per day on a holiday weekend. This issue is going to be our most pressing topic at our annual meeting on March 3 (see article within this newsletter). Everyone is welcome to attend and share his or her thoughts on this subject.

#### Sewage in our rivers

I have been told that I should not suggest that cities are putting sewage into our rivers. And, I admit that calling it reclaimed water does sound better. But the reality is that treated sewage is still sewage, and it is imperative that, if we are going to discharge it into our waterways, we clean it up as much as our technology will allow. This organization, with the help of the generous donation of the time and talent of some of the lawyers from the Save Our Springs Alliance in Austin has been fighting a permit that was written by the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality that would have allowed the City of Castroville to discharge its sewage into the Medina River at what we consider to be less than state-of-the-art treatment. Up until this time, the sewage from Castroville has been used to irrigate farmland. And, as anyone who has driven through that part of Texas knows, that area is definitely farming country (with lots of Edwards Aquifer water being used for irrigation). TRPA and SOS were able to get the farmers and the city to sit down at the same table and work out an arrangement that should keep the wastewater out of the river and onto the farmland for at least the next ten years. And, if the city eventually does build a new treatment plant, we have hopes that they will go ahead and build a state of the art plant. So there you go: the news ain't all bad!

Tom Goynes, president

## TRPA Financial Report 2012

### General Fund:

|                                       |             |
|---------------------------------------|-------------|
| Beginning Balance 1/1/2012            | \$25,242.74 |
| Plus contributions for 2012           | 11,087.19   |
| Plus interest received                | 19.49       |
| Subtotal general fund                 | \$36,349.42 |
| Less expenses:                        |             |
| Brazos River instream flow studies    | \$10,000.00 |
| Castroville wastewater legal expenses | 1,728.37    |
| Friends of the Neches                 | 500.00      |
| Devils River access working group     | 481.24      |
| Bumper Stickers                       | 345.60      |
| Newsletter                            | 184.00      |
| Postage                               | 239.76      |
| Web and e-mail hosting                | 60.00       |
| Total expenses                        | \$13,538.97 |
| Total general fund 12/31/2012         | \$22,810.45 |

### Hidalgo Falls Fund 2012

|  |            |
|--|------------|
| Money earmarked for Hidalgo Falls 1/1/12 | \$3,251.71 |
| Contributions received for Hidalgo Falls | 1,855.00   |
| Total money available                    | \$5,106.71 |
| Less Expenses:                           |            |
| Supplies and maintenance                 | 373.88     |
| Property tax                             | 464.65     |
| Total expenses                           | \$838.53   |
| Total money available 12/31/12           | \$4,268.18 |

### River Road Fund 2012

|                           |          |
|---------------------------|----------|
| Beginning Balance, 1/1/12 | \$200.13 |
| Ending balance 12/31/12   | \$200.13 |

### Center Point Rockcrusher Fund 2012

|                          |            |
|--------------------------|------------|
| Beginning Balance 1/1/12 | \$5,806.48 |
| Contributions Received   | 50.00      |
| Total money available    | \$5,856.48 |
| Less Legal Expenses      | 1,905.90   |
| Ending Balance, 12/31/12 | \$3,950.58 |

### Center Point Lion's Park Fund 2012

|                          |          |
|--------------------------|----------|
| Beginning Balance 1/1/12 | \$0      |
| Contributions received   | 100.00   |
| Ending balance 12/31/12  | \$100.00 |

### Mike Ash Memorial 2012

|                                    |          |
|------------------------------------|----------|
| Beginning Bal. Ash memorial 1/1/12 | \$100.00 |
| Contributions received             | 150.00   |
| Total money available              | 250.00   |
| Less donation to Martindale access | 125.00   |
| Ending Balance 12/31/12            | \$125.00 |

## News

**Rockcrusher Fund:** For a number of years now, we have been fighting a company that wants to operate a rockcrusher on the banks of the Guadalupe River and right in the middle of the town of Center Point. This past year it looked like the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality was going to grant the company a permit. But, possibly due to our continued opposition, the application was withdrawn at the last minute. We have high hopes that this issue is now dead. But, we won't be holding our breaths.

**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/>

**The Battle over the Brazos:** In our continuing effort to maintain instream flow in the Brazos River, we contributed \$10,000 toward the battle to include acceptable instream flow standards in the Basin and Bay Area Stakeholder Committee recommendations (a provision of Senate Bill 3). That group has just completed the first stage of its process. And, while a consensus was not reached (reaching a consensus with water barons is rarely easy) a minority report was submitted which included an alternate, more protective, flow proposal. Over the next nine months, TCEQ will consider these recommendations, and other factors, and adopt flow standards for the Brazos River Basin.

**The Devils River Working Group:** Several members of the TRPA have been working hard (along with Texas Parks and Wildlife staff, and a group of landowners) to secure campsites along the Devils River, and to come up with some sort of a system whereby paddlers can enjoy the river without fear of overcrowding and/or conflicts with landowners. TRPA paid for the food for one of the meetings of this group. Starting this year, a new Working Group will be continuing this project. It remains to be seen how well this project works out. We are very concerned that paddlers might be losing access at Bakers Crossing without gaining anything in return. This will be a discussion item at the annual meeting.

**The Center Point Lion's Park.** Some folks in Center Point, perhaps impressed with our tenacity in fighting the rockcrusher, have asked us to help them raise money for their small park on the banks of the Guadalupe River. They would like to improve the park with some picnic tables and a restroom. If you are interested in helping with the project (or any of our other projects) make a contribution and be sure to tell us to earmark the money for that cause.

## Hidalgo Falls River Festival

Saturday April 20, 2013

The 12th annual Hidalgo Falls River Festival will be held on April 20 at the TRPA Hidalgo Falls property on the Brazos River near Navasota. The festival, which is the year's major fund-raising event to provide paddlers' access to the rapid, has attracted more than 200 paddlers and spectators in the past. Unlike in previous years, this year's event will be only a one-day affair.

The Festival is an opportunity for paddlers, their families, and friends 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 other boaters from around the state. We ask that people contribute \$10/person to help cover expenses (e.g., toilets, electricity).

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>



The new bathhouse at Hidalgo

## San Marcos River Clean Up 28th Annual - March 2, 2013

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](mailto:tomgoynes@mac.com)

## TRPA Annual Meeting

On **Sunday, March 3 at 10 a.m.** the Texas Rivers Protection Association will hold it's 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 512-787-5574 or visit our website at <http://www.sanmarcosriverretreat.com>



## 10th Annual Brazos River Cleanup Saturday, April 6, 2013

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](mailto:twtedlowe@sbcglobal.net) 214-358-0612, cell:

214-802-6811 <http://www.friendsofthebrazos.org>

## 13th Annual Medina River Cleanup Saturday, May 4, 2013

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 3 and 4 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 [pioneertr@sbcglobal.net](mailto:pioneertr@sbcglobal.net) or visit their web site, [www.pioneerriverresort.com](http://www.pioneerriverresort.com)

Info about the clean up and the Medina River Protection Fund is available at: [www.MedinaRiver.net](http://www.MedinaRiver.net) or write [rbrischetto@wireweb.net](mailto: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>

## 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 or a Texas Whitewater DVD. Rangers and above receive all three. Guardians need to indicate their choice (cap, t-shirt or DVD) 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 or  DVD

Ranger \$100 & above  Cloisonné Pin and  Cap and  t-shirt (circle one) M L XL XXL and  DVD

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

I would like to receive a new bumper sticker.

