

# Texas Rivers

## Annual Newsletter, 2014

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

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

### How We Roll

#### Officers:

Tom Goynes, President  
San Marcos, 512-392-6171  
<mailto:tom@txrivers.org> (Tom will forward emails to board members)

David Reichert, Vice-president  
San Antonio, 210-545-0548

Kathy Cusick, Secretary  
Spring Branch, 830-885-5324

Duane TeGrotenhuis, Treas.  
Martindale, 512-353-3946

#### Board of Directors:

Steve Daniel  
College Station, 979-324-4199

David Davenport  
New Braunfels, 830-609-3038

John Erskine  
Austin, 512-413-9874

Jack Fairchild  
Martindale, 512-357-6827

Rich Grayson  
Dallas, 214-733-4140

Jim Hatcher  
Fort Stockton, 432-336-6700

Ed Lowe  
Dallas, 214-802-6811

Marcos Paredes  
Big Bend National Park

Ginger Turner  
Austin, 512-459-5742

Fred Zagst  
Marble Falls, 830-693-1054

Charles Zucker  
Austin, 512-328-8153

I had a call, not long ago, from a fellow who was trying to reach the Texas Rivers Protection Agency. It turned out that he had reached the right organization; he just had the wrong name (and, I'm sure the wrong impression of what we are about). We are not an agency of the State of Texas. In fact, we are a totally voluntary organization (no paid staff, no office, no utilities etc).

So, I thought it might be interesting for ya'll to hear the story from start to finish on how we were able to stop a bad water quality permit from being granted by the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) to the City of Castroville.

It all started while I was in the waiting area of the birthing center of Memorial Hospital in Sugarland. My daughter Sandy was about to give birth to our first grand baby, Eden. It was late November of 2007. I got a call from a fellow named John Hall who lives on the Medina River just downstream of Castroville. He said that Castroville had applied for a permit to discharge their sewage effluent into the river and he wanted to know what he could do to stop them.

I walked him through the process: first, he needed to request a public meeting; then he needed to line up some people who lived close enough to the point of discharge to be able to acquire party status, then we needed to request a contested case hearing. Once we reached that stage, I felt confident that Castroville would negotiate and we could at least get the best possible treatment for the effluent. And, since the effluent was currently being used to irrigate farmland, I felt pretty sure that that process could continue.

Thanks to the amazing diligence of John Hall and Byrde Wagner, and of Bill Bunch and Andrew Hawkins (lawyers for the Save our Springs Alliance who agreed to help us with the case) we were finally able to get our contested case hearing set (TCEQ originally denied our request but an appeals judge said otherwise).

We had been told by the city that the farmers would not negotiate a long term contract; and we had been told by the farmers that the city would not negotiate; and, for these reasons, irrigation was no longer an option. But Bill Bunch was able to get the farmers and the city to sit down for a talk, and it turned out that their differences weren't impassable. A settlement was reached, in 2013, and the city agreed to treat their effluent to a higher standard in the event that they ever have to discharge it into the river.

So, an expensive hearing was avoided, the farmers can continue to use the "wastewater" for a beneficial use, and the river will benefit by having less nutrients dumped into it. All because John Hall made a call, and a lot of volunteers were willing to do their part to protect Texas Rivers.

So, that's how we roll: we depend on volunteers like John Hall and Byrde Wagner and Board members like Steve Daniel who keeps Hidalgo Falls maintained, and Ed Lowe who does amazing things to protect the Brazos and Rich Grayson and Marcos Paredes for serving two terms on the Devils River Working Group and Rich's work to keep the website updated and lawyers like Bill Bunch who work so hard for so little, and John Erskine for working with the kids in Austin to get them interested in protecting rivers. And let's not forget Joe Riddell, who spent last summer preparing a critique that helped open the highway right of way at Bakers crossing (which had been closed, by the state, as a public put in). And then there is your generosity with your financial support. Ya'll keep us rolling. Thanks

Tom Goynes, president.

## TRPA Financial Report 2013

### General Fund:

Beginning Balance 1/1/2013	\$22,810.45
Plus contributions for 2013	14,777.74
Plus interest received	17.78
Subtotal general fund	\$37,605.97
Less general expenses:	
Castroville legal expenses	2,000.00
Austin Youth River Watch	1,000.00
Bumper Stickers	345.60
Newsletter	70.40
Postage	191.22
Office Supplies	61.18
Website hosting	60.00
Sec of State Filing Fee	5.00
Total general expenses	\$3,733.40
Total general fund 12/31/2013	\$33,872.57

### Hidalgo Falls Fund 2013

Money earmarked for Hidalgo Falls 1/1/13	\$3,768.18
Contributions received for Hidalgo Falls	1,401.00
Total money available	\$5,169.18
Less Expenses:	
Property tax	589.78
Maintenance	76.46
Total expenses	\$666.24
Total money available 12/31/13	\$4,502.94

### River Road Fund 2013

Beginning Balance, 1/1/13	\$200.13
Ending balance 12/31/13	\$200.13

### Center Point Rockcrusher Fund 2013

Beginning Balance 1/1/13	\$3,950.58
Ending Balance, 12/31/11	\$3,950.58

### Center Point Lion's Park

Beginning Balance 1/1/13	\$100.00
Ending Balance 12/31/13	\$100.00

### Mike Ash Memorial

Beginning Balance 1/1/13	\$125.00
Contributions Received	100.00
Ending Balance 12/31/13	\$225.00

### Nuisance Lawsuit San Marcos River

Beginning Balance 1/1/13	\$0
Contributions Received	1,600.00
Less Legal Expenses	1,600.00
Ending Balance 12/31/13	\$0

## News

**Hidalgo Falls Fund:** In April 2001, thanks to contributions of more than \$65,000 by 160 individuals and paddling organizations throughout Texas, TRPA was able to purchase 10.1 acres of property at Hidalgo Falls on the Brazos River near Navasota. Since then, hundreds of canoeists and kayakers from across the state have used the property, developed camping facilities there, and spent many hours clearing debris. In March 2003, another sixty paddlers, with the support of local, state, and national groups, donated an additional \$17,000 to acquire two more acres. In November 2003 we sold three of our acres downstream of the rapid, and with \$15,000 contributed by another thirty paddlers, we added another four acres immediately overlooking the rapid. In 2009

and 2010 paddlers again contributed over \$25,000 to drill a water well, install a septic fields, and build a bathhouse (with toilets, showers with hot water, and lavatories).

**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/>

**Rockcrusher Fund:** Several years ago a company called Wheatcraft applied for an air quality permit for a rockcrusher on the banks of the Guadalupe River and right in the middle of the town of Center Point. Partly due to our opposition, that company has temporarily withdrawn their permit application. The fund is still maintained in the event that the issue comes up again.

**Center Point Lions Park:** A group in Center Point are interested in improving a small park on the banks of the Guadalupe River.

**Mike Ash Memorial:** A fund maintained to remember an old friend of Texas Rivers. The money is periodically donated to projects that we feel Mike would have liked to support.

**Nuisance Lawsuit, San Marcos River:** There are several tubing operators on the San Marcos River that are particularly offensive when it comes to trash, noise and bad behaviour. A group of local members raised the \$1,600 that was required to study the legal requirements to instigate a nuisance lawsuit against those businesses.

And, we just learned today (January 27) that the New Branufels Disposable Container Ban has been overturned by the courts. So, it's starting to look like a nuisance lawsuit might be the best recourse for this organization to use to try to control the bad behaviour (especially the littering) that is taking place on the San Marcos River (and other rivers wherever tubing is popular). To see some of the problems that are going on, go to our website.

At an rate, it looks like we will be actively involved, in the coming months, in trying to take back Texas Rivers from the scumbags who are destroying them.



Some of the beer cans that tubers leave behind. It's time to  
**Take Back Texas Rivers!**

## San Marcos River Clean Up 29th Annual - March 1, 2014

On Saturday, March 1, 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 so 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. Canoe racers paddling the lower river will meet at Palmetto Park at 8:30 a.m. Everyone paddling the sections of river between the Thompson's Island and Luling will meet at 9:00 a.m. Saturday morning at the San Marcos River Retreat. Persons working the upper sections will meet at City Park in San Marcos at 9:30 a.m.

Tom Goynes (coordinator) 512-392-6171  
e-mail: [tomgoynes@mac.com](mailto:tomgoynes@mac.com)

### TRPA Annual Meeting

On **Sunday, March 2 at 10 a.m.** the Texas Rivers Protection Association will hold it's annual general meeting. We will meet at the Chapel at the San Marcos River Retreat.

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) follow the road to the left to the campground gate. The chapel is the big building on your right. For more info call Tom Goynes at 512-787-5574 or visit our website at <http://www.sanmarcosriverretreat.com>



Brazos River Clean Up

## 11th Annual Brazos River Cleanup Saturday, April 5, 2014

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 (served from 11:30 a.m. -3:30 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 w-214-358-0612, cell-214-802-6811

[elowe@celebrationrestaurant.com](mailto:elowe@celebrationrestaurant.com)

<http://www.friendsofthebrazos.org>

## Hidalgo Falls River Festival

Saturday April 26, 2014

The 13th annual Hidalgo Falls River Festival will be held on April 26 at the TRPA Hidalgo Falls property on the Brazos River near Navasota. The festival is the year's major fund-raising event to support our efforts to provide paddlers' access to the rapid. Paddlers, their families, and friends can explore the property, check out the tidepool-like river features, play in the rapid, have relaxing floats up and down the river, and enjoy camping for the weekend. 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>

## 14th Annual Medina River Cleanup Saturday, May 2, 2014

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 1 and 2 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 [pioneertrr@sbcglobal.net](mailto:pioneertrr@sbcglobal.net).

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>

## Bios for folks running for TRPA offices and board positions

**Tom Goynes** has been paddling canoes and kayaks since 1967. He has served as president of the TRPA since its inception (in the late 1980's). He and his wife, Paula, own a campground and have lived on the San Marcos River since 1972.

**David Reichert** started canoeing at Bull Creek Lodges in the mid-50's and got into whitewater paddling in the early 70's. He is a founding member of TRPA and has been active in ACA (BOD, NIC, Safety Committee, Public Policy & Conservation Board), TRRA & USCKT (slalom judge & race organizer; trained as junior sprint coach). He runs the CanoeTX e-mail list and was certified by ACA & Red Cross to teach river canoeing. He was an ACA swiftwater rescue instructor trainer and had SRT II certification. He and his wife Modrea live in San Antonio.

**Duane TeGrotenhuis** has served as a TRPA board member from its very beginning. He assumed roles of vice president and treasurer. Along with Evelyn, his wife, he owns and operates T G Canoes and Kayaks with two locations at San Marcos and in Austin, as well as Buchanan Adventure Tours at Canyon of the Eagles, on the Colorado River and Lake Buchanan, near Burnet, TX. TGCK has been serving the San Marcos River for 25 years and running.

**Kathy Cusick** has been a TRPA Board Member for many years. She has lived in rural Comal County for the past 15 years, which is when she began paddling. She was a certified canoe and kayak instructor with the American Canoe Association for over 10 years, and is a past President and Vice President of the Alamo City Rivermen Canoe Club. Her present preferred craft is a whitewater canoe, but enjoys river tripping and is a regular participant in local river clean up activities. She is also a board member of the Guadalupe River Association..

**Steve Daniel** (College Station) has been a whitewater kayaker for 30 years. He is the author of Texas Whitewater (2nd ed., Texas A&M University Press, 2004) and producer/editor of Texas Whitewater: The DVD. He has been the coordinator of the property at Hidalgo Falls ever since the TRPA purchased the land in 2001.

**Dave Davenport** (New Braunfels) has served on the board of the TRPA for many years. Also serves on the South Central Texas Water Advisory Committee and on the Guadalupe River Association.

**John Erskine** John Erskine is a die hard water nut and has been paddling and fly fishing on Texas Rivers for 30 years. As an Austin resident for the past 20 years, he has been involved in local and state wide conservation issues, and has been a strong advocate of water rights, access, and conservation of Texas waterways. In addition to having a background in Environmental Education, John also serves as the Board President of Austin Youth River Watch.

**Jack Fairchild** has been a San Marcos River rat since the 1930's. Formal Naval Aviator, U.T.A. Engineering Prof, and SMRF President for 9 yrs. Primary interest is the protection of Texas rivers for the future. He lives on the San Marcos River near Martindale.

**Richard Grayson** lives in East Dallas and has been a member of TRPA for about 22 years. Served as president of Dallas DownRiver Club in 1989. Serves as webmaster for TRPA

([www.txrivers.org](http://www.txrivers.org)) and Friends of the Brazos River ([www.friendsofthebrazos.org](http://www.friendsofthebrazos.org)). He served on two Devils River Working Groups. He loves to paddle his 16' Wenonah and fly fishes Texas rivers often. Richard rafts western whitewater rivers regularly. Visit his personal web page at [www.rivergeek.com](http://www.rivergeek.com).

**Jim Hatcher** (Fort Stockton) Has served on the board of the TRPA for many years. Often represents our interest in the Big Bend area.

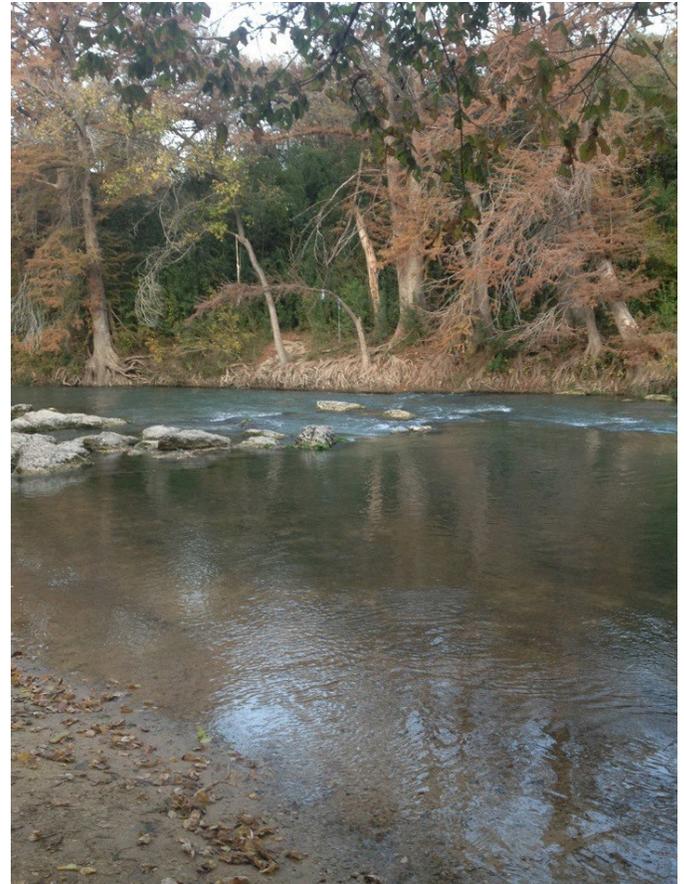
**John Hohn** (San Marcos). Has served as a lawyer for the TRPA in several cases. Loves the rivers of this state and spends a lot of time protecting them.

**Ed Lowe** has been plying Texas and southwestern rivers since 1968. He has served on the TRPA Board since 2000. With generous financial and moral support of TRPA, Lowe founded Friends of the Brazos River ([www.friendsofthebrazos.org](http://www.friendsofthebrazos.org)) in 2003 to preserve the ecological integrity and promote recreational opportunities on the Brazos River. He lives in Dallas and spends weekends at his Brazos river house near Glen Rose.

**Marcos Paredes** is a retired River Ranger in Big Bend National Park. He has served on many river conservation boards over the years including the Devils River Working Groups 1 and 2.

**Fred Zagst** (Marble Falls) an avid canoeist, has served on the board of TRPA for many years.

**Charles Zucker** Paddler and avid fly fisher, has lived in Austin for 23 years. He wants to preserve our rivers for the next generation and for the generations that follow.





## 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.



Texas Rivers Protection Association  
444 Pecan Park Drive  
San Marcos, TX 78666