



Texas Rivers

Annual Newsletter, 2019

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

www.txrivers.org

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Texas Rivers Lose True Friend

Can any of us think of a better way to spend Election Day than to spend it paddling on the Rio Grande? Ed Lowe, founder of the Friends of the Brazos and longtime board member of this organization launched on a trip through Boquillas Canyon on Tuesday, November 6. Knowing Ed, I feel pretty confident that he voted early. And knowing Ed, I figure that after voting he felt like the best way to spend that day would be to get out into God's creation and enjoy some fall weather on the Rio Grande. That evening, instead of watching election results come in, he could be watching a camp fire; totally out of contact with those results over which he had no control.

He was with a small group of friends - not one of his guided trips where he introduced, over the years, hundreds of young people to that river. On this trip, Ed was introducing three adult newcomers to the Rio Grande, friends from Seattle - Christine, Mary Kay and Nick. Fellow TRPA board member and Ed's East Dallas neighbor, Rich Grayson had been eagerly looking forward to this Boquillas trip for months.

The group had entered the canyon, and it being 3PM, they chose a campsite. And, of course, the first order of business was to have a look around. I can remember one side canyon on the Lower Canyons of that river - we gave it the name Haunted Canyon - others later called it Many Tinaja Canyon, where every member of the group said they had the same feeling - like something or someone was watching us - so we had to explore a bit - we had to look around and get the sense that the place was a good place to set up camp. Most of the time the scouting of a campsite simply means a check to make sure there were plenty of level places to set up tents, plenty of firewood and a nice vista for the groover.

While scouting the campsite, Ed fell from a sandy embankment and fractured his neck. Nobody witnessed the fall but his friends quickly rushed to his side. Campsites in side canyons of the Rio Grande often have drop offs and unlevelled terrain and sometimes serious accidents happen. This time the rivers of Texas lost a very good friend. Rich Grayson related, "his death was almost instantaneous and his suffering short. Ed died doing what he loved in a magnificent river canyon."

Ed spent a lifetime loving Texas rivers. His Friends of the Brazos River non-profit cleaned the Brazos regularly. And he did more to insure minimum stream flows for the Brazos than anyone. To pay for these efforts, he spent hours organizing fund raisers and preparing meals to bring folks to those fundraisers. His Dallas restaurant, Celebration, being the source of those meals.

His memorial service and reception in Dallas were amazing events. Where people who knew Ed from all the many aspects of his life - his restaurant, his organizations, his friends and the kids he introduced to rivers - got a chance to meet one another. It turned out to be a small version of the melting pot that this nation has been and needs to be again. There will never be another Ed Lowe. But we all need to make an effort to emulate him. We all We need to introduce people to Texas rivers, to them clean and flowing. We need to protect Texas rivers.

Let's do it for Ed. Tom Goynes, president.

TRPA Financial Report 2018

General Fund:

Beginning Balance 1/1/2018	\$35,548.90
Contributions for 2018	20,584.33
Plus interest received	48.63
Subtotal general fund	\$56,181.86
Less general expenses:	
Save our Springs Alliance	5,000.00
San Marcos River Foundation	1,000.00
Colorado River Clean Up	1,000.00
Caps	288.00
Newsletter	207.00
Postage	194.57
River Network	150.00
Office Supplies	2.40
Total general expenses	7,841.97
Total general fund 12/31/2018	\$48,339.89

Hidalgo Falls Fund 2018

Beginning Balance 1/1/18	\$4,816.93
Contributions received	855.00
Total Money Available	5,671.93
Less Maintenance and electricity	188.00
Total money available 12/31/18	\$5,483.93

River Road Fund 2018

Beginning Balance, 1/1/18	\$200.13
Ending balance 12/31/18	\$200.13

Center Point Rockcrusher Fund 2018

Beginning Balance 1/1/18	\$3,950.58
Contributions Received	40.00
Ending Balance, 12/31/18	\$3,990.58

Center Point Lion's Park 2018

Beginning Balance 1/1/18	\$100.00
Ending Balance 12/31/18	\$100.00

Mike Ash Memorial 2018

Beginning Balance 1/1/18	\$350.00
Ending Balance 12/31/18	\$350.00

Can Ban And Tuber Issues Fund 2018

Beginning Balance 1/1/18	\$1,102.42
Contributions Received	900.00
Less Can Ban stickers	383.08
Ending Balance 12/31/18	\$2,002.42

Total funds (all accounts) 12/31/18 \$60,466.95

Earmarked Special Accounts

The TRPA board regularly establishes special accounts (and often makes initial investments into those accounts from the general fund). In most cases these funds are established to help locals fight a bad project (like a poorly planned sewage treatment plant or a rock crusher). If you know of a special threat to your favorite river that would benefit from such an account (and remember, we are a non-profit tax exempt organization, so donations are tax deductible) let us know.

Hidalgo Falls Fund: Since April 2001, canoeists, kayakers, and river lovers have been donating money and time to purchase and maintain 13 acres of land at Hidalgo Falls on the Brazos River. Now there is a restroom and camping area for TRPA members and guests to enjoy. Read about it on the TRPA website: www.txrivers.org

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.

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.

Save our Springs Alliance and the San Marcos River foundation: The TRPA regularly supports these organizations and they regularly helps us. Our goals align.

Can Ban Fund: This past fall, the Texas Supreme Court refused to hear the appeal of a group that wanted to overturn the New Braunfels Can Ban. Probably no ordinance in the country has done more to keep a river clean than that "can ban" - which is actually an ordinance that prohibits all single use containers. This winter the City of Martindale passed a can ban as well. Now our hope is that the City of San Marcos will do so as well. This fund allows us to educate people about the litter problems and other issues with the improper use of rivers by uncaring individuals.



Cans in the bottom of the Comal River in New Braunfels prior to the passage of the can ban. >>

San Marcos River Clean Up 34th Annual - March 2, 2019

On Saturday, March 2, folks from all over Texas will be picking up trash and cleaning flood debris along the San Marcos River. 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 www.sanmarcosriverretreat.com 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) 512-787-5574
e-mail: tomgoynes@mac.com

TRPA Annual Meeting

On **Sunday, March 3 at 10 a.m.** the Texas Rivers Protection Association will hold its annual meeting in the Cowboy 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 Pecan Park Campground (on your left) and TG Canoes & Kayaks (on your right). The road will enter the San Marcos River Retreat. Go left to the chapel. For more info call Tom Goynes at 512-787-5574 or visit our website at <http://www.sanmarcosriverretreat.com>



Brazos River Clean Up

17th Annual Brazos River Cleanup First Ed Lowe Memorial Paddle Day Saturday, April 6, 2019

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 noon to 4 pm)

*Free canoes and shuttles provided by Low Water Canoes and Rhodes Canoes Note: If you want to be assured of having a canoe, reserve early by email, or calling Ed (see below). Low Water and Rhodes have fewer canoes to offer than they have in past years.

Cabins and RV hook ups available. Call Tres Rios for info 254-897-4253

info@friendsofthebrazos.org
<http://www.friendsofthebrazos.org>

Hidalgo Falls River Festival Saturday April 13, 2019

The 18th annual Hidalgo Falls River Festival will be held on April 13 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://people.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://people.tamu.edu/~sdaniel/hidalgo.html>

19th Annual Medina River Cleanup Saturday, May 4, 2019

Register: 9-12 a.m. at Bandera City Park at the Dam
Food service for volunteers and donors:

Breakfast tacos and hot dogs for lunch.

Barbecue: 5 p.m. with river music

Free t-shirts for volunteers

Free tent camping with hot showers: May 3 and 4

Discounts for RV's: Pioneer River Resorts.

Info about the clean up and the Medina River Protection Fund is available at: www.MedinaRiver.net or write:

rbrischetto@gmail.com

2nd Annual Colorado River Clean Up Saturday, May 11, 2019

Details are still being worked out. Visit the facebook page to learn more:

<https://www.facebook.com/cleanupthecolorado>

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

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 a logo t-shirt or a cap or a Texas Whitewater DVD. Rangers and above receive all four. Guardians need to indicate their choice (t-shirt, cap, 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 ___ t-shirt (circle one) M L XL XXL, or ___ cap, or ___ DVD

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

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

___ I would like to receive a new bumper sticker.



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