

FORT CLARK DISPATCH

Celebrating Fort Clark Life. Past, Present, & Future.



FCS Men's Golf Association Invites you to the

2021 Annual

Happy Cervantez Memorial

GOLF

TOURNAMENT

at the

FORT CLARK SPRINGS GOLF COURSE

September 25-26

FORMAT - 4-Person Scramble

- Field Is limited to the first 36 4 Person Teams
- Teams will be Flighted prior to play on Sat
- Supper and Team Meeting after Play on Saturday
- TEE Times Shotgun Start - SAT - 1pm / Sun - 10am
- Carts are limited and MUST be paid for when reserved.
- There will be NO charge for bringing your own cart.
- \$500.00 per Team Entry Fee
- All Entry Fees paid back to winners
- Free Play Friday (Cart NOT included)
- Jackpot Longest Drive and Closest to the Pin entry each day

For More Info contact the FCS Proshop at 830-563-9204 or
Cash Letsinger at 830-563-5991 or clletsinger.fcsgolf@gmail.com

Happy Anniversary!!!

Mr Peterson

You Survived One Year



Photos by Julie Moreno

In This Issue...

Dispatch Staff

Alan Peterson

Executive Officer/General Manager

Julie Moreno

HR/Executive Admin

Amos Trisler

Editor/Production/Staff Photographer

Suzanne Mayne

Writer/Staff Photographer

Jack Marsh

Writer

Constance Kilgore

Columnist

Sandra Hagen

Staff

If you would like to contact the Dispatch with comments and/or questions please email us at fcdispatch@fortclark.com. Be sure to put COMMENT in the subject line.

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Cover photo by Julie Moreno

From the Editor...

I expect some people were wondering where this month's Dispatch was hiding. At least, I hope that is the case. We do want people to read and look forward to each issue. A bit late, a bit skinny, but the September issue is here with sincere apologies.

We are a very small, all volunteer staff. The writers were great about getting their material in on time. So no blame on them. They are also busy with living full lives. Which makes for more interesting articles. Currently, I am the only person doing layout and production. As limited time permits we will be cross training anyone interested in learning the software and learning or brushing up on their layout skills. In other words, it's my fault.

Just as I was about to settle in to get things put together we had a family emergency with my elderly mother. I'm 64, so go from there. She is currently doing well, but it did bring a halt to any other activities for the last few weeks. On top of that when I finally got going again I had managed in a moment of distraction to save something on top of the work I did have done. So I had to start over. Enough excuses for now. As my old Drill Sergeant used to say, "The maximum effective range of an excuse is ZERO!"

It may not be Valentines Day, but the heart of the cover is from the members of the Fort to Mr. Peterson. Mr. Peterson just celebrated his one year anniversary as General Manager. I don't think he realized what a monumental task he took on until it was too late. We're just glad he stuck with it and hope he continues to do so. Congratulations, Mr. P! The members of the fort hope you will spend many more with us.

You will also find a press release inside announcing the new Wildlife Biologist, Caitlyn Harlan. We welcome her and look forward to hearing more from her. I had a chance to sit and talk with MS. Harlan briefly. A very intelligent and friendly person. Hopefully, we can convince her to contribute now and then to the magazine. She is going to be an asset to Kinney and Maverick counties and Fort Clark Springs.

Getting back to production of the magazine. I would encourage anyone who either has some background in layout or someone who is wanting to learn to volunteer with the Fort Clark Dispatch. It is a great opportunity to brush up on or gain a new skill. I can teach some basic principles and there is a ton of great video tutorials out there for Affinity Publisher, which we use. The goal is to have a couple of people who can layout small sections of the Dispatch which will be compiled into the final product. Done this way production will go faster overall. Additionally, as seen with this issue, if an emergency arises things won't stop.

You will find the skills you learn will serve and encourage you in creating your own projects. So have some fun, learn some new skills, and be part of something that just may contribute to a stronger, closer community.

Wishing you and yours the best in a world of challenges.

Amos A. Trisler

P.S. After the back cover you will find the 2021-2022 Fort Clark Hunting Regulations.



Congratulations!

Gaby Talamantes!

Besides being a key member of the Admin team and taking care of member's and Fort business for some time now. Gaby, is also a new mother!

First the baby shower at the office. Then...

WELCOME!
BABY VALENTINA!
BORN:
17 AUGUST 2021
4:49 AM
20 INCHES



Fort Clark Naturals

The wild life with Suzanne Mayne

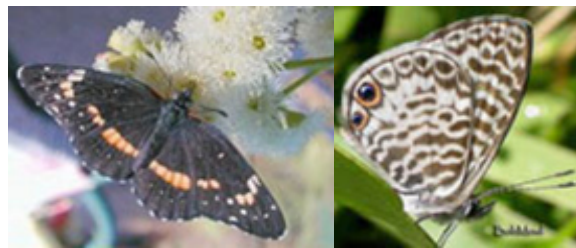
You may have noticed during the summers here at Fort Clark, the tall leafy weedy-looking plants that grow under the trees and as the underbrush in the mesquite forests or along Las Moras Creek. Late in summer, through the late fall, the colonies of green plants become very showy with their profusion of yellow flowers. These are the native Toothleaf Goldeneye, Latin name - *Viguiera dentata*, and may also be known as Sunflower Goldeneye.

Fort Clark Springs has a very well-established population of these prolific plants. Toothleaf Goldeneye will grow between 3-6 feet tall and is an open, bushy and many branched plant. Leaves are narrow and when in bloom, the numerous yellow, 1 ½ inch daisy like flowers are located at the tips of slender stalks. This extremely drought-tolerant plant thrives in poor soil.



Toothleaf Goldeneye is an important plant for many different insects and wildlife. It's dense growing habits offer protection to the young of smaller wildlife. It is the host plant for the larvae of the Cassius Blue and Bordered Patch butterflies.

Photos by Suzanne Mayne



During the Monarch butterflies' fall migration as well as other migrating butterfly species, it is a significant nectar source as it blooms prolifically so late into the cooler months. Moving into the winter months here, the seeds from the flowers are standard fare for foraging birds, and you may encounter flocks of finches hanging upside down on the dried flower heads, feasting on the seeds. Even in winter months, the denser dead stalks and leaves provide some protection to small mammals from winged predators. Seeds will germinate easily and if you choose to grow them in your garden, should be planted in the fall or early spring. And in the spring, before these perennial plants regrow, the dead leaves can be seen woven into bird nests. It is truly a well-used plant!

I enjoy walking along the creek trails in the fall, seeing all the different butterflies that feed on the Goldeneye flower nectar. Last year, I took pictures of all the different butterflies I found and tried to identify them all. It would make a great school "Show & Tell" project! (Butterfly collage here). So put on your walking shoes, gather up your camera, a bottle of water and explore the Fort Clark world of butterflies.



For more information on Fort Clark Hiking Trails: Look online at www.fortclark.com, under the Recreation drop down menu, click on *Hiking/Biking Trails*. There you will find the different designated trails, totaling over 15 miles.

PRESS RELEASE

Provided by Caitlyn Harlan

There's a New Wildlife Biologist in Town

As the Managed Lands Deer Program (MLDP) implemented by the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department (TPWD) has increased in popularity throughout the state of Texas the need for more biologists has increased. Fees have been installed in order to enroll in the MLDP this 2021-2022 season. These fees will fund newly created TPWD wildlife biologist positions in areas of the state where the program has had great success. Kinney and Maverick counties are among some of the first locations to be supplied with new biologists to better serve the constituents in the area. Check out this link for more information regarding the MLD Program.

https://tpwd.texas.gov/business/permits/land/wildlife_management/mldp/



TPWD Wildlife Biologist, Caitlyn Harlan, serves as the new point of contact for the constituents of Kinney and Maverick counties. Caitlyn was born and raised in Thornton, Texas and attended Texas A&M University to pursue a degree in a related field of wildlife conservation. She is enthusiastic about Texas' wildlife and strives to learn more about it every day. Her passion is sharing nature and wildlife with others and her goal throughout her lifetime is to preserve Texas' natural resources for future generations to enjoy. Caitlyn is a member of The Wildlife Society, Texas Wildlife Association, Coastal Conservation Association, and Duck's Unlimited. She enjoys volunteering with the Texas Youth Hunting Program (TYHP) and invites any youth ages 9 to 17 years who are interested in hunting to learn more at the following link.

https://tpwd.texas.gov/huntwild/hunt/youth_hunting/tx_youth_hunt_program/

FORT CLARK SPRINGS COMMUNITY COUNCIL PRESENTS

GHOSTLY TOURS



Save the Date

October 29th & 30th



Photos by Lety Rivas

While there were rumors that Mr. Peterson had called in a few favors to deal with people speeding and running stop signs on the Fort, that is not the case. As anyone who has driven from Brackettville to Del Rio or Uvalde has witnessed, DPS is quite evident along the Highway 90. It is not just Highway 90 either. DPS Officers are patrolling and monitoring the FM roads as well to help deal with the human and drug trafficking that is taking place at high rates in the area.

Many of these officers have been brought in from other areas. This means they are away from family and friends. Veterans and active duty military can appreciate what that really means. Our thanks and appreciation go out to the men and women of DPS who are doing their part under the current situation.

**FORT CLARK SPRINGS SECURITY
JULY 2021
MONTHLY REPORT**

In the month of July 2021 Fort Clark Springs Security was dispatched to:

| | |
|----|---|
| 2 | Air Life Landings |
| 9 | EMS Calls |
| 1 | Report Of Gun Shots |
| 11 | Reports Of Illegal Aliens |
| 1 | Fire Rescue Call (Gas Leak) |
| 1 | Reports Of Theft and Possible Break-In |
| 2 | Reports Of Domestic Disturbance |
| 2 | Reports Of Criminal Mischief |
| 1 | Report Of Public Intoxication |
| 1 | Report Of Lost Individual |
| 1 | Report Of Drug Paraphernalia |
| 1 | Report Of Inoperable Vehicle Being Towed |
| 4 | Reports Of Speeding/ Reckless Driving |
| 3 | Reports Of Loud Music/Noise |
| 14 | Reports Of Dogs Running Loose |
| 10 | Reports Of Suspicious Activity |
| 11 | Reports Of Sick, Injured or Dead Animals |
| 2 | Reports Of Feral Hogs |
| 1 | Report Of A Resident Locked Out Of Their House |
| 57 | Sheriff Deputies Patrolling Inside Of The Fort |
| 46 | DPS Patrolling Inside Of The Fort |
| | Security Personnel also responded to numerous other calls not listed above. |

A reminder to the membership to please call in your guests and contractors. Security will be stopping all contractors in order to make sure proper construction requirements are being followed.

Please report any suspicious activity to FCSA Security (830) 563-2002 or the Kinney County Sheriff's Office (830) 563-2788.

GHOSTLY TOURS

OCTOBER 29TH & 30TH

GET READY

If you dare...



Further Afield

With Teri Marsh

Kickapoo Caverns State Park

This new column will highlight day trips in and around Fort Clark. If you have a suggestion for a “near escape,” submit your ideas to tmarshtx@gmail.com.

When Fort Clark resident Christina Landsborough-Bitters commutes to her job 40 minutes away, she may not encounter a single vehicle on the road. She has, however, encountered deer, raccoons, bobcats, ringtail cats, roadrunners, turkey, porcupines and armadillos. Christina manages the office at Kickapoo Cavern State Park, located about 22 miles from Brackettville on FM 674.

This uncrowded Texas state park features numerous caves, the best-known being Kickapoo Cavern. Visitors can take a guided tour of the cavern on Saturdays at 1 p.m. Ranger-led tour groups are limited to 10 guests, so advanced reservations are a must. My husband and I recently toured Kickapoo Cavern with a group of six guests, led by park rangers Matt Coffman and Travis Earwood, both Fort Clark residents. Typical tours of commercial caves feature level, lighted walkways and staircases. The experience at Kickapoo is much more of a wild caving experience, with a fairly strenuous two hours of climbing over breakdown from a cavern ceiling collapse that happened about 1-2 million years ago. However, we were rewarded with views of some of the largest cave formations in the state or even the nation, soaring to the cavern ceiling 90 feet above our heads. Graffiti dating back as far as the 1880's indicates that area residents have been exploring this cavern for at least 130 years. The cavern is a humid, comfortable 76-78 degrees year-round. We definitely give this tour two big thumbs up, especially with a guide as knowledgeable as Matt, who has been leading cavern tours for seven years now. However, be prepared for a bit of a workout.

After our cave tour, we headed up to the Jailhouse Bar and Grill in Rock Springs for dinner, then drove back down to Kickapoo just in time to watch the bats emerge from Stuart

Bat Cave, a wonder of nature that we shared with about a dozen park visitors. The comfortable silence was broken only by the quiet whoosh of bat wings. Stuart Bat Cave is easily accessible by a short, paved wheelchair-accessible trail. We rounded out our visit with star-gazing from the wide-open and unoccupied group camping area, where we had the best view of the Milky Way that we've seen in quite a while. At Kickapoo, the stars at night are indeed big and bright.

Kickapoo features miles of trails for hiking or mountain biking, with beautiful hill country vistas and opportunities to observe a variety of wildlife, including over 240 species of birds. Rare birds such as black-capped vireos, golden-cheeked warblers, and elf owls are sometimes spotted here. On a recent hike along the Barbado Ridge trail, views of the surrounding hills and valleys from the rocky limestone high points were spectacular, and different rock formations along the trail reflect the Texas hill country's interesting geological history.

The Indigo Creek day use area provides tables and grills, so bring along a picnic lunch. If you'd like to stay longer, overnight campsites are available, including tent sites and five sites with full hookups. Again, sites are limited so reservations are a must.

When you're ready for an outdoor adventure beyond the parameters of Fort Clark, discover Kickapoo Cavern State Park – and be sure to say hello to Christina, Matt, and Travis! For more information, call (830) 563-2342, or visit www.tpwd.texas.gov/state-parks/kickapoo-cavern.





Top and left photos by John Fox



Bottom Photo by Teri Marsh



Ramblin Jack

By Jack Marsh

The Many Lives of an Old Fort Part II

Grant...Patton...Wainwright: Famous names easily recognized among the streets and buildings occupying the landscape of Fort Clark, and frequenting just about any book about American military history. Bowlegs...Factor...Payne...Ward: Names not readily recognized outside the Brackett area, but still occupying a prominent place in Fort Clark history. Where did the people behind these names come from, and why are they so important to the history of this place? I wanted to go back to the roots of their journey, so did a little on-line searching, and came across a series of articles in the Orlando Florida Sentinel, dated 2004. The opening line was, "Next month, descendants of Florida Seminoles and their black allies will gather in a cemetery near the Texas-Mexico border to commemorate the heritage of the Black Seminoles western tribes called the Buffalo Soldiers. The cemetery is near the hot, desolate location John Wayne selected for the filming of The Alamo. Texas honors the Black Seminoles with a marker at the Seminole Indian Scouts Cemetery in Brackettville, where the graves include four Medal of Honor winners."

The story of the Black Seminoles of the West begins in Florida, so how did so many of them end up in a little cemetery outside Fort Clark? And how was it that Seminole Indians and people of African descent end up getting together in the first place? To start, when Spanish explorers moved into the Florida area more than 400 years ago, they were accompanied by groups of Africans, many of whom had escaped British controlled colonies up the East coast and in the West Indies. In the 1700's, bands of Creek Indians from Georgia and Alabama migrated to Florida to escape conflicts with Europeans and other tribes, and for a while Spain even encouraged these migrations to help provide a buffer between Florida and the British colonies. In the 1770's Florida Indians, consisting of Creeks, Yuchis, Yamasses and a few aboriginal remnants, collectively became known as Seminole, a name meaning "wild people" or "runaway." Africans in the area eventually gravitated into

regions occupied by the Seminoles, where the two groups began to establish a mutually beneficial relationship. As a result of this interaction, Africans became accomplished woodsmen, hunters and fishermen. Some became prominent leaders as well as guides and interpreters. They used plantation-learned skills to farm and build shelters, benefitting the Seminole communities. Africans and Seminoles began to intermarry at this time, thus the origin of the term Black Seminole. According to historians, some of the Africans and Black Seminoles were treated as slaves within the Seminole tribe; however, their lives were much different from black slavery at British and later American plantations. Blacks were expected to pay tributes to the Seminoles in the form of some of their crops or cattle. but for the most part Seminoles and Africans were more like allies against common threats -- the U.S. Army, planters, slave hunters and growing waves of new settlers.

Run-ins with white settlers were becoming more regular by the early 1800's, as the settlers wanted to take control of Indian lands, and also wanted their former slaves returned to them. Future U.S. President Andrew Jackson invaded then-Spanish Florida and pushed the Seminoles farther south into Florida., and after the United States acquired Florida from the Spanish in 1821, Jackson began a policy of removing all Native American tribes to land west of the Mississippi River, which would've resulted in the Seminoles being thrown together with their old enemy, the Creeks. Consequently, the Seminoles resisted the move, setting off a series of hostilities known as the Seminole Wars. In terms of human and financial cost to the U.S., they were the longest and most expensive of all American Indian Wars, which will be briefly discussed in Part IV of this series.

Note: Those interested in learning all the details about Seminole and Black Seminole history, and how Fort Clark became part of this history, should check out "Our Land Before We Die" by Jeff Guinn. Great read!

Wandering Cats Hosts TNR Presentation

Story and Photos by Teri Marsh

On a recent Saturday morning, Wandering Cats hosted a presentation by Yvonne Saldivar of the San Antonio Feral Cat Coalition on the benefits of TNR. The acronym stands for Trap-Neuter- Return, which is a humane method for controlling the feral and free roaming cat population. Fort Clark resident Megan Vale, age 19, loves animals and had volunteered at a rescue shelter before moving to this area. Says Megan, “I’ve always loved helping animals and I hated feeling helpless when I saw cats just breeding and kittens running around our community. So, I decided to do something about it, and here we are.” As a result, she along with several partners has founded Wandering Cats with the goal of bringing TNR to Kinney County. Local artist Gage Brown has designed a memorable logo for the new organization, and Megan has located a veterinarian in Uvalde who is willing to work with Wandering Cats.

How does the TNR process work? A colony of feral cats is located through reports of local citizens. A humane trap is set and baited with food, and the trap is monitored until the cat (or cats) is successfully trapped. The cat is then transported to a cooperating vet, neutered or spayed, and then kept by a volunteer for at least 24 hours while the cat recovers from surgery. The cat’s left ear is clipped by the vet so that observers will know that the cat has been sterilized. The kitty is then released at the same location where it was originally trapped.

Why is TNR the best solution to the problem of feral cats? In addition to being cruel, killing or dumping cats and kittens is not an effective way to reduce the presence of feral cats. If a property owner succeeds in removing a colony in this way, a vacuum effect is created, and soon a new group of feral cats will move into the abandoned territory. When a cat colony is successfully neutered and spayed, the cats protect their territory and the feral cat population stabilizes. On the other hand, unsterilized feral cat colonies can produce new litters of kittens at an astronomical rate.

How can I help? Wandering Cats is currently raising funds to purchase humane traps and vet services, and also seeking volunteers who can help in several capacities. For more information, email , find them at Facebook:Wandering Cats, or on Instagram: @wanderingcatstnr.



(Top) Yvonne Saldivar demonstrates the traps used for TNR.

(Right) Yvonne Saldivar and Megan Vale

Where the Real Stars Gather

By Suzanne Maune

Here in Fort Clark, we have a fairly dark sky once we get away from the street lights and house lights. To the north of us, there are several state parks whose skies fall into the official Dark Sky ranges. The Devil's River State Natural Area has received the designation of an International Dark Sky Sanctuary (Bortles Scale rating of 2). Devil's Sinkhole State Natural Area and Kickapoo Cavern State Park are each a Bortles Scale rating of 2. Even here on the Fort, we can get good photographs of sky events (insert pics of Christmas Star and Morning Star).

In the coming months, we'll keep you in the know about various sky events before they occur. There is a lot more going on in the skies than back in our parents' or grandparents' day: meteor showers, the waxing and waning lunar cycle, solar or lunar eclipses, planet alignments and known/tracked space debris re-entries into the earth's atmosphere, a myriad of satellites traveling their designated orbits across the sky and viewings of the space station. We'll be bringing you what we can find about upcoming events each month. At some point we'd like to host some stargazing events and enlist all of you amateur astronomers and interested star gazers to help us out.

So, round up a telescope or even binoculars, constellation charts (phone app) and enjoy sharing a common interest and the beauty of the night sky with friends and family. Binoculars are also great for getting a better view of planets and the moon. Some useful sites for knowing what is going on in the sky are listed below and there are many others as well as apps to download to your phone.

Don't be discouraged by clouds or haze, just keep an eye on when clear skies are predicted and see what is going on up there. And we will all have to get used to the language used by astronomers and sky watchers. Some new words to chew on for sure.

Some events for the remainder of September include:

Sept. 16: Conjunction of the moon and Saturn. The pair will be visible in the evening sky, 28° above your south-eastern horizon, as dusk fades to darkness.

Sept. 18: Conjunction of the moon and Jupiter. The pair will be visible in the evening sky, above your south-eastern horizon, as dusk fades to darkness.

Sept. 20: The full moon of September, known as the Full Harvest Moon will rise at 6:54 pm.

Sept. 22: The equinox arrives at 3:21 p.m. EDT (1921 GMT), marking the first day of autumn in the Northern Hemisphere and the first day of spring in the Southern Hemisphere.

Sept. 24: The waning gibbous moon and Uranus will make a close approach, passing within 1.3 degrees of each other. The pair will be visible around 9:57 pm, when they reach an altitude of 7° above the eastern horizon. They will then reach their highest point in the sky at 03:56 am, September 25th, 75° above your southern horizon. They will be lost to dawn twilight around 06:54 am, 46° above your western horizon. Shining at magnitude 5.7, Uranus may be bright enough to spot with the naked eye under dark skies (try your binoculars).

Information courtesy of

www.space.com

<https://www.timeanddate.com/astronomy/night/usa/uvalde>

<https://earthsky.org/astronomy-essentials/earthskys-meteor-shower-guide/>

NOTES FROM THE RECYCLE CENTER

by Helena McBride

Everyone at FCSA should try to recycle. From 2016 to 2020, we kept 212 tons of trash out of the landfill. Bring us # 1 plastic, # 2 plastic, aluminum cans, steel cans, office paper, and mixed paper. We're open Thursdays 4 to 6 and Saturdays 8:30 to 12.

Look for the triangle on the bottom of the item. If its # 1 or # 2 bring it. Do NOT bring # 5 (yogurt, cottage cheese, sour cream, dishwasher tablets, nutrition drinks, some yellow medicine bottles). Take off caps, lids, handles, then rinse. Crush big items.

1 Plastic: water bottles, clear plastic from fruits & veggies.

We don't want the caps or lids or handles.

#2 Plastic has 2 different boxes, one is Colored Plastic, the other is "Natural Plastic." Some # 1 plastic is black or dark, you can't see through it. Put into the box marked Colored Plastic. Natural Plastic is regular milk, #2 vinegar, cat litter containers. Step on these big items to crush them to make them smaller.

Aluminum cans: beer & soda cans & large cat food cans. No aluminum foil or pie pans.

Steel or Tin Cans: veggie & soup cans, and small cat food cans

Office paper: white or colored paper that go into a printer. Bills or hand-written paper, post-it notes or shredded office paper is good. No construction thick paper, no shredded magazines, no business envelopes with the plastic front.

Mixed Paper: broth & waxed juice containers, newspapers, magazines, shredded magazines, boxes from beer & soda, telephone books. No deer food or dog food bags that have a plastic coating.

No glass, corrugated cardboard, or plastic bags. Cardboard should be flattened and put out with trash on Monday morning. Maintenance bales it, the Fort gets money for the bales.

Please Do NOT drop off items at the Recycle gate. We have to pick up your stuff. Its good if you separate your items at home, This allows you to move quickly & you don't keep the cars behind you waiting to do their drop offs.

Volunteers, Please Note: when the plastic bottles reach the top of the trash can, remove the black plastic bag, and continue to fill it up. The bags are costly so please fill them completely. Tie the bag tightly so it doesn't spill and bring it outside. Maintenance takes them and makes bales of the plastic.

THANKS TO ALL VOLUNTEERS FOR DOING LOTS OF WORK, especially in the hot summer. Joe builds & organizes the boxes, & runs the forklift, Helena schedules volunteers, organizes paperwork, writes & reports to the Board. Volunteers are Pat, Phil, Memo, Valada, Tim, Mary P, Kathi, Wanda, Lori, John B, John W, Diana, Vida, Linda & John, MaryJane & Dennis, Bob, Viola, Pam, Barbara, Natanya, Phoenix, Griffen, Maria and Helena.

September 2021

GC-GOLF COURSE
AC-ADULT CENTER
PT-POST THEATER
ARTS-ART STUDIO
TC-TEENCENTER
AD-ADMIN OFFICE
PB-PALISADO B.
RV-RV PARK

RVP- RV PAVILION
RVK-KITCHEN
SC-SERVICE CLUB
OQ- QLD QUARRY
AMPHITHEATER
BR-BOARD ROOM

| SUNDAY | MONDAY | TUESDAY | WEDNESDAY | THURSDAY | FRIDAY | SATURDAY |
|--|--|---|--|---|--|---|
| <u>GOLF COURSE HOURS TUES.-SUN. 7:30AM-7:30PM</u> | <u>PLEASE LET US KNOW IF YOU WANT TO ADD ANYTHING ON THE CALENDAR!</u> | | 1 10A WATER AEROBICS 10A MENS GOLF | 2 9A MEN'S COFFEE - RV 9:30A COUPLES GOLF 4-6P RECYCLE CENTER | 3 10A WATER AEROBICS <u>8:30 P MOVIE TIME!!!! RAYA AND THE LAST DRAGON - PT OUTDOORS</u> | 4 RECYCLE CENTER - CLOSED FOR HOLIDAY WEEKEND 12-3P ARTS 1-4P MUSEUM & SUTLER STORE <u>KINNEY CO CHURCH ALLIANCE TOURNAMENT-GC</u> |
| 5 1-4P MUSEUM & SUTLER STORE | 6 10A WATER AEROBICS 12-3P ARTS 3-7P TWILIGHT SCRAMBLE <u>LABOR DAY!!!</u> | 7 9A LADIES GOLF 4P ARCH-BR | 8 10A WATER AEROBICS 10A MENS GOLF | 9 9A MEN'S COFFEE - RV 9:30A COUPLES GOLF <u>10A MOUNTAIN LAUREL GARDEN CLUB POTLUCK- UNIT 1. 150 JUAREZ. FCS</u> 4-6P RECYCLE CENTER | 10 10A WATER AEROBICS | 11 8:30A-12P RECYCLE CENTER <u>10A COMMUNITY COUNCIL MEETING-BR</u> 12-3P ARTS 1-4P MUSEUM & SUTLER STORE <u>PATRIOT DAY!!!</u> |
| 12 1-4P MUSEUM & SUTLER STORE <u>GRANDPARENTS DAY!!!</u> | 13 10A WATER AEROBICS 12-3P ARTS 3-7P TWILIGHT SCRAMBLE | 14 9A LADIES GOLF 4P ARCH-BR | 15 10A WATER AEROBICS 10A MENS GOLF <u>6P FORT CLARK DAYS MEETING- AC</u> | 16 9A MEN'S COFFEE - RV 9:30A COUPLES GOLF 4-6P RECYCLE CENTER OPEN <u>MEXICO INDEPENDENCE DAY!!!</u> | 17 10A WATER AEROBICS | 18 8:30A-12P RECYCLE CENTER <u>9:00A FCS BR BOARD MEETING</u> 12-3P ARTS 1-4P MUSEUM & SUTLER STORE |
| 19 1-4P MUSEUM & SUTLER STORE | 20 10A WATER AEROBICS 12-3P ARTS <u>1P BOOKS, LITERATURE & TEA " ...AND LADIES OF THE CLUB BY HELEN SANTMYER-AC</u> 3-7P TWILIGHT SCRAMBLE | 21 9A LADIES GOLF 4P ARCH-BR | 22 10A WATER AEROBICS 10A MENS GOLF <u>6P QUARTERLY TOWN HALL MEETING WITH ALAN PETERSON - PT</u> <u>FIRST DAY OF AUTUMN!!!</u> | 23 9A MEN'S COFFEE - RV 9:30A COUPLES GOLF 4-6P RECYCLE CENTER OPEN | 24 10A WATER AEROBICS | 25 8:30A-12P RECYCLE CENTER 12-3P ARTS 1-4P MUSEUM & SUTLER STORE <u>HAPPY CERVANTES TOURNAMENT-GC</u> |
| 26 1-4P MUSEUM & SUTLER STORE | 27 10A WATER AEROBICS 12-3P ARTS 3-7P TWILIGHT SCRAMBLE | 28 9A LADIES GOLF 4P ARCH-BR | 29 10A WATER AEROBICS 10A MENS GOLF | 30 9A MEN'S COFFEE - RV 9:30A COUPLES GOLF 4-6P RECYCLE CENTER OPEN | | <u>CONTACT JULIE @THE ADMIN OFFICE 830-563-2493 OR EMAIL FCSA@FORTCLARK.COM</u> |

FORT CLARK STILL NEEDS

YOU!

FORT CLARK NEEDS VOLUNTEERS FOR A VARIETY OF PROJECTS AROUND THE FORT.

As members of the community there are many things large and small that you can do to help out while making Fort Clark a better place to live and play.

I might be as simple as volunteering a little time to go through some of the restrooms and change out the aerators in the sinks. Or painting a few benches.

Or you may be one of those people who have advanced

skills and years of experience in a particular field. Your help could move along projects on the fort that are stalled or moving much slower due to shortages of manpower and/or specific skills needed.

From the simple set of extra hands to sharing your hard earned skills and experience.

Fort Clark needs YOU!

To volunteer or to find out how you can help please contact:

Thank you for reading this issue of the Fort Clark Dispatch. We hope you enjoyed it and will visit with us each month.

The Dispatch is a monthly online magazine that is available on the first of each month.



It isn't just the trees that the faces of the spirits of Fort Clark Show up in. The waters of Las Moras hold them too. Can you find the face in the water?

Photo by Amos Trisler

To contact the magazine with comments, questions, or to volunteer, please email:

fcdispatch@fortclark.com

Please put "Comment", "Question", or "Volunteer" in the subject line. This will help us keep it separate from submissions and administrative emails.

On the back cover:

Remembering when the creek was full. Water flows strong through the control gate at Red Bridge Park.

Photo by Amos Trisler



FORT CLARK SPRINGS ASSOCIATION, INC.

2021/2022

HUNTING RULES & GUIDELINES

Welcome to Fort Clark Springs! Thank you for joining us this season. The safety and wellbeing of hunters, animals and residents is the #1 priority of Fort Clark Springs Association. FCSA reserves the right to deny any individual authorization to hunt. The hunting experience at Fort Clark Springs is quite unique and is considered to be Residential/Urban Hunting. Fort Clark Springs is approximately 2,700 acres of low fenced property. All animals are free-range and roam the property at will. Hunters will be hunting in wooded areas surrounded by residential and recreational areas. While hunting you may hear vehicular, aviation, gun range activity and/or pedestrian traffic. FCSA is a private homeowner's association, and has numerous hiking and recreation trails that are active year-round. Certain areas have been designated for hunting. Certain bow hunting takes place in areas near hiking and recreational trails that are not closed off from pedestrian access. The wildlife live and thrive in an urban residential environment, and are used to the everyday sounds you may hear during your hunting experience. **DO NOT EXPECT YOUR HUNTING EXPERIENCE TO BE IN A QUIET OR SECLUDED AREA.**

Please read these guidelines carefully and initial where appropriate. You will be asked to sign below.

_____ I am a member of Fort Clark Springs Association (Please check if yes).

Member: Is defined for this particular event and rules as any individual who has been a current member of FCSA for at least 1 full year which entitles them to member rates.

Non-FCSA Member: Is defined for this particular event and rules as any individual who is not a current member of FCSA or has a current membership of less than 1 full year. Individuals in this category cannot receive Member benefits until they meet those qualifications.

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- **All hunting on FCSA property is in accordance with FCSA Rules & Regulations and current FCSA Hunting Rules & Guidelines.** The FCSA Executive Officer or their designated agent will act as the Hunting Supervisor.
 - No one is allowed to hunt on FCSA property without the permission of the property owner. Anyone found to be hunting on FCSA property without the property owner's consent or outside of the perimeter of this set of Rules & Guidelines will be considered POACHING and will be subject to any and all penalties, fines or legal action as deemed necessary.
 - FCSA Hunting Rules & Guidelines and deer harvest availability are subject to change at any given time, depending upon the recommendations of Texas Parks & Wildlife, the FCSA Hunting Supervisor or at the discretion of the Property Owner.
 - The Property Owner will set the hunting pricing and hunting dates.

- All FCSA members must be in “Good Standing” before they are able to hunt and are required to follow all of the Hunting Rules & Guidelines herein.
- All hunters must contact FCSA Admin. Office for booking and reservations prior hunting. Hunters are not allowed to hunt without placement of the Hunting Supervisor.
- Non-Member Hunters will be priority in scheduling and placement over members.

PLEASE INITIAL BELOW:

_____ FCSA does not guarantee that any hunter will see or harvest any animal.

_____ It is the responsibility of the hunter and his/her guests to know the following property owner’s Hunting Rules & Guidelines as well as all state game laws prior to hunting.

_____ **MEDIA RELEASE:** All photo/video captured by FCSA personnel or their representative of hunters and their harvested animals is the property of FCSA to be used solely for the purposes of promotional material and publications. The hunter waives all rights of compensation or ownership thereof and grants a digital media release.

Fees, Penalties and Fines

- All fees, penalties and/or fines are at the discretion of the property owner or their designated agent. Violations of game laws will be enforced by state Game Wardens.
- **FEES:**
 - **Fees: \$200** per day with a two (2) doe (Axis or Whitetail) per day limit, all FCSA Hunting Rules & Guidelines apply. Any buck other than a Whitetail “Cull” Buck shot (wounded or harvested) will incur an additional buck fee.
 - **Axis Bucks: \$2,500.00** (limited to 28 to 34 inches, additional inches above 34” will be an additional \$100/inch) Longest main beam will apply. In addition, any antlerless (shed) or velvet horned Axis deer weighing 150 + lbs. will also incur a \$2,500.00 fee. Axis Bucks in this category that are shot, wounded and/or not retrieved will incur said trophy fee of \$2,500.00.
 - **Axis Buck Hard-horned (only) 16-28 inches longest main beam, \$1,500.00.** Axis Bucks in this category that are shot, wounded and/or not retrieved will incur said trophy fee of \$1,500.00.
 - **Axis Buck Hard-horned (only) 6-16 inches longest main beam, \$750.00.** Axis Bucks in this category that are shot, wounded and/or not retrieved will incur said trophy fee of \$750.00.
 - **Axis “Juvenile” Buck: Hard-horned (only) 1-6 inches longest main beam,** Bucks in this category will be counted same as a doe. Bucks in this category that are shot, wounded and/or not retrieved will count the same as if harvested.
 - **Additional Doe: \$100/doe (Axis or Whitetail).**
 - **Whitetail Bucks: \$1,500.00** Any buck shot (with the exception of Whitetail ‘Cull’ Bucks) regardless of age/size by any hunter (member/non-member) will incur a \$1,500.00 fee. All Whitetail Deer must be 3 ½ years of age or older. Whitetail

Bucks in this category that are shot, wounded and/or not retrieved will incur said trophy fee of \$1,500.00.

- **Whitetail ‘Cull’ Buck: Hard-horned (only)** Spike or Cow Horned Bucks (depending upon availability of MLDP tags.) will be considered same as a doe. All Whitetail Deer must be 3 ½ years of age or older. Bucks in this category that are shot, wounded and/or not retrieved will count the same as if harvested.
 - **Whitetail Deer (Bucks or Doe must be 3 ½ years of age or older).** Whitetail Deer younger than 3 ½ yrs. of age shot (wounded or harvested) will incur a penalty fee of \$300.00
 - **Turkey:** included in day fee pricing. Must meet Texas Game Law Regulations.
 - **Javelina:** included in day fee pricing. Must meet Texas Game Law Regulations.
 - **Feral Hog:** no additional fee, hunter incentive offered (read below)
 - **Predator Animals (Coyote, Bobcat, Fox):** no additional fee, hunter incentive offered (read below)
 - **Other exotic animals:** fee at property owner’s discretion.
- **FERAL HOG/PREDATOR ANIMAL HUNTER INCENTIVE:** Upon successful proof of harvest, a non-member hunter will be awarded an additional day hunt to compensate for assisting in hog/predator management. Members may volunteer to hunt hogs/predator animals at no charge with prior coordination from hunting supervisor.
 - **There will be no night hunting for non-members.**
 - Hunters who kill animals that they cannot pay for forfeit the animal to FCSA, and all additional hunts will be forfeited without refund. Any penalties, fines or other legal action will be at the discretion of the property owner.
 - Hunters are not allowed to tamper, alter, damage or destroy any FCSA property including vehicles, hunting equipment, blinds or feeders. Individuals caught doing so will be in breach of this agreement and all penalties and/or fines as well as criminal charges will apply.

Wounded Animal Policy

Any animal that is shot (wounded or killed), all rules, fees, penalties and/or fines will apply. This policy applies regardless of whether the animal is retrieved or not.

Protected Species

FCSA is home to the federally protected Blue Indigo Snake. All federal laws apply; no one is allowed to kill, harm, harass or try to catch or obtain possession of this snake. Violators will be prosecuted.

Booking/Refunds/Rescheduling/Transfers/ “No Call, No Show”

- **100% of hunting fees are payable at the time of booking.**
- Cancellations or reschedule requests occurring 10 days prior to scheduled hunt date will receive a full refund or payment transfer. Rescheduling is based on availability.
- If a cancellation is made less than 10 days before the scheduled hunt, 50% of the booking fee may be returned only if notification is given prior to the hunt. (see below)
- No Call-No Shows will not be given a refund.
- If you make arrangements with an alternate hunter to fill your space, it is up to you to collect, recover or exchange fees. FCSA will not participate in this type of transfer, hunters are welcome to try to fill your spot in the event that you can not make your hunt.
- Hunters will not tag Whitetail deer with their own deer tags. MLDP tags will be provided.
- All hunting will only take place in blinds and in areas that are designated by the Property Owner. **Trophy hunting will take place in blinds only.** There will be no guided trophy hunts.

CHECK-IN AND HUNTING PROCEDURES

- All hunters must check in at the FCSA Old Motor Pool Building for briefing.
- Morning hunt check in time: 5:00am
- Afternoon hunt check-in time: 3pm
- **LATE ARRIVALS MAY NOT BE SEATED.**
- All hunters must sign a Liability Release, Authorization of Medical Treatment, and Hunting Rules & Guidelines before they are able to hunt. All paperwork must be accomplished prior to the hunt.
- Hunters must notify hunting supervisor prior to any hunt of any medical, physical or mental conditions that may inhibit, impair or put others in jeopardy or danger while on FCSA property.
- All hunters must have a valid Texas Parks & Wildlife Hunting License.
- FCSA will enforce Texas Hunters Education requirements:

Every hunter (including out-of-state hunters) born on or after Sept. 2, 1971, must successfully complete a Hunter Education Training Course. Proof of certification or deferral is required to be on your person while hunting.

- **All persons under the age of 16 must be accompanied by an adult.**
- There will be no smoking, alcoholic beverages, animals (pets) or littering allowed while hunting.
- It is the hunter's responsibility to ensure their hunting equipment is in good working order prior to hunting. It is the hunter's responsibility to come prepared for the hunt, this includes both equipment and proper clothing.

- If a hunter needs to sight-in or validate their rifle zero, hunter may coordinate with the hunting supervisor prior to their day hunt to do so at the FCSA gun range.
- The Hunting Supervisor will determine hunter placement.
- **RIFLE HUNTERS** will be allowed to drive their personal vehicle to a designated parking area and then walk to their designated blind. Hunting or wandering outside of the blind is not permitted.
- **BOW HUNTERS** may be escorted out to their designated blinds by FCSA personnel. **Bow hunters will only be allowed to hunt in elevated tree (ladder stands only) stands under the following guidelines:**
 - It is the responsibility of the bow hunter to bring his/her own equipment (ladder stand). The proper safety equipment will be required to be working at all times by bow hunters while they are hunting in elevated tree stands of any type.
 - The hunting supervisor will tell the bow hunter where he/she is allowed to place the stand.
 - The stand may be put up the day before the bow hunter's scheduled hunt and must be taken down and removed the day after their hunt.
- All weapons will be unloaded (no rounds in the chamber) with "safety on" placing weapons (barrel) in a safe direction away from other individuals when traveling to and from designated hunting blinds.
- **HUNTING / SHOOTING IS ONLY ALLOWED IN FCSA DESIGNATED BLINDS AND/OR TREE STANDS WITHIN THE DESIGNATED HUNTING AREAS AS PRESCRIBED BY FCSA.** Any hunter caught hunting outside of these permitted areas will not be allowed to continue hunting for the rest of the season and/or future hunts on FCSA property and are subject to penalties and fines.
- **"SPOT AND STALK" OR SHOOTING FROM VEHICLES IS NOT AUTHORIZED.**
- All ground blinds will be equipped with 2 chairs, any additional chairs will be at the responsibility of the hunter. If more than one individual is hunting out of the same blind, each individual will be paying as an individual hunter.
- Hunters will be allowed to only hunt with the weapon (Rifle or bow/ crossbow) that they scheduled to hunt with. Changing weapons during a hunt will require prior permission from the Hunting Supervisor.
- FCSA personnel will maintain hunting blinds and feeders. Hunters will be allowed to bring and distribute their own corn or attractants while hunting.
- All hunters must shoot in the direction given (from the blind directly to feeder) when they are assigned a blind. No shooting across or outside of blind boundaries will be tolerated. No target practicing or unauthorized shooting is allowed. No shooting skyward (upward) or through/into trees or treetops will be permitted.
 - Rifle Blinds: distance from blind-to-feeder is approximately 50-100 yards.
 - Bow Blinds: distance from blind-to-feeder is approximately 20-30 yards.

- Hunters may use rattling horns and/or mouth or hand held devices to lure deer or turkey while they are hunting.
- **Upon shooting an animal, the hunter will immediately call and notify the Hunting Supervisor. All animals will be required to be seen by the Hunter Supervisor before processing and/or leaving FCSA property.**
- **Do not attempt to track or wonder around looking for wounded animals without FCSA personnel present.**
- At approximately 10:00am, all hunters will leave their designated blinds and head back in with FCSA personnel at different designated locations as assigned by the hunting supervisor. It is at that time the hunters will declare and register the animals that have been harvested during the morning hunt. All Whitetail deer will be registered and tagged by FCSA personnel. MLDP tags will be provided. Hunters will not tag any Whitetail deer.
- Afternoon hunters will repeat the check in process at the time set by the hunting supervisor.
- FCSA will make a cleaning area available for hunters. **NO FIELD DRESSING ALLOWED.**
- Cleaning and animal processing is the responsibility of the hunter. The hunter may ask a FCSA volunteer to help with the processing or cleaning of the animal, but it will be at the discretion of the volunteer. Volunteers are not obligated to assist hunters. The volunteer may ask for compensation for their assistance. The transactions are solely between the hunter and the volunteer – FCSA is not responsible for any agreements or transactions made between a hunter and volunteer.
- Any hunter who does not follow the FCSA Hunting Rules & Guidelines or fails to declare or register any harvested animal by any means will be subject to immediate action by the property owner. Action including fines up to \$1,500.00 per incident and/or violation may be accessed at the discretion of the property owner.
- **FCSA is not responsible for any lost, stolen or damaged property.**

AXIS TROPHY RAFFLE

All registered FCSA hunters will be placed into a drawing for an Axis Trophy Hunt. In order to qualify for the raffle entry:

- The hunter must have hunted a day hunt during the 2021-2022 hunting season.
- Only the registered hunter’s name will be entered into the drawing (valid upon paid receipt).
- If the registered hunter is paying for other individuals to hunt, it will be at the discretion of the paying registered hunter which names will be entered into the drawing.
- Each paid hunt qualifies for a raffle entry.
- Cancellations or refunds disqualify the hunter from the drawing entry.
- Violations of state Game Laws or FCSA Rules & Guidelines as written above will disqualify the hunter from the drawing.
- The drawing for the Axis Trophy hunt will be on the last hunting day of the season.
- The winning Axis Trophy Hunt will take place between Oct 2022 and the end of the calendar year unless otherwise coordinated with the hunting supervisor.

Acknowledgement and receipt:

By signing below, I acknowledge reading and understanding the 2021-2022 FCSA Hunting Rules and Guidelines, and understand and agree to follow all the above Rules and Guidelines as given to me.

Print Name: _____ Date: _____

Signature: _____