

FORT CLARK DISPATCH

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

Volume 2 Issue 8

September/October Issue

In This Issue...

Dispatch Staff

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Julie Moreno

HR/Executive Admin

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Writer/Staff Photographer

Teri Marsh

Writer

Jack Marsh

Writer

Carole Trisler

Puzzle Maker

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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Front and back cover photos by Amos Trisler

From the Editor...

Evandalism: When someone has good intentions, but in fact vandalizes public or other property not their own.



That appears to have happened to a picnic table at Red Bridge. One of the ones that a few years ago volunteers took the time to repair and repaint. While I am sure that the person responsible felt that they were fulfilling the Great Commission, what they were actually doing was setting a bad example and doing more harm than good to the message. I wonder what their reaction would be if someone had created graffiti on that table with gang symbols, a Pentagram or other symbols or messages?

Please respect property placed for the use and enjoyment of all. This goes for everyone regardless of what message or path you follow. Volunteers gave of their personal time to make improvements at recreation areas.

Practice respect for each other. Please.

Amos

A special note from the editor. As you may have noticed we have gone to a bi-monthly format. That will last until the end of the year. Unless others step up to write for and to produce the Fort Clark Dispatch it will cease. The staff is tiny and they have done wonderful work so far.

We have taken pride in producing something that celebrated the Fort. However, it is time for us to take a break in the current format. Most have other projects and things going on and some are re-prioritizing many things in their lives. We have had very little feedback from readers other than the occasional comment when one of us mentioned the magazine in conversation. Since this is an all volunteer staff engagement with readers was our pay.

So please. If anyone out there wants to take over the magazine, the writing, editing, photography, and also the production, please let Julie Moreno know at the admin office or email the Dispatch at fcdispatch@fortclark.com. Otherwise the Fort Clark Dispatch as it currently is will cease.



Fort Clark Historical Committee

The Fort Clark Historical Committee hosted a presentation by Mike Parker showcasing primitive instruments and the tools and materials used to make them. Mr. Parker also presented some history about where instrument artifacts have been found and how they were used. It should be noted that much of the presentation covered the pre-Columbian period and offered insight into peoples long gone before Europeans encountered natives in the Americas.

If you missed an interesting presentation you may be in luck. Mr Parker is a regular attendee of Fort Clark Days and can be found set up along the creek. Hopefully he will be there for the next Fort Clark Days so you can stop by and enjoy learning about this fascinating subject.



Photos and story by Amos Trisler

October 2022

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

FH-FIREHOUSE
RVP- RV PAVILION
RVK-KITCHEN
SC-SERVICE CLUB
OQ- QLD QUARRY
AMPHITHEATER
BR-BOARD ROOM
DH-DICKMAN HALL

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
<p>PLEASE LET US KNOW IF YOU WANT TO ADD ANYTHING ON THE CALENDAR!</p>	<p>@THE ADMIN OFFICE 830-563-2493 OR EMAIL FCSA@FORTCLARK.COM</p>		<p>*WELCOME BACK WINTER TEXANS!!!!*</p>			<p>1 9A FITNESS CENTER GRAND OPENING 8:30A-12P RECYCLE CENTER 12-3P ARTS 1-4P MUSEUM & SUTLER STORE 5-11P DH BAR OPEN</p>
<p>2 1-4P MUSEUM & SUTLER STORE 2P JAM SESSION-FH</p>	<p>3 12-3P ARTS</p>	<p>4 9A LADIES GOLF 4P ARC-BR</p>	<p>5 9:30A CRAFTS-RVK 12:30P MENS GOLF 6:00P FORT CLARK DAYS-BR</p>	<p>6 9A MEN'S COFFEE - RV 9:30A COUPLES GOLF 3:30P TWILIGHT GOLF - GC 4-6P RECYCLE CENTER 5-11P DH BAR OPEN</p>	<p>7 5-11P DH BAR OPEN</p>	<p>8 8:30A-12P RECYCLE CENTER 10A COMMUNITY COUNCIL MEETING-BR 12-3P ARTS 1-4P MUSEUM & SUTLER STORE 5-11P DH BAR OPEN</p>
<p>9 1-4P MUSEUM & SUTLER STORE 2P JAM SESSION-FH</p>	<p>10 12-3P ARTS COLUMBUS DAY</p>	<p>11 9A LADIES GOLF 4P ARC-BR</p>	<p>12 9:30A CRAFTS-RVK 12:30P MENS GOLF 3P PRESERVATION COMMITTEE-BR</p>	<p>13 9A MEN'S COFFEE - RV 9:30A COUPLES GOLF 9:30A M.L. GARDEN CLUB-AC 3:30P TWILIGHT GOLF - GC 4-6P RECYCLE CENTER 5-11P DH BAR OPEN 7P LMARC RADIO GROUP-AC</p>	<p>14 5-11P DH BAR OPEN</p>	<p>15 8:30A-12P RECYCLE CENTER 9:00A FCS BOARD MEETING-BR 12-3P ARTS 1-4P MUSEUM & SUTLER STORE 5-11P DH BAR OPEN LADIES LAS MORAS TOURNAMENT-GC</p>
<p>16 1-4P MUSEUM & SUTLER STORE 2P JAM SESSION-FH</p>	<p>17 12-3P ARTS 1P BOOK LITERATURE & TEA-AC</p>	<p>18 9A LADIES GOLF 4P ARC-BR</p>	<p>19 9:30A CRAFTS-RVK 12:30P MENS GOLF</p>	<p>20 9A MEN'S COFFEE - RV 9:30A COUPLES GOLF 3:30P TWILIGHT GOLF - GC 4-6P RECYCLE CENTER 5-11P DH BAR OPEN</p>	<p>21 5-11P DH BAR OPEN</p>	<p>22 8:30A-12P RECYCLE CENTER 9:30A-HISTORICAL COMMITTEE MEETING-PB 12-3P ARTS 1-4P MUSEUM & SUTLER STORE 5-11P DH BAR OPEN 6:30P GOLF CART PARADE - SC ST MARY MAGDALENE CHURCH TOURNAMENT-GC</p>
<p>23 1-4P MUSEUM & SUTLER STORE 2P JAM SESSION-FH ----- 30 1-4P MUSEUM & SUTLER STORE 2P JAM SESSION-FH</p>	<p>24 12-3P ARTS ----- 31 12-3P ARTS 5-9P HALLOWEEN TRICK/TREAT</p>	<p>25 9A LADIES GOLF 4P ARC-BR</p>	<p>26 9:30A CRAFTS-RVK 12:30P MENS GOLF</p>	<p>27 9A MEN'S COFFEE - RV 9:30A COUPLES GOLF 3:30P TWILIGHT GOLF - GC 4-6P RECYCLE CENTER 5-11P DH BAR OPEN</p>	<p>28 5-11P DH BAR OPEN GHOSTLY TOURS</p>	<p>29 8:30A-12P RECYCLE CENTER 12-3P ARTS 1-4P MUSEUM & SUTLER STORE 5-11P DH BAR OPEN GHOSTLY TOURS CHURCH ALLIANCE TOURNAMENT-GC</p>

November 2022

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SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
<p><u>GOLF COURSE HOURS</u> <u>TUES.-SUN.</u> <u>7:00AM-7:00PM</u></p>	<p>**WELCOME BACK WINTER TEXANS**</p>	<p>1 9A LADIES GOLF 4P ARC-BR</p>	<p>2 9:30A CRAFTS-RVK 12:30P MENS GOLF <u>6:00P FORT CLARK DAYS-BR</u></p>	<p>3 9A MEN'S COFFEE - RV 9:30A COUPLES GOLF 3:30P TWILIGHT GOLF - GC 4-6P RECYCLE CENTER 5-11P DH BAR OPEN</p>	<p>4 5-11P DH BAR OPEN</p>	<p>5 8:30A-12P RECYCLE CENTER 12-3P ARTS 1-4P MUSEUM & SUTLER STORE 5-11P DH BAR OPEN</p>
<p>6 1-4P MUSEUM & SUTLER STORE 2P JAM SESSION-FH</p> <p><u>DAYLIGHT SAVINGS TIME ENDS!</u></p>	<p>7 12-3P ARTS</p>	<p>8 9A LADIES GOLF 4P ARC-BR</p> <p><u>ELECTION DAY!</u></p>	<p>9 9:30A CRAFTS-RVK 12:30P MENS GOLF <u>3P PRESERVATION COMMITTEE-BR</u></p>	<p>10 9A MEN'S COFFEE - RV 9:30A COUPLES GOLF <u>9:30A M.L. GARDEN CLUB-AC</u> 3:30P TWILIGHT GOLF - GC 4-6P RECYCLE CENTER 5-11P DH BAR OPEN</p>	<p>11 5-11P DH BAR OPEN <u>12P LUNCH FOR VETERANS-PB</u> <u>1P VETERAN' DAY</u> <u>COLOR GUARD - BANDSTAND</u></p> <p><u>FCS ART CLUB WINE AND CHEESE</u></p> <p><u>VETERAN'S DAY!</u></p>	<p>12 8:30A-12P RECYCLE CENTER <u>10A COMMUNITY COUNCIL MEETING</u> 12-3P ARTS 1-4P MUSEUM & SUTLER STORE 5-11P DH BAR OPEN <u>9A FALL FESTIVAL</u></p>
<p>13 1-4P MUSEUM & SUTLER STORE 2P JAM SESSION-FH</p>	<p>14 12-3P ARTS</p>	<p>15 9A LADIES GOLF 4P ARC-BR</p>	<p>16 9:30A CRAFTS-RVK 12:30P MENS GOLF</p>	<p>17 9A MEN'S COFFEE - RV 9:30A COUPLES GOLF 3:30P TWILIGHT GOLF - GC 4-6P RECYCLE CENTER 5-11P DH BAR OPEN 7P LMARC RADIO GROUP-AC</p>	<p>18 5-11P DH BAR OPEN</p>	<p>19 8:30A-12P RECYCLE CENTER <u>9:00A FCS BOARD MEETING-BR</u> 12-3P ARTS 1-4P MUSEUM & SUTLER STORE 5-11P DH BAR OPEN</p>
<p>20 1-4P MUSEUM & SUTLER STORE 2P JAM SESSION-FH</p>	<p>21 12-3P ARTS <u>1P BOOK LITERATURE & TEA-AC</u></p>	<p>22 9A LADIES GOLF 4P ARC-BR</p>	<p>23 9:30A CRAFTS-RVK 12:30P MENS GOLF</p>	<p>24 <u>4-6P RECYCLE CENTER (CLOSED)</u> <u>5-11P DH BAR OPEN (CLOSED)</u></p> <p><u>HAPPY THANKSGIVING!</u></p>	<p>25 5-11P DH BAR OPEN</p>	<p>26 8:30A-12P RECYCLE CENTER 12-3P ARTS 1-4P MUSEUM & SUTLER STORE 5-11P DH BAR OPEN</p>
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Ramblin Jack

By Jack Marsh

When last we visited upon the seemingly endless journey across Texas wilderness, Seminole Indian Wild Cat had managed to lead his freedom seeking followers to within a few miles of the Mexican border, where they reached what we now know as Las Moras Spring. It just so happened that the spring was hosting a U.S. military presence, led by John Sprague, whom Wild Cat and John Horse had known from their days in Florida. Fortunately, and perhaps due to their previous relationship, Sprague ordered his troops to allow the famished travelers access to the spring. Imagine the sight of more than three hundred weary water starved humans stumbling forward into the very pond that would one day be turned into the swimming pool now enjoyed by untold numbers of local residents and vacationers.

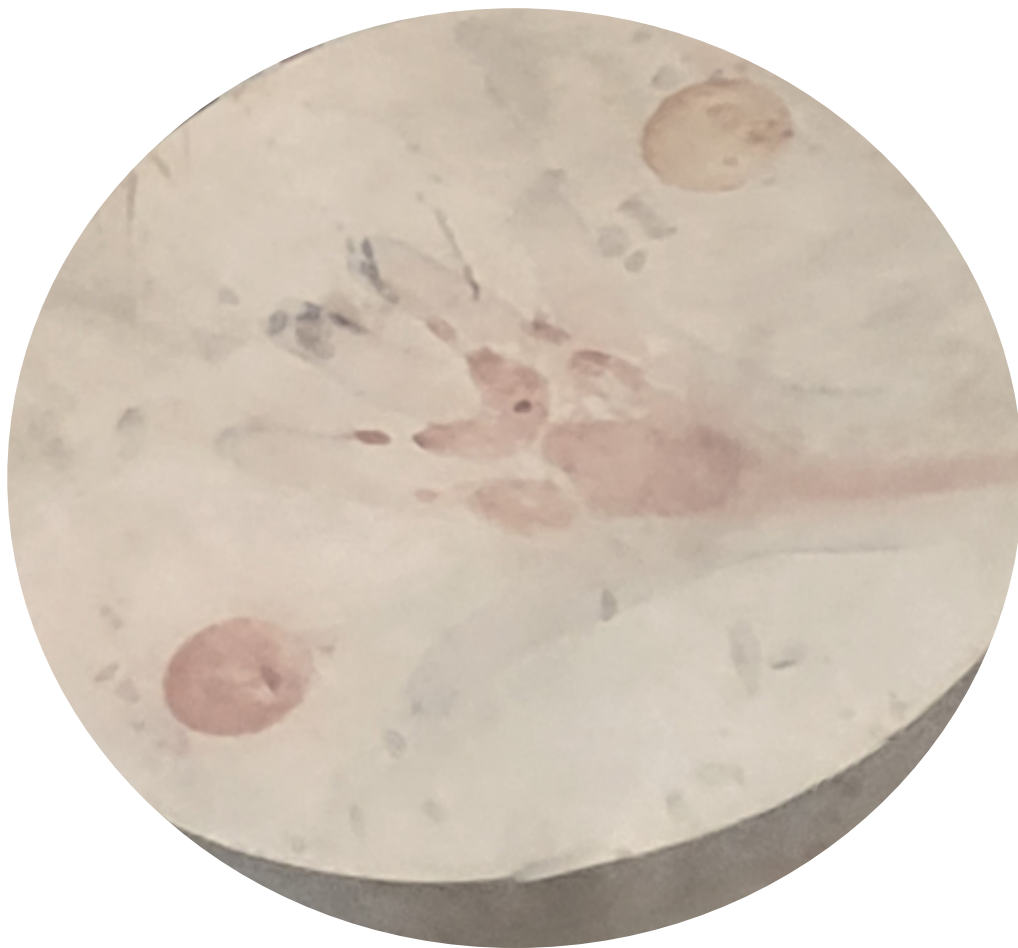
When Wild Cat told Sprague that he was taking his people to Piedras Negras for a meeting with Mexican general Juarequi's representative – a man named Maldonado, Sprague warned him that Eagle Pass was home to slavers and others who would jump at the chance to capture all the blacks in the group and return them to their previous owners or ransom them for cash. Sprague did offer what support he could by producing a written “pass” that Wild Cat could present to the commander of a new military outpost at Eagle Pass, but that would be no guarantee of assistance from the commander there. Over the next couple of days, Wild Cat started hearing rumors of a plot by some of Sprague's men to notify those U.S. authorities searching for Black Seminoles, whose capture would be worth \$50 ransom each to the soldiers. So he and John Horse decided to quietly arouse their group in the pre-dawn hours and slip out of camp and head south toward Eagle Pass.

The Jeff Guinn book then details the history of the Eagle Pass area, which includes the involvement of future confederate general Robert E. Lee. Following the conclusion of the war with Mexico in 1848, Texans living along the borderlands continued to be attacked by local bands of Comanche and Apache, so the U.S. army sent General Lee to the region with orders to establish forts along the Rio Grande. One of those, named Fort Duncan, was completed in 1849 on a hill overlooking the river at a place called El Paso del Aguila, named for the large number of eagles that inhabited the area. Similar to how the town of Brackettville grew as an answer to supply needs of a large military presence, so did the town of Eagle Pass spring forth in its many supply stores, saloons, whorehouses and churches. With the coming of commerce to the area, Mexicans across the river saw trading opportunities and built a town first named Villa Herrera, which eventually became known as Piedras Negras (Black Rocks).

In those days, the stretch of land between that Las Moras pond and Eagle Pass was about the worst 30 some-odd miles that anyone ever crossed. Prickly pear, mesquite thicket, cat claw, rattlesnakes, and intense heat were about all that awaited travelers along that path. And what would welcome them at the end of this trek was far more dangerous - a tiny town full of slavers, gunslingers, outlaws, liquor and “bad-tempered” prostitutes. After finally reaching the point where they could view the town and the river in the distance, it became apparent that the Rio Grande at this spot was relatively wide and swift flowing, and simply wading across to Piedras Negras was out of the question. There was no bridge anywhere. They would have to figure a way to float over three hundred persons across that river without being noticed. It was decided that the safest plan would be to locate a secluded hiding place close to the river bank, and then Wild Cat, John Horse, and a third companion named Papicura would slip across the river to find Maldonado.

In Piedras Negras, the three men found out that Maldonado was encamped south of town, and had to ride several miles further to find him. During their meeting, Wild Cat requested that Maldonado send some of his troupes back with them to provide protection for the river crossing, but Maldonado stated they would have to cross on their own. When the three men returned to the camp to prepare for the crossing, a scouting party that had been sent back toward Las Moras to look for evidence of potential pursuers, showed up in camp to report that a large group of well-armed “white riders” may be about to head their way. This would most likely be the very U.S. authorities and/or Texas Rangers rumored to have been contacted by some of Sprague’s men, and could be in Eagle Pass within the next day or so. Concern grew that they would not be able to construct rafts fast enough to ferry over three hundred souls across the river before the posse showed up, so Wild Cat decided to ride to Fort Duncan and present General Sprague’s pass to the commander there. Perhaps the fort had access to boats that could be borrowed, but Wild Cat’s visit to the fort turned out to be a waste of time. The fort commander ignored Sprague’s pass and refused to offer any help from his men or boats. They would have to figure out a way across the Rio Grande quickly, come hell or high water.

To be continued...



Fort Clark Springs Health & Wellness Center Grand Opening



***Drop by and check it out!
Corner of Fort Clark and Scales Road.***

Photos by Amos Trisler

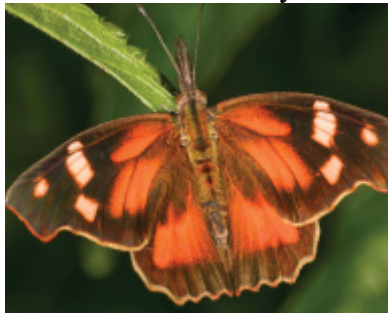
Fort Clark Naturals

The wild life with Suzanne Mayne

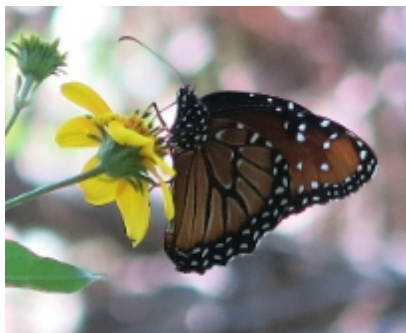
Well finally the rains, or at least 5 ½ inches of rain came in August. We still see some of the benefits, especially at Las Moras spring and in the creek. Inevitably, as happens in this part of Texas, after a good rain in the summer, then comes the invasion of the snout butterflies. Doves, flocks, herds, blizzards of them! Then they disappear and you get the car or truck washed and then “they’re back”. According to an online article by the Texas A&M AgriLife, the butterfly gets its name from the elongated “nose” which is actually its mouth extending from its head. The snout butterfly is a dull orange on the wings and brownish under wings (see photo).

The snout butterfly caterpillars feed on the Spiny Hackberry and will also feed on other species of Hackberries. In this process, the caterpillars can defoliate the tree however the leaves grow back and there is no permanent damage. When we see the clouds of snout butterflies, they are moving to find feeding areas and water so the apparent migration isn’t like the monarch or other butterflies that migrate seasonally from colder to warmer climates. Evidently in 2006 and 2020, there were thick enough clouds of snout butterflies to obscure the sky. Now that’s amazing!

During the past couple of weeks, the monarch are beginning to migrate through our area. Over the next month or so, we will see a much denser migration. If you go down along the creek in the evenings, you will find them resting on branches and leaves and in the grasses. During the day they will be feeding on the flowers of the Golden Eyes (a bushy plant with lots of yellow flowers, prolific here at the Fort) or other available flowers or fluttering in a meandering but southern direction.



Now is the perfect time of the year to get out on the trails and enjoy our wildlife, rejuvenated creek, and cooler weather. See you out there!



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.

Rock Cairns at Red Bridge

Story and Photos by Amos Trisler

If you have gone by Red Bridge on occasion over the last month or so you will have noticed the Rock Cairn that mysteriously appeared. It has changed from time to time. Below you will find photos of three different iterations. I have asked if anyone knows who created it or who has changed it along the way. So far, no one I have spoken to knows who created it. Or they aren't telling.

Cairns have long been a part of human history. They have used to mark trails to provide navigation and still are in some parts. Some have been created for spiritual purposes, while others just as a form of artistic expression.

There are those who enjoy making them, but there is also controversy and a down side in some cases. It is illegal to build cairns in National Parks in the United States. It is also illegal to modify or destroy those existing in the parks. The reason for this is that in many National Parks cairns are still used as navigational aids for hikers. Particularly in the more primitive parts. These navigational cairns are created and maintained by park rangers who are trained in the use of cairns for navigation. There are accounts by many hikers who have used these carefully arranged rock stacks to find their way in rough country hikes.

Here are a few articles that present different views on cairns. Two are from the National Park Service. <https://zionnationalpark.com/zion-national-park/balancing-act-the-history-of-rock-cairns-and-why-stacking-rocks-is-discouraged-in-zion/>

<https://www.nps.gov/articles/rockcairns.htm>

<https://www.livescience.com/65687-rock-cairns.html>



September 24th, 2022

October 3rd, 2022

October 12th, 2022

Over The Fence...

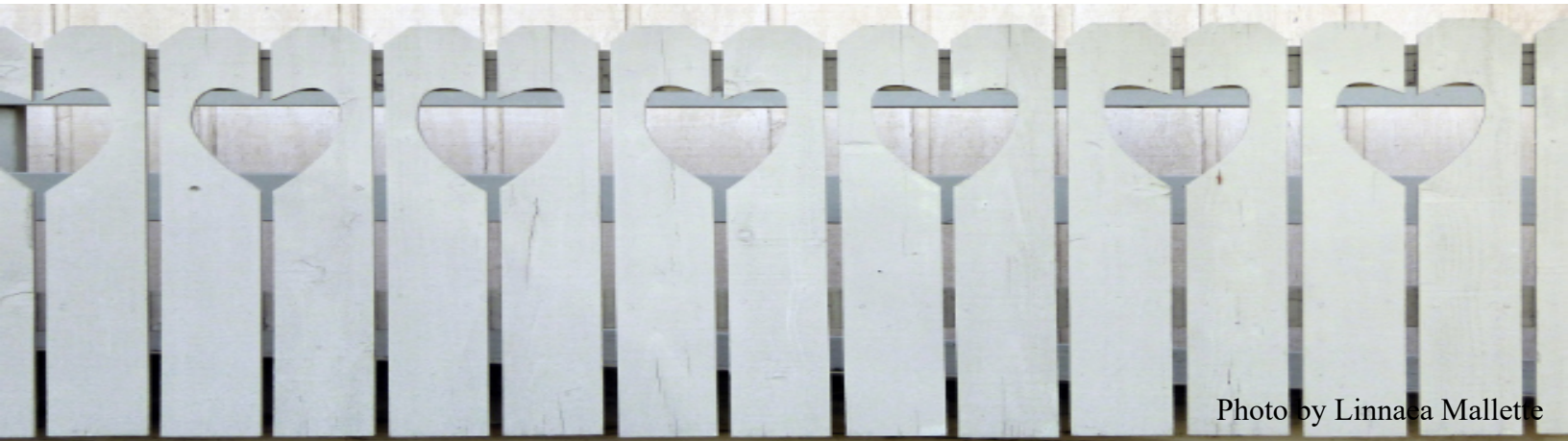


Photo by Linnala Mallette

October

HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO

September 9th – Vince Valdez

September 11th – Paula Griswold

September 17th – Dennis Kneupper

September 23rd – Tim Nickolay

September 26th – Holt Tuck Jr.

September 30th – Terri Kneupper

HAPPY ANNIVERSARY TO

September 10th – Nathan & Julie Moreno

November on next page...

“OVER THE FENCE”

November

HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO

To

Todd Goodall – November 9th

Andrew Johnson – November 13th

Alivia Johnson – November 21st

HAPPY ANNIVERSARY TO

Don & Juanita Pulliam – October 12th

54 Years

Darren & Tyeanna Johnson – October 17th

17 Years

Ronnie & Deb Land – November 22nd

39 Years

If you have anything you would like to place in the Fort Clark Dispatch, please send to fcdispatch@fortclark.com by the end of each month.



Hunting on the Fort

Regular Hunting Season on Fort Clark Springs property will end Monday, February 28th, 2022. Starting Tuesday, March 1st, 2022, through September 30th, 2022, we will continue the hunt for Axis Deer only on the 400 acres behind the Gun Club. There will be no hunting in Fort Clark Springs during this time. The new season of hunting will begin October 1, 2022.

If you are interested in hunting this spring, summer and early fall, please call Sherry Neuman at (830) 563-4235 to get details and/or schedule your Hunt.

Fort Clark Dispatch Writer's Guidelines

These are the basic guidelines for articles submitted to the Fort Clark Dispatch. This will simplify submissions, acceptance, and facilitate timely production of the Dispatch

- Subject area is pretty open. Ideally it should relate to life on the fort and/or the surrounding community. History, lifestyles past and present, and recreational opportunities are encouraged. If your story is medically or health related please discuss it with the editorial staff first. Articles that inform about and celebrate the surrounding area are encouraged. How to and DIY articles are another area. Just keep in mind that it needs to fit in a small print area and be something many people can do with basic skills.
- Word count is generally limited to 600 words or less. Preferably at least a 450 word count. Some exceptions can be made for longer articles depending on the subject, relevancy, and/or significant benefit to the readers. These must be discussed and approved prior to final submission by the editorial staff. There may be allowances for How to/DIY stories with heavy illustration.
- Articles need to be submitted in either as a Word document, Open Office Document, or as a straight text (.txt) file. Submissions are due by the first of the month for the month being submitted for .i.e. If or the February issue, then it must be in by 1 FEB.
- Preferably in Times New Roman, 12 pt, regular. Please do not use any fancy formatting. Block paragraphs (no indenting), a single line break between paragraphs. Italicizing something like a book title, etc., is acceptable and encouraged.
- Please check spelling and grammar before submitting. It reduces the frequency of migraines by the proofreaders. We get more work out of them that way.
- While subject areas are open and we welcome a variety of topics we also are striving for a lifestyle and entertainment mission. As such, submissions that are inflammatory, show extreme bias, or seek to push a political, religious, or otherwise divisive slant or agenda will be rejected. We certainly respect everyone's right to their most fervent positions, opinions, and beliefs. Many on the magazine have those that they feel strongly about. It just doesn't fit the mission or the purpose of the Fort Clark Dispatch.
- All submissions will be considered. Final approval of submissions will be made by the editorial which consists of the Editor, Executive Admin, and the General Manager.

We look forward to and encourage ideas and article submissions. If you want to see if we would make a good fit please feel free to attend our weekly staff meetings. Meetings are held at 1:30 PM in the Board Room at the Admin building.

Submissions and queries about submitting can be emailed to fcdispatch@fortclark.com. Please put the words ARTICLE SUBMISSION in the subject line. Thank you for your interest in being part of the growing world of the Fort Clark Dispatch.

Submissions are due by the end of the first week of the month.

HEAR GHOSTLY TALES FROM THE 1850'S, WHEN FORT CLARK WAS AN ACTIVE U.S. CAVALRY POST, TO PRESENT-DAY GHOSTLY SIGHTINGS. KEEP YOUR EYES OPEN FOR OUR LADY IN WHITE!

FORT CLARK SPRINGS

Ghostly TOURS

RESERVATIONS RECOMMENDED | SPACE IS LIMITED

OCTOBER 28 & 29, 2022

30-MINUTE WAGON TOURS OF HISTORIC FORT CLARK
TOURS LEAVE FROM RENDEZVOUS PARK

7:30PM - 11PM

PURCHASE 7 OR MORE TICKETS AND
BE ENTERED TO WIN

A FREE NIGHT STAY AT FORT CLARK SPRINGS,
DEER HUNT, GOLF CART & GREEN FEE!

*SOME RESTRICTIONS APPLY



\$5 PRESALE TICKETS THROUGH OCT. 22

OR UNTIL SOLD OUT | MUST PURCHASE ONLINE
ADDITIONAL LODGING DISCOUNTS, SPECIALS, AND GIVEAWAYS ONLINE!

FORTCLARKGHOSTLYTOURS.COM

FOR MORE INFO, CALL (830) 563-4235 OR EMAIL SLYNN@FORTCLARK.COM

FORT CLARK SPRINGS

Ghostly TOURS

OCT. 28 & 29, 2022

HOW YOU CAN HELP:

RESIDENTS:

- PLEASE BE MINDFUL OF TRAFFIC CHANGES DURING TOURS
- PLEASE EMAIL ANY GHOSTLY TALES YOU WOULD LIKE TO SHARE TO ANNABELL AT AEJONES84@GMAIL.COM

HISTORIC DISTRICT:

- PARKING IN THE BACK, LEAVING COLONY ROW & FORT CLARK RD. CLEAR FOR TOURS WOULD BE GREATLY APPRECIATED!

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED:

- **GHOSTLY CHARACTERS NEEDED!**

OTHER VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES AVAILABLE
PLEASE CONTACT ANNABELL AT 210-863-2355 OR
AEJONES84@GMAIL.COM

**FCS RESIDENTS
& VOLUNTEERS**

*We need
your help!*



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ADDITIONAL LODGING DISCOUNTS, SPECIALS, AND GIVEAWAYS ONLINE!

FORTCLARKGHOSTLYTOURS.COM

FOR MORE INFO, CALL (830) 563-4235 OR EMAIL SLYNN@FORTCLARK.COM

Be on the lookout for the Fort Clark Bunny Tree!



Photos by Amos Trisler

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 bi-monthly online magazine that is available on or about the 15th of alternate months.



I found this water spirit enjoying the rain that finally came.

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.



FORT CLARK SPRINGS ASSOCIATION, INC.

2022/2023

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:
 - o Fees: \$220 per day with a one (1) 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.
 - o 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.
 - o 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.

- o 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.
- o Axis "Juvenile" Buck: Hard-horned (only) 1-6 inches longest main beam, \$500.00. Axis Bucks in this category that are shot, wounded and/or not retrieved will incur said buck fee of \$500.00.
- o Additional Doe: \$100/doe(Axis or Whitetail).

- o Whitetail Bucks: \$1,500.00 Any buck shot 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.
- o 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
- o Turkey: included in day fee pricing. Must meet Texas Game Law Regulations.
- o Javelina: included in day fee pricing. Must meet Texas Game Law Regulations.
- o Feral Hog: no additional fee, hunter incentive offered (read below)
- o Predator Animals (Coyote, Bobcat, Fox): no additional fee, hunter incentive offered (read below)
- o 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.
- 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 including but not limited to 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 cannot 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 10:00 am, 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 assessed 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 2022-2023 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 2023 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 2022-2023 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: _____