



# Texas Rivers

## Annual Newsletter, 2016

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

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

### The Big Upcoming Election

#### Officers:

Tom Goynes, President  
San Marcos, 512-787-5574  
<mailto:tom@txrivers.org> (Tom will forward emails to board members)

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

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

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

#### Board of Directors:

Steve Daniel  
College Station, 979-324-4199

David Davenport  
New Braunfels, 830-609-3038

John Erskine  
Austin, 512-850-6387

Jack Fairchild  
Martindale, 512-357-6827

Rich Grayson  
Dallas, 214-827-0144

Jim Hatcher  
Fort Stockton, 432-336-6700

John Hohn  
San Marcos, 512-396-0066

Ed Lowe  
Dallas, 214-802-6811

Marcos Paredes  
Big Bend National Park

Fred Zagst  
Marble Falls, 830-693-1054

Charles Zucker  
Austin, 512-328-8153

No, I'm not talking about Trump vs Cruz. It's time for the TRPA election! We have one every two years, and the ballot, along with the bios on the candidates is included in this newsletter. If you only receive this newsletter electronically, you will have to print out a copy of the ballot, sign the back of said ballot (and print your name, please) and mail it in. Members of the election committee will first of all confirm that you are a member in good standing, then they will turn the ballots over and count the votes. So, it's kinda a secret ballot. We will take some time before the annual meeting comes to order on March 6 (more details in this newsletter) to allow folks to vote who haven't sent in a ballot. So, it's not too late to become a board member. Just show up that morning, introduce yourself and see what happens. We have several board members, including this one, who would be willing to relinquish their seat if some new blood is interested in serving. And, in fact, we do have a few new faces that are running for the board. Exciting times!

### Another Dam Gone

The US Fish and Wildlife Service hired a firm that was finally able to remove Ottine Dam. This was a particularly dangerous dam (in fact, some time ago the police chief for the City of San Marcos drowned there while training for the Texas Water Safari) that was located just upstream of Palmetto Park. The dam had been undermined by the river and was in a very dangerous state. A previous attempt at removal by another company had failed. So, congratulations to the USFWS! Let's hope this is the first of several removals of obsolete, dangerous dams.

### Tuber Task Force Announced

The Texas Parks and Wildlife Department has announced the creation of a task force to: "study and make recommendations concerning how to control illegal behavior, improve public safety, safeguard private property rights, and conserve environmental quality and the natural state in this segment of the San Marcos River" (specifically from Westerfield Crossing to Sculls Crossing). The TRPA was instrumental in asking TPWD to establish such a task force. I have been asked to participate as a member (as have several other TRPA members) and I have accepted. We have high hopes that this effort will help.

### Nuisance Lawsuit to be filed soon

While we have high hopes for the TPWD task force, we also believe in the importance of having more than one solution to a problem (just in case). So the TRPA board voted to help fund a nuisance lawsuit (with \$5,000 from the general fund) which will be filed very soon, against the tubing outfitters on the section of the San Marcos River between Westerfield and Sculls. Among other things, we would like to see a ban on disposable beverage containers. The tubers have proven, both here and elsewhere, that they are simply not capable of keeping their beer cans out of the river. So, we hope that a judge will prohibit them from having those beer cans on the river in the first place. Limits (or on outright ban) on boom boxes will also be in order. And, there needs to be a provision mandating that intoxicated people be removed from the river - either taken to jail or hauled to the tubing outfitters where they can sober up.

The TRPA has also been involved with lots of other things lately, protecting the rivers and estuaries of Texas. We hope that you, too, are working toward that goal! Thanks!

Tom Goynes, president.

## TRPA Financial Report 2015

### General Fund:

Beginning Balance 1/1/2015	\$39,197.83
Plus contributions for 2015	12,168.93
Plus interest received	20.88
Subtotal general fund	\$51,387.64
Less general expenses:	
Friends of the Brazos	10,000.00
Nuisance Tuber Lawsuit	5,000.00
Lydia Ann Channel	5,000.00
San Marcos River Foundation	200.00
T-shirts	421.20
Annual meeting	200.00
Newsletter	134.99
Postage	184.04
Office Supplies	84.19
Total general expenses	21,224.42
Total general fund 12/31/2015	\$30,163.22

### Hidalgo Falls Fund 2015

Money earmarked for Hidalgo Falls 1/1/15	\$3,917.55
Contributions received for Hidalgo Falls	300.00
Total money available	\$4217.55
Less Expenses:	
Road Work	963.43
Maintenance	226.23
Bank Fees	6.00
Total expenses	1,195.66
Total money available 12/31/15	\$3,021.89

### River Road Fund 2015

Beginning Balance, 1/1/15	\$200.13
Ending balance 12/31/15	\$200.13

### Center Point Rockcrusher Fund 2015

Beginning Balance 1/1/15	\$3,950.58
Ending Balance, 12/31/15	\$3,950.58

### Center Point Lion's Park 2015

Beginning Balance 1/1/15	\$100.00
Ending Balance 12/31/15	\$100.00

### Mike Ash Memorial 2015

Beginning Balance 1/1/15	\$350.00
Ending Balance 12/31/15	\$350.00

### Tuber Can Ban Fund 2015

Beginning Balance 1/1/15	\$1,500.00
Contributions Received 2015	3,965.00
Total money available	5,465.00
Less Expenses:	
Can Ban Signs	2,469.16
Can Ban Bumper Stickers	185.34
Can Ban Billboard	2,000.00
Total Expenses	4,654.50
Ending Balance 12/31/15	\$810.50

### San Marcos Tuber Nuisance Lawsuit 2015

Contributions Received 2015	\$7,542.40
From General Fund	5,000.00
Total money available	12,542.40
Less legal fees	10,500.00
Ending Balance 12/31/15	\$2,042.40

## News

**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 to enjoy. For more info see the TRPA website.

**River Road Fund:** The State of Texas is considering allowing an interstate type highway to be constructed across the Guadalupe River along River Road. We have set up a fund to help the locals defeat this project. You can read more at: <http://www.save-river-road.net/>

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

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

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

**Friends of the Brazos River:** TRPA voted to donate \$10,000 to the Friends of the Brazos in their continuing effort to maintain stream flows of the Brazos by fighting a huge water right that has been requested by the Brazos River Authority.

**Lydia Ann Channel:** Several years ago, captains began parking barges against the Saint Joseph bank of the Lydia Ann Channel (LAC). This created a lot of mud and was tearing up the bank. It effected fishing in the area. All the tidal flow in the back bays siphons through the Aransas Pass creating fast currents in this area. A group in Corpus petitioned to build a 100 barge docking station in deeper water in the LAC to "protect the bank and stop the mud buildup." A number of promises were made. A contract was let without public comment or environmental studies--essentially a sweetheart deal. Pilings were placed and barges were rafted up in the LAC. Most of the promises have been broken. The barges block access to the shoreline, Danger signs have gone up. And living quarters built.

A Friends of Lydia Ann Channel (FLAC) group formed and researched the process by which the contracts were made. They concluded the process was illegal and they filed an intent to sue document against the company.

Now a second contract is being let to park another 100 barges on the Lighthouse Lakes side of the channel.

This will eventually destroy one of the best fisheries in the country. It will destroy the Lighthouse Lakes paddling trails. Actually it has the potential to destroy most of the central coast.

The TRPA board voted to donate \$5,000 to help pay the legal fees for the Friends of the Lydia Ann Channel.

**San Marcos River:** The TRPA board voted to donate \$5,000 for legal fees in the San Marcos Nuisance case against some very bad tubing companies.

## San Marcos River Clean Up 31st Annual - March 5, 2016

On Saturday, March 5, 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 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](mailto:tomgoynes@mac.com)

### TRPA Annual Meeting

On **Sunday, March 6 at 10 a.m.** the Texas Rivers Protection Association will hold it's annual meeting 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 straight ahead to the office. For more info call Tom Goynes at 512-787-5574 or visit our website at <http://www.sanmarcosriverretreat.com>



Brazos River Clean Up

## 13th Annual Brazos River Cleanup Saturday, April 2, 2016

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

For info: Ed Lowe at 214-802-6811

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

<http://www.friendsofthebrazos.org>

## Hidalgo Falls River Festival

Saturday April 16, 2016

The 15th annual Hidalgo Falls River Festival will be held on April 16 at the TRPA Hidalgo Falls property on the Brazos River near Navasota. The festival is the year's major fund-raising event to support our efforts to provide paddlers' access to the rapid. Paddlers, their families, and friends can explore the property, check out the tidepool-like river features, play in the rapid, have relaxing floats up and down the river, and enjoy camping for the weekend. We ask that people contribute \$10/person to help cover expenses (e.g., toilets, electricity).

Directions: <http://philosophy.tamu.edu/~sdaniel/location.html>.

During the festival, the gate, which is normally locked will remain open.

Information about the location of Hidalgo Falls, TRPA ownership, pictures of past festivals, etc. can be found at the HF website:

<http://philosophy.tamu.edu/~sdaniel/hidalgo.html>

## 16th Annual Medina River Cleanup

Saturday, May 7, 2016

Register: 9-12 a.m. at Bandera City Park at the Dam

Food service for volunteers and donors:

breakfast tacos and hot dogs

barbecue: 5 p.m. with river music

Free t-shirts for volunteers

Free camping with hot showers: May 6 and 7

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

[rbrischetto@wireweb.net](mailto:rbrischetto@wireweb.net)

### Start a Cleanup on Your River

The Texas River Protection Association will help you organize a river cleanup on any river in Texas. The tools are available on our website and we will provide consulting at no charge:

<http://www.txrivers.org/cleanups/index.html>

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

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

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

**Duane TeGrotenhuis** (San Marcos) has served as a TRPA board member from its very beginning. He assumed roles of vice president and treasurer. Along with Evelyn, his wife, he owns and operates T G Canoes and Kayaks with two locations at San Marcos and in Austin. TGCK has been serving the San Marcos River for 30 years and running.

**Kathy Cusick** (Spring Branch) has been a TRPA Board Member for many years. She has lived in rural Comal County for the past 17 years, which is when she began paddling. She was a certified canoe and kayak instructor with the American Canoe Association for over 10 years, and is a past President and Vice President of the Alamo City Rivermen Canoe Club. Her present preferred craft is a whitewater canoe, but enjoys river tripping and is a regular participant in local river clean up activities. She is also a past board member of the Guadalupe River Association.

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

**John Erskine** (Austin) is a die hard water nut and has been paddling and fly fishing on Texas Rivers for more than 30 years. As an Austin resident for the past 22 years, he has been involved in local and state wide conservation issues, and has been a strong advocate of water rights, access, and conservation of Texas waterways. In addition to having a background in Environmental Education, John is a past Board President of Austin Youth River Watch.

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

**Richard Grayson** lives in East Dallas and has been a member of TRPA for about 24 years. Served as president of Dallas DownRiver Club in 1989. Serves as webmaster for TRPA ([www.txrivers.org](http://www.txrivers.org)) and Friends of the Brazos River ([www.friendsofthebrazos.org](http://www.friendsofthebrazos.org)). He served on two Devils River Working Groups. He loves to paddle his 16' Wenonah and fly fishes Texas rivers often. Richard rafts western whitewater

rivers regularly. Visit his personal web page at [www.rivergeek.com](http://www.rivergeek.com).

**Heather Harrison** (New Braunfels) is a canoe racer and river advocate. She serves on the New Braunfels River Advisory Committee and leads the New Braunfels Paddling Club. She also hosts the Kanu Rennen, a canoe race for all ages, on the Guadalupe River every November, and teaches canoeing at Texas State University.

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

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

**Charley Kemp** (Ft. Worth) is involved with many aspects of kayaking: Certified ACA Level 4 Whitewater Kayak Instructor, Member of Arkansas Canoe Club and President of the North Texas River Runners chapter for her second term, and member of the Carolina Canoe Club. She is also a shareholder in the Trinity River Paddling Trail Association and owner of Adventure Kayak Plus. Outdoors and environment are her passion

**Derrick Lee** (San Marcos) has been an active community member on The San Marcos River and watershed for nearly 10 yrs since moving here then. He became an avid river lover and kayaker 8 years ago from his first camp trip down the SM river. From there he has taken up trying to combat many river issues involved with the river and its surrounding watershed. He began his canoe racing career 4 years ago as well. He has been a very active river cleanup participant for 8 years now, going out many times on his own to address the issue as well as trying to provide outreach on the river through "The Eyes of the San Marcos River", a group he helped co-found. Derrick also worked on the Habitat Conservation Plan for the preservation of wild rice and native tree canopies for 2 years. Derrick loves to explore new rivers as much as possible throughout the year and looks forward to river activism as a season on it own.

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

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

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

**Ann Andrisek** (Anahuac) - no bio submitted



## Texas Rivers Protection Association Membership Application

To join, or renew your membership, fill out the information below and include a check for your dues.

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Hm Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Wk phone \_\_\_\_\_

Street \_\_\_\_\_ City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail \_\_\_\_\_

Check here if e-mail version of newsletter is sufficient \_\_\_\_\_

### Levels of membership: (check one)

\_\_\_ Regular\$10 \_\_\_ Protector\$25 \_\_\_ Guardian\$50 \_\_\_ Ranger\$100 \_\_\_ Bronze\$500 \_\_\_ Silver\$1000 \_\_\_ Gold \$5000

Is this a renewal? \_\_\_\_\_ Check if new address \_\_\_\_\_

All members receive a bumper sticker, notices and newsletters and get to vote at general meetings. Protectors also receive a cloisonné pin with our emblem. Guardians receive the pin and either a logo cap or logo t-shirt or a Texas Whitewater DVD. Rangers and above receive all three. Guardians need to indicate their choice (cap, t-shirt or DVD) and Rangers and Guardians wanting t-shirts should indicate their size (M,L,XL, or XXL).

Protectors, Guardians, Rangers, Bronze, Silver and Gold members:

Please send the following:

Protector \$25 \_\_\_ Cloisonné Pin

Guardian \$50 \_\_\_ Cloisonné Pin and \_\_\_ t-shirt (circle one) M L XL XXL or \_\_\_ DVD

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

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

\_\_\_ I would like to receive a new bumper sticker.



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