



Go Outside!

the Winter e-newsletter of
Kendall County Partnership for Parks

Conservation and Recreation

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KCPP REPORT

Welcome, Partners, to the first edition of *Go Outside!* the Kendall County Partnership for Parks seasonal newsletter! We plan to fill our newsletter with entertaining and informative features to keep you up to date on our work, progress and projects.



Find out what's happening in our county parks and how you can participate.

Our contributors are some of the most interesting folks **around; you'll want to learn more after reading their stories.** We'll provide you with all you need to know to become involved and help us make parks happen. **To start, we'll give you a short history of KCPP, we've listed 10 happy reasons to go outside and Kristen, our secretary, has shared a delicious treat for your**



Go outside together

picnic. We are having so much fun - we know you will want to join us – look for our contact info and become a member today!

PARTNERS PERSPECTIVE

A little history about us... March 2006 - local citizens foresaw the need for a non profit organization to assist Kendall County with its new park system. Folks interested in preserving rural properties as parklands & providing access to outdoor recreation joined up.

Our mission: *Kendall County Partnership for Parks promotes the preservation of the county's natural heritage and the development of recreational opportunities.*

KCPP then began offering recommendations in park planning to the Kendall County Commissioners Court.

In December 2006, KCPP was awarded a Kronkosky Foundation grant of \$250,000.00 for park land purchase and development. This grant would help build our first park, James Kiehl River Bend Park, named to honor a fallen soldier from Comfort. The grant would also provide capital for future parks. We held a ground-breaking May 2008 and an Open House in Nov 2008.

A second park, Joshua Springs Park and Preserve was purchased in 2007.

KCPP grew in 2008. We increased awareness at community events including

AdventureFest and parades. Our last parade entry won **third place! We've gained** new members & forged partnerships with other nature groups. Master Naturalists now receive credit for providing service at our parks & our brigade of dedicated volunteers grows.

With these achievements as our foundation, KCPP continues to fulfill its mission and provide valuable direction and information to insure that the vision of the [Kendall County Parks and Open Space Master Plan](#) is realized.

RECREATION REVIEW

Kayaking in Kendall County

Winter is a great time for kayaking on Hill Country Rivers — well anytime is a great time if you like being transported into another time and place.

Gliding quietly among tall cypress trees on clear spring water frees your mind and spirit to enjoy the river and

canyon; the sounds of the rippling stream, birds, wind in the trees, and the tranquility of nature. All the cares of life-in-the-fast-lane are swept away.

We are lucky to have access to these river canyons that are little touched by man. Here you can truly escape to the “wild.”

If you would like to kayak with others, consider joining one of the kayak and canoe groups, like International Saturday Paddlers — contact Joline at 210-824-3237.

John Benedict
KCPP Board member



The Hill Country from the Space Shuttle

Those who dwell, as scientists or laymen, among the beauties and mysteries of the earth are never alone or weary of life. - Rachel Carson

CONSERVATION NATION



A new invasive plant is establishing along the Texas coast. Brazilian pepper tree, brought to the US as an ornamental, has escaped cultivation and is invading Texas wetlands and coastal prairies.



Resaca de la Palma State Park — **Texas’ newest state park and the eighth link in the** World Birding Center chain stretching the breadth of the Rio Grande Valley — opened Dec. 6 in Brownsville.



A species of tiger moth never before recorded in the United States was discovered Oct. 3, at Falcon State Park. The moth was identified as a form of the Phoenicoprocta lydia species.



In June, for the first time since the 1930’s, federal biologists confirmed that a leatherback sea turtle has nested on a Texas beach, at the Padre Island National Seashore near Corpus Christi.



Observations from satellites now allow scientists to monitor changes to water levels in the sea, in rivers and lakes, in ice sheets and even under the ground. As the climate changes, this information will be crucial for monitoring its effects and predicting future impacts in different regions.



The Nature Conservancy of Texas purchased the 7,000-ac Fresno Ranch to expand hiking, public access, protect desert springs, Rio Grande river frontage, diverse wildlife and rich cultural resources in Big Bend SP.

OUTSIDE NOW - 10 REASONS TO GO OUTDOORS THIS WINTER

From our members:

1. Air so crisp you can see yourself breathing
2. Plant spinach, broccoli or cabbage and stand outside, and pick it and eat it
3. Reduce stress to increase your attitude of gratitude
4. See a Hill Country with an austere beauty
5. Watch & listen to migratory birds
6. Reddish foliage on the cypress trees
7. Take a walk & hear yourself not think
8. **See things that aren't visible when the trees have leaves**
9. Wear the cool winter clothes you bought on clearance last spring
10. Your dog is frisky & playful in the cool weather

WHO IS REGARDED AS THE MOST INFLUENTIAL CONSERVATION THINKER OF THE 20TH CENTURY?

Answer, page 6



THE PICNIC BASKET

Carrot-Cashew Soup

Serve hot from a thermos, if it's cold outside. Or serve cold, if it's hot outside.

- | | |
|---|-----------------------------------|
| 6 large carrots, peeled and cut into 1-inch pieces | |
| 2 large onions, quartered | 2 garlic cloves |
| 1 turnip, peeled and quartered | 4 cups chicken or vegetable stock |
| ½ tsp. salt & ½ tsp pepper | ½ tsp. allspice |
| ¼ cup roasted cashews, or sunflowers, or pistachios | |

Place everything except for the nuts in a large pot. Cover and simmer for 15-20 minutes, until vegetables are tender. Puree. Garnish with nuts.

*Kristen Scheller
KCPS Secretary*

{ There can be no greater issue than that of conservation in this country. }
- Theodore Roosevelt, 1910

NATURAL KNOWLEDGE

Big Red Sage
Salvia penstemonoides

This rare and beautiful salvia is found in very few isolated sites in counties of the central Edwards Plateau and **nowhere else on earth**. Colonies exist in Kendall County, where it grows along streambeds amongst limestone outcroppings. Big Red Sage needs seeps to grow and is in danger of extinction in the wild due to erosion,

lowering of the water table from development and drought, and herbicides. It can easily be grown from seed and is available at nurseries for the home garden. The tubular red flowers are attractive to hummingbirds and the flower spikes may reach five feet tall! The San Antonio Botanical Garden maintains a living collection. Plant *Salvia penstemonoides* in your yard for an uncommon delight and be sure to collect the seeds.



OUR PARKS

James Kiehl River Bend Park
 25 ac of natural habitat - riparian, woodland & prairie
 1634 ft of Guadalupe River access
 700 ft of San Antonio & Aransas Pass rail bed
 3,200 feet of nature trails
 Birding, wildlife viewing & native plants
 Part of the historical Brownsboro Community
 Picnic tables & benches
 Nature & historical interpretive signs
 Wildlife brush piles & blue bird houses
Opening Spring 2009



Joshua Springs Park and Preserve
 405 ac of natural habitat & maintained areas
 Active and passive recreation zones
 Little Joshua Creek & Allen Creek access
 Ring Mountain
 Hiking & mountain bike trails
 Birding, wildlife viewing & native plants
 Scenic views
 Picnic tables
 Future Conference Center
 Parks Department Headquarters
Opening next year

This vast state overlaps major ecological regions - southwestern deserts, Great Plains, humid Gulf Coast and Mexican subtropics. As a result, many species reach distributional limits in Texas, and a **strange blend of eastern and western species commingle within the state. – NatureServe, 2002**

WISH LIST

KCPP works to secure an outdoor legacy for all to enjoy. As a non-profit, we are dependent on the community for our existence. Your donation or sponsorship of any item is greatly appreciated and fully utilized to achieve our mission.

KCPP

- Website sponsor -\$35.00/mth
- Office Supplies & Printing Costs
- PO Box sponsor - \$55.00
- Grant Writer
- Members

Parks Dept.

- 3pt Tractor auger
- Handheld GPSr unit



CAN YOU NAME IT?

Be the first to identify this feature from one of our parks and win the KCPP prize of the season!

[Enter to Win!](#)



KCPP volunteers have put in over 5,000 service hours since 2006.

KCPP has purchased all the amenities at James Kiehl River Bend Park with grants and donations.

KCPP will purchase & donate significant improvements for Joshua Springs Park & Preserve.

KCPP needs you! Help us help parks!

HERE'S YOUR CHANCE TO NAME A PIECE OF HISTORY!

Donate or Sponsor features at Kendall County's first park -

James Kiehl River Bend Park

KCPP will place an inscribed plaque on each item you donate. You could honor or remember a loved one or a special group - what a wonderful way to make history with our very first park!

- Benches...\$585
- Picnic Tables...\$1565
- Nature Trails...\$1980 - \$2650
- Trail Signs...\$100
- Kiosks...\$993 - \$4290
- Interpretive Panels...\$645
- Entrance Sign...\$1648
- Trash Barrels...\$390
- Fencing & Gates...\$2600
- Latrines...\$2400 per year
- Bird Houses...\$35
- Parking Lot...\$33,0000

Contact [Kristie](#) to learn more, 755-8179



Invest your time in nature and her resources. A good winter leads to a strong spring of restored energy and sense of purpose. Today, get up and find one reason to go outside and enjoy nature.

I was always drawn towards the Texas hill country, you know, just limestone, & running water, & cedar, & live oaks, & so on. - John Graves

Actual comments received by the US Forest Service from wilderness visitors:

- Too many bugs and spiders. Please spray the area to get rid of these pests.
- Trails need to be reconstructed. Please avoid building trails that go uphill.
- Chairlifts are needed so we can get to the wonderful views without having to hike to them.
- A McDonald's would be nice at the trailhead.
- Too many rocks in the mountains.
- The coyotes made too much noise last night & kept me awake. Please eradicate these annoying animals.



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Conservation and Recreation

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KCPP needs your financial support, but there are many other free things you can do to help as well.

Simply spread the word.

We want to add subscribers to our e-news. Please send an email asking your family and friends to subscribe to our newsletter. Thank you!

kendallcountyparks.org

QUESTIONS?
JUST CALL OR EMAIL
WE WANT TO HEAR FROM YOU!

Kendall County Partnership for Parks promotes the preservation of the county's natural heritage and the development of recreational opportunities.

VISIT US ONLINE!
KENDALLCOUNTYPARKS.ORG

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ANSWER:

Considered by many as the **father of wildlife management** and of the United States' wilderness system, **ALDO LEOPOLD** (1887 - 1948) was a conservationist, forester, philosopher, educator, writer, and outdoor enthusiast. Leopold conceived of a book geared for general audiences examining humanity's relationship to the natural world. Read *A Sand County Almanac* to learn more.