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Owners Association



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The WCR Gazette

WOLF CREEK RANCH BOARD OF DIRECTORS COMMITS TO ENHANCED COMMUNICATION WITH OWNERS

It is hard to believe that the first properties on Wolf Creek Ranch were sold more than 20 years ago to people from all over the country who had a desire for a bit of the Texas Hill Country and some spectacular views of land and lake. In those intervening years, owners have built their dream homes or just enjoyed the land as a place to put a little bit of sweat equity in anticipation of “living the dream”.

Prior to the first “new” residents, there was a great deal of work in transforming a Texas ranch property into a desirable residential community. There were months of surveying, clearing of some dense brush, rough cutting drive access into properties, and creating 7+ miles of road access from the far end of Wolf Creek Ranch Road to the cul de sac at the end of White Bluff Trail. Many of the “old timers” still love to tell stories of Claude McClanahan, salesman extraordinaire, taking them on their first bumpy, Expedition ride onto properties that stole their hearts.

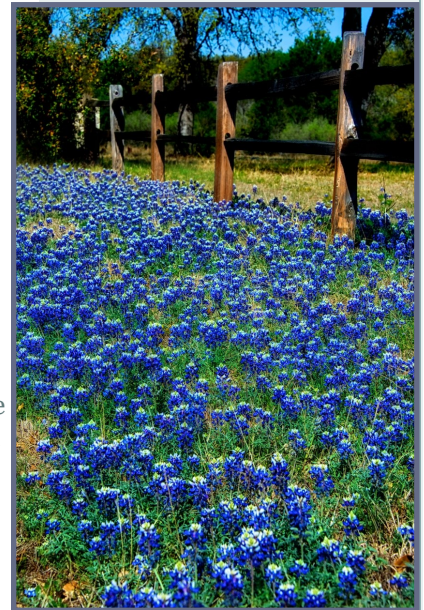
As the entire WCR community continues to grow, it becomes increasingly challenging to stay connected to everyone: those who live here full time; those who visit from time-to-time; and those who hope to be calling Wolf Creek Ranch “home” sooner rather than later. The Board of Directors has decided to publish a quarterly newsletter as one way to connect property owners with each other and with the day-to-day operations of the ranch in a new way. We hope you enjoy the perspectives of the contributors and learn some things about WCR!

BOARD BRIEFS

Jim and I bought our property on White Bluff Trail twenty years ago. At the time we had no intention of moving from central Austin to “out in the country”! But things changed, Jim and his siblings sold the family business, two of our children were on their own and our youngest was in college. It seemed like a good time to start a new phase of our life.

I don’t think either of us had a life long dream of living in the country but when we found Wolf Creek, we knew we could make it work. Burnet offered enough of what we thought we needed to be happy in a small town, it wasn’t too far from Austin, where all of Jim’s family lived and we planned on building a home that would be comfortable when our kids wanted to come visit. So we were hooked. And we started planning.

Five years after our purchase, we became the second family to live full time at Wolf Creek. Our neighbors, whom we had met a couple of times,



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DON'T MISS ...

- Uncommon Views
- On Reflection
- Middle Gate Beautification Project
- Wolf Creek Crafty Ladies

LOOK WHAT'S BUILDING ON THE RANCH

Aaron & Jennifer Shuta (AC-3) found WCR just about a year ago and fell in love with their property and decided to build their “forever” home. They started their project around June 1, 2020 and hope to have it finished for Jennifer’s birthday in February 2021. This is an aggressive schedule but you’ll often find them onsite encouraging the contractors and dreaming of the day when it’s more than just a slab and framing!



“The best part of living on the ranch is how close to nature you really are—everyday!”

THE BUNTINGS ABOUND

Painted Bunting pairs begin arriving on WCR in mid May to raise their families and are only seen intermittently by early August.



Photos provided by Mark Stracke:
Male, Female and juvenile male.

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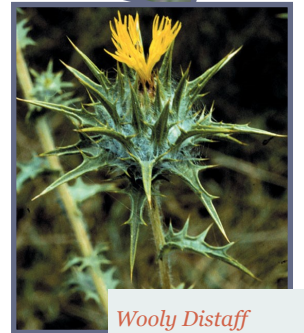
INVASIVE PLANTS ON WOLF CREEK RANCH

Betty Saenz (ER 2A-1) is a Native Plant Society member. She found out some helpful information about invasive plants on WCR and offered to share her insights. You can find the entire article on the WCR website blog.

“I recently hired a professional botanist to do a Plant Survey of my property in Wolf Creek Ranch. I was very impressed with the experience, the results and the report. Nine exotic or invasive species were noted in my report and rated according to recognized scales. The worst offender at the time was woolly distaff-thistle. Coming in second, in my opinion is the Malta Star Thistle. I wanted to share these findings with my neighbors and friends at Wolf Creek Ranch who are also trying to take the best possible care of their property. It was recommended to pull these noxious weeds in order to lessen their spread and eventually eradicate them. I have been working on this but now the high Summer temperatures are upon us. Between the heat and the thistley, crisp, pointy bad boys, it is not super fun. However, I am dedicated to making my piece of the ranch a better place, so I push on.”



Malta Star Thistle



Woolly Distaff Thistle

One of David's
Little Bulls



MEET OUR RANCHER—DAVID RUSSELL

In the late 1800's, Texas Ranger Oscar Chesnut claimed and settled a cattle ranch on a "frontier property." The ranch remained in Chesnut's family until the last family rancher, Bud Green, sold the Green Ranch to Buchanan Investments in 1999. Today, the frontier ranch continues as a cattle operation in the midst of our beloved WCR.

From the time Bud and his family sold the property until his death in 2015, Bud continued doing what he loved; raising cattle on land he worked all his life. A new lessee perpetuates the ranching tradition.

Our Grazing Lessee since January 2017 is locally born rancher, David Russell. His pedigree includes managing the cattle operations of the Goodrich Ranch and leasing several other area ranch properties. On Wolf Creek Ranch, he keeps 28 mother cows and two bulls which is the ranch's optimum capacity without overgrazing the pastures.

In considering lessee candidates for our Ranch, David's wife Jennifer and their two daughters added a bonus: they hand raised from "pups" the cows and their pet bull, Biscuit, David planned to place on WCR. David periodically feeds his herd "candy", i.e., corn pellets, just like Bud did for years before. Should you find him on the road in his truck or on his horse, know he always welcomes a friendly visit.

Because of David's lease, owners still enjoy the restfulness of cattle roaming through WCR and the agricultural use property tax savings.

(Warren Dold, Past President, submitted this profile. For a fuller account of the ranching history of WCR, find a longer version on the ranch website blog.)

UNCOMMON VIEWS

One of the beautiful features of the 1,324 acre Wolf Creek Ranch Property, is the number of Common areas—125 acres—protected and maintained for the use of ALL residents and owners. There are well-known areas such as the Pavilion by Morgan Creek and not-so-well-known areas such as mini-views from heritage oaks that have been cleared of underbrush along the side of the road. Each is photo worthy!



Photo provided by Mark Stracke: View from White Bluff.

MIDDLE GATE BEAUTIFICATION PROJECT

Ready for a challenge?

How do we make the Middle Gate Entrance more attractive and inviting?

A number of folks on the ranch are proposing a facelift for this entrance. Besides adding lighting, some plants would be nice but there is no water to support new plantings and sustaining them through the hot summers!

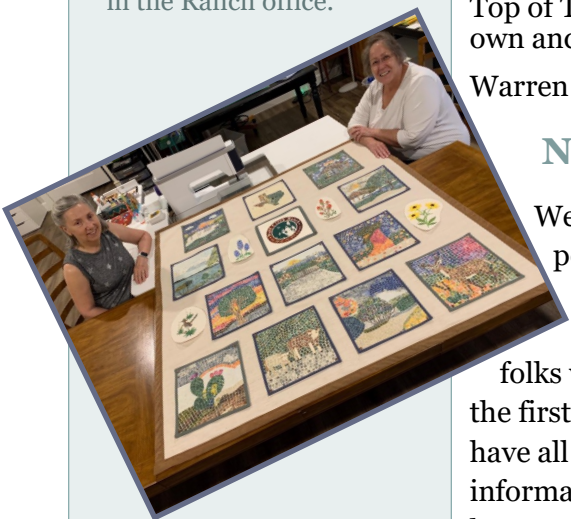
One thought is a Xeriscape design; another thought is a volunteer watering schedule as native and adaptive plants are established.

Stay tuned for opportunities to put your "stamp" on a Middle Gate Facelift.

WOLF CREEK CRAFTY LADIES

Retired nurses and neighbors on Morgan Cove, Cindy Taniguchi and Marcie Ramos, found out they had at least one other interest in common: they are both quilting fanatics. Together they hatched the idea of creating a WCR quilt that included some favorite things on the Ranch. Then they enticed other women on the ranch to help with the project by creating squares that would then be quilted. Thus was the beginning of the group called "Wolf Creek Crafty Ladies". The group is on hiatus because of the virus but will resume once we have an "all clear".

Stop by to see the quilt next time you're at the barn. It will be displayed in the Ranch office.



greeted us with a pot of chili and a warm welcome. The Meffords have been close friends from that day on.

When I thought about running for the WCROA Board, I wanted new owners to have the same experience I have had living on Wolf Creek Ranch. Good neighbors, privacy when I wanted and of course one of the most beautiful places in Texas to call home. Now that I am on the Board, I am learning about the challenges of chairing an all volunteer board. I am seeing how important it is to stay in touch with the property owners and making sure that everyone has a chance to voice their opinion and to be available when needed.

I am so grateful that I have an excellent group of people to work with. All of our Board members are able and willing to take on all the jobs that need to be done. Nelda, our Ranch manager, is an invaluable resource and capable organizer. She keeps all of us on our toes.

The Board hopes that having a quarterly newsletter will help everyone stay in touch. It is my goal to make sure all of the Wolf Creek property owners will feel a part of this wonderful community.

Carol Weathers, President, WCROA Board of Directors

UPON REFLECTION

As I reflect on my past seven years of service on the Wolf Creek Ranch Board of Directors, I ponder my message. It didn't take long to determine how important volunteerism is to the success of our community. I found very quickly how talented, gifted and philanthropic our owners and their families are. The nice thing about this is our owners are willing to fetch their toolbox and help us get to work.

Not only are the WCROA Board of Directors volunteers, all of our committee members are volunteers on the Design Review Board, Firewise, Managed Lands Deer Program, Ranch Maintenance, Dock Committee, Webpage, Adopt-a-Highway Program, Covenant Review Committee and Insurance Oversight Committee.

In closing, a special "thank you" to all previous, current and future volunteers that give of their time, talents and resources to make Wolf Creek Ranch "The Top of The Hill Country", one of the most desirable residential communities to own and live.

Warren Struss, Past President WCROA

NEWCOMER'S COMMITTEE ANNOUNCED

We have a terrific Ranch Manager, Nelda Duff, who is often the "go-to" person when anybody, new or old, needs something. She has the forms, she has the gate clickers, she has the files, she knows where the bodies are buried, BUT she is just one person! We need a "welcome wagon", folks who can be the point of contact for new property owners as they take the first steps to becoming part of the WCR community. While they might not have all the answers, they will work with each new owner to help them get the information they need to integrate into the community quickly. And, who knows, they may even bake some cookies to help build community! These Ambassadors will be meeting soon to organize a "warm welcome" to future property owners.

THE LEGACY OF “UNCLE CHESNUT”

The following is an excerpt from “Canyon of the Eagles: A History of Lake Buchanan and Official Guide to the Vanishing Texas River Cruise.” See pages 37 and 38.

Wear your snake boots and visit the gravesite of “Uncle Chesnut” who guards the main entrance to Wolf Creek Ranch; born 1869; died 1936.

Oscar K. Chesnut is the best remembered of the river characters. He was a tall, raw-boned man with pale eyes that “could stare down a rock.” He appears to have nicknamed himself after his O.K. initials, and he was known as “Ok” (rhymes with rock) Chesnut. Long after ordinary people abandoned the practice of carrying pistols, Chesnut still wore one. He quoted poetry and had a way of doing the totally unexpected. He knew he was considered different, and he seemed to enjoy the distinction.

“He liked Bible verses as well as poetry, and he often made up both himself or garbled the two for better effect.”



Oscar K. Chesnut's (aka Uncle Chesnut) grave marker outside the Main Gate

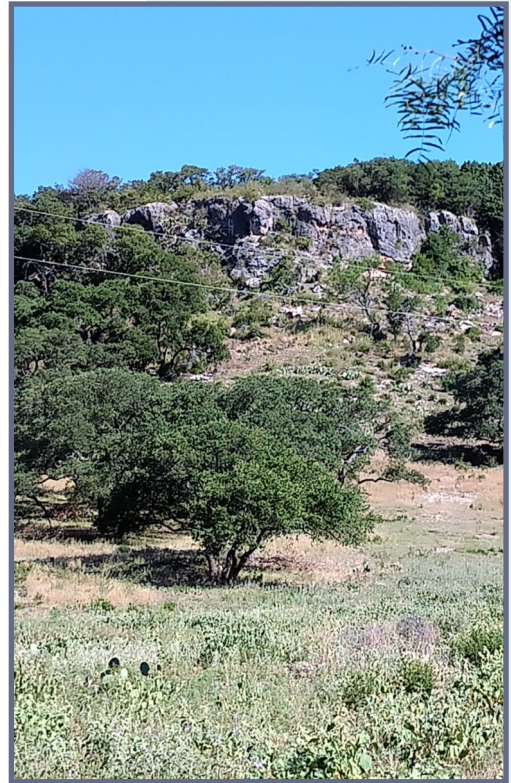
Quite a few of the men, most of the boys, and all of the women and girls were as scared of him as they were of a bear.

He lived on the Burnet side of the river, up on the slope of the hills a little east of White Bluff, beneath another water-formed bluff that now bears his name, and beside a flowing stream that is also named for him. From his front porch he could see out across Spider Mountain, which he named, and down through the cut of the two Morgans as they came together at Bee Bluff, headed for the river. It was all his land. He lived alone, and no one remembers a woman in his life, yet, faded pictures show that there once was one, slender in lace, laughing, riding with him in the hills, splashing in Morgan Creek.

They say he buried money at different places on his ranch just so people would hunt for it after he died.

They also say he quietly gave money to families in need of it, and that he never wanted anyone to know he had done it.

When he died, they buried him beside the road on his ranch, where thousands have since passed by, and wondered who it was there in that lone grave by the roadside.



Chesnut Bluff as seen from the Trail to White Bluff.

**WOLF CREEK RANCH
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BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

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830 613 7651

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512 755 0319

FOLKS WHO CAN HELP

When you have questions or concerns, these folks may be able to help or point you in the right direction.

- The Design Review Board (DRB) handles approvals for property improvements, large and small: Lyn Mefford (512 756 2059); Lee Kinard (830 613 7651); Helen Piechowski (512 756 3265)
- The Firewise Committee oversees fire safety on the ranch: Andy Piechowski (845 559 3361)
- Ranch Maintenance works with contractors and volunteers to keep the Ranch Commons areas and roadsides suitable for cattle grazing as well as making the commons areas beautiful and sustainable for property owners to enjoy: Eliza Bishop (713 385 9389)
- The WCR Newcomer's Committee works with new owners to connect them with the right resources to make transitions easier. Ambassadors will be assigned as properties close.

REMINDERS & UPCOMING EVENTS

- Saturday, November 21 (9 am), WCROA Board Meeting

Wolf Creek Ranch Owners Association
10233 Ranch Road 2341
Burnet, TX 78611

Ranch Manager: Nelda Duff
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Email: wolfcctx@tstar.net
Website: wcroa.com

*For comments about this
newsletter, you can email
the editor (Lyn Mefford) at :*
wcrccomments@gmail.com



INQUIRING MINDS WANT TO KNOW . . .

The question has come up: What about chicken farming on WCR?

Some "pros" put forward are:

- *Raising chickens provides a ready source of animal protein (eggs and meat) in times of uncertainty*
- *Chicken manure is an effective addition to compost for gardening*
- *Pest control—these birds love bugs!*

Some "cons" put forward are:

- *Chickens—hens and roosters—can be noisy neighbors*
- *Chickens can increase the number of predators in a neighborhood*
- *Disease*

Look for an opportunity soon to express your views!