

The Friends of Gillespie County Country



THE CHALKBOARD

Annual Newsletter
Friends of the Gillespie County Country Schools
PO Box 55
Fredericksburg, TEXAS 78624
www.historicschools.org

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HISTORY NOTES: The Friends of the Gillespie County Country Schools (FGCCS) began in 1999 with the transfer of ownership of 12 of the 17 member country schools from the School District to Gillespie County. Did you know it first required passing of a new State Law in Texas? Achieving this was the first big job for the Friends. The FGCCS was organized with membership of 17 individual schools and a board of directors. Twelve of these schools belong to Gillespie County and are leased to the Friends. The remaining five schools are associate members and are cared for by the Gillespie County Historical Society (Vereins Kirche-School and White Oak School), LBJ Federal/State Park (Junction School), and private owners (Grapetown School and Cherry Mountain Schools). Our common goal is preservation to promote their use, and to maintain these schools. All of this activity is carried on under the auspices of the Gillespie County Commissioners Court. In simple terms: save 'em, use 'em, take care of 'em, and give 'em to the next generation of Texans.

READING ASSIGNMENT: Read *Hill Country Teacher—Oral Histories from the One-Room School and Beyond* by Dianne Morning, Twayne Pub., Div of G K Hall & Co, 1990, ISBN 0-8057-9102-7. These are true Texas Hill Country stories. Just out: *Images of America-Gillespie County*, by Gillespie County Historical Society, Arcadia Pub, 2013, ISBN 978-0-7385-9649-5.

GEOGRAPHY: The generous gift of drilling and installing new water wells by L&L Drilling and Virdell Drilling Companies has changed the lay of the land and provided safe and dependable water at every school. Before these wells, most schools had only a nearby creek, an old unsafe well, or dependence upon water from a neighboring ranch. Thank you to these two companies and to all the people involved in getting this long-term project underway and seeing it to completion. That is leadership.

HEALTH: With water came the ability to upgrade to modern toilets and small kitchen facilities at the schools. The Outhouse might still be at some schools, but they are OUT. Having these modern facilities increases use and rental of the schools. Private gifting, grants, and individual schools and the Friends helped make it happen.

We still have more work to do, but we do not have to carry our lunch in a little metal pail today. Most students walked to school. One family at Luckenbach School walked five miles each way to school! Today hiking is the fifth most popular outdoor sport in America. Another use for our country schools. Hikers, bicyclists, and bikers use our schools and map to cover the 120 mile trail. Again this past year, Cave Creek, Willow City, and Nebgen Schools assisted with the LBJ 100 Bicycle Tour event and hosted 1400 visitors with drinks and snacks. Come walk, drive, or bike the Gillespie County Country School Driving Trail. The Trail map is in our brochure and available at our website: www.historicschools.org. It's healthy and fun.

INDUSTRIAL ARTS: Thanks to funding from City and County Hotel Occupancy Tax, grants, Friends, and individual schools and private gifts, we have repaired or replaced roofs this past year at Meusebach Creek School, Luckenbach School, Cherry Springs School, and Crabapple School. In April we had our Annual BBQ Fundraiser and now have some more dollars for more repairs. Some new opportunities for the Handy Man to volunteer in 2013, yes? We have been invited to submit a proposal to Road Scholar Life Long Learning Service Program. This is an opportunity to bring volunteers from all over the world to assist in preservation and restoration of the Gillespie County Historic Schools. We are looking for a writer with detailed proposal-writing skills to assist. Please contact us at (830)990-8059, ask for Jane or email her at showcaseantiques@austin.rr.com.

WRITING: We've had articles in national and local magazine and newspapers over the past year. Look for our national ads in Preservation and Capper's magazines. Gillespie County is 1,061 square miles (TEXAS miles!) and we are sharing the countryside with Gillespie County Hill Country Wineries. Watch for our eBlast ads with the Texas Hill Country Wineries. Their members have agreed to let us plot their wineries on the next brochure. We plan to continue to partner with the wineries and other country neighbors.

ASSIGNMENT NOTES: Go to Friends GCCS website: www.historicschools.org and look at the photos and history of the schools in the film produced by Dr. Jim Lindley and friend. Since the making of the DVD, much restoration has been completed, so look for an updated version in the future or go visit the sites yourself.

ART: We are pleased to announce that Dalton Fromme, well-known graphic artist and now resident of Fredericksburg with wife Joy (nee Petermann of Fredericksburg), has donated his art expertise to the Friends GCCS. He has designed our new logo for our website banner. You see it here on the newsletter and you'll see it more as we add it to all of our work in the future. Dalton has also designed posters from his original acrylic paintings of the schools and plans to continue to assist us on other art projects. Sherry Brown donated to Friends GCC Schools an original painting entitled "3-R's and Morals" by now deceased Fredericksburg artist, Carolyn Henke. Value of the painting is \$1,500 and has already been displayed at several of our events. We'll continue to use it to promote the sense of community and to tell our history.

ARITHMETIC: Care costs, we all understand that. Friends GCCS make and find the dollars and put them to work—all 100% volunteer work and funding. Each school stands alone in its membership and budget. The Friends GCCS Board of Directors is made up of representatives from each of the 12 regular member schools leased from Gillespie County. We are asking you to do the math. By adding 25 new members-at-large every year, we can achieve so much more. Test your multiplication skills: $25 \times \$25 =$ _____; $25 \times \$50 =$ _____; $25 \times \$100 =$ _____; $25 \times \$150 =$ _____.

Please join us as a Member-at-Large by going to our website, www.historicschools.org, and use Pay Pal. If you prefer the mail, please contact us at 830-997-5505 and request a membership envelope be sent to you. Your email address allows us to email future newsletter and updates throughout the year. Do give us your email and we will maintain your privacy. We are a not-for-profit (501C-3) organization.

REMAINING CALENDAR for SCHOOLS OPEN HOUSE DATES:

Saturday, May 11, 2013 from 11am to 4pm:
Meusebach Creek School, 515 Kuhlmann Road
Grapetown School, 7325 Old San Antonio Road

Saturday, August 3, 2013 from 11am to 4pm:
Willow City School, 2501 Ranch Road 1323

Saturday, September 14, 2013 from 11am to 4pm:
Lower Grape Creek School, 10273 East US Hwy 290
Luckenbach School, 7325 Old San Antonio Road

Saturday, October 12, 2013 from 11am to 4pm:
Junction School, 144 State Park Road 49 (in US LBJ Natl Historical Park, Stonewall, TX)
Nebgen School, 1718 North Grape Creek Road
Williams Creek (Albert, TX) School, 5501 South Ranch Road 1623

Go to our website: www.historicschools.org for more information. Your visits to the schools help us qualify for City and County HOT FUNDS. Please come!

Jane Woellhof and Doris Spraggins, Directors-at-Large
Friends of the Gillespie County Country Schools

All schools listed on the National Registry of Historical Places, Member of National Trust for Historic Preservation, and almost all have Texas Historical Markers.

Preserving the past to enrich the future.



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