



LAKE CREEK PRESERVE NEWS

January 6, 2017

The recent flooding left the southern part of the trails somewhat muddy, but drying fast provided there is no significant rain for a few weeks. The boardwalks held up fine and the only significant effect of the flood was to increase hog rooting along the trail. In that regard, John Wilson just trapped an 8' 400+lbs boar on the preserve (pictures below) that took three men to drag it several yards from the trap to truck. It was probably responsible for at least some of the rooting.

Those who have visited the preserve will notice that access is limited to daylight hours to minimize the possibility of accidentally surprising one of the animals which can be dangerous. During the day, a hog encounter is much less likely especially if you make a bit of noise while you are walking the trail.



Above: Hog in trap captured by IR camera
Right: John Wilson with dead hog



Becky Zitterich has organized a property owner meeting/presentation on hog control for January 19 at the Woodforest Golf Course dining room at 6:30. We are hoping to develop a more coordinated approach to hog control, since we need to be removing at least 2/3 of the animals each year just to keep the population stable. A follow up announcement on the January 19 meeting will be sent out after the holidays.

On a related safety note, those who walk the creek loop will notice that we have placed warning signs and a short fence at the cut bank in front of the rest bench. This was necessary as the floods of the past two years have cut about 10-20' from the bank and left it seriously undercut and subject to slumping. Please observe the signs and fence to avoid ending up in the creek.

Those who have been to the preserve in the past week would have noticed a new turn sign on north bound Fish Creek Thoroughfare and sign marking the entrance to the preserve.



Additional educational and safety signs have been installed along the orange and blue trails and we hope to add additional signage along the blue trail in the next few months. Bob Wise has established a quarterly trail maintenance schedule with work days scheduled for February 18, April 15, July 15 and November 4. We will send out notices well in advance of each work day. Since we are entirely voluntary we hope that the community will help us maintain the preserve as a recreational and educational asset for the community.

We also recently received word that we will receive a \$2500 grant from the Hauber Foundation for capital improvement to the preserve and greenway in general. Together with the Union Pacific grant we are able to help support Scout projects in the greenway, make improvements to a canoe launch at the Fish Creek Thoroughfare bridge and add educational signage along the nature trails.

Regarding the February 18 work day, specific activities may include: installing an educational sign on the blue trail, leveling some of the rooting along both trails, clearing a path from the orange loop to the creek for fishing/canoe landing, clearing vines from a possible state champion River Birch and some mowing/weed eating along the trail. For planning purposes, anyone able to help should send an email to trails@lakecreektx.org along with any equipment you may be able to bring: weed eaters, push mower, loppers etc.

Four additional Eagle projects are in the planning stage: one will install 4 benches along the Orange and Blue trails, one will add about 44 feet of boardwalk to the existing boardwalk on the Blue trail and the other two

are developing additional sections of the trail tree guide. We are still searching for an Eagle candidates interested in constructing an informational kiosk at the current trail head and adding sections of boardwalk along the blue trail. Our Union Pacific grant makes it possible for the Partnership to cover ½ of the materials costs for Scout projects and we have plans for the basic design.

We have also met with the Lifestyle Director with Woodforest to coordinate a spring (April 29) and fall (November 18) activity at the preserve. These and other events are posted on our web site and continually updated.

Work on the canoe trail is progressing slowly, but we have met with the San Jacinto River Authority regarding use of an improved access road to the creek at the Fish Creek Thoroughfare bridge. We are also pursuing a safer pull out downstream along the West Fork of the San Jacinto. Allen Livingston could use help on the canoe trails committee. If you are interested and willing to help send an email to trails@lakecreektx.org.

Since our philosophy is to partner with business, property owners, government and other non-profits we have been working with local Scout troops, Woodforest Development and Commissioner Riley's staff on improvements to the entrance road and preserve and have recently met with the new director of the Bayou Land Conservancy to see how we might best work together and eliminate any duplication. Our focus will be on recreation, education and helping link landowners and residents with the appropriate resources consistent with our greenway mission.

Finally, while we have no paid positions, we do have nominal operating expenses to cover basic items such as board insurance, web site, mail box, canoe association and chamber dues, office and community event supplies. To address those needs we ask that you consider becoming a Friend of Lake Creek at least the individual \$25 level (forms attached). If that isn't possible consider naming us as the beneficiary of matching programs at Kroger, Amazon and/or iGive.

Instructions for shopping matches follow and for those who can contribute as a Friend of Lake Creek you can contribute by filling out the following donation form or through Pay Pal accessed on our web site at <http://lakecreektx.org/membership/>.

Friend of Lake Creek Donation Form

I want to become a Friend of Lake Creek and support the programs of the Lake Creek Greenway Partnership by:

- ☐ Enhancing outdoor recreational opportunities in our area
- ☐ Supporting special outdoor events emphasizing features and functions of the Lake Creek Watershed
- ☐ Supporting educational programs on local flora and fauna, water quality, soil and water conservation, and other conservation issues.
- ☐ Helping us preserve green space, water and wildlife resources in our area.
- ☐ Supporting our web site

First Name _____ Last Name _____

Street Address _____

City/Town _____ Zip _____

Email Address _____

Phone _____

DONATION TYPE

Friend (Individual) \$25

Lake Creek Stewards (family) \$50

Watershed Steward (business) \$250

MAIL WITH CHECK TO:

Lake Creek Greenway Partnership

6606 FM1488, Ste. 148, #356

Magnolia, TX 772545

SUPPORT LAKE CREEK GREENWAY PARTNERSHIP THROUGH YOUR PURCHASES

KROGER COMMUNITY REWARDS

Support the **Lake Creek Greenway Partnership** through your shopping at Kroger. Follow the instructions below to set up an account and obtain a Kroger Plus card, enter our NPO # or Lake Creek Greenway Partnership then swipe your Kroger Plus Card when you shop at Kroger. A % of your purchases will be dedicated to the **Lake Creek Greenway Partnership**.

Lake Creek Greenway Partnership: Kroger NPO # 85770

How to Register a Digital Account

Creating a digital account is as simple as 1,2,3! Simply visit www.kroger.com or download the Kroger mobile application from the appropriate app store for your device and follow these directions.

1. Select the 'Register' button.
2. Enter your information.
3. Select 'Create Account'.

Please make sure that you add your card number or create a virtual card number while registering your Digital Account. This is required for the Community Rewards program so that your transactions apply towards the program.

Selecting an Organization

Selecting the organization that you wish to support is as simple updating the Community Rewards selection on your Digital Account.

- Sign into your Digital Account (if you haven't already).
- Select 'My Account'.
- Scroll down to the 'Community Rewards' section of your account page.
- Select 'Enroll Now' or 'Edit'.
- Enter the name or NPO number of the organization that you wish to support.
- Select the appropriate organization from the list and click on 'Save'.

Your selected organization will now display in the Community Rewards section of your account page.

Any transactions moving forward using the card number associated with your digital account will be applied to the program.

It takes approximately 10 days for the Community Rewards total to begin displaying on your receipt.

Viewing your Rewards Details

Wondering how much you've earned towards your selected organization? You may view the total earned during the last quarter by following these instructions.

- Sign into your Digital Account (if you haven't already).
- Select 'My Account'.
- Scroll down to the 'Community Rewards' section.
- The amount earned will be listed as 'Last Quarter Kroger Donation'.

Additional Details

You must present your Kroger Plus Card or provide your Alternate ID at the register during the transaction in order for it to count towards the program.

Organization selections must be renewed once a year, during the month of August. Simply follow the instructions detailed in the 'Selecting an Organization' section in order to maintain or update your selected organization.

If you have any further questions or concerns, please contact our Digital Customer Service line at 1-866-221-4141.

Thank you for participating in the Kroger Community Rewards program!

Support While Shopping Online

AMAZON SMILE

Lake Creek Greenway Partnership is registered with Amazon Smile. .5% of your purchases through Amazon Smile are donated to the Lake Creek Greenway Partnership when you shop through Amazon Smile and designate Lake Creek Greenway Partnership for the Amazon match. <https://www.smile.amazon.com>

iGive

Lake Creek Greenway Partnership is registered with iGive. Purchase matches vary with the company. See below for additional information:

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Shop at 1,700+ Top-Notch Online Stores, and Maybe Save on Your Taxes Too.

Our mall includes: Walmart, Pottery Barn, Staples, Petco, Expedia, Best Buy, QVC and many more. Best of all, up to 26% of your purchase at each store is donated to your favorite worthy cause. Many of these contributions could even be considered tax-deductible*.

Raise a Penny Per Search at www.iGive.com!

Why not raise money every time you search the web? Try iGive's search engine and enjoy free, easy fundraising for a good cause.

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