



# Lake Creek Preserve News

## July, 2018



A lot has happened at the preserve since our last newsletter. If you haven't visited recently, the following comments will bring you up to date on some of the recent improvements. The trail and related structures couldn't have been completed without the support of volunteers. We want to give special thanks to the 47 Eagle Scout candidate projects that made this trail possible. If you haven't yet seen the trail, come out and see what Scouts and other volunteers can do.

### Second Observation Deck Installed

Eagle Scout Pavan Kuretti led a project that installed a second observation deck adjacent to the pond along the Orange trail. Additional benches have been added to this and the first observation platform by Eagle Scout candidate Carter Cagney. He also added two benches next to the new platform to enhance the area for small group instruction in addition to routine trail use. We subsequently added a sign to the structure with pictures of birds and animals that frequent the area. Subsequent to installation, a River Otter has been sighted in the pond on two occasions.



### Trail/Boardwalk Improvements

Eagle Scout candidates Joseph Kim, Matthew and Marcus Le, Bryatt Stoker and Sebastian Armour made improvements to the trail which included adding log barriers and repositioning two benches at the trail head for erosion control and to improve the communication potential for pre-hike/project instruction. You will also notice that these projects included adding stepping stones to muddy areas along the orange and blue trails, adding additional steps to the steep areas on the creek loop to prevent slipping after rainy or flood events and coating the boardwalk surfaces with nonslip dock paint. This was a particular safety concern of the Board as the boardwalks were becoming very slippery when wet. Finally, you will notice that a number of colored graphic signs have been added to complement some of the word signs and improve the utility of this as an educational trail. When complete, every word sign will be matched with a colored graphic or picture sign.



## **Chinese Tallow Removal**

While Chinese Tallow is not yet a serious problem on the preserve, we are hoping to minimize this as a future issue by killing existing trees before they grow and increase. As part of this program Eagle candidates, Logan Ideker, Chris Bailey and Brock Romanski have organized projects to treat and kill Tallow along the entrance road, north boundary of the preserve and Orange trail. We will evaluate the effectiveness of these projects later this summer.

## **Retaining Wall Along Entrance Road**

We have been concerned about erosion cutting into the entrance road at the drainage culvert between Fish Creek Thoroughfare and the trailhead. Left untreated, we could eventually lose the road. Eagle candidate Carlos Ramos, led a project to clear the area and add a retaining wall to stabilize the erosion. During the course of the project he also found that heavy rains had eroded sediment adjacent to parts of the culvert exterior allowing water to run along the outside of the culvert. Left unchecked this would eventually cause the culvert to fail. A temporary fix was added, but will need a more permanent repair.



## **Volunteers Needed for Canoe/Kayak Trail Development**

Since one of our objectives is to enhance recreational opportunities within the Lake Creek watershed we have been evaluating the feasibility of developing a canoe/kayak trail on Lake Creek between the Fish Creek Thoroughfare Bridge and a location on the West Fork of the San Jacinto River. Allen Livingston has been leading that effort and is looking for volunteers to help with the effort. It will involve some clearing of debris along the creek as well as mapping remaining obstacles and potential access points. If you have an interest in helping develop a local canoe/kayak trail contact Allen at [aliving@gmail.com](mailto:aliving@gmail.com).

## **Trail Maintenance Ongoing**

As with any trail, maintenance is an ongoing issue and we want to thank our volunteers for their help with the June work day. As you might expect, except for floods and storms, most of our regular trail work involves mowing, weed-eating, trimming encroaching branches and removing the occasional downed tree. Most of that work is needed from April through October. Bob Wise coordinates our trail maintenance and is trying to grow the members to avoid volunteer burnout. If you are interested in an opportunity for some physical activity and making a difference you can see please contact Bob Wise at [bob@hawkpros.com](mailto:bob@hawkpros.com).