



Thanks VIPs

The Pizza Party and Award Ceremony was a huge success. We had a wonderful turnout, and everyone had the opportunity to enjoy more than they needed of the pizza, salad, and scrumptious deserts! Without BBNHA, this dinner could not happen, so we want to express a huge "Thank You" to Mike Boren and BBNHA! They have been extremely generous in hosting this event to honor the volunteers each season. In addition we owe Claudia a giant "Thanks" for staffing the bar. Casa Grande donates the drinks for the volunteers each season, and that is greatly appreciated. The staff at Big Bend are very generous in making each volunteer feel welcomed and appreciated. All of these things combine to make this the best park to donate volunteer time!



Each VIP was introduced by her/his supervisor. Right, Vidal Davila makes his presentation to Sue Buchel, a new resource management volunteer.



Bob & Ruthine Hennessy



Superintendent Wellman presents Jason Morris with his certificate. Jason works for emergency services.



Angelina presents a clock, a special gift for numerous year VIPs, to Bob Wirt and Steve Harper.



Don Sharlow presents awards and thanks the trail crew volunteers.

Spring 2007 Volunteers

Persimmon Gap

Mark Kirtley- Visitor Center

Sally & Bob Jones- Visitor Center

Castolon

Tillman Cavert- SCA- Camp Host & Backcountry

Joan & Raymond Kane- Camp Host & Backcountry

Kim & Al Peabody- Camp Host & Backcountry

Maryann & Ted Rowan- Visitor Center

Bob Wirt- Visitor Center

Rio Grande Village

Reta & Dick Averill- Camp Hosts

Barbara & Bill Baldwin- Camp Hosts

Alice & Bob Ramsey- Visitor Center

Samantha Schroeder- Backcountry

Patsy & Shad Shadoin- Visitor Center

Phil Souza- Backcountry

Chisos Basin

Ruthine & Bob Hennessy- Camp Host

Charlotte & Bob Whitesides- Visitor Center

Roger Lane-new- Camp Host

Panther Junction

Susan Buchel-new- Resource Management

Diane & Gary Frable- River

Richard Grayson- River

Jodi Lau-SCA- Interpretation

Brittany Palmer-SCA- Interpretation

Jennette Timmer-SCA- Interpretation

Jessica Wooldridge-new-SCA- Resource Management

Part-time

Judy Brinkerhoff- Resource Management

Angie Dean- Interpretation

Leah Glenn- Library

Steve Harper- Resource Management

Jason Morris- Emergency Services

Christiann Tillman- Library

Steve Wick- Resource Management

Reine Wonite- Emergency Services

Volunteering for the Second Time

Patsy and Shad Shadoin volunteered in Big Bend 14 years ago, and have been excited about returning to volunteer this spring. This season they are working in the Rio Grande Village Visitor Center. They have been coming here for over 30 years. They spent their 32nd wedding anniversary backpacking during an ice storm on the South Rim. The cold conditions of that year didn't deter them, because they returned to spend their 50th anniversary wandering around in the Park.

Patsy and Shad are from DeSoto Parish in western Louisiana. Shad started his educational career teaching the 5th grade when he was only 19 years old! He eventually earned his Doctorate in Education at the University of Arkansas, and went on to become Dean at the University of Louisiana in Monroe. After having their 3 children, Patsy went to work as the secretary to the superintendent of schools. When Shad finished his doctorate degree, she started college as a freshman. She eventually earned her masters degree in education, and became the principal of an elementary school until Shad retired.



They named their farm and home Briar Hurst Farms. The original house was built before the 1900s. For 20 years they restored the home, but eventually sold it, and built a new home on their property. They farmed, and after Shad's retirement, they started raising Paint horses. Patsy said they started this business when Shad found a black and white stallion that he fell in love with. They bought mares and enjoyed raising horses for many years. Eventually they decided they were too old to be cowboys. Taking care of the horses was a 24 hour a day, 7 day a week responsibility, which became very confining. After selling the horses they converted the business to a hay farm and pine tree plantation. They still operate the hay farm, and will have to get back to work after their volunteer duties end here.



They have enjoyed volunteering over the years. Shad worked as a campground host, while Patsy gave interpretive programs in the campground at Custer State Park in South Dakota. They have been Red Cross Volunteers for years, involved mostly with fundraising. Patsy is the president of the Mansfield Garden Club and very active in their church.

Visitors to Rio Grande Village will benefit from their experience and perspective, having seen this park grow through the years. Patsy and Shad's delight to be here is evident in their welcoming smiles.

Swimsuits needed for work on the Gambusia Gaigei Pond



Brittany, Jennette, & Jodi spent one of their Resource Management work days at RGV pulling cattails out of the recently constructed Spring 4 Pond. This is the newest of the ponds the park has constructed to help preserve the endangered mosquitofish (*Gambusia Gaigei*). The cattails have proved to be a rapid invader of recently disturbed aquatic habitat and wetlands. For the benefit of the mosquitofish and general aquatic life, it is desirable to have more diversity of vegetation in and on the margins of the pond. The SCA's also participated in planting a variety of other aquatic and bank species. Ultimately the habitat will include cattails, but by holding them off long enough for other species to become established, it is hoped they will not completely dominate the pond.

Big Bend Honeymoon

Big Bend symbolizes different things to many people. To newlyweds, **Bob and Alice Ramsey**, it can be considered the site of their honeymoon. Our Rio Grande Village Visitor Center Volunteers were married January 11, 2007 at 4:15 pm.

Bob has lived in the Dallas area all of his life. He retired from the United States Postal Service after 33 years. He has 3 sons, one grandchild, and 1 great-grandchild. Alice grew up in Bern, KS, a very small town of 200 people. Alice earned a degree in education from the University of Nebraska. She taught 1st, 2nd, and 3rd grades in Nebraska, Indiana, and in 1985 moved to Dallas. She has 2 children, 3 grandchildren, and 3 great-grandchildren (almost 4 - she has another one due in April)!

Before meeting one another, they each had some interesting short-term work experiences. For example, Bob worked as a Dance Host on a cruise ship in 2002. He said it wasn't quite like the Walter Matthau and Jack Lemon movie "Out to Sea". Alice volunteered at a park in Hawaii. Her job was trying to remove ginger plants, which are exotic to the area. She spent an uncomfortable 2 weeks staying in an old CCC camp during that time.



Alice and Bob met in 2003 at country and western dance lessons, in Dallas, TX. They have continued to travel and have found interesting jobs together. They spent, what they described as a "wild" time, working at the NASCAR Races in Talladega, FL. They worked in Moab, UT, at Arches View Campground. Without their RV, they have been to Greece, Niagara Falls, Playa del Carmen in Mexico, Washington DC, and Las Vegas. This summer they have planned a trip to Switzerland.

Between travels, they return home to Wills Point, TX. They own land in this small community just east of Dallas, and are planning to build their home there. They enjoy most outdoor activities, including hiking, bicycling, and riding their motorcycle. Alice and Bob feel very fortunate to be living the way they do, and we are fortunate they choose to spend their "honeymoon" time with us!



SCA's are extremely valuable to Big Bend. Their work includes staffing the visitor center, giving guided walks, and many different projects for Science and Resource Management.

A Volunteering Vacation



Bob and Charlotte Whitesides are excellent examples of how volunteers make an impact on the visitors. The idea of volunteering at Big Bend this year came from the encounters they have had with VIPs in various national parks. They decided they wanted to see what this "volunteering" was all about. Charlotte saw a job opening for the Chisos Basin Visitor Center on the internet, mentioned it to Bob, and they decided to make it happen for them!

Charlotte grew up in Peoria, IL, and after high school, moved to Houston with her parents. About the same time, Bob's parents moved to Houston from their home in Dallas, TX. Their mothers became friends at the newcomer's bridge club. When Bob came to Houston on leave from the Army, his mother conspired with Charlotte's mother to set them up on a date. They married before he left for Vietnam. During his tour, Charlotte gave birth to twin daughters. The girls were six months old before Bob first saw them! Both families gave Charlotte the support she needed with the babies.

When Bob returned, they moved to Dallas. Bob finished his degree in marketing at the University of North Texas, and started his career in sales. Charlotte stayed home raising the twins and their third daughter. She was very active in the girls' school and extra curricular activities. One of the things she enjoyed was becoming active with the Girl Scouts. When the youngest was a senior in high school, Charlotte accepted a paid job as an assistant librarian.

Bob's hobby, since childhood, has been guns. He loves to shoot, and has bought and sold guns for years. He always told Charlotte that he could support the family with his hobby, if it ever became necessary. In October of 1990, he was laid off, and buying and selling guns did become the family's means of support. For 2 years they traveled the circuit to gun shows. Charlotte said that during those years they met some wonderful people, who have remained their life-long friends. Eventually the travel became more than they wanted, so in 1992, they opened their gun store in Giddings, TX.

Their family has always been very close, and they have remained that way. Their daughters live in Tyler and Florence, Texas, and one daughter lives near them in Giddings. Between the three girls they now have 5 grandchildren.

Charlotte and Bob have always enjoyed traveling and visiting national parks. It was only natural for them to decide to try their hands at volunteering when Charlotte decided they needed an extended vacation. They were fortunate that their daughter in Giddings agreed to run their gun store so they could come to Big Bend and work. They both have always loved talking to people, so sharing information and helping visitors comes natural to them. In order to have first hand information, they spend as much time as possible challenging themselves by hiking various trails in the park. They are both thoroughly enjoying themselves, and Big Bend visitors are benefiting from their efforts in the Visitor Center.

Activities & Events

Potluck Picnic- Thurs. Apr. 12, 6:30 pm.
PJ Community Remuda (the covered area next to San Vicente School). Everyone please come!

Big Bend Paisanos Relay for Life-
Fri. Apr. 20th through Sat. Apr. 21st. American Cancer Society fund raiser. Contact Melissa Forsythe for details: 477-2317

Ongoing:

Adult Bible Study- Sun. 9-10 am or Tues. 7-8 pm.
San Vicente School meeting room.

Big Bend Community Choir-
Wednesdays, 5:30 pm, Music room at Terlingua School. For information call Patricia, 424-3208.

Check the bulletin board at PJ for details and updates!



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: Please submit your paperwork for
: reimbursement to Angelina at
: least a week before you plan to
: leave the park. Once your
: paperwork has been submitted,
: please wait a week, then call
: Terry Boren at 477-1118 or
: Susan Simmons at 477-1119 to
: see if your check is ready. You
: will need to see Terry or Susan in
: person, in the Administration
: Office, Mon-Fri, 8-5 to sign for
: your check.
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