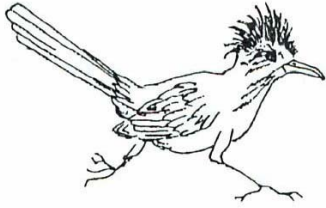


Busy Fall Volunteers are all over BBNP!



BBNP Volunteers are busy on-the-job and also helping with other tasks during "special project" days. .



Amanda Evans, SCA volunteer pictured to the left, spent much of November researching,

preparing, and presenting her interpretive programs.



Above, **RGV staff** were kept busy with various wayward pieces of equipment on Thanksgiving Day.



Royce and Royann Brockett, above right, eagerly prepare to unload mesquite sticks gathered at RGV campground.



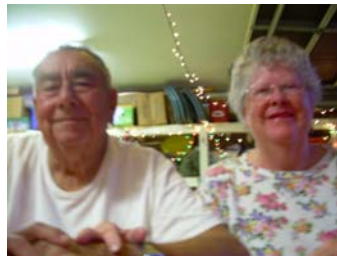
Grethen and Russ Berquam helped in the River District.

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Laura and David VanInwagen and children hosted a lasagna and salad feast on Sat. Nov. 17. The **VanInwagen Family** has organized this tribute in the East District for the past four years. Great fun was had by all who attended - **MANY THANKS** to the hosts for their enthusiastic support of the VIP Program!!



Fall 2007 Volunteers

Persimmon Gap

Mark Kirtley - Visitor Center (12th)*
Sandy & Jay Mengel - Visitor Center

Castolon

Joyce Berke - Camp Host
Bob Douat - Visitor Center (2nd)
Kathy Hambly - Horse Care
Joan & Raymond Kane - Camp Host/Backctry (2nd)
AllyCatherine Wild - Visitor Center

Rio Grande Village

Barbara & Bill Baldwin- Camp Hosts (16th)
Royann & Royce Brockett - Camp Hosts (9th)
Wanda and Mike Copeland - Backcountry (2nd)
Glenda & Robert Overfelt - Visitor Center (2nd)
Lynda & Bob Fanning - Visitor Center (4th)

Chisos Basin

Gretchan & Russell Berquam - Visitor Center
Kay & Doug Combs - Camp Host (4th)
Ed Davis - Camp Host (2nd)

Panther Junction

Susan Buchel - Curation (2nd)
Amanda Evans - SCA Interpretation
Mary Kelling - Pre-school Teacher
Fran Smith - Volunteer Program Assistant
Peter McElroy - Fire Effects
Bob Wirt - Science/Resource Management (8th)

Part-time

Judy Brinkerhoff - Resource Management (6th)
Kim Cutler - Horse Care
John Davies - Horse Care
Angie Dean - Interpretation
Steve Harper - Resource Management (7th)
Dierdre Johnson - Horse Care
John Kelling - Resource Management
Jason Morris - Emergency Services
Howard Smith - Border Patrol
Christian Tillman - Library
Steve Wick - Resource Management (4th)
Reine Wonite - Administration

*Number in () indicates years of service at BBNP

CURATOR AT WORK

Article submitted by **John Kelling**



Unknown to many people, even within the Big Bend community, is the large and important collection that the park owns. Everything from fossilized bones, to mining equipment from pre-park days; photographs to minutes of park meetings from days of yore.

Susan “Sue” Buchel, a curator with a history background, has returned this year to volunteer to help with that collection. We are fortunate to have Sue’s experience, education, and skill, and most important, her passion for the health of the Big Bend collection – and collections in general. So passionate is she, that early in her career at one of the parks, frustrated because so little money was available to properly catalog and maintain the park’s collection, she asked the superintendent for time at a staff meeting to discuss an issue. When her turn came, she dumped a pile of photographs the full length of the table in front of the managers. While the managers poured over photographs they had never seen, but could have used for one project or another, she explained the importance of properly maintained collections. There were photos of previous vegetation that would have helped document fire histories, early photos of buildings that could have helped reconstruction efforts, etc. She received the money.

Now the need for Sue’s passion is here, with the Big Bend collection, which hasn’t seen a curator for some years due to budget considerations. Technicians have performed a sort of holding action with the collection, but some actions that only a curator is qualified to take have had to wait. We have a collection with 45,546 catalog records documenting some 130,000 items needing, constant attention. But, that’s just the surface. Sue is helping the park in planning for the new space – a 45 X 20 foot environmentally controlled room in the long awaited new building. Thankfully, Sue has dealt with collection storage issues in the past and has some idea what arrangement best utilizes the available space.

Collections aren’t static – they grow. Objects are donated, papers written, meetings held, discoveries made. Accession – the formal process of taking ownership of a collection item – is the first step. Cataloging – the process of identifying the properties of the item as specifically as possible – is a painstaking but vital task if the collection is to be useful to researchers and other users of the collection. Sue is helping to ensure the health of the future collection, as well as the current one.

Sue Buchel’s ultimate goal of her volunteer work in Big Bend, and other parks such as Glacier NP, is to ensure the usability of the collections that she curates. A collection without research use is a wasted resource, and the usefulness of the collection is primarily determined by the functionality of its database, and a knowledgeable person serving as reference staff. Accurate descriptions of items, precise locations, cross referencing, noting the source of the item – all play important roles in usability.

For instance, most of the documents in the Big Bend collection are stored in folders, laying horizontally on pull out shelves designed for small object storage. Within those folders, are other folders, many of which have high acid content, possibly damaging the historic content. Researchers looking for a document must pick up each folder to see the one underneath, then finger through the documents, hopefully finding the one being sought. As time permits, Sue is re-cataloging the documents, placing them in vertical, low acid, boxes with the catalog numbers visible on the top, thus obviating the need to dig through files, while preserving the contents, and then creating a finding aid for each major collection.

With the move complete, Sue hopes that there someday may be an opportunity to upgrade the database by photographing, digitizing, and preparing to upload that data into the internet. But, such a resource intensive project is only possible once the collection is otherwise well maintained. In any event, we know that the collection will be better off due to Sue’s skills and diligence.



Thanks, Sue, for your immeasurable help!

Left, Sue uses new filing system. Right, a part of pterydactil for new display in PJ visitor center.





Royce & Royann Brockett are back for their **9th year** as campground hosts in Rio Grande

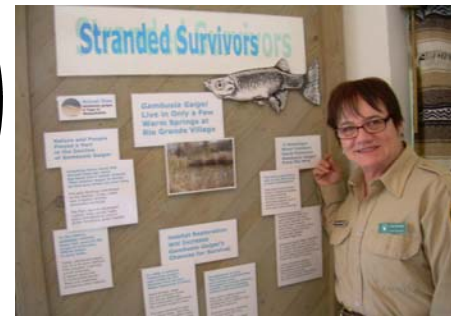
Village. They return from their home in Albuquerque, NM. Soon after arriving there last spring, they flew to Seattle, WA to see their son before he departed for service in Iraq—and now they are anxiously awaiting his return to the States! Also while away from Big Bend NP, they visited Apache Junction near Phoenix, AZ. When asked why they keep returning to BBNP, Royce responds: "We haven't seen it all yet!" And, we sure are glad that there's so much available at BBNP to bring the Brocketts back year after year. **MANY THANKS** for your enthusiasm to service at BBNP!

Lynda and Bob Fanning returned to their home in Spearfish, South Dakota, after leaving Big Bend earlier this year. Their summer was spent enjoying visits throughout Colorado with their four children and two grand-daughters. Why do they keep returning - now for their **4th year** - to volunteer at Big Bend National Park? They really enjoy the hiking, Rio Grande Village, and the Hot Springs area. Also, they remember the good times they had at Boquillas. It sure is **GREAT** to have Lynda and Bob back again!



Volunteers Return to Rio Grande Village

Article submitted by
Howard Smith



Barbara and Bill Baldwin are back for their **16th year** of volunteer service to Big Bend NP. While away this summer they visited with family most of the time. When home in Odessa, Texas, Bill also worked on his "honey do" list and Barbara worked as a Wal-mart greeter. When interviewed for this article they explained that, though they continue to love the park and enjoy all of the people they meet, this is probably their last year as campground hosts at Rio Grande Village. Since returning to the campground this year, Barbara and Bill have been dealing daily with a rascal javelina who is freely investigating tents and campsites at the village. Javelina are common sights throughout BBNP but this one is a loner and it is a safety concern to campers. The Baldwins patrol more frequently and have had to seek LE Ranger assistance to control the animal's travel. When asked why they keep coming back to BBNP, they remarked, almost in unison, "Where else can you be at such peace (except for the current javelina excitement)? Where else is the top speed 45 mph and life doesn't move fast?" We sure are going to miss the Baldwins in RGV - thanks, a **MILLION** times over, for your commitment to BBNP!



EDITOR'S NOTE: Since the writing of this article, the rascal javelina has been removed from RGV.

Sharing information with visitors comes naturally to **Glenda and Robert Overfelt**. Their entire lives have been immersed in a quest for knowledge and the sharing of that knowledge with others; even each of their 3 children are teachers! Glenda and Bob are from Del Rio, Texas. They have been visiting Big Bend National Park since the 1960s when they began camping at Rio Grande Village with their family. Since 1978 Robert has been teaching at the Rio Grande campus of Sul Ross University in Del Rio and, though he tried to retire, he is still teaching there. Glenda is retired from teaching high school science. This is their second year as VIPs. Earlier this year, they did a 225 mile float trip on the Colorado River. Now that they are back, Glenda and Bob enjoy hiking and biking all around the village. Their greatest joy still comes from meeting people, both the employees and the visitors from all over the world. They are looking forward to Bob's retirement so they can spend more time traveling and enjoying Big Bend. Their first grandchild is due to be born in January, 2008 and they are excited for this addition to their family and another person to introduce to Big Bend.

Welcome back, Glenda and Bob!

Big Bend Pre-School Open for Business



Mary Kelling, is BBNP's first Pre-K teacher.

Article submitted by **John Kelling**

Pre-school is a little bit like pre-boarding an airplane. If it's a school, then it can't be a pre-school. But, until that little known fact starts to bother someone with lexicon authority, pre-school will continue to be called ...well...pre-school.

Panther Junction has a pre-school - or as the first Panther Junction pre-school teacher, Mary Kelling, prefers to call it - Pre-Kindergarten - or Pre-K. Mrs. Kelling holds a master's degree in elementary education, and has over thirty years of elementary education experience. Mrs. Kelling, one of the original Head Start teachers in San Antonio, has always advocated early childhood education to help the child interact positively in a group, and to learn some basics that will ease the kindergarten experience. One of the joys and challenges of working with children in this age group is that each is at a different level of development, and each brings unique experiences to the classroom. Children this age are knowledge sponges. They know so little of the world - almost everything is new - and they love to explore, discover, and assimilate.

The Pre-K came about only through the hard work of several people. Pre-K is more challenging to establish and equip than are classrooms for elementary children because of the need to provide a broad range of tools to accommodate the different developmental levels. Learning toys, sensory experiences, mathematical concepts, dexterity exercises, and reasoning tools, all need to be acquired and organized. So, those who are accomplishing this - it's a work in process - can be pleased with the results.

Six children - three and four year olds - attend Pre-K between 9 AM and noon, except on Tuesdays and Thursdays, when school starts at 10 AM. Successful early childhood education requires that for every thirty to forty-five minute period, the number of activities available to the children is equal to four to five times the number of children in the class. In a three hour period at this Pre-K, this can mean as making as many as 144 activities available. A professional Boy Scout executive once said to Mrs. Kelling that a child's attention span, in minutes, is equal to the child's age. She finds this to be true - depending upon the activity and the maturity of the child. So, there are many activities to keep all of the children busy. But, the Pre-K is not as frenetic as it sounds. Mrs. Kelling often reads to the children, or sings with them - changes of pace that are vital to the learning process.

The Pre-K consists of a class meeting room where the children can all sit around a table for activities, snack time, story and song time. In addition, there are many activities available in that room. Across the hall is a dramatic play area - children are great pretenders. They can be almost anything or anywhere their imagination takes them while in this room. Dress up costumes to become a fire fighter, a mermaid, a cowboy, a doctor, or a princess, are hanging on the wall waiting to be brought to life by a child's imagination. If they want to keep house, there are dolls, dishes, pretend food, little shopping baskets, and a toy kitchen. The garage has become the large muscle development room housing the ball park, the recreation area, the artist corner, and the construction zone.

Pre-K provides many opportunities for the child to learn as their maturity permits. But, Mrs. Kelling believes that the parents are the first, and most influential, teachers. Pre-K can assist, but will never substitute for, the parents. Mrs. Kelling tells a story from her elementary teaching days. A severe Connecticut storm took out power for three days in the entire school district. When the children returned to school, they were very excited about the power outage because their parents spent a great deal of time reading to them and playing with them. Without TV or radio, they focused on their children - to the

delight of the children. The children wanted the power to stay off.

Mrs. Kelling, shares stories with the children who listen attentively and then react to her teaching aids.



Recycling Pays at Big Bend National Park

Mindy Hamlett of Community Recycling Program for the Big Bend Chamber and her crew visited the recycling center on Wednesday, November 7, 2007. This was one of their regular visits, which tend to be every 1-2 months - especially in the winter. The current commitment to recycling from the Study Butte/Terlingua area began about 18 months ago when Mindy sought volunteers and a few stepped forward to answer her call. Mindy explains, " We tried a recycling program 8-10 years ago and items got more and more trashy so the effort was stopped. There's only one public trash can in Terlingua unless someone owns or leases a dumpster. This being the case people who have trash and no where else to put it end up adding it to recycling bins."



The Community Recycling Program Crew - from left to right: **Terry, Zbyvek, Shannon, Suzy, Patricia, and Mindy.**

Mindy is a member of the Big Bend Chamber of Commerce. She arrived in Terlingua 12 years ago from British Columbia, Canada when she retired as a masseuse. Her educational background is in psychology and social work. She noted that she recycles because "Big Bend, and especially its desert area, just 'grows' on you. Since the earth is in dire straits I want to make a difference in my own way."

Also helping Mindy with the November 7 delivery for recycling were: **Terry and Suzy Ervins** and **Patricia Kerns**. Terry and Suzy leave the trailer they modified and donated for the recycling effort at the Terlingua Springs Market (a health food store in Study Butte/Terlingua) and generally assist with every trip to the Big Bend Recycling Center. The Ervins live at Terlingua Ranch and believe that there are other people who live at the ranch now who would participate in recycling if equipment for holding the items could be located at a convenient place there. They are willing to assist with picking up items from a ranch site. Terry is retired from the Trans-western Pipeline corporation and Suzy is a member of the Big Bend Chamber.

Patricia Kerns, an immigration lawyer in Terlingua, is seeking to retire soon. She states that she will continue to help with this valuable recycling initiative when she has more time on her hands in retirement.

VIP Birthdays

September
24 Bob Fanning

October
19 AllyCatherine Wild
22 Jay Mengel

November
4 John Kelling
14 Gretchen Berquam
26 Mary Kelling

December
8 Howard Smith

January
14 Angelina Yost
24 Fran Smith

March
9 Lynda Fanning

April
30 Joyce Berke

August
24 Jim Priddy

Miss anyone? Give Fran a call at x1195 and we'll add you to the list!

Fronteras Unlimited is a non-profit, community motivated organization devoted to reclaiming the border communities of the Big Bend for their residents. Fronteras is endeavoring to stabilize the border area of the Big Bend using free trade commerce, education, and the cooperation that has traditionally made the Big Bend the uniquely peaceful border though it was in the past.

Here is an excerpt from the Fronteras Unlimited website: "Thank you so much for your interest in Boquillas del Carmen, Coahuila, Mexico and Fronteras Unlimited. We have gone from 3 quilters to 28 fabric workers making finished quilts, embroidering tea towels, crocheting tablecloths, etc. and have generated a goodly amount of hope, confidence and motivation where before there was none. At present, the women of Boquillas are working to free themselves from their dependence on us for supplies, materials and markets. However, we will continue to have quilt shows every year to keep the ladies supported and will have them in various locations. While the ladies develop their own textile co-op, with guidance, we hope to concentrate more on education. We are hoping to collect 8 used laptops (Windows 98 or better); 4 for the elementary school in Boquillas and 4 for the secondary school in Las Norias (we have a satellite dish that may be able to work at the secondary school) – we have installed sufficient solar panels for this equipment already. We then hope to use whatever proceeds from scorpion and stick sales (as well as donations) to start sending the most promising Boquillas teens on to "preppa" (2 year preparatory high school) and then on to college – both in Melchor Muzquiz, 4 hours away from Boquillas.

You can help by finding us workable used laptops and printers with generic ink cartridges; buy a Boquillas quilt, quilt top, embroidered tea towels, T-shirts, crocheted tablecloths and wall hangings at 432-371-3127. If we don't answer the phone please leave a message; someone will call you back promptly - we now take credit cards. Or commit to sending a child on to college — these youngsters have never had the privilege of choice and you could help them have the greatest choice of all."

Information provided from www.fronterasunlimited.org via **Cynta deNarvaez**



Sandi & Jay Mengel (left) had fun while posing for the roving photographer.



Howard & Fran Smith (left) dressed for the special event.



Amanda Evans (above) helped set up the decorations for the evening.



The November Potluck Dinner was a tribute, complete with decorations and door prizes, to all U. S. Service Veterans!

Audrey Binion (right) learned many interesting things from her mother, Rachael Binion, and VIP Sue Buchel.



Grethen & Russ Berquam had a great time dining and socializing!



SOMEBODY thought they'd help Ranger David Yim know who he is coming or going!



Ray Kane, Joan Kane, Joyce Berke, AllyCatherine Wild & Bob Douat, the VIP Castalon crew, all enjoyed the dinner.

Many people helped with "clean-up detail" after the Potluck - a big THANK YOU to all!!

Honoring Volunteers

In 2003 the Take Pride in America program was instituted to seek, support and recognize volunteers who work to improve our public parks, forests, historic sites, and other public areas. Take Pride honors volunteers who have contributed a significant number of volunteer service hours through awards. For example, volunteers with 4,000 hours of service receive a Presidential Award. This year Royce and Royann Brockett (top right) and Steve Harper (right) are eligible for the Presidential Award for having achieved over 4,100 hours. They will receive the awards at an appropriate recognition ceremony. These folks join others who have achieved this special acknowledgement: Bill and Barbara Baldwin, Bob and Scarlett Wirt, and Mark Kirtley.



Congratulations and "THANK YOU" to all!

SUGGESTION: Please submit your paperwork for reimbursement to Angelina at least two weeks 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. If you wait to submit on the day your leave or until after you leave, you may be waiting awhile for your reimbursement to catch up with you.

Activities & Events

Casa Grande Childrens' Christmas Party - Sat. Dec. 8, 2-4:30 pm, PJ Community Room.

Casa Grande Holiday Social - Tues. Dec 11, 6:00pm, PJ Community Room.

San Vicente School Play- Wed. Dec 19, 6:00pm, *It's A Wonderful Life*, school gym.

VIP Award Ceremony - Tues. Jan. 8, 6:30pm. PJ Community Room.

Big Bend Ultra Run- Sun. Jan. 20, For information and registration go to the web site: www.bigbend50.com

Terrell County Fair - Thurs. Jan. 24 - Sat. Jan. 26, Sanderson, TX, call Billie at 432-345-2798 for more information.

Ongoing:

Adult Bible Study - Sun. 9-10am Or Tues. 7-8pm. San Vicente School meeting room. Contact Al Mayton 477-2295 for more information.

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

Games - Mon. nights, 6:30 pm at PJ community room.

Volleyball- Wed. nights, 7 pm at PJ Court.

Yoga- Thurs. nights, 6-7:15 pm at San Vicente School Gym. Drop-in class \$10 or monthly \$30. Instructor: Cynthia Hood (432-371-2877 or cynthiahood1@hotmail.com).

NOTE: Would you please check the bulletin board at PJ for details and updates? Volunteers are still needed at all Casa Grande events.

TRIVIA CONTEST: What does the arrowhead in the National Park Service logo represent? First person, who hasn't won anything yet, to correctly notify Fran at x1195 gets a prize!