

Senator Frank L. Madla, Jr. Natural Area Newsletter 2014 Issue Volume 2

Painting by Don Darst

Board of Directors				Contact: (210) 695-3261 #6
Dr. Frank Madla	Storms Duthie	Kyle Cunningham	Mayor Ron Rienhard	
Dr. Ron Green	Don Darst	Susan Beavin	Jennifer Nottingham	Treas: Shannan Kinsley

**Looking for *the* unique Christmas Gift? Purchase a Paver!
A great way to Support the Park
Madla Park is a 501c3
See page 4 for details.**

TEXAS PARKS AND WILDLIFE FINAL INSPECTION



repo

Thursday, November 11th, Mayor Ron Reinhard and three Madla Board Members welcomed Will Van Weiss, Marcy Colunga and Scott Langenbeck from TPWD to the Madla Natural Area. In spite of the blustery weather, all participants hiked the park trails, visited the hilltop cottage and returned to the pavilion to see the newly installed Fossil signs and Senator Madla's plaque. Following the recent Workday, the pavilion area looked terrific. The Mayor conveyed the history of obtaining the TPWD grant for the park and stated how proud the City and Board are of the accomplishments within such a limited time frame. We are very grateful to TPWD for this grant, and look forward to their final inspection

NEW SENATOR MADLA PLAQUE

Located on the north wall of the pavilion,
the plaque honoring Senator Frank L. Madla, Jr



was recently installed by ARTCO.



NEW FOSSIL SIGNS

The new signs depicting the history of Madla Park and displaying the trails and amenities are located on the south pavilion wall. Again, ARTCO performed the installation. Our thanks to Storms Duthie for initiating and overseeing pavilion installations.

NEW MADLA PARK LOCATION SIGNS

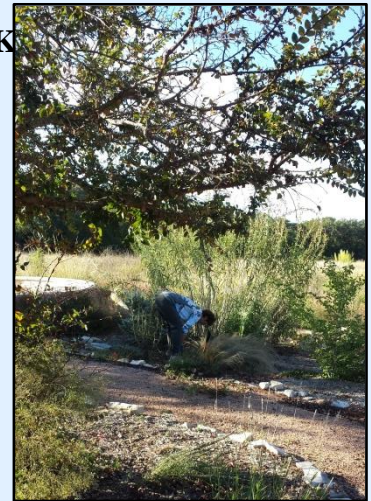
Look for the two Madla Park signs located on Scenic Loop Rd, before reaching the intersection at Menchaca Rd.

JON ALLAN PLAQUE INSTALLED

Dr. Jon Allan, former Helotes Mayor and staunch naturalist, was instrumental in securing state funds that were eventually used to purchase the land for the Sen. Frank, L. Madla, Jr. Natural Area. Dr. Allan was an internationally recognized scientist best known for his work in the 1990s identifying HIV as the causative agent of AIDS. Dr. Allan passed away in 2009, after a one-year battle with brain cancer.



The Helotes Heritage Association contributed the funds for this plaque located at the beginning of the **Jon Allan Loop**. On the Loop there is a group of 3 benches amongst a diverse mott of vegetation, called **“Millie’s Golden Place”** in honor of Jon’s faithful Labrador Retriever.



volunteers arrived early Saturday, perform a multitude of duties and enjoy the beautiful fall day at the park. Workdays are scheduled each fall and spring.



MORE TRAIL SIGNS ADDED

More trail signage was added recently with only four more to be installed. The TPWD personnel were very impressed with the native cedar signs used at the park. Brochures with the park signs and history will be ready for visitors by the end of the year.

“BALCONES INVADERS” WILL CONTINUE TO HELP RID PARK OF INVASIVES

“We’re back!” Two years ago the Balcones Satellite of the Texas Invaders spent time in the Madla Natural Area and Helotes Creek removing invasive plants. Several weeks ago in late October, we returned to survey the area to assess success (and failure) of our efforts. There has been very little regrowth in the natural area and emergence of a plethora of native plants that were previously suppressed by large Glossy Privet (*Ligustrum*) and Chinaberry. We were delighted to find Western Soapberry, Texas Walnut, Flameleaf Sumac and a variety of native oak species.

The Texas Invaders ([www. Texasinvasives.org](http://www.Texasinvasives.org)) are focused on identification, control and eradication of non-native invasive species, including plants. The primary basis for removal of these invaders is to restore the biological diversity of the area and allow native species to thrive. Most non-native invasive species will take over native species if they are not controlled. The local satellite, Balcones, was formed in spring of 2010 by three Invaders Citizen Scientists and Alamo Area Master Naturalists who had previous volunteer experience working at eradication efforts at Rancho Diana with the San Antonio Parks and Recreation Department. In August 2010 the group expanded their eradication efforts to Madla Natural Area. Wendy Leonard, former Madla Board member, was instrumental in facilitating this activity.

We plan to continue to work at Madla Park on Tuesday mornings, beginning at 8:30am, throughout December.

Submitted by: Judith and Lonnie Shockley and Cheryl Hamilton



are
the



ANOTHER MADLA PARK WEDDING

05/20/14 Jake and Brittany Broyles Wedding – Congratulations!



ANNOUNCING PROPERTY USE GUIDELINES

The Madla Natural Area is pleased to make its historic cottage available for events or meetings. For more detailed information, please call the City of Grey Forest (210-695-3261) and leave a message on #6.

*******SAVE THE DATE*******

FUNDRAISER FOR MADLA NATURAL AREA

Date: Sunday, March 1, 2015

Time: 3PM

Location: Scenic Loop Playground Club

Featuring: Dr. Ron Green speaking on Helotes Creek

Dr. Ronald T. Green, Madla Natural Area Board Member, has a PhD in Hydrogeology and works at the Southwest Research Institute as a scientist, researcher and staff in Geosciences and Engineering. He is a member of the American Geophysical Union, the Geological Society of America, the Environmental and Engineering Geophysical Society, the South Texas Geological Society, and the San Antonio Geological Society. His professional affiliations include the Edwards Aquifer Authority, Aquifer Science Advisory panel member, a National Cave and Karst Research Institute Board member, Edwards Aquifer Recovery Implementation Program Science Sub-Committee member, and a member of the Nature Conservancy and the San Antonio Children's Shelter in San Antonio. He specializes in groundwater hydrology and environmental geophysics, water resource assessment and karst hydrology. Ron lives in Helotes with his wife and family.

SENATOR FRANK MADLA, JR PARK CONSERVANCY is on FACEBOOK

<https://www.facebook.com/pages/Senator-Frank-Madla-Jr-Park-Conservancy/>

PARK CONSERVANCY CORNER

The Senator Frank L. Madla, Jr. Park Conservancy was formed in 2010 as a 501 (c) (3) non-profit organization. Our mission is to provide for the enhanced development and maintenance of the Senator Frank L. Madla, Jr. Natural Area. Be sure to visit the Conservancy on Facebook.

Additionally, you may call the Conservancy President, Dr. Frank L. Madla III at (210) 331-4130 to discuss giving opportunities. *Currently the Madla Natural Area Conservancy website is under construction. For more information on the following pavers, please call the City of Grey Forest (210-695-3261) leave a message on #6.*

The Perfect Way to Support the Park or to Honor Someone Special in Your Life – A Great Gift!

Senator's Circle of Friends – This project has been established to offer an opportunity for a higher level of giving with benefits to include the opportunity for permanent recognition at the Sen. Frank L. Madla, Jr. Natural Area.

16' x 16" paver
\$250.00

PURCHASE A PAVER – The project has been established to provide donors an opportunity to purchase a Paver for \$75.00 dollars. This project offers the donor an opportunity to be part of the Natural Area in perpetuity. Each \$75.00 dollar donation will provide the donor a single paver with space available to include his/her name or the name of a loved one. If space permits, more than one name may be included.

