

Chalkboard Newsletter January 2017

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CHALKBOARD Annual Newsletter January 2017

Friends of the Gillespie County Country Schools

Recall we altered our publication schedule of CHALKBOARD in 2016 to accommodate our work for the Country School Association of America (CSAA) National Conference sponsored by the Friends and the Gillespie County Historical Society Pioneer Museum. We return to January Annual CHALKBOARD Newsletter with CHALKBOARD Notes going out in April, July, and October each year. You receive CHALKBOARD as a Member-at-Large of the Friends of the Gillespie County Country Schools. ***Thank You for your Support.***

FRIENDS Project Notes:

1. Ben Shacklette, architect from Texas Tech University, College of Architecture, returned to Gillespie County in December 2016, to complete work as part of his research grant received from Texas Tech. He has produced architectural drawings of our 12 member schools as well as extensive photography. He spent November 2016, locating archival materials in libraries. His final visit focused on interviewing former students of our 12 schools, plus 4 Trail schools, and many of the over 40 original county country schools. Ben will publish a book with his research.

2. Crabapple School has completed installation of a heat pump, providing heat and cool which will facilitate increasing rentals of their school building.
3. Cherry Spring School is nearing completion of their School Pavilion renovation project which includes their stage with moveable walls to convert to a classroom. TIME FOR A PLAY?
4. Cave Creek School hosted Annual Youth Hunt on the weekend of January 6 &7, 2017. Over 200 attended and hunted on 14 ranches. Article: PROGRESSIVE FARMER magazine, Winter 2017. See http://dtnpf-digital.com/article/Texas-Sized_Super_Hunt/2664491/368510/article.html .
5. Friends took part in THE GREAT TEXAS LAND RUSH, a project of Texas State Historical Association, by adopting GILLESPIE COUNTY. Go to the TSHA website to view this program and the Friends official adoption Certificate from TSHA or see certificates and write-up at any of our member schools. This partnership promotes common goals: **to preserve and support Texas history**. Texas Almanac is seen by over 400,000 online viewers as well as the printed copies.
6. Archives & Artifacts Committee volunteers continue the collection and preservation of country school documents and articles to ensure these are protected using best practices with a trial project to scan one over-sized register, to inventory school books at one school, and to establish assistance of Gillespie County Historical Society to ensure this work is available to the public.

OPEN HOUSE Schedule for historic Gillespie County Country Schools announced by Friends.

The first Open House for 2017 is scheduled for Saturday, April 1, 2017:

APRIL 1, 2017, Saturday-Trail B on Friends Historic Driving Trails Map:

1:00pm to 5:00pm (please note time)

-Cave Creek School, 470 Cave Creek Road; built 1881 plus restored teacherage

-Junction School, 144 State Park Road 49; in US LBJ Natl Historical Park, Stonewall, TX

-Nebgen School, 1718 North Grape Creek Road; built 1936, plus Pavilion

-Rheingold School, 334 Rheingold School Road; built 1900, plus Pavilion

-Willow City School, 2501 Ranch Road 1323; built 1905, see two painted stage curtains

You will see RED "Historic School" Feather Flags flying at each school to guide your way or use your GPS.

FULL OPEN HOUSE Schedule at www.HistoricSchools.org

ANNUAL NOON MEAL AND PRIZE DRAWING FUNDRAISER EVENT FOR FRIENDS scheduled for

Sunday, April 2, 2017, so SAVE THE DATE! You will receive an email describing this event as we draw closer to the date. Homemade BBQ and fun!

We invite you to attend **the 2017 Country School Association of America (CSAA) National Conference**, scheduled for June 11-14 in New London, NH. Information at www.CountrySchoolAssociation.org .

Time to visit historic early American states and support the study and preservation of country schools in America. The Friends are members of CSAA and hosted the conference in 2016.

Send your memories of your school's wood-burning stove or direct us to such a story. We wish to expand these stove stories to our archives and artifacts inventory. How they heated the country school is another part of our history. Most of the time, the stove was the teacher's job; however, we know some students took care of building and maintaining the fire. Stoves were often the site for some practical jokes or "horse play" as well. Email stories to Jane at jane423@austin.rr.com . More to come on how this began; a story about community, a generous neighbor, and many members pitching in to make it happen ... Just what country schools taught us to do.

FRIENDS ENDOWMENT: Dr. Alice White established the Friends Endowment in 2015. It is administered by The Community Foundation of the Texas Hill Country. Our present balance is \$10,000 with a goal of \$20,000. Learn more at www.communityfoundation.net . If you wish to meet with one of our members to discuss the Friends Endowment, contact us at (830) 990-8059 or info@historicschools.org . This Endowment means historic country schools forever. Our Endowment is in perpetuity. Thank you Dr. Alice White. Friends is a non-profit, 501(c)3 organization; your donations are tax deductible.

TIME TO RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP-AT-LARGE: You may recall we did not ask you to renew your Membership-at-Large last year. We extended membership until January 2017, to relieve our work schedule in favor of the CSAA National Conference. Even with over 133 volunteers, we were fully occupied. We invite you to renew or establish your membership. Why? As a MEMBER-AT-LARGE:

- There are no meetings to attend-yeah!
- You receive CHALKBOARD Newsletters and Notes.
- You learn what preservation projects your dollars are making happen in Gillespie County, TEXAS.
- Your membership supports the continued sense of community in Gillespie County.

Friends Membership Levels: \$25, \$50, \$100, \$150 or Above

Please renew or become a Friends Member-at-Large at www.HistoricSchools.org. We accept

PayPal online. If mailing, send to Friends, P.O. Box 55, Fredericksburg, TX 78624. To receive a self-addressed, stamped Friends' envelop, call 830-990-8059 with your request.

HISTORY NOTE: Jamestown, VA founded in 1607, was the first successful permanent English settlement in what would become the United States. A small school slate board was found at the Jamestown research site (a part of a national historic park with tours, museums, and ongoing archaeological digs that continue to reveal new findings). Reportedly, one of the women in this early group taught the children among them. Our first school?

THOUGHT for your day: "True worth is in being, not seeming; in doing, each day that goes by, some little good, not in dreaming of great things to do by and by." Alice Cary, "Nobility" poem

Jane Woellhof and Don Spraggins,

Directors at Large of the Friends Gillespie County Country Schools
