

FRIENDS OF THE BRAZOS



Saving Our River

Fundraiser Update

June 29, 2019

Hard Scrabble Ranch

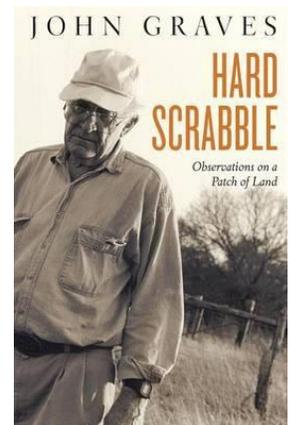
1638 (at the end of) County Road 1016, Glen Rose

(map below)

4:00: Gate opens tours

5:00: Appetizers, Activities, Auction, Drink Station

7:00 Dinner and John Graves River Stories

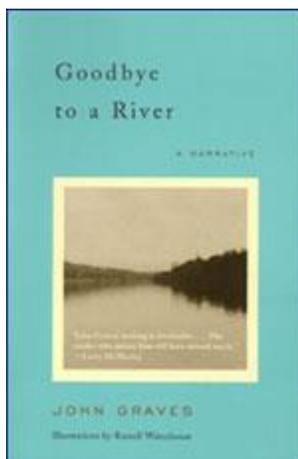


See our updated invitation for directions and more information at

www.friendsofthebrazos.org

We hope we've contacted everyone who purchased tickets for our original October fundraiser. As usual, we are not sending tickets, but using a guest list at the gate. To check to see if we have your name, please email our registration volunteer Sherry at iliketennis@comcast.net

Venue and pre-dinner tour: Hard Scrabble "patch of land" at the Wisenbaker Ranch.



John's book, [Goodbye to a River](#) inspired our founder Ed Lowe to create Friends of the Brazos. John used the proceeds of Goodbye to a River to buy, and then later write about, Hard Scrabble. Although Hard Scrabble is not on the Brazos, Friends of the Brazos would not exist, nor have so many early successes without John Graves. John's daughter Sally, current Hard Scrabble Caretaker and friend of the Graves family Randy Siegler will be giving tours of the house, Rhett Johnson, family friend and ranch manager will be giving tours of Hard Scrabble from 4:00 – 6:00 pm.

We are adding extra tables and putting 10 to a table so that we can accommodate people who thought they couldn't make it in October and can come now! Even so, we are sold out. If you would like to be on the waiting list, please email Sherry at iliketennis@comcast.net.

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If you can't make it Saturday and would like a sneak preview of Hard Scrabble, we have a few volunteer opportunities at Hard Scrabble Monday – Friday, and Saturday morning and afternoon before the party. Please contact Sandy at info@friendsofthebrazos.org if you would like to volunteer!

Attire- Dress Like Ed: We will be outside (most of the Auction will be inside!) exploring Hard Scrabble Ranch with a high of 90 degrees. A beautiful limestone creek runs through the ranch, which will hopefully still be flowing on the 29th! We are declaring the official attire as 'Dress like Ed for the River' ...casual, comfortable and 'river ready'. *We'll give a free raffle ticket to anyone wearing a Friends of the Brazos or any other River-based t-shirt, a Hawaiian Shirt or shorts!* Good walking shoes essential, too!



New this Year – Pretty much everything!

Projects - We will be raising funds for:

- Getting people on the Brazos to see the wonder and beauty and picking up any plastics and other trash they may encounter. We'll have a 4Ocean table showing their innovative plan to get plastics out of the ocean by hiring fisherman out of work because of the amount of trash in the ocean created by single use plastics. We will use the proceeds from the Day on the Brazos, Paddling with Paolo auction package to purchase 4Ocean Cleanup Combos to have with us when we take kids on the River, and do our River Clean-ups.
- Mini-grants up to \$250 for FBR members who need to get rid of feral hogs. Our partner, Mike Hidalgo of Hog Warriors will have information at his pulled pork tacos and boudain station and a sign-up sheet to get started with Mike on trapping out hogs.
- Realizing Ed's dream of having a put-in take-out access point in the Glen Rose area of the Brazos, including hiring a contract coordinator, followed by getting our own Paddling Trail.

Clean River Plan: We are reducing our use of plastics by not having any plastic water bottles, cups or flatware. Everyone will receive a stemless wine/water/tea glass, we'll have labels so you can decorate and identify your glass, we are using compostable plates and dinnerware, and Fossil Rim Wildlife Center's Natural Resources team will collect our compost!



4ocean Cleanup Combo
★★★★★ 5 (13)
\$ 25.00

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Sales Table: Friends of the Brazos memberships, T-shirts, denim shirts, tank tops, caps, AND our favorite John Graves' books will be available. Cash, checks and credit cards accepted. We will start a tab at the registration table.

Food: As we move through life without Ed at the helm, we are learning things we didn't know. Both Friends of the Brazos and Celebration Restaurant are feeling his loss here, as there is no one person who could replicate everything Ed did to get Celebration to the Brazos. A big thank you to all of Ed's friends and our members who are stepping in to make this year special! Here is a sampling of what we'll have:

Beverages:

Thanks to Fossil Rim Board Member Mario Ramirez of MRamirez Group, we will be sampling a new to the United States sparkling mineral water, Tehuacan. We will also have Anarte Spanish Wines newly introduced to the Austin area, Bull Lion Texianti and other wines and beer.

Appetizers:

- Pulled Pork Tacos and boudain from our feral hog trapping partner, Mike Hidalgo of Hog Warriors. Organic tomatoes and onion toppings from 2 Clay Birds, Hico.
- Savory Pies from Shy Guy Pies, Dallas – Shy Guy Pot Pie with Chicken, Mushrooms and Mixed Vegetables and Chana Masala (Vegetarian curry).
- Fruit and Cheese Plate from Celebration Restaurant
- A Taste of Spain – Anarte Wines Samples and a Tapa
- Gifts from members

Dinner:

- Salad from Celebration
- Paolo's Pizza - Ed's friend, a yearly auction donor and his favorite pizza maker, Paolo Costanzo is bringing his wood-burning pizza oven. He will be sampling his most popular pizzas including Ed's favorite –at the tables and then bringing them to you. Special orders for gluten-free and vegan pizzas available. IF we have leftover dough and fixings, you can take a pizza home for a \$20 donation, 2 for \$30!

Dessert: We will bring a sample platter of home-dessert bars courtesy of the Friends of the Brazos' best bakers AND Shy Guy Pies' Old Fashioned - Cherry Topsy Guy and Brown





Sugar Apple Pie with Crumbles. Gluten-free, Grain-free and Dairy-free desserts will be available.

After-dinner Coffee: Glen Rose's Spirit of 1835 Coffee Roasters will be sampling their delicious coffees.

Activities:

4:00 – Tours start of Hard Scrabble Ranch, walking, tractor pulled and Bucket Truck with Flyin' H Tree Services

5:00 - Sales table, Auctions, Bar, Appetizers and Special Projects start

- **iNaturalist Demo and Dragonfly/Damselfly Identification** – iNaturalist is an awesome program that uses your smart phone to identify flora and fauna you encounter, records where you saw them, creates your own field guide or observation list, special projects AND allows us to participate in the Citizen Science program to study our Brazos River Fresh Water Mussels. Justin Newman and Aaron Lincoln, iNaturalist 'nuts' who have organized 'bio-blitzes' around Glen Rose, and have donated a private class/workshop for our auction, will be joined by iNaturalist Odonate (Dragonfly) Curator Brian Gooding to offer mini-nature walks and demonstrations on how to use iNaturalist. If you want to take advantage of having some of our best naturalists at the party, please go to www.iNaturalist.org, register, and have the app in your phone! It is a whole bunch of nature nerd nirvana!
- **Anarte Wine's preview party**, Tasting the Aromas of Wines. A new concept on enhancing your wine enjoyment, training our sense of smell to pick up on the nuances of wine and adding sweet and savory treats to complement the wine. Anarte Wine's Cristina Urate will be sharing her program AND sampling the wines she is introducing from Spain. She and High Hope Ranch have donated the Try it in Texas, See it Made in Spain package.
- **Butterfly Gardening with Organic Randy** –What better way to combat erosion and provide habitat for pollinators than with a butterfly garden? Randy Johnson will have plants on display and will be available to answer questions about native plants. He will be auctioning off 10 of the 1-gallon sized native plants he grew from hand-picked seeds, or hand dug and replanted. You may choose from his display Saturday, or order from his list of plants to be delivered. The package includes a half day consult with Randy!

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- **Art of the Table** – Please be sure to tour all the tables to see the pieces painted especially for our dinner by this year's Table committee, led by Linda Cerda and Karen Povenmire!
- **Bucket Truck Rides** – Brad Howell of Flyin' H Tree Services will be back to give any adventurers a sky-high view from his bucket truck! This is another reason to 'Dress Like Ed' so you can climb in and out of the bucket!

- **Appetizers with meaning and purpose!**
 - Visit with Mike Hidalgo the Hog Warrior while enjoying the fruits of his labor and learn about our program to save the river from the impact of wild hogs. FBR members can apply for grants of up to \$250 to get started trapping. Mike will have information and a sign-up sheet. Proceeds from our auction will be funding our Feral Hog Trapping grants program.
 - Shy Guy Pies are offering a pie making workshop with Chef Jaime and a stay at High Hope Ranch in the donation! Visit with them about their donation and plans to offer their pies at Dallas Farmer's Markets while sampling their savory pies!
 - Anarte Wine's donation includes 4 nights at Cristina's family home in Elciego Spain and a winery tour she helped design. Taste her wines, enhance your 'sniffer' and learn more about the area Rioja is produced, then bid on the auction package!

6:30 – Begin seating to sample and order your Paolo's Pizza, we will deliver to your table

7:00 – 9:00 Paolo will be serving pizzas tableside, salad bar available

7:30 – Auctions and sales table close, select One-Shot Sealed Bid items will be available for bidding during our program

8:00 – Stories and Dessert – A short update, and sharing stories of John Graves and Ed Lowe, Sealed Bid winners announced

Bio-Breaks: Due to the fragile septic system at Hard Scrabble, we are very grateful to Gilbert Environmental Services for donating porta-potties and hand washing stations!

Auction: A thank you to all our donors! We will have our bucket raffle, the silent auction, and new this year, our One-shot Sealed Bid selections. Certain Sealed Bid Auction Items will be available for bidding online for folks who cannot attend the auction. Watch our website, www.FriendsoftheBrazos.org, our facebook page, or send an email to

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info@friendsoftheBrazos.org to be put on our eNewsletter watch list and be connected to our list of items available for bidding online the Tuesday-Friday before the auction. On Saturday, guests can make ONE sealed bid per item! No more defending your prize, bidding against your friends, or jumping up from dinner to bid on our most interesting items! We will announce the winners during dessert!

Thank you to EVERYONE who has stepped up to try to help us all fill Ed's big shoes! I hope I have thanked everyone in person. There are too many to name at dinner (and I have probably texted or emailed you two or three times already today Paolo, Christie, DonnaSue, Sherry, Marcia, Spenser, Taylor and Molly), but you will be applauded at the dinner and please know everyone who has said yes to us, and better yet, offered help. are truly appreciated.

Most sincerely, and with a salute to Ed,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Sandra Skrei". The script is cursive and fluid, with a mix of capital and lowercase letters.

Sandra Skrei
President

P.S. To quote another river guy, Mark Twain, "I would have written you a shorter letter, but I didn't have time."

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“ A whole river is mountain country and hill country and flat country and swamp and delta country, is rock bottom and sand bottom and weed bottom and mud bottom, is blue, green, red, clear, brown, wide, narrow, fast, slow, clean, and filthy water, is all the kinds of trees and grasses and all the breeds of animals and birds and man that pertain and have ever pertained to its changing shores...”

– JOHN GRAVES, *GOODBYE TO A RIVER*



Friends of the Brazos River invites you to explore John Graves' Hard Scrabble Homestead and Ranch with his Family and Friends at our Annual Fundraising Dinner and Auction.

SATURDAY, JUNE 29, 2019

4:00 – 6:00pm
5:00 – 7:30pm
7:00 – 9:00pm

Tours of Hard Scrabble
Silent Auction, Beer, Wine and Appetizers
Dinner and Stories

Friends of the Brazos is excited to invite you to our Annual Fall Fundraising Dinner and Auction at Hard Scrabble, the homeplace that John and Jane Graves built and lived in for more than fifty years. The Graves bought Hard Scrabble with the proceeds of John's classic *Goodbye to a River*, which was published in 1960. The Wisenbakers have graciously offered Hard Scrabble, in their absence our hosts will be Ranch Manager Rhett Johnson and Caretaker Randy Seigler.

Please come enjoy exploring the grounds, trails, home and barn at Hard Scrabble, food, drinks, bucket truck rides and our bucket raffle and silent auction. Members of the Graves family plan to be there to show us around, answer questions and share stories.

Both auctions feature great gifts and experiences. Our best items come from our Friends! Please contact Auction Chair Sandy Skrei, fbrauction@gmail.com, 512-554-7421 to donate items or gift cards for special packages and to volunteer!



AUCTION COMMITTEE

Sandy Skrei
Christie Devers Clark

DonnaSue Sealy
Molly Shea

SPONSOR COMMITTEE

The Wisenbakers of
Rancho Hielo Brazos

The Lowe Family

John and Nancy
McClane

Adam Eyres

Jane Vaughn

Nancy Wilson and Family

Fran Wasilchak

Edgar & Associates
(Fred Edgar)

John Jordan Design

Gilbert Environmental
Services

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Saving Our River

*Please join us for
a magical evening
in support of our
beloved Brazos River!*