



**Guadalupe-Blanco River Authority**

*Board of Directors*

Grace G. Kunde, Chair (Guadalupe County)  
Oscar H. Fogle, Vice Chair (Caldwell County)  
Arlene N. Marshall, Secretary-Treasurer (Calhoun County)  
Rusty Brockman (Comal County)  
Tommy Mathews II (Kendall County)  
Myrna P. McLeroy (Gonzales County)  
Frank J. Pagel (Refugio County)  
Dennis L. Patillo (Victoria County)  
James L. Powers (Hays County)

William "Bill" E. West, Jr., *General Manager*

*Newsletter Design*  
Janet Thome

Coletto Creek Division  
P.O. Box 68  
Fannin, TX 77960  
(361) 575-6366  
(361) 575-2267 fax

Lake Wood Recreation Area  
Route 2, Box 158-A  
Gonzales, TX 78629  
(830) 672-2779 phone and fax

GBRA General Office  
933 East Court Street  
Seguin, TX 78155  
(830) 379-5822  
(830) 379-9718 fax

The Guadalupe-Blanco River Authority is an equal opportunity employer. It is the policy of GBRA not to discriminate against any employee or applicant because of race, age, color, religion, sex, national origin, political affiliation, veteran status or disability.

WS/ColettoSpring2012Nwsltr/032012

[www.gbra.org](http://www.gbra.org)

**Guadalupe-Blanco River Authority**

**Coletto Creek Park and Reservoir**

**P.O. Box 68  
Fannin, TX 77960**

Change Service Requested

To receive copies of this newsletter, please complete the form below and mail to the Coletto Creek Office at P.O. Box 68, Fannin, TX 77960.

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail \_\_\_\_\_

Comments \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

## Calendar of Events

Spring is peak festivals and events season for our region, take time to get out and enjoy these family events.

**TPWD Boater Ed Course** – 3rd Sat. of each month at Coletto Creek Park, contact Inst. Charles Schons at 361/575-8600

**Goliad Market Days** – 2nd Saturday of each month

**Victoria Market Days** – 3rd Saturday of each month

**Coletto Creek Kids' Fishing Tournament** – June 2

**Canoe Trail Goliad Summer Flotilla** – June 2

([www.canoetrailgoliad.com](http://www.canoetrailgoliad.com))

**July 4th Fireworks Display** – Coletto Creek Park and Reservoir



# Coletto Creek Park and Reservoir

*"Where Family Memories Are Made Daily"*

2012 Spring Newsletter

[www.coletocreekpark.com](http://www.coletocreekpark.com)

Volume 15, Issue 1



Photo by Wilfred Korth

## New State Record Catch for Coletto Creek

One of Coletto's customers has established a new "Any Tackle Freshwater State Fishing Record" at Coletto. Mark Huth, of Goliad, weighed in a 6-pound blue tilapia on Jan. 11, 2012. He caught the tilapia, a non-game fish, utilizing a cast net on the reservoir. He recently received word from the TPWD Fisheries Division that his catch was certified and has established the new any tackle state record for this species. The certification of his record catch now brings Coletto to holding two State Freshwater Fish Records – the other is a "Bowfishing State Record Fish," an 11.72-pound striped mullet caught by Brian Morris of Victoria in 2003.

## Outdoor and Environmental Education Opportunities

Coletto Creek continues to offer opportunities for outdoor and environmental education for school and youth groups, and adult groups. Rangers have a variety of backgrounds and experiences, plus the park has a number of other contacts who help conduct field days/nature programs. A sampling of what is offered includes freshwater ecosystem studies, Texas wildlife, guided nature hikes, boating/water safety, invasive plants and animals, coastal prairie studies, Texas fish and game regulations, and tour of reservoir and power plant operations. Park rangers work with groups to design a field trip/nature program to meet their educational needs. Contact the park office to arrange an outing.



Photo by Wilfred Korth

**New State Record Catch ➤ Outdoor and Environmental Opportunities ➤ Greener Spring  
Coletto Voted Best of Best ➤ Changes in TPWD Boater Certification ➤ Kid Fish ➤ Deer Hunts**



## Annual Coletto Creek Kids' Fishing Tournament

Coletto's Annual Kids' Fishing Tournament is just around the corner. To celebrate National Fishing and Boating Week, plans are being completed by the GBRA-Coletto Creek Park and the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department who, along with Academy Sports and Outdoors and Coletto Creek Power, are sponsoring the 19th Annual Coletto Creek Kids Fishing Tournament 7 a.m. to noon Saturday, June 2, at the Coletto Creek Park. The event is open to all youth between the ages of 2 and 16. There will be no registration fee. But a normal entry fee into the park will apply. All children must officially register by 9 a.m. that Saturday for the tournament. Registration forms will be available at the park office and on our website.

"Our event is targets both young people and adults alike to help them discover the joys of fishing and further develop an appreciation for our lakes, rivers, and the wildlife that live in and around them; said Jason Lewis, event coordinator and Coletto Creek Reservoir ranger. In 2011, Coletto Creek had over 100 youth participate in this event and they all went away winners. Prizes will be awarded for the heaviest stringer in each of four age groups, (2-6, 7-9, 10-12, and 13-16), and for the overall largest fish, largest bass, largest catfish and largest crappie. Two additional prizes for the smallest perch will be given to age groups 2-6 and 7-9. ✨

Photos by Wilfred Korth

## Changes in TPWD Boater Certification Requirements

With boating season approaching, boaters should be reminded that effective Sept. 1, 2011, a major change occurred in Texas' law with respect to boater education. The change is: "Mandatory boating safety education certification is required for anyone born on or after Sept. 1, 1993, to operate a vessel with a motor of more than 15 hp or a wind-blown vessel measuring more than 14 feet in length." Anyone born before Sept. 1, 1993 is exempt from this requirement. The goal is to improve boating safety in the State of Texas and reduce the growing number of boating accident fatalities by insuring that all boat operators are properly trained in boat operations. Boaters falling under the boater education requirement will be required to carry a valid ID and documentation of having taken and passed a boater education course. For those who have children or grandchildren who need to take this boater education course, they are offered monthly at the Coletto Creek Park. Preregistration with the TPWD Boating Ed Instructor (Charles Schons at 361-575-8600) is required. A current schedule of his class dates is posted under "Events" on the Coletto Creek Park website. ✨

## Updates:

1. On April 26 – 28 the Park again will host Victoria's "ACS Relay for Life" Event in the Park's Campground. For this event all campsites, cabins, and pavilion C have been booked for the nights of April 26 and 27. On those nights, no public camping will be available.

2. Ongoing Coletto Creek Photo Contest – all entries must be received by the park by noon May 12. Entry forms and rules can be found at [www.victoriaphotographyclub.com/other-contest.asp](http://www.victoriaphotographyclub.com/other-contest.asp).

3. Campground expansion continues on the installation of another 20-site camping loop with 50-30-20 amp service at each site. The recent rains slowed the progress some, but plans are to have all completed by this summer. ✨

# Coletto Creek Deer Hunts

As part of Coletto's Wildlife Management Program, the park again hosted Bowhunts this past deer season. More than 120 bow hunters hunted over 14 weekends. Coletto Creek rangers work closely with the local TPWD wildlife biologist to determine how many deer should be harvested each year in order to maintain a healthy deer herd. With the ongoing drought and limited food sources, reduction in herd size has been critical to the health of the deer residing on Coletto Creek properties. Ongoing development around the

park and reservoir, and subsequent loss of natural habitat, even with established harvest rates, rangers continue to see an ever increasing deer population as more deer leave the adjacent developed areas and move on to Coletto's preserved natural areas. It has become common in the evenings at the park to see herds of up to 30 deer in the campground. Another successful deer hunt at Coletto is expected this year. Detailed information on the annual bowhunt drawing will be published in June. ✨



Given the amount of rain that has fallen in the area, the park should have a spectacular spring. Wildflowers are already starting to pop up everywhere and should fill the park grounds this year. This should be one of those rare South Texas Springs where everything will be lush and vibrant. Plan to get out and enjoy this renewal of growth. Expect to see some unusual plants and wildflowers this year as the added moisture encourages them to grow after having lain dormant for a year. ✨



## Coletto Voted BEST of the BEST in Victoria Region



In March, Coletto Rangers were notified that the Coletto Creek Park and Reservoir again had been voted "The Best Reservoir" in the Victoria Region in The Victoria Advocate's Best of Best Contest, and voted in the "Top 3" for Best Fishing Spot, Best Park, and Best Picnic Spot. "It is an honor to have our customers recognize our efforts in working to provide one of "The Best" family oriented outdoor recreation areas in our region and to take time to voice their opinion by voting in this contest," said Wilfred Korth, Chief Ranger. ✨