

PARD'ner Award – Jessie Slaten

In the spirit of celebrating partnerships, the PARD'ner Award acknowledges the work of individual(s) that benefits a current effort of the Parks and Recreation Department. This year, we are recognizing a group of partners that have made a true impact on the community.

Our 2016 PARD'ner recipient is a tremendous advocate as she illustrates the story of parks' projects and programs through her skills as a news reporter, storyteller and photographer. Jessie Slaten's enthusiasm for New Braunfels parks helps to educate the community about issues that affect parks and recreation as well as to promote park activities like volunteer workdays, programs and special events.

When the local radio station found they had a seasonal vacancy for a talk show program, Jessie extended an invitation to the department to fill the programming slot. Thanks to Jessie, New Braunfels Parks and Recreation staff had the opportunity to expand their reach over the airwaves to share news about day-to-day operations, programs, projects and tips on stewardship and personal safety.

Jessie's news reporting is always timely, but more important to us at New Braunfels Parks and Recreation, her advocacy and enthusiasm is always authentic. We appreciate Jessie for her acting as our PARD'ner in the community.

Plant a Seed Award – Mary Helen Phillips

This award goes to an individual who has shown an extraordinary amount of initiative during the annual Arbor Day program. The individual must play a large role in education and outreach to youth.

Mary Helen Phillips is a very special lady she reached out to staff last year to see how she see could help with the community Arbor Day event and to share the joy of Arbor Day with area schools that already partner with the Comal Master Gardeners, gardening program. She plays an integral role in introducing the joy and health benefits of nature and gardening to youth.

Last year, she received approximately 60 trees for 11 schools and made sure that they were planted and cared for over the last year. She showed up to the Fall Festival last year to help pass out trees dressed appropriately as "mother earth", Thank you Mary Helen for going above and beyond to educate our youth.

Solid As A Rock Award – Jane Felts Mauldin

The term "solid as a rock" is used for the one person that can be relied upon day in and day out for whatever need may arise. This person is our most dependable asset.

This year our Solid as a Rock award winner is Jane Felts Mauldin. Many of you might know Jane by her artwork; her art can be seen around town, most notably on the annual *Weihnachtsmarkt* poster.

Jane lent her talents to capture four one-of-a-kind watercolors featuring Landa Park for the 80th anniversary Gala. She graciously crafted each piece to reflect iconic symbols of the park.

Thank you Jane, for taking the time to put your talent to work, supporting efforts of the New Braunfels Parks and Recreation Department.

Golden Hammer Award – Barron Schlameus

This award recognizes a citizen or group who is willing to use their own time and materials to restore a park facility, feature, site or event.

This year our Golden Hammer Award goes to Barron Schlameus. Barron is a behind the scenes volunteer who many of us in the office refer to as the ‘bell ringer’. Each year the annual Downtown Lighting Ceremony and Santa's Arrival kicks off with the ringing of the bell in the tower of the Historic Comal County Courthouse. Year after year Barron graciously rings the bell, celebrating the spirit of the season in Historic Downtown New Braunfels.

Thank you Barron for helping us carry on the Downtown Lighting as holiday tradition in New Braunfels.

Seele Education Award – The Friends for Historic Preservation of Landa Park

In honor of the first school teacher in New Braunfels, Mr. Herman Seele, this award honors a group or individual providing educational efforts for the community.

This year we are honoring the Friends for the Preservation of Historic Landa Park for their new book Historic Landa Park, Its Springs and Its People. We would like to recognize Co-authors Rosemarie Gregory and Arlene Seals.

These ladies put in countless hours on the in-depth research which includes revealing information about the earliest formation of Comal Springs 15 million years ago, the settlement of the area by Native Americans and Germans, the development of the park by Harry Landa, and other noteworthy historic events over the years. The book highlights why Landa Park has remained in the heart of New Braunfels since the late 1800s.

Thank you to the Friends for the Preservation of Historic Landa Park for dedicating your time to the development of this historical document. Your efforts have captured the story, beauty and legacy of Landa Park, and for that we are thankful.

Parks Heritage Award – Karen Boyd

The Parks Heritage Award acknowledges the work of advocates who work to preserve, protect and promote the local heritage.

Whether reminding us of the Landa Park story, giving the background of Fischer Park, or explaining the important role of the Mission Hill Park property in our City's life, we are gracious to Karen Boyd for sharing her rich knowledge of New Braunfels with us.

Karen recently served on the Mission Hill Park steering committee where she gave the consultants and other committee members insight into the history of the property. Through her knowledge and research we were able to keep the historical context of the property present in the Master Plan for the park. Thank you, Karen.

Bud Dallmann Award – RAPIDS Track Coach Luke Conder

The Coach E.E. “Bud” Dallmann Award is given to someone who campaigns for the benefit of the younger residents of our city, our youth. Coach Bud formed the New Braunfels Aquatic Club in 1960 and served as head coach for more than 50 years. Bud dedicated his time and limitless talents to encouraging young swimmers to be “Better Today than Yesterday” and to adopt a “Can Do” attitude in all endeavors. Bud’s encouragement and enthusiasm for swimming and young people has forever changed the New Braunfels community.

As the head coach and backbone for the Rapids Track program, Coach Luke Conder has seen the program grow from around 30 participants to almost 70. Coach Luke takes great pride in the work he does with the RAPIDS team and invests much of his personal time and his family’s personal time into the program.

Coach Luke’s successes are numerous but his work ethic and devotion to the participants is what really sets him apart. Coach Luke’s dedication to these young athletes is evident in the late nights he spends preparing workout schedules, communicating with parents and coaches, traveling to competitions and encouraging his athletes to improve their personal bests.

The RAPIDS Track program is successful because of all the efforts of Coach Luke. His tireless devotion to the team and genuine desire to see the participants succeed are just a few of the reasons why he is deserving of the Bud Dallmann Award. Congratulations Luke.

Roger Dolle Award – Eagle Scouts: Ben & Brayden Pitcher

Roger Dolle was the Park Ranger Superintendent for the City of New Braunfels from 2001-2008. During this time, Roger worked with many young men to earn their Eagle Scout designations. Roger was a beloved member of the Parks and Recreation staff, exemplifying the traits of professionalism, leadership and integrity. In recognition of Roger’s many contributions, this award recognizes the efforts of outstanding Eagle Scout projects completed within the past year.

Two brothers in the Boy Scouts of America who had recently moved to the New Braunfels area and contacted the parks and recreation department seeking ways to obtain their Eagle Scout award. Both had a great list of questions for parks staff about projects they were interested in.

Ben Pitcher built a split rail fence at Haymarket Park and two bat houses for Fischer Park. Ben was able to find materials and donations to assist him in completing two great end products. He was able to leave entrances for people to pass through the fence and a spot for vehicle access for park maintenance. Ben and his volunteers contributed \$4,683 in monetary terms of service and materials.

Brayden Pitcher built upon the success of a past Eagle Scout project. Staff found the benches built at the dog park by a past eagle scout would be a great additional to our historic Landa Park Train depot. He worked with David Schenvogel to determine how many to build, how and where to install them, and the color to paint them. Brayden and his volunteers built several benches for the train depot in Landa Park and installed them in a very scenic location facing Landa Lake for park visitors to use replacing a very unsafe old dilapidated metal bench. Brayden and his volunteers contributed \$5,283 in monetary terms of service and materials.

Thank you and your family for two outstanding projects that enhance the quality of our parks.

Emmie Faust Award – World Car Kia

Emmie Faust grew up to be an active and beloved member of this community. "Tante Emmie" as she was affectionately known, made generous gifts to the community and was a leading benefactor in New Braunfels until her death in 1957. Mirroring this charitable attitude, this award recognizes an individual or group for contributions to the Parks and Recreation system.

This year's Emmie Faust Award goes to World Car Kia, New Braunfels for their devotion to the quality of life for the citizens of New Braunfels and continuous support of the Parks and Recreation Department's Concerts in the Park Series. Concerts in the Park have been a community tradition for more than 30 years. Hundreds gather at the Landa Park Dance Slab each week for 10 weeks to hear their favorite area artists perform.

Through a series generous donations, World Car Kia – New Braunfels, has made it possible for us to offer consistent quality sound and light for our performers who traditionally, had incurred the cost of sound production themselves on top of playing for free. In addition, World Car Kia's contribution provided additional advertising, expanding the reach of area residents and visitors.

Thank you World Car Kia, for helping to keep the tradition of Concerts in the Park alive in New Braunfels.

Sweetheart Award – Arina Degtyareva

As all of our staff can attest, when you work in this field, our significant others (husbands, children, neighbors, etc) are often drafted to volunteer with you at our events. Now, we often call this a labor of love, though we are not sure our significant others always see it that way. This award is given to a friend, spouse, child or significant other of a parks and recreation staff member that has given freely of their time, talents and dedication to help insure successful parks and recreation endeavors.

This year's recipient of the sweetheart award goes to Arina Degtyareva, daughter of Nature Center Supervisor Mike Wallace. Arina has volunteered her time and sweat equity assisting her dad with Fischer Park volunteer efforts in the first year of operation.

Her sweet smile and disposition have charmed other volunteers and helped to make our Fischer Park volunteer efforts more fun. We can't thank Arina enough for being a "good sport" and pitching in to contribute to the success of Fischer Park.

Hall of Fame Award– Herb Caldwell

In recognition of previous efforts that have since become historic, traditional, or innovative, this award is given to the person whose work brought the project to fruition.

Herb Caldwell is being recognized tonight for the Hall of Fame Award for an effort that he initiated in 2007. He first came to visit with our Director, Stacey Laird Dicke, almost seven years ago to share his concern with the deterioration of the retaining walls along the Comal Springs.

He had noticed how over the years, the walls had started to decline, leaving gaps, crevices and unsightly hollows. He knew that if nothing were corrected things would go from bad to worse.

Herb began a campaign to have the retaining walls repaired. This included many hours of writing emails, sharing videos, and holding discussions on the status of the walls with our decision makers. Thanks in part to his unwavering determination; we now have the beautiful, solid and well built walls throughout Landa Park that will be enjoyed for generations.

Thank you to Herb for taking notice and taking action.

Sylvan Award - Rich Nielson

The Sylvan Award recognizes volunteers who have taken initiatives involving our community forest. This is done through public involvement, public education and forest preservation.

Rich Nielson worked with other volunteers to remove non-native trees around the Fischer Park ponds. Rich used his own chainsaw, enthusiasm and sweat to take down a bunch of Asian trees around the pond. His efforts created space for us to plant native trees and shrubs that will be more appropriate and useful for local wildlife. Rich is one of those volunteers that can be counted on to show up for a work day and help us get things done!

Frank Chapa Golf Service Award – Oscar Trujillo

This award is named after Mr. Frank Chapa, who set the standard for exceptional customer service to the patrons of the Landa Park Municipal Golf Course. His many hours of service as a Marshall exemplified attention to detail, the importance of quality control and graciousness to the players. Mr. Chapa provided a positive role model for others. This award is presented to a volunteer for extraordinary dedication to the Landa Park Golf Course including outstanding customer service, attention to detail and exceptional quality.

This year's recipient has been a volunteer at Landa Park Golf Course since 2010. Our staff feels he goes above and beyond the attributes for this award.

In addition to his regularly scheduled hours, he comes in on extra days to insure the cleanliness of our cart fleet. He always has a smile and a great attitude that makes our day.

Our 2016 Frank Chapa Golf Service Award Winner is *Mr. Oscar Trujillo*. His time and dedication to doing his job shows his love for the game of golf and the Landa Park Golf Course. Congratulations Oscar!

Jesse Garcia Youth Public Service Award – Graham Clumpner

This youth volunteer award is named after Mr. Jesse Garcia, who was an active member of the community for much of his life, often contributing his time and efforts towards youth programs. Mr. Garcia was involved with Boy Scouts for over 25 years, involved in the PTA and is a member the New Braunfels Chamber of Commerce's Hall of Fame. A local park was named after Mr. Garcia in 1984.

Graham Clumpner came to the Fischer Park Nature Education Center as a Summer Intern to complete requirements to obtain his Bachelors of Science degree in Recreation, Park and Tourism Sciences from Texas A & M. Graham quickly made his mark as a dependable, competent part of the team. In addition to learning about Parks & Rec operations, Graham worked over 400 hours this Summer at the Nature Education Center- more hours than our PAID staff members.

He collaborated with staff to plan and lead day camp programs and activities, as well as doing any other site maintenance or gardening work that needed to be done. Graham enthusiastically shared his passion for nature and environmental education with campers and guests to Fischer Park. Graham was a true asset to our program as professional and an appreciated member of the Nature Center team.

E.P. "Pete" Nowotny Award for Civic Organization of the Year – NB Cemetery Committee

In 1936, the New Braunfels Jaycees, under the leadership of Pete Nowotny, successfully negotiated the sale of Landa Park to the City of New Braunfels. The New Braunfels Jaycees and Mr. Nowotny were responsible for turning out the vote in order to pass a bond that funded the park purchase. In recognition of the efforts of this early service organization, this award recognizes a civic group who gave for the betterment of the New Braunfels Parks system.

Our 2016 civic group deserving of this award is the New Braunfels Cemetery Committee for their efforts with the annual fundraiser - Soul Searching – Night Ramblings in the Comal Cemetery.

This year marks the 5th year the committee has worked together to gather volunteers, scripts and countless hours of research to tell the stories of the people who helped to settle, grow and fabricate the history of our community.

Through this event, the Cemetery Committee has raised just over \$20,000 dollars to benefit the historic Comal Cemetery. Thank you to the New Braunfels Cemetery Committee for working tirelessly to promote and preserve the history of our historic cemeteries.

As a shameless plug-in, we do still have tickets for the 2016 event available for purchase at the Parks Administrative Office.

Teddy Roosevelt Conservation Award – Deedy Wright NPSOT

One of President Theodore Roosevelt's most lasting contributions to the world was the permanent preservation of the some of the most unique natural resources in the United States. During a convention address in 1907, the President noted "...The conservation of natural resources is the fundamental problem. Unless we solve that problem, it will avail us little to solve all others." Named in recognition of our 26th President, this award recognizes a citizen or group who advocates for studying, teaching, documenting and preserving the natural resources in New Braunfels.

Deedy Wright of the Lindheimer Chapter Native Plant Society of Texas (NPSOT) spearheaded efforts to supply Native Texas plants for the Fischer Park Nature Education Center's butterfly garden, increasing the native plant diversity around the NEC grounds. Deedy and other NPSOT members donated over \$2,000 worth of plants to collaborate with the Nature Center in promoting the use of Texas Natives for landscaping and improving local habitats for wildlife, including pollinators such as Monarch butterflies. NPSOT also purchased plant ID signs for the NEC butterfly garden to help visitors to the park learn about Texas Native plants.

Skinner Legacy Award – Audie Gibson and the Landa Park Gala Planning Committee

This award is given to a group or individual who works toward the fulfillment of an identified need within the community. Volunteer efforts include the organization of people, fund raising and goal setting to establish efforts to address the city need.

The award is named after the Skinner family, who worked for four years to construct the JAWS Skatepark. Their unending devotion to seeing the project to completion was truly remarkable. This family created a legacy that the youth of New Braunfels will enjoy for years to come.

It is hard to describe the efforts put forth by our next award winner. It is not as easy as it might sound: enthusiasm, grace, commitment, energy, loyal, creative, determined these are just a few ways we would describe our 2016 Skinner Legacy Award winner Audrea Gibson.

Audie embodies all of these qualities and lucky for us, she has made parks a part of her life, and she has worked to improve, promote and enhance our parks.

Audie is the past president and current member of the New Braunfels Parks Foundation. This past year, Audie's help was invaluable in the planning of the Landa Park 80th Anniversary Gala.

Audie spearheaded the entire gala event, she gathered a volunteer planning committee and together they took the event from an idea to a successful, well attended fundraiser, raising just over \$70,000. The funds raised will go towards much needed improvements at the Landa Park Miniature Golf Course.

Thank you Audie and the entire Gala Planning Committee for your tireless efforts towards the Landa Park 80th Anniversary Moonlit Gala.

City of a Prince Volunteer Service Award – Nancy Pappas

New Braunfels is known as “The City of a Prince” in remembrance of Prince Carl Solms who founded this community. It was his determination and dream of a safe and prosperous settlement that launched a journey reaching over 150 years. This award commemorates the work of individuals or groups who represent this community spirit. Efforts can be shown through volunteer hours, project notoriety, research efforts and public participation.

Nancy Pappas embodies this great award in many ways especially the determination and dreaming really big part. She is like a kaleidoscope looking at all the different facets of our community striving to help make great changes. Over the past several years she has become a reliable and much needed advocate for trails and connectivity in our community. Nancy is recognized as a strong leader in our community who is highly respected she is currently actively serving on the Recreation Center Steering Committee, the president of the Comal Trails Alliance and an original founding member of the 501c3 organization.

She has helped secure grant funding from TIPHER to fund wetland signage on the County Line Memorial Trail, three community outdoor exercise equipment pieces, the Disc Golf Signage with the assistance of Kyle Spinks Eagle Scout, and grant funding with CTA from the McKenna Foundation for invasive tree removal, trail signage, trail building, and trail building workshops . Nancy attends public input meetings and rallies others in the community to advocate for trails and connectivity in public spaces. She makes sure that city staff with Parks and Recreation are included in community planning activities like the Comal County Youth Initiative Active2Day Healthy4Life Coalition.

Please help us congratulate Mrs. Nancy Pappas as the 2016 City of a Prince Volunteer of the Year Award winner.