

*Chaetura Canyon  
Annual Report  
2009*



*Travis Audubon Society's  
Chaetura Canyon Management Committee*

*Ann Connell  
Anne Donovan  
John Kelly  
Georgan Kyle  
Paul Kyle*

## **Statement of Purpose**

*The main purpose of Chaetura Canyon  
is to preserve, in perpetuity,  
a small piece of natural habitat  
within a rapidly urbanizing area of Central Texas  
while providing a safe place for native species of birds  
to forage, raise their young and rest during migration.*

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## **Chaetura Canyon Management Committee Annual Report – Calendar Year 2009**

**Committee Description:** The Chaetura Canyon Management Committee (CCMC) is a unique entity mandated by the Special Warranty Deed signed on December 28, 2006 that transferred ownership of the Chaetura Canyon Sanctuary from Paul and Georgean Kyle to Travis Audubon

This committee consists of three (3) members appointed by the Kyles and two (2) members appointed by the TAS Board of Directors. Each committee member serves for two years. Current members are Georgean Kyle, Paul Kyle, Ann Connell, Anne Donovan and John Kelly. Anne Donovan and John Kelly are the appointees of TAS. The two-year terms of all members expire on March 31<sup>st</sup>, 2011.

The purpose of the CCMC is to establish principles, rules and operational methods to be followed in administering the Restrictions, Covenants, and Conditions set forth in the deed and to conduct or supervise the maintenance operations of the Sanctuary.

Two of the seven directives that are primary to the committee are:

“Chaetura Canyon shall be maintained and managed in such a way as to provide optimum habitat, food and protection for native avian species with particular emphasis on the preservation and conservation of Golden-cheeked Warblers (*Dendroica chrysoparia*) and Chimney Swifts (*Chaetura pelagica*) in perpetuity.

Chaetura Canyon will be managed as a preserve – not a park. Any public access will be considered to be a disturbance to the native fauna and therefore strictly controlled. Workshops, events, tours and visitation will be allowed, but shall be considered on a case by case basis by the Management Committee.”

**Summary:** 2009 was the second full year of activities at Chaetura Canyon since the property was donated to Travis Audubon by the Kyles in December of 2006. There were events each month from March thru November. These included workshops, classes, educational presentations, and two successful fundraisers. Visitors numbered more than 100 including preschoolers and their parents, summer camp students from the Austin Nature Center, the TOWN Austin members and board members of the Texas Hill Country Alliance.

The legal responsibility of the Chaetura Canyon Management Committee is as stated above. However, since the CCMC first became active it has had a major role in fund-raising for the Sanctuary. The financial goals of the CCMC are to keep Chaetura Canyon a “revenue-neutral” facility for TAS, and we have been fortunate to receive remarkable support from TAS members, the general public and some very special individuals and foundations.

## Maintenance and Projects Completed

### Residence:

- Kitchen\*: Cabinets refinished, new drawers built and installed  
Wood floor sanded and re-finished
- Bathroom\*: Sheetrock repaired, re-textured and repainted  
Ventilation fan installed
- “Library”\*: Wood ceiling and trim installed  
All wood work refinished
- Living / Dining Room\*:  
Insulated “Bird viewing” window installed in south wall  
All woodwork re-finished
- Upstairs\*: Sheetrock repaired and repainted  
Hardwood flooring installed in bedroom and storage area\*\*  
Closets installed in bedroom
- Plumbing: 35 year-old water main repaired / replaced  
Energy-efficient water heater installed  
Leaking Sink faucet replaced
- Deck & Exterior:  
New lighting installed for events  
Re-stained south side and deck railing  
Re-stained upstairs east wall

### Trails and Grounds:

- Brush piles below garden and north of residence removed  
New trail and habitat restoration begun north of residence  
New fence and entry gate installed on Hunters Pass

### Plants:

- 120 one-gallon plants were recovered and /or propagated  
24 one-gallon plants from the previous year were planted on the Sanctuary  
several dozen were sold as fundraising for the Sanctuary  
five dozen plants were donated to Blair Woods pond restoration project

- \* all repairs performed and paid for by Stewards at a cost of \$ 3090.31  
\*\* materials donated by John Donovan (son of Anne and John Donovan)

**Chaetura Canyon Management Committee Meeting and Dinner**  
**January 23, 2009 / 6:30 PM**  
**Chaetura Canyon**

1. Welcome and Dinner: Update on new lot acquisition
  
2. 2008 Annual Report: requested under the new TAS “Program Team”
  
3. Budget for 2009 – 2010: see attached
  
4. TAS General Fundraising Dinner: Proposal from Nancy
  
5. Events for 2009: to be discussed
  
6. Five Year Plan: suggested by Ann Connell
  
7. Committee Members for 2009 thru 2011
  
8. Next Meeting
  
9. Adjourn and Dessert

**Chaetura Canyon Management Committee**  
**January 23, 2009**

Members present: Anne Donovan, Ann Connell, Paul Kyle and Georgean Kyle.  
John Kelly was unable to attend due to illness.

Anne Donovan and Ann Connell arrived at 6:30.

**Item 1** - Paul gave an update on the possibility of a new lot acquisition by TAS at north property boundary in canyon. Copies of the 2008 Annual Report were reviewed. Dinner began at 7:00.

Meeting officially began at 7:35.

**Item 2** - 2008 Annual Report: This is a document requested by the newly formed TAS "Program Team". Members were asked to review the document after the meeting and submit any comments via email.

**Item 3** – Budget:

Mandatory expenditures:

The two peripheral lots of Chaetura Canyon are now tax exempt as a result of a Quit Claim Deed signed by the Kyles. This action results in a decrease of the property taxes by ~ \$2000.00

The Apache Shores POA fees listed are estimated from the previous year's fees.

Maintenance: Scheduled Land, Habitat, etc.

Fire Ant Control product used on site is Award. Invasive plant control product used is Round Up. Remedy is a product recommended by the Hays County Master Naturalist (info from Ann) that may be utilized this year.

Maintenance: Residence

Cost of Olympic stain has been rolled over from the budget of the previous year. Stain was not purchased in 2008 due to supplier discontinuing specific color historically use on site. Arrangements for special order were made.

Fundraising:

Correction requested by Anne on gifts from Peterson Charitable Lead Trust. Grant amount should reflect two donations in the amount of \$2000.00 each resulting in a total of \$4000.00 instead of the posted \$2000.00.

**Item 4** - Fundraising Dinner

Nancy Manning, TAS Executive Director, has proposed a fundraising dinner to be hosted at Chaetura Canyon for prospective donors to the TAS General Fund. The TAS President and Executive Director would invite and solicit six prospective donors. The Kyles would provide the venue of Chaetura Canyon, a walking tour, dinner and Paul's presentation on Chimney Swifts. Compensation for the Kyles has been proposed by Nancy Manning. Anne

Donovan commented that the healthy and strong financial status of TAS is important in keeping Chaetura Canyon solvent. All members present agreed and there was consensus to cooperate on the fundraiser as a one time trial.

**Item 5 - Events for 2009**

The Gray Jolink memorial swift tower workshops will be held in Feb. and March. Chris Masey and Trent Miller have volunteered to help with construction. Projection for completion of the tower is scheduled for April 1.

Chulupas and Chimney Swifts event will be held in May instead of April this year.

A tour for TOS annual meeting members will be held on April 25. The tour will follow a field trip to West Cave preserve and will include a light lunch. A fee of \$10.00 will be charged each participant.

The 2008 Fall Nest box Workshop did not fill, possibly as a result of the registration fee raised over previous years. The Kyles offered to wave their instructors fee for the upcoming October workshop to reduce the cost to prospective participants.

TOWN-Austin women's group has requested a tour of Chaetura Canyon. This is a women's outdoor outreach group associated with and sponsored by TP&W. The group requested a Saturday or Sunday for their tour. The Kyles suggested an early morning tour with a light lunch to follow, limited to 12 participants with a \$10.00 fee. Anne D. and Ann C. approved the event as complying with the mission of the sanctuary. This event is now scheduled for Sunday, April 26<sup>th</sup>.

Anne D. suggested a tour for new TAS board members, possibly a yearly invitation to have the board out for a tour and dinner. Ann C. added that the CCMC could extend an invitation to board members listing yearly events and specifically invite each member to attend events they choose. The Kyles reported that a tour for board members had been done in the past. The board had visited Blair Woods, Baker Sanctuary and ended with a tour of Chaetura Canyon and had dinner on the deck. This tour invitation has been extended each year by the Kyles but to date has not been repeated. There was consensus that an annual tour for TAS board members should be pursued.

**Item 6 - Five Year Plan**

Ann Connell suggested that the committee look ahead into the future toward things that should be completed over time, then back up and schedule work in a timely fashion. This would require a broad vision of what needs to be accomplished and how the Kyles envision their continued participation in the hands on work involved in managing the sanctuary. She suggested training of others to begin sharing responsibilities currently shouldered exclusively by the Kyles. The obvious recruits would include younger members of TAS. Paul reported that Chris Masey is already stepping into such a position and that Julia Heskett has taken over the yearly maintenance tasks for the Hornsby Bend Chimney Swift towers.

Projects to consider in the near future include:

1. Fencing along Little Beaver Hill.
2. High-fence around the field area.
3. Discussions with DWA on the future ownership of the property adjacent to C. Canyon.
4. Provide better access to the residence by constructing a handicapped ramp. (The primary barrier to this project is that the window unit air-conditioner that services



- the residence blocks access).
5. Install an on-demand water heating system to reduce water usage and lower electrical expenses.
  6. Replace the wooden decking with Trex. This recycled decking product would eliminate maintenance investments and although expensive, would not require future replacement. The existing deck is beginning to deteriorate and will require replacement in the near future.

Most of these tasks can be accomplished thru volunteer time by the Kyles with assistance from other TAS volunteers. It is also possible that the TAS Executive Director may be able to procure grant funds to pay for material costs.

**Item 7 - Committee Members**

All terms for the Chaetura Canyon Management Committee expire on April 1. Paul and Georgean have selected themselves to another term and have requested that Ann Connell consider returning as the third member appointed by the Kyles. Anne Donovan expressed interest in continuing to participate if the TAS board approves her appointment. John Kelly has also expressed willingness to remain on the committee. Paul will contact Terri Siegenthaler, Sanctuary Committee Chairman, on the process necessary to fill the upcoming term.

**Item 8 - Next Meeting**

A date for a meeting following April 1 will be chosen to discuss the Five Year Plan.

**Item 9 - Adjourn**

Meeting adjourned at 9:46 followed by dessert, including chocolate Chimney Swifts.

Respectfully Submitted,

Georgean Z. Kyle  
CCMC Secretary

**Chaetura Canyon Calendar of Events  
2009**

- January: CCMC Annual Meeting
- February: Preparation for Chimney Swift Tower Workshop  
Chimney Swift Tower tour for Canadian Conservationists
- March: Chimney Swift Tower Workshop
- April: TOWN Austin tour and luncheon
- May: Chalupas and Chimney Swifts  
President and Directors' fundraising dinner  
"Second Saturday Swift Watch"
- June: "Second Saturday Swift Watch"
- July: "Second Saturday Swift Watch"  
Austin Nature Center Science Camp
- August: "Second Saturday Swift Watch" -- also national "A Swift Night Out"
- September: "Second Saturday Swift Watch" -- also national "A Swift Night Out"  
"Dinner with the Swifts" – fall fundraiser
- October: Nest Box Workshop  
Dinner for Hill Country Alliance  
Dinner with TAS President and Executive Director
- November: TAS Sanctuary Committee Meeting  
Sanctuary Closed
- December: Sanctuary Closed except for Christmas Bird Count

**The following is reprinted from the regular articles published in Signal Smoke  
Notes from Chaetura Canyon**

**January-February 2009**

The primary remembrance for 2008 was the prolonged drought. However, Chaetura Canyon did fair better than many surrounding areas with a total of 19.95” as of December 1<sup>st</sup>. Comparing that total to the 45.49” in 2007 and 29.51” in 2006 (for the same time period) is cause for concern.

In late October, the 153rd avian species was added to the ongoing property list when a Downy Woodpecker spent a few days on the Sanctuary. This brings the woodpecker species count to six including Ladder-Backed, Golden-fronted, Red-bellied, Yellow-bellied Sapsucker and Northern Flicker.

Although not a new species, we were graced with the presence of a young Grey Fox who spent an inordinate amount of time around the residence. He showed up on the deck just outside the kitchen to partake of some pecans we had set out for the local Western-scrub Jays.

In mid November our neighbor Ron Wood helped process the pile of cedar branches that had been accumulating from our habitat management since the first of the year. There is now a nice pile of mulch to use on the trails of the Sanctuary.

Throughout 2009 we will be hosting many of the events that have been popular and successful over the past two years: Chimney Swift Tower Workshop, Habitat Steward’s Workshop and Lunch, Chalupas and Chimney Swifts Mexican Food Buffet, Second Saturday Swift Watch (May thru August), and the ever popular Dinner with the Swifts in the fall. Check the TAS web site and calendar for dates and specifics.

Finally, we would like to acknowledge a very generous donation to Chaetura Canyon in memory of Bettie Janda. Bettie, her husband Laddie and all of their children were long-time supporters of conservation efforts at Chaetura Canyon even before Travis Audubon took over ownership of the Sanctuary.

**March April 2009**

Winter always brings a delightful array of visitors, and this year is no exception. Fluttering Ruby-crowned Kinglets glean insects from branches mere feet from where we stand, while Golden-crowned Kinglets are more secretive. Their high pitched vocalization is all that betrays their presence. American Robins claim the berry (sparsely) laden Juniper trees and a Spotted Towhee returns to the traditional brush area favored by the larger sparrows. Nearby revina berries and Seteria seeds provide easy dinning. Chipping Sparrows, our “heralds of winter”, are joined by increasing numbers of American Goldfinches. Black-backed Lesser Goldfinch males are electric in contrast to the subdued colors of their cousins. A single green-backed Lesser male slipped into the mix in late January. Pine Siskins made an eruptive appearance this year. Their last visit had been in 2005 when only seven individuals were sighted at any one time. This year, 20 or more travel together. “Chippers”, goldfinches and Pine Siskins congregate together at the feeders. They quarrel over the best dining area but all cooperate for

safety. Any one warning “chip” will cause an explosion of wings as they all rise together and depart as a single noisy biomass of forty to fifty birds. More often than not, the instigator of the excitement is another winter visitor...a Sharp-shinned Hawk appearing with outstretched empty talons. The White-winged Doves are not as adept at avoiding the Sharpie as we continue to discover new piles of their feathers on the property.

The avian list for Chaetura Canyon has increased by four species since our last posting. On December 21st, just after daybreak, an unusual vocalization caught our attention. Our first impression of the sound was that of a fox. But the sound traveled through the canyon much too fast to be caused by a mammal. Squinting east into the sunrise, we saw a very large black bird with wedge shaped tail circling and croaking: Common Raven!!! For several days, we heard calls of both the raven and an American Crow. On January 4th a bird feeding on a peanut butter mix feeder caught our attention. With only a brief glance, it appeared to be a very large, very yellow kinglet. Of course that wasn't possible and fortunately the bird reappeared long enough to get a photo...all be it a very poor picture. Male Pine Warbler!!! During the process of updating our species list, we were dismayed to discover that we had failed to include two species that had been spotted years earlier: Franklin's Gull and American Crow. With the addition of two new species to the Sanctuary list in 2008 (Downy Woodpecker, Common Raven) and the Pine Warbler in January this year, we have now recorded 157 bird species in the 37 years we have lived on the property.

The next event at Chaetura Canyon will be the Education Committee's Chimney Swift Tower Workshop on March 15<sup>th</sup>. This will be a free workshop to build the memorial tower for Gray Jolink. When completed, it will be installed at Mayfield Park. For more information, please contact Anne Donovan at 472-3030 or email her at (ajdonovan@att.net).

And speaking of things to come: the first Chimney Swifts of the season are normally sighted in Texas in mid-March. You can join in the nation-wide monitoring effort by reporting your first Chimney Swift sighting at [www.ChimneySwifts.org](http://www.ChimneySwifts.org)

We invite you to celebrate the return of the Chimney Swifts to the Canyon by joining us for the second annual “Chalupas and Chimney Swifts” the first Saturday in May. This will be followed the next weekend by the first of our Second Saturday Swift Watch events that will occur monthly throughout the summer. We hope to see you at one or more of these enjoyable events!

### **May - June 2008**

The 30+ wintering American Goldfinches abruptly departed on March 5, much to the delight of the local Carolina Chickadees. They were no longer forced to wait their turn to "grab and go" at the sunflower seed feeder.

On St. Patrick's Day evening as we relaxed by the wildlife water feature, three first of season species joined our celebration. A Black-chinned Hummingbird sipped at the Coral Honeysuckle, a sphinx moth (species unknown) patrolled the flowering dewberries, and a Mexican Free-tailed Bat snatched flying snacks overhead.

The first Chimney Swifts arrived on March 24. Three circled above the residence in late

evening; two entered the North Observation tower attached to the house. All three nesting species of wrens (Bewick's, Carolina and Canyon) constructed nests and became unnaturally quiet by the end of the month. The seasonal transition had begun.

On March 21, a full house of 14 would be Chimney Swift Tower builders met on the front deck. In attendance were the future tower-building crews for Mary Searight Park in south Austin and the Balcones Canyonlands Preserve on RR 620. We viewed a brief video chronicling a nesting season for the birds, had drinks and snacks, and then began construction. Power drills whirred as participants fabricated the three nesting chamber boxes, affixed the metal legs, then installed corner trim and the tower bottom on the lowest chamber.

The workshop was the beginning of the construction of the Kiosk Tower to be built in memory of Gray Jolink at Mayfield Park. The following Friday afternoon we were joined by Chris Masey, Amy Masey, Catie Masey, Trent Miller, Marc Opperman and Steve "Grog" Burns to begin installation of the tower. The forms were set for the foundation and the tower base was put in place. At sunrise Saturday morning, the concrete slab was poured and allowed to cure over night.

Early Sunday morning the work crew re-convened to build the tower and surrounding kiosk. With all of the great help, the construction was completed before 10:00. We were then joined by Kathy, Willa and Tatum Jolink who helped with the painting. Deborah Bennett also stopped in to lend a hand. Since nobody really likes to stand around and watch paint dry, we took a group photo and said our farewells to the enthusiastic helpers and broke for lunch.

Everyone associated with Mayfield Park seems thrilled with the project and the end result. It is an excellent location both for Chimney Swifts and for educational value. Thanks to everyone who donated their time and treasure to make this tribute to Gray happen. Kathy Jolink said "Gray would have loved it!"

## **July-August 2008**

We have a Sunday morning tradition at the Canyon of sharing breakfast beside the water feature constructed for the wildlife. If no rain has fallen during the week, the pool is refilled as we eat. Since most weeks of this years spring/summer have experienced absolutely no rainfall, we have opted to refill using a sprinkler moved to various locations around the pool itself. Plantings that provide nectar and seed for the birds as well as butterfly larval plants are surviving only because of this supplemental watering.

As the droplets begin to fall, we speculate on which species will be the first to arrive for a "shower bath": Northern Cardinal or Carolina Wren. These two species can not resist any opportunity to play in the "rain". Black-chinned Hummingbirds occasionally dart through the mist and Red Darner Dragonflies hover at the periphery. Remarkably, of the average of 22 species of birds recorded each day, very few are drawn to the sprinkler. Some species are consummate dust bathers that seem to disdain any moisture that is not contained within their food (whether seed or insect).

We have marveled at the productivity of our avian neighbors in spite of the continuing drought. It has seemed to be a banner year especially for Northern Cardinals, all three species of our

local wrens (Carolina, Bewick's and Canyon) and Lesser Goldfinches. A normal number of other local nesters have also been noted. We like to think that the diversity and plethora of fledglings speaks well for the protected habitat available in Chaetura Canyon.

The Chimney Swifts' productivity is always a bit of a question since we will not know their success in all of the 16 towers until the season has ended, the swifts have migrated and the detritus in the towers can be evaluated. However, the two observation towers attached to the residence were both successful: five eggs laid, four hatched and four fledged in each. At the end of July there was a growing roost of more than 100 swifts in the North Tower with a good mix of ragged, molting adults and juveniles with their pristine plumage.

All of the Second Saturday Swift Watches were full-house events this year – most filling up a month ahead of time. The July evening was special with the attendance of a number of families. We hosted five youngsters under the age of five. Cold, seedless watermelon was the favorite snack with all ages of attendees.

Coming up on September 11th and 12th is our annual fund-raising “Dinner with the Swifts”. This event sells out quickly, so let us know as soon as possible if you would like to attend.

### **August - September 2009**

The vegetation suffered severely over the summer months at Chaetura Canyon, just as it did all over Central Texas. Perhaps the most distressing effect was the desiccation of the oaks. Several large Red Oaks (*Quercus buckleyi*) as well as many young Live Oaks (*Quercus sinuata* var. *breviloba*) succumbed to the ongoing drought. By the first of August, only 13.64 inches of rain had been recorded for the year. No further precipitation fell until September 4th when the high-pressure system that remained parked over the state finally shifted. Over the next two weeks 6.12 inches of rain fell on the parched Canyon. The welcome precipitation combined with the cooler temperatures reduced the stress on flora and fauna alike. Subsequent rain showers throughout the month gave rise to new leaves on understory plants such as deciduous yaupon (*Ilex decidua*) that had completely defoliated weeks before. Many forbs including zexmenia (*Zexmenia hispida*) and wild petunia (*ruellia humilis*) flowered for the first time of the year, much to the delight of the Lesser Goldfinches who were seen flitting expectantly from plant to plant in search of seeds yet to come.

The usually reliable Chimney Swift roost disbanded on August 27. Only the parents and their offspring from the South Observation tower attached to the residence remained to grace the evening skies. The paucity of swifts could have been a disappointment to this year's participants of Dinner with the Swifts, but everyone seemed so delighted with the sound of rain falling on the covered deck that both nights were resounding successes in spite of the absence of the guests of honor. Our heart felt thanks to everyone who attended this event and to those who contributed to the annual fundraiser even though they could not join us in person.

Rain was still falling on Sunday morning after the final Dinner with the Swifts, so we took our breakfast at the banquet table on the deck. We were joined by an unexpected guest. A very damp female House Finch flew in under the cover and perched on the back of a chair across the table facing us. She remained throughout our breakfast busily preening and drying her feathers. At one time she flew out into the rain to one of the bird feeders to get some breakfast of her own, but quickly returned to the same chair.

The last scheduled event for the year at Chaetura Canyon was the Education Committee's Nestbox Workshop. Like most of the activities at the Sanctuary, it was a "full house". The primary beneficiaries of the workshop will be the avian cavity nesters who discover new housing for the next breeding season.

## **November - December 2009**

Chaetura Canyon is entering its third year since becoming a Sanctuary of the Travis Audubon Society. Visitors to the site frequently inquire about the origin of the eight-acre area located within a residential subdivision, our relationship to it and how the transfer of the property occurred.

The saga began 38 years ago in the fall of 1972 when we signed a contract to purchase three lots. The required deposit was \$75.00, half of which was borrowed from friends. We immediately began hand constructing our dream home on the steep and rugged site.

Over the ensuing years, as adjacent lots became available, new contracts were executed and payments made one lot at a time. By 1999, twenty-seven lots had been purchased and the property values had risen substantially. We reluctantly decided to draw the line and began to personally fence the perimeter of the property.

Our concern about what would become of the property upon our demise prompted us to search for conservation organizations. The Nature Conservancy and Natural Areas Preservation Association deemed the eight-acre site too small to add to their holdings. Following a conservation suggestion, an amended plat was filed with the Travis County Appraisal District to remove the interior lot lines. This action along with very specific restrictive covenants makes it literally impossible for further development to occur. But there still remained a desire to protect the land in its natural state in perpetuity as well as the flora and fauna that depend upon it.

When we first arrived in central Texas from Houston, we determined to let nature take its course with no intervention on our part. A Weed Feed class taught by Scooter Cheatham and Lynn Marshall opened our eyes to the benefits of diversity and usefulness of native plants, so we began to manage the junipers and encourage plant diversity on the property.

As we wandered the deer trails identifying plant species we occasionally encountered an injured wild animal. A course at the Austin Nature Center taught by Jane Lyons immersed us in wildlife rehabilitation and led to a nineteen year stint specializing in the care and study of avian insectivores. Warblers, wrens, nightjars, swallows and Chimney Swifts filled incubators and flight cages specially constructed onto the house. Ultimately 3141 individuals representing 121 species received care. Bird banding under the auspices of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service was also conducted during that time frame with the support and assistance of Greg Lasley and Don Connell. 5899 birds of 92 species were fitted with individually numbered rings. In all, a total of more than 150 avian species have been recorded to date.

Because of this total immersion with birds it seemed logical to approach TAS about accepting another sanctuary. Bob Warneke, president at the time, and board members Brian Hale and John Kelly toured the property. The society was agreeable to the conveyance of the property to

the organization upon our demise, so our wills were rewritten with that intent. Workshops and tours for TAS members began to be held on site.

In April of 2006 a committee was organized within TAS to formulate a contract to transfer the property to TAS *before* our demise. Again, Bob Warneke and John Kelly came forward to facilitate the committee. Jeff Mundy, Anne Donovan, Ann and Don Connell and Pat Dillon added their expertise over the next seven months to formulate a proposal to the TAS board for the transfer as well as create restrictive covenants to insure the proposed vision for the property into the future. Burgess Jackson and Dan Laney worked out the legal details and the transfer was signed with TAS president Shelia Hargis on December 28. Initial donations dedicated to the new Sanctuary were generously offered from Craig Damuth following persistent lobbying by Bob Warneke, from Ann and Don Connell and from the Peterson Charitable Lead Trust. These generous supporters covered the entire costs of acquisition of the Sanctuary.

Subsequent financial support and enthusiastic acceptance of this Sanctuary has been amazing and personally gratifying. The widespread support has made Chaetura Canyon a self-supporting entity within TAS. Our very sincere appreciation is extended to everyone who has visited and supported this site over the past three years. We are not *yet* retired from our “real jobs” at Rootin’ Ridge Toymakers, so our six-day-a-week work schedule limits the amount of time we are available to host visitors. And because Chaetura Canyon is designated and maintained as a “preserve and not a park”, visitation is limited to create as little disturbance to the indigenous wildlife as possible. Still, there is at least one event nearly every month ranging from workshops to Second Saturday Swift Watches to fundraising dinners. We hope any TAS member who has not yet visited will be able to venture into the Hills in the coming months and years. After all: this is *your* Sanctuary!!

Georgean and Paul Kyle, Sanctuary Stewards



## Avian Species Recorded at Chaetura Canyon as of December 31, 2009

American White Pelican	Yellow-bellied Flycatcher	Yellow-throated Warbler
Double-crested Cormorant	Traill's Flycatcher	Pine Warbler
Great Blue Heron	Least Flycatcher	Bay-breasted Warbler
Great Egret	<b>Eastern Phoebe</b>	Black-and-white Warbler
Green Heron	Ash-throated Flycatcher	American Redstart
Cattle Egret	<b>Great Crested Flycatcher</b>	Ovenbird
Black-crowned Night Heron	Scissor-tailed Flycatcher	Kentucky Warbler
<b>Wood Duck</b>	<b>Purple Martin</b>	Mourning Warbler
Black Vulture	Northern Rough-winged Swallow	Common Yellowthroat
<b>Turkey Vulture</b>	Cliff Swallow	Wilson's warbler
Osprey	Barn Swallow	Canada Warbler
Mississippi Kite	<b>Blue Jay</b>	Yellow-breasted Chat
Bald Eagle	<b>Western Scrub-Jay</b>	<b>Summer Tanager</b>
Northern Harrier	American Crow	<b>Northern Cardinal</b>
Sharp-shinned Hawk	Common Raven	Rose-breasted Grosbeak
Coopers Hawk	<b>Carolina Chickadee</b>	Black-headed Grosbeak
Red-shouldered Hawk	<b>Black-crested Titmouse</b>	Lazuli Bunting
Red-tailed Hawk	Red-breasted Nuthatch	Indigo Bunting
Crested Caracara	<b>Canyon Wren</b>	<b>Painted Bunting</b>
American Kestrel	<b>Carolina Wren</b>	Dickcissel
Wild Turkey	<b>Bewick's Wren</b>	Spotted Towhee
Northern Bobwhite	House Wren	Canyon Towhee
Sandhill Crane	Winter Wren	<b>Rufous-crowned Sparrow</b>
Killdeer	Golden-crowned Kinglet	Chipping Sparrow
Upland Sandpiper	Ruby-crowned Kinglet	Clay-colored Sparrow
Franklin's Gull	<b>Blue-gray Gnatcatcher</b>	Field Sparrow
Rock Dove	Veery	Lark Sparrow
<b>White-winged Dove</b>	Gray-cheeked Thrush	Grasshopper Sparrow
<b>Mourning Dove</b>	Swainson's Thrush	LeConte's Sparrow
Common Ground Dove	Hermit Thrush	Fox Sparrow
<b>Inca Dove</b>	American Robin	Song Sparrow
<b>Yellow-billed Cuckoo</b>	Gray Catbird	Lincoln's Sparrow
<b>Greater Roadrunner</b>	<b>Northern Mockingbird</b>	White-throated Sparrow
<b>Eastern Screech-Owl</b>	Brown Thrasher	White-crowned Sparrow
Great Horned Owl	Cedar Waxwing	Dark-eyed Junco
Burrowing Owl	Loggerhead Shrike	Oregon Junco
Common Nighthawk	<b>European Starling</b>	Red-winged Blackbird
Common Poorwill	<b>White-eyed Vireo</b>	Meadowlark (species)
<b>Chuck-will's-widow</b>	Bell's Vireo	Brewers Blackbird
Whip-poor-will	Black-capped Vireo	Great-tailed Grackle
<b>Chimney Swift</b>	Blue-headed Vireo	<b>Common Grackle</b>
Ruby-throated Hummingbird	Philadelphia Vireo	Bronzed Cowbird
<b>Black-chinned Hummingbird</b>	Tennessee Warbler	Brown-headed Cowbird
Rufous Hummingbird	Orange-crowned Warbler	Orchard Oriole
Belted Kingfisher	Nashville Warbler	Baltimore Oriole
<b>Golden-fronted Woodpecker</b>	Yellow Warbler	Scott's Oriole
Red-bellied Woodpecker	Chestnut-sided Warbler	Purple Finch
Yellow-bellied Sapsucker	Magnolia Warbler	<b>House Finch</b>
<b>Ladder-backed Woodpecker</b>	Myrtle Warbler	Pine Siskin
Downy Woodpecker	Audubon's Warbler	<b>Lesser Goldfinch</b>
Northern Flicker	Black-throated Green Warbler	American Goldfinch
Olive-sided Flycatcher	<b>Golden-cheeked Warbler</b>	<b>House Sparrow</b>
Eastern Wood-Pewee	Blackburnian Warbler	

**Texas Outdoor Women's' Network (TOWN) – Austin**  
**Field Trip**  
**Chaetura Canyon**  
**April 26, 2009**  
**8:00 AM – 12:00 PM**

Hosts: Georgean and Paul Kyle

1. Jacque Austin
2. Janet Fitzsimon-Barr
3. Jenn Trivette
4. Janet Coderre
5. Lisa Sands
6. Joan Balash
7. Judy Wilkins
8. Marcia McClellan
9. Sandy Ostiguy
10. Dawn Goodall
11. Adela Rojas

Funds Raised

Donations (\$10.00 @)	\$ 110.00	Credit Account # 8013-02
Cash Box Donations	\$ 82.00	Credit Account # 8013-01
	<hr/>	
Gross:	\$ 192.00	
Food and refreshments	47.63	
	<hr/>	
Net:	\$ 144.37	



*Chaetura Canyon*  
*Features, Plants and Points of Interest*  
*TOWN-Austin April 26, 2009*

*Georgan and Paul Kyle, Sanctuary Stewards*  
*512-266-3861 / dwa@austin.rr.com / www.ChimneySwifts.org*

1. Log Stack
2. Restoration of old brush pile: Evergreen Sumac / Eupatorium Cedar Sage / Yaupon
3. Bat House
4. Juniper with Scub-Jay nest / Elbow bush understory
5. Bumelia understory – habitat for newly-fledged birds
6. Plateau Milkweed Vine - endemic
7. Native grasses / cedar management in stages / Blackfoot Daisies
8. Chimney Swift Towers / Antelope Horns Milkweed
9. Nest boxes in field and elsewhere
10. Coral Honeysuckle
11. Masonry Chimney Swift Towers / log pile
12. Mountain Laurel
13. Wren habitat / solitary bee nest
14. Red Oak saplings / Juniper management / White-tailed Deer exclusion
15. Juniper Management / Texas Persimmon / Pyracantha  
Flame-leaf Sumac / Zexmania
16. Pearl Milkweed Vine / Cedar Sage / Texas Asters
17. Natural cavities
18. Fallen Red Oak / new growth: Ilex / Escarpment Cherry / Agarita / Mexican  
Buckeye / Grapevine / Beetle habitat
19. Fruiting Mulberry / Amaranth / Parent Escarpment Cherry  
Juniper re-growth / hill-side restoration / White-tailed Deer exclusion
20. “New” Brush Pile / Lindheimer’s Muhly / Rice Grass  
Juniper Management
21. Cedar Elm snag with nest cavity / Rusty Blackhaw / Hedeoma
22. Red Buckeye / Twisted-leaf Yucca / small caves and burrows
23. Northern Cardinal nest / Juniper and Green Briar
24. Turkey Vulture Cave / Silk Tassel – male and female / Texas Ash
25. Fractured limestone ledges
26. Mustang Grape vine / compacted brush pile
27. Mature Juniper / Red Oak saplings / Juniper re-growth / Wafer Ash / Mimosa
28. Non-native Honeysuckle Bush
29. Mature Juniper / Turk’s Cap / Virginia Creeper / Pigeon Berry
30. The “Kiva” / Golden Groundsel / Tropical Sage / 7 - leaf Virginia Creeper
31. Water feature: Pavonia / Goldenrod / Rough-leaf Dogwood  
Texas Aster / Inland Sea Oats / Dewberry / Marsh Fleabane Anisacanthus / Button  
Bush / Cardinal Flower / Pickerel Weed / Texas Star Hibiscus / Bog Iris
32. Small water features / drip / feeders (bird and butterfly) / Carolina Buckthorn /  
Cardinal Berry / Clematis



## CHALUPAS AND CHIMNEY SWIFTS AT CHAETURA CANYON!

- Where?* Travis Audubon's Chaetura Canyon Bird Sanctuary
- When?* May 2nd, 6:00 PM 'til 10:00 PM (Rain Date: May 3rd)
- What?*
- Observe Chimney Swifts impressive aerial displays
  - Wander the self-guided upper-canyon nature trail
  - Enjoy a Mexican Food Buffet with ice cold beer and soft drinks
  - Marvel at a screening of "The Secret Home Life of Chimney Swifts" Starring Twig, Timber and Puddin'
- Who?* The first 25 Travis Audubon Members (or "Wanta-bes") to sign up
- How Much?* \$35 for TAS members / \$50 for non-members
- How Come?*
- Simply to enjoy the company of Chimney Swifts and fellow conservationists
  - Proceeds to benefit projects at Travis Audubon's Chaetura Canyon Sanctuary

*Please contact Sanctuary Stewards Georgean and Paul Kyle  
to make your reservations ASAP:*

dwa@austin.rr.com or 512-266-3861

**BE THERE, OR BE SQUARE!**



## APPETIZERS

CHIPS AND...

CLASSIC TOMATO AND CHILI SALSA

OAK-ROASTED TOMATILLO GREEN SALSA

ANNE DONOVAN'S GUACAMOLE ESPECIAL

RASPBERRY-CHIPOTLE-CHEESE STUFFED CHERRY TOMATOES

LAYERED TACO SPREAD / MEXICAN FLAG MINI-KABOBS / TORTILLA ROLL UPS

## ENTREES

GEORGEAN'S HAND-MADE TAMALES WITH  
CREMINI MUSHROOMS, OAK-ROASTED CORN, BELL PEPPERS,  
AND MONTEREY JACK CHEESE

GEORGEAN'S HAND-MADE EMPAÑADAS STUFFED WITH  
"CHORIZO", RAISINS, GREEN OLIVES AND CHEESE

MAKE-YOUR-OWN CHALUPAS AND BURRITOS

## SIDES

REFRIED PINTO / MUYACABA BEANS, WHOLE BLACK BEANS

OAK-ROASTED MARIGOLD MINT CORN SALAD

JICAMA-KIWI-ORANGE SALAD

SOFT FLOUR TORTILLAS AND CRISPY FRIED CORN TORTILLAS

## DESSERT

HAND-MADE CHOCOLATE, CRAISIN, PECAN TAMALES

HAND-MADE PRALINES WITH NATIVE TEXAS PECANS

**Chalupas and Chimney Swifts 2009  
Guest List and Summary**

**Hosts - Georgan and Paul Kyle**

1. Valarie Bristol	President	VIP
2. Ann Connell	CCMC	VIP
3. Bill Edwards	TAS BOD	\$ 35.00
4. Ann Edwards	TAS Member	\$ 35.00
5. Jason Edwards	Non Member	\$ 50.00
6. Janet Hendrix	TAS Member	\$ 35.00
7. Jeff Mundy	TAS BOD	\$ 35.00
8. Catherine Mundy	TAS Member	\$ 35.00
9. Jennifer Failla	Guest of Jeff	\$ 50.00
10. Sam Burns	TAS BOD	\$ 35.00
11. “	TAS Member	\$ 35.00
12. Kim McKnight	TAS Member	\$ 35.00
13. Peter Stiles	TAS Member	\$ 35.00
13.1 Loretta Stiles	TAS Member	Under 12
13.2 Bonnie Stiles	TAS Member	Under 12
14. Marshall Johnston	TAS Member	\$ 35.00
15. LaVerne Johnston	TAS Member	\$ 35.00
16. Barbara Felkins	TAS Member	\$ 35.00
17. Jimmy Stanley	TAS Member	\$ 35.00
18. Clif Ladd	TAS BOD	\$ 35.00
19. Nancy Manning	TAS Ex Director	\$ 35.00
20. Missy	Non Member	\$ 50.00
21. Leola Decker	TAS Member	\$ 35.00
22. Faye Harris	TAS Member	\$ 35.00
23. Kristen Harris	TAS Member	\$ 35.00
24. Max Snodderly	TAS Member	\$ 35.00
25. Chris Marcum	TAS Grant writer	\$ 35.00
26. Ron Wood	Chaetura Partner	VIP
Total Reservations		\$ 850.00
Donation from Jeff Mundy		\$ 30.00
Total Income		\$ 890.00
Food and drink costs		(\$ 339.33)
Net		\$ 550.67

**Travis Audubon Society's  
Second Saturday Swift Watch  
At Chaetura Canyon  
May 9, 2009  
7:00 – 9:00 PM**

Hosts: Georgean and Paul Kyle

- |                          |   |
|--------------------------|---|
| 1. Anne Donovan          | TAS, DWA, CCMC                                  |
| 2. John Donovan          | TAS, DWA  |
| 3. Joseph Scott Sturgeon | TAS   |
| 4. David Newstead        | Coastal Bend Audubon President                  |
| 5. Sonia Najera          | Costal Bend Audubon, Nature Conservancy         |
| 6. Steve Burns           | BCP Volunteer, Mayfield Tower Construction crew |
| 7. Erica Burns           |   |
| 8.5 Greta Burns          | 14 months old – youngest trail walker to date   |
| 9. Marc Opperman         | BCP Volunteer, Mayfield Tower Construction crew |
| 10. Ron Wood             | Chaetura Canyon property partner                |

Donations: 110.00

Snacks and Ice: (12.96)

Net: 97.04

\* TAS: Travis Audubon Society  
DWA: Driftwood Wildlife Association  
CCMC: Chaetura Canyon Management Committee



**Travis Audubon Society's  
Second Saturday Swift Watch  
At Chaetura Canyon  
June 13, 2009  
7:00 – 9:00 PM**

Hosts: Georgean and Paul Kyle

- |                          |   |
|--------------------------|---|
| 1. Nancy Manning         | TAS Executive Director                  |
| 2. Joan Foster           | TAS Member                              |
| 3. Laura Southwick       | TAS Member                              |
| 4. Wallace Stapp         | TAS Member                              |
| 5. Laura Johnson         | Renewing TAS Member (signed up tonight) |
| 6. Rosemary Wetherold    | Renewing TAS Member (signed up tonight) |
| 7. Pat Powers            | New TAS Member (signed up this week)    |
| 8. Caroline Powers       | New TAS Member (signed up this week)    |
| 9. Leslie Morris         | TAS Member                              |
| 10. Bill Wilson-Reiner   | TAS Member                              |
| 11. Warren Wilson-Reiner | TAS Member                              |
| 12. Robert Skiles        | TAS Member / Chaetura Canyon partner    |

Donation Box	\$ 95.00
Pat and Caroline Powers	\$ 100.00
	<hr/>
Total Donations	\$ 195.00
Food / Drinks / Ice	\$ 27.63
	<hr/>
Net	\$ 167.37

**Travis Audubon Society's  
Second Saturday Swift Watch  
At Chaetura Canyon  
July 11, 2009  
7:00 – 9:00 PM**

Hosts: Georgean and Paul Kyle  
Presentation by Nancy Manning, TAS Executive Director

1. Mike Ciaverelli
2. Carrie Ciaverelli  
Sophie Ciaverelli (age 4)
3. Stephanie Lifton  
Avery Lifton (age 3)
4. Jennifer Failla
5. Joshua Hoffman  
Noam Failla Hoffman (age 4)
6. Laura Leggett TAS Member
7. Judith Bailey TAS Member
8. Nancy Radding TAS Member
9. Anne Donovan TAS Member
10. John Donovan TAS Member  
Hudson Donovan (age 4)

Donations:	\$ 140.00
Refreshments:	\$ 38.75
Net:	\$ 101.25

**Travis Audubon Society's  
Second Saturday Swift Watch  
At Chaetura Canyon  
August 8, 2009  
7:00 – 9:00 PM**

Hosts: Georgean and Paul Kyle

- |                         |            |
|-------------------------|------------|
| 1. Walter Stewart       | TAS Member |
| 2. Mary Stewart         | TAS Member |
| 3. Erica Weisman        | TAS Member |
| 4. Laura Legett         | TAS Member |
| 5. Sarah Legett         |            |
| 6. Kelley Atkinson      | TAS Member |
| 7. Shelia Hargis        | TAS Board  |
| 8. Laurie Foss          | TAS Member |
| 9. Michelle Cutrer      | TAS Member |
| 10. Richard Whittington | TAS Member |
| 11. Shirley LaVergne    | TAS Member |
| 12. David LaVergne      | TAS Member |
| 13. Ron Wood            | TAS Member |

Donations: \$ 140.00

**Austin Nature & Science Center  
Ornithology Field Biology Camp  
At Travis Audubon's  
Chaetura Canyon Bird Sanctuary  
July 11, 2008  
10:00 am 'till 1:00 pm**

**TAS Hosts:**

Anne Donovan  
Georgan Kyle  
Paul Kyle

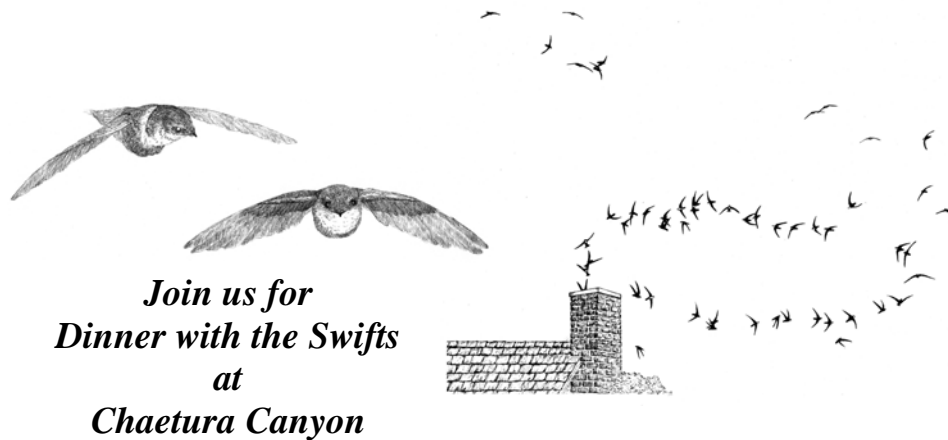
**ANSC Counselors:**

Colin Ross  
Maya Heiland

**Campers**

Berk Sutherland  
Elizabeth Conlon  
Justin Ayala  
Noah Stevens-Stein  
Carlianne Hagye  
Olivia Thtailkill  
Victor Gonzalez  
Ian Wagley-Cummings  
Ellie Audet  
Amethyst Alston  
Kalik Clark





*Join us for  
Dinner with the Swifts  
at  
Chaetura Canyon*

The Travis Audubon Chaetura Canyon Bird Sanctuary is unique. It is the only place in the world where Chimney Swifts are so carefully protected and so closely observed in such an intimate setting. As their numbers dwindle elsewhere, Chimney Swifts thrive at Chaetura Canyon due to innovative conservation practices resulting from over 20 years of observation and research by Georgean and Paul Kyle. To insure conservation for future generations of swifts and birders alike, Paul and Georgean donated their beautiful property and home to the Travis Audubon Society in 2006 to be protected in perpetuity. You can help maintain this wonderful new TAS resource by attending one of two unforgettable evenings this Fall:

**Dates: Friday, September 11th or Saturday September 12th**

**Time: 6:00 PM**

**Place: The Kyle's Residence at Chaetura Canyon**

Each evening will begin with an optional stroll that wanders past numerous Chimney Swift Towers, through a haven of native plants, carefully restored wildlife habitat including an amazing grove of sapling Spanish Oaks and several small ponds teeming with dragonflies, chorusing Leopard Frogs and other aquatic critters along the easily walkable upper trails.

Enjoy drinks on the covered deck, overlooking the canyon followed by a seated dinner hand-prepared by Georgean. At dusk, Chimney Swifts cavort and circle above the deck before going to roost. At the conclusion of the impressive aerial show the Kyles will host a brief video presentation showing rarely seen nesting activities from Chaetura Canyon.

Each exclusive event is limited to 10 participants per evening, so don't wait too long! To secure your reservations, please fill out the attached reservation form and return **ASAP** to:

**Georgean and Paul Kyle**

**1206 West 38th Street, Suite 1105 / Austin, Texas 78705**

*Questions? Call: (512) 266-3861 or email [dwa@austin.rr.com](mailto:dwa@austin.rr.com)*

*Admission is \$100 per person with all proceeds going into the TAS Chaetura Canyon fund. The fund is used for maintenance and ongoing conservation and education projects at Chaetura Canyon. Travis Audubon Society is a tax-exempt 501(c)3 organization*



## ***Appetizers***

*Artichoke and Parmesan Spread  
Cheese and Nut Plate with Fresh Strawberries*

## ***Beverages***

*Wine selection courtesy of Travis Audubon*

*Shiner Bock*

*Corona Extra*

*Chaetura Canyon Stout*

*(brewed on-site)*

*" Dark as a Chimney Swift - Smooth as a Cloud "*

## ***Soft Drinks***

*Complimentary copy of "Chimney Swifts"*

*courtesy of*

*Shannon Davies,*

*Texas A & M University Press*

## *Main Course*

*Parmesan Cheese and Herb Crepe Cakes*

*stuffed with*

*Ricotta, Gruyere and Spinach from the Canyon Garden*

*topped with*

*Sautéed Mushrooms, Garlic, Fresh Herbs and Cream Sauce*

*Sautéed Asparagus*

*with Oak-roasted Red Bell Peppers*

*Baby Greens with Fresh Fruit and Raspberry Vinaigrette*

*Fresh Baked Bread with Georgian's Herb Butter*

## *Dessert*

*Home-made French Cheesecake*

*with*

*Raspberry Sauce and Chocolate Chimney Swifts*

*accompanied by*

*Sonoma Raspberry Sparkler*

*Audubon Premium Shade-grown Coffee (hi and low octane)*

## Dinner with the Chimney Swifts at Chaetura Canyon 2009

### Donations

1. Ann and Bill Edwards	\$ 250.00
2. James Winn	\$ 100.00
3. C. Patrick Oles	\$ 200.00
4. Nancy and Tony Podio	\$ 200.00
5. Barbara Anderson	\$ 50.00

Total Donations \$ 800.00

### September 11, 2009

#### Friday

1. Valarie Bristol	VIP Guest
2. Craig Damuth	\$ 100.00
3. Barry Lyon	\$ 100.00
4. Jared Ravens	\$ 100.00
5. Heather Patterson	\$ 100.00
6. Carol Bennett	\$ 100.00
7. Jo Wilson	\$ 100.00
8. Pat Yingst	\$ 100.00
9. Nancy Webber	\$ 100.00
10. Jan Summer	\$ 100.00
11. Kay Little	\$ 100.00

Friday Reservations \$1000.00

### September 12, 2009

#### Saturday

1. Anne Donovan	\$ 100.00
2. John Donovan	\$ 100.00
3. Stephanie Barko	\$ 100.00
4. Jane Tillman	\$ 100.00
5. Mark Lyon	\$ 100.00
6. Ann Connell	\$ 100.00
7. Don Connell	\$ 100.00

Saturday Reservations \$ 700.00

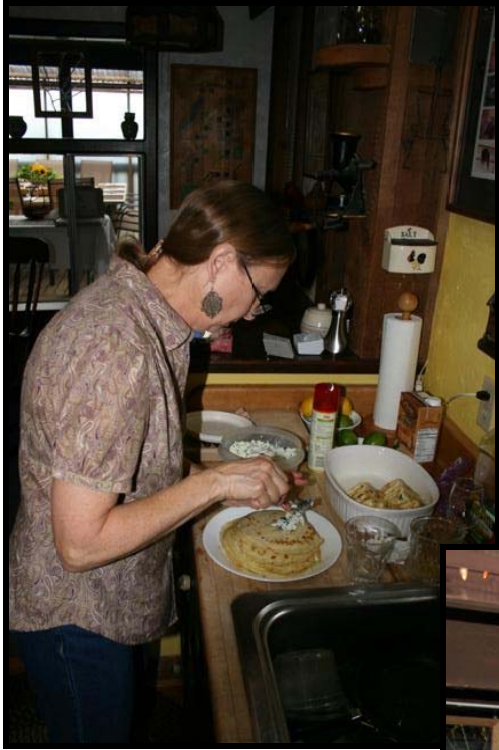
Total Funds Raised \$ 2500.00

In Kind Donation from Shannon Davies of Texas A&M University Press  
18 hard cover copies of "Chimney Swifts: \$ 612.00

Food and drink costs: \$ 419.12

Net: \$ 2080.88





**Chaetura Canyon Nest Box Workshop  
October 11, 2009  
Instructors: Paul and Georgean Kyle**

1. Pat Powers	TAS	Builder
2. Caroline Powers	TAS	Builder
3. Cathy Sosa	Non Member	Parent
4. Rubin Sosa	Non Member	Parent
5. Macey Sosa (daughter)	Non Member	Builder
6. Tori Sosa (daughter)	Non Member	Builder
7. Jocelyn Tajeron	TAS	Builder
8. Bruce Atwell	TAS	Parent
9. Erik Atwell (son)	TAS	Builder
10. Sarah Svec	TAS	Builder
11. Matt Hall	Non Member	Parent
12. Andrew Hall (son)	Non Member	Co-Builder
13. Sean Hall (son)	Non Member	Co-Builder
14. Pete Hendrick	?	Builder
15. Taylor Landin	?	Builder

Expenses

Instructors' fees waived by Paul and Georgean	\$ 0.00
Refreshments	\$ 22.03
Nest Box kits (10 @ \$15.00 discount from \$18.00)	\$150.00
Trail Guides	\$ 23.70
	-----
Total	\$195.73



## Miscellaneous Events

### February 22

The Stewards hosted a tour of the Sanctuary for Judy Kennedy and Robbie Preston of Ontario, Canada. Judy and Robbie have been actively involved with Chimney Swift conservation efforts in Canada. They have headed up the construction of several towers, and have plans to build many more. After a walk of the trails and inspection of the 16 towers, we viewed a video of Chimney Swift nesting activity. After lunch we headed out to Pedernales Falls State Park to show them the Kiosk Towers and demonstrated the necessary annual maintenance.

### May 8

President Valarie Bristol and Executive Director Nancy Manning invited several potential donors to a dinner hosted by the Stewards. The event was funded by Craig Damuth and TAS board member Bill Edwards.

After a meet and greet, everyone toured the upper trails of the Sanctuary. Following dinner, Valarie and Nancy gave a presentation about the progress and future plans of TAS conservation efforts. As the Chimney Swifts began to circle and go to roost in the South Tower on the residence, the guests moved to the deck to enjoy the spectacle. After all the swifts were roosting, Paul gave a presentation about the swifts. Dessert was served, and the evening came to an end.

The event resulted in donations of \$ 40,000 from the Malcolm Damuth Foundation for property acquisition at Chaetura Canyon and \$ 15,000 from the Shield - Ayers Foundation for infrastructure at the Blair Woods Sanctuary.

### October 9

Craig Damuth sponsored a dinner to acquaint two board members of the Hill Country Alliance with Chaetura Canyon. Christy Muse (HCA Executive Director) and David Baker (HCA Board Member and Wimberley Valley Watershed Association Executive Director) were accompanied by Marty Muse and Ellen Evans. CCMC member Ann Connell was also in attendance. Common concerns were discussed, and new friendships formed.

### October 30

President Valarie Bristol and Executive Director Nancy Manning met with the Stewards over dinner to discuss financial matters. Topics included upcoming efforts to raise matching funds for the Malcolm Damuth Foundation grant and bookkeeping methods for Chaetura Canyon funds.

## Climate Summary for 2009

### High and Low Temperature and Monthly Rainfall Totals for 2009

Month	Temperatures (F.)	High	Low	Rainfall (Inches)
January		83	30	.86
February	Record High	91	30	1.13
March		86	33	3.67
April		94	39	4.09
May	Record Low	96	52	1.19
June	Record High	106	67	2.45
July		106	73	.25
August		105	70	.00
September		101	58	8.67
October		92	51	7.08
November		79	40	3.33
December		74	31	5.60
				<hr/> 38.32

Drought conditions continued thru the first eight months of the year. Above normal temperatures were recorded for most days during the months of June and July. Beginning in mid-June and continuing until September 3, 68 days reached an afternoon high or 100 degrees or higher. Rainfall was scarce until the El Nino effect brought favorable conditions for weather systems beginning in September. By mid-October, the seep spring in the canyon was recharging, and the ephemeral creek was running.



**Chaetura Canyon Fund  
Financial Statement 01-09-2010**

Income 01-01-2009 – 12-31-2009

Town Austin	\$ 197.00
Chalupas and Chimney Swifts	\$ 890.00
Second Saturday Swift Watch	\$ 585.00
Dinner with the Swifts	\$ 2,400.00
Peterson Charitable Lead Trust	\$ 5,000.00
Other Donations	\$ 2,514.00
 Total	 \$ 11,586.00

Expenses (Budgeted 2008)

Estimated Taxes	(2,131.50)	\$ 2,162.50
POA Fees	( 615.00)	\$ 360.00
Water	( 360.00)	\$ 435.15
Maintenance - Property	(1,159.62)	\$ 1,219.37
Maintenance – Residence	(1,522.85)	\$ 1,376.94
Administration	( 250.00)	\$ 152.40
Fundraising	(1,000.00)	\$ 1,207.30
 Total	 (7,044.46)	 (\$ 6,913.66)

Income less Expenses as of 12/31/2009	\$ 4,672.34
Carried forward from 2008	\$ 6,246.66

Total funds available for Chaetura Canyon 12 /31/2010	\$10,919.00
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**Chaetura Canyon Income and Expense Offset  
01-01-2009 thru 12-31-2009**

In kind donations from Stewards \$ 3,090.31

Volunteer Hours	Hours	~Value per hour	
Stewards:	1238	\$ 18.00	\$22,284.00
CCMC Members:	80	“	\$ 1,440.00
Other Volunteers:	18	“	\$ 324.00
 Total hours:	 1,336	 “	 \$ 24,048.00

Residential Expenses paid by Stewards:

Utilities		
Phone:		\$ 649.16
Electrical:		\$ 1,037.39
Trash pickup:		\$ 201.16
Water (less reimbursement):		\$ 472.62
Insurance (liability and residential)		\$ 1,982.88
Total Residential Expenses paid by Stewards:		\$ 4,343.21

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Total Expense Offset not paid by TAS: \$ 31,481.52

Funds Generated: \$ 11,466.00

**Total Income and Expense Offset: \$ 42,947.52**



*Chimney Swifts over the Stewards residence at Chaetura Canyon Sanctuary*

**Georgan and Paul Kyle  
Sanctuary Stewards  
512.266.3861 / [dwa@austin.rr.com](mailto:dwa@austin.rr.com)**



**3710 Cedar Street, Box 5 / Austin, Texas 78705  
512.300.BIRD (2473) / [info@travisaudubon.org](mailto:info@travisaudubon.org)**