

*Chaetura Canyon  
Annual Report  
2008*



*Travis Audubon Society's  
Chaetura Canyon Management Committee*

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

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## **Chaetura Canyon Management Committee Annual Report – Calendar Year 2008**

**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 the Travis Audubon Society.

This committee consists of three (3) members appointed by the Kyles and two (2) members appointed by the TAS Board of Directors. Each committee members 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>, 2009.

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:** 2008 was the first 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 January thru September. These included workshops, classes, educational presentations, and two successful fundraisers. Visitors numbered more than 100 and ranged from young summer camp students to retired birding society members.

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.

**Chaetura Canyon Calendar of Events  
2008**

- January: Workshop and Stewardship Day with National Wildlife Habitat Stewards
- February: Stewardship Day with Capital Area Master Naturalists
- March: Chimney Swift Tower Workshop
- April: Start of Second "Saturday Swift Watch" -- running through September  
"Chalupas and Chimney Swifts" -- spring fundraiser
- May: CCMC Meeting  
"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: Wimberley Birding Society drinks and snacks on the deck  
"Second Saturday Swift Watch" -- also national "A Swift Night Out"  
"Dinner with the Swifts" -- fall fundraiser
- October: Nest Box Workshop cancelled due to lack of interest
- November: Brush Chipping with Ron Wood  
Sanctuary Closed
- December: Chaetura Canyon booth at TAS Holiday Gala  
Sanctuary Closed except for Christmas Bird Count

## Maintenance and Projects Completed

### Residence:

- Kitchen:** Wall sheetrock patched and repainted  
Ceiling sheetrock repaired / new wood installed  
Cabinets refinished, new drawers built and installed  
Note: all kitchen repairs performed and paid for by Stewards
- Bathroom:** Leaking 35 year-old toilet replaced with low-flow unit
- Foundation:** New concrete support beams poured to stabilize main wall under the Chimney Swift towers
- Deck:** Chimney Swift viewing riser installed  
Plastic sheeting on south gable wall replaced with cedar siding  
Air-vent / exhaust fan port installed  
New electrical outlets installed for lighting and events
- Walkway:** Stairs built from lower north walkway to ground using all recycled materials

### Trails and Grounds:

- Brush piles below garden and north of residence removed and chipped  
New "Fox Den" loop leveled using excavated material from "Kiva" area  
"Kiva" outdoor workshop and meeting area completed with 20 hand-poured botanical seating stones (created and paid for by Stewards)  
Self-guided tour book created for upper canyon trail system  
Chimney Swift viewing area created at Castle Tower  
Progress on stockade fences behind Field Towers and north of residence

### 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  
four dozen were planted at the Jackie Arnold Education Center at Baker

## Notes from Chaetura Canyon – January-February 2008

December 28 marked the first anniversary of Chaetura Canyon becoming a Travis Audubon Society Sanctuary. Our sincere thanks go to all of the workshop participants, guests, visitors, contributors, “Dinner with the Swifts” attendees, and especially our fellow Management Committee members (Ann Connell, Anne Donovan and John Kelly) who gave so generously of their time, energy and financial support during the inaugural year. You have helped set a high standard for the future of this unique Sanctuary. To everyone else -- please consider visiting the Canyon this year and discover which aspect of this site captures your imagination. Check the TAS calendar for future workshops, stewardship days, opportunities to add to your native plant collection or Second Saturday Swift Watches (starting in April) when we just sit on the deck in the evening and observe the Chimney Swifts and other local bird life.

Speaking of Chimney Swifts, (as we always do), we are often asked why we spend so much time striving to conserve such a “common species”. Our response, beginning in the 1980’s, centered on the fact that swifts are beneficial because they eat small flying insect pests including mosquitoes, gnats, flies, termites, etc. Our efforts were primarily a one-on-one educational effort until Breeding Bird Surveys began to indicate that Chimney Swift numbers had decreased by 48% since the 1960’s and the decline was continuing.

Over the past two years the Committee on the Status of Endangered Wildlife in Canada (COSEWIC) compiled a nation-wide report on the species for the Canadian Wildlife Service. Banding data compiled at Chaetura Canyon as well as recorded observations of the birds’ behavior and use of alternative nesting structures on the Sanctuary over the past 20 years played a major role in the substance and outcome of the report. Recommendations of the report include listing swifts as “threatened” in all provinces of Canada where these swifts breed. This summer Chimney Swifts were formally listed as an Endangered Species in Nova Scotia, Canada. So, now our response to the questions about the value of swift conservation includes the fact that they are no longer a “common species”.

The summer skies would be unnaturally quiet without the exuberant chipping of these aerial insectivores. With the future of Chimney Swifts now in serious doubt on the northern edge of their breeding range, one of our main goals at Chaetura Canyon will be to continue extensive conservation efforts on behalf of this remarkable species by introducing the Sanctuary visitors to their unique lifestyle and how each of us can participate in their conservation.

## Notes from Chaetura Canyon – March April 2008 edition

The Winter Wren that inhabited the vegetable garden and enhanced the species list for Chaetura Canyon's contribution to the West Cave Christmas Bird Count had moved on by the time 2008 rolled around. The Chipping Sparrows numbers began to rise, and it is such a delight to see them falling like feathered rain onto the millet-feeding platform just outside the kitchen window.

A little further down the trail, but still visible from the kitchen, the cedar log feeder stuffed with a mix of peanut butter, cornmeal, oatmeal and shortening continued to attract a pair of Golden-fronted Woodpeckers as well as a steady stream of Northern Cardinals, Western-Scrub Jays, Black-crested Titmice, Carolina Chickadees and an occasional Bewick's Wren. A lone Orange-crowned Warbler took exception with all visitors and attempted to hold the log against all comers.

Not all is peace and harmony during the winter at the Canyon. The visiting accipiters seem to enjoy bird watching in the same way we all enjoy perusing the menu at our favorite restaurant. The youngster featured in the accompanying photo periodically perched on the afore-mentioned millet-feeding platform – presenting an easy photo opportunity. Coyotes tend to be on the top of the mammalian food chain as they patrol the canyon rim at night just below the residence. They tend to be heard rather than seen on a regular basis.

People also migrated to the Canyon as we hosted a contingent of National Wildlife Federation Urban Habitat Stewards organized by Jane Tillman. After a two-hour walk of the trails enjoying and discussing the diversity of vegetation in it's dormant state and discussing what was to come, the hungry group enjoyed bowls of home-made soup on the deck on an atypically mild January afternoon. An unexpected finale to the workshop was a trio of Osprey cavorting above the Canyon and eventually flying off to the south following Lake Austin as it leaves Mansfield Dam.

And speaking of thing to come: the Chimney Swifts are on their way back! Brush Freeman normally reports the first of the season for Texas around March 10<sup>th</sup> while birding on the Gulf Coast. For the past few years TAS's own Jeff Mundy has seen the first Chimney Swifts in the Austin Area. Those of us who are enamored by these aerial acrobats normally hear them before we see them. Their distinctive "chipping" or "twinkling" call always heralds the arrival of Spring. You can join in the nation-wide monitoring effort by reporting your first Chimney Swift sighting at [www.chimneyswifts.org](http://www.chimneyswifts.org). The reports are compiled at and posted from Chaetura Canyon.

The next event at Chaetura Canyon will be the Education Committee's Chimney Swift Tower Workshop on March 9<sup>th</sup>. The resulting tower will eventually be erected in one of the area parks.

We invite you to celebrate the return of the Chimney Swifts to the Canyon by joining us for a new TAS Spring event: "Chalupas and Chimney Swifts" in April. This will be the kick off to our Second Saturday Swift Watch events that will occur monthly throughout the Chimney Swifts season. We hope to see you at one or more of these enjoyable events!

## Notes from Chaetura Canyon – May - June 2008 Edition

Six volunteers from the Capital Area Mater Naturalists converged on Chaetura Canyon at 9:00 AM on February 10. The day began with a brisk shuttle of branches from an old brush pile to the staging area for brush chipping along the roadway.... an up hill trek. After we all caught our breaths from that aerobic exercise, habitat restoration began. The compacted soil where the pile had been was broken up and “thunder dirt” (a marvelous organic soil amendment that benefits native plants produced by Geo Growers) was thoroughly incorporated into the soil. Grasses from a nearby trail were then transplanted. The area received a good drink of water and was mulched with the smaller detritus from the old brush pile. Two months later new growth has begun to fill in the previously barren area. Lunch on the deck overlooking the Canyon followed the hard work. Many thanks to all who attended!

First of season sightings of migratory birds in March began with 20 Cedar Waxwings (an uncommonly spare species this year) on the 2<sup>nd</sup>. A Rufous-sided Towhee called as it moved down the Canyon toward Lake Austin. On March 16<sup>th</sup> the first hummingbird of the season was seen feeding in the Coral Honeysuckle. Beginning at sunrise on the 17<sup>th</sup> a White-eyed Vireo greeted the sun and stayed around the residence for more than a week treating us to his improvisational song. Blue-gray Gnatcatchers were flitting about the tips of the hardwoods

On March 14<sup>th</sup> the temperature reached a 40-year high of 96 degrees. We were not the only ones who were hot. An adult male Cooper’s Hawk was seen cooling his talons by just standing in the waters of one of the wildlife pools just south of the residence. His presence probably explained the piles of White-wing Dove feathers we had been finding scattered over the Sanctuary.

A single Chimney Swift sneaked into one of the towers equipped with a surveillance camera on March 20<sup>th</sup> (we would have missed the arrival without the electronic assistance) and a vocal male Golden-cheeked Warbler revealed himself the following day on the 21st. The warbler began his morning sonata with three verses of the “B” song... uncharacteristic for his initial declaration. He then belted out the unmistakable “twee-twee-twee-tweezee!” -- a more characteristic song for this early in the season. As housing development continues to encroach on the Canyon, we are impressed and encouraged that the Golden-cheeks continue to return each year.

Canyon Wrens have taken advantage of the specially built wren shelves on the north side of the house, while Carolina Wrens are toting nesting material to who knows where. The Bewick’s Wrens are characteristically silent and clandestine. Northern Cardinals, House Finches and Lesser Gold Finches are pairing up while the American Goldfinches had moved out by mid March. Rufus-crowned Sparrows have begun inspecting the clumps of Lindheimers Muhly grass outside of the garden in search of a suitable nest site and sing sporadically. A pair of increasingly rare Mourning Doves creates a bright spot among the hoards of White Wings. Even a solitary Inca Dove made an appearance at one of the seed feeders. Our two species of nesting woodpeckers (Golden-fronted and Ladder-backed) continued to frequent the peanut butter logs feeders. Regular flyovers include the evening passage of Double-crested Cormorants and Great-tailed Grackles and an early morning Great Blue Heron with a carefully-chosen nesting twig in its bill.

The crowns of the Chipping Sparrows are turning redder every day, and these winter delights are beginning to sing – signaling their eminent departure.

A few good rain events in mid March helped break the dormancy of the Canyon flora as the Red Buckeyes, Texas Ash, Cedar Elm and Texas Oaks sprang to life. Blackfoot Daises, Rain Lilies, Blue-eyed Grass and a few Shooting Stars lent their color to the early spring pallet.

The Second Saturday Swift Watches begin on May 10<sup>th</sup>. Please see the accompanying article on how to join us for these enjoyable social events.

## Notes from Chaetura Canyon – July-August 2008 Edition

The incoming migrants flitted about the canopy with an uncommonly high number of Black-throated Green Warblers this Spring, and Nashville Warblers seemed to linger longer than usual. By the time the Yellow-billed Cuckoos and Summer Tanagers arrived, the understory was hopping with fledgling Carolina and Bewick's Wrens. By the end of May, these two species had fledged their second broods and the Canyon Wrens were escorting their youngsters through the canyon below the rim trail. Northern Mockingbird babies were foraging in the blackberry patch, and pale, young Northern Cardinals were visiting the feeders. A Painted Bunting was singing, Golden-fronted and Ladder-backed Woodpeckers were shuttling suet to their young and the first fledgling Western Scrub-Jays appeared at the peanut butter logs. House Finches and Lesser Goldfinches led their hungry families from feeder to feeder and out into the field to feast on the ripening seeds of *Zexmenia* and other forbs.

The April "Chalupas and Chimney Swifts" was a crowd-pleaser with two dozen TAS members and guests enjoying the humongous Mexican food spread of chips and dips, home-made tamales, empanadas, hand-made deserts and more. The swifts were in attendance as well and received a thorough counting as 110 individuals went to roost. Thanks to everyone for making this inaugural event a big success.

The "Second Saturday Swift Watch" on May 10 began as a typical sultry summer Central Texas evening. A flash of lightening and a resonating boom of thunder drew attention to the south. The local swifts uncharacteristically ignored the allure of a shower bath only 20 miles away. The two pair of swifts constructing nests in the towers attached to the house continued to shuttle nest sticks to their respective towers on a regular basis. Their activities were monitored by interior cameras and were easily viewed on the outside deck screen.

As the lowering sun transformed the pure white anvil of clouds migrating to the south to a brilliant crimson, an Osprey winged past.

Pairs, trios, and sextuplets of swifts began to circle. Two Carolina Wrens counter sung across the canyon as a clandestine Canyon Wren retrieved mealworms from the feeder dish under the deck roof. A single Common Nighthawk flew to the northwest, and then returned as the swifts began to drop into the North Tower. A Chuck-will's-widow began calling to the south and another responded from the northeast. By 8:43 the last of sixteen swifts entered the roost in the North Tower. Most of the roosting birds were able to avoid the ire of the nesting pair. Our dawn to dusk bird count for the day totaled 38 species.

There are three more "Second Saturdays" to come this year with the August and September dates corresponding with the continent-wide "Swift Night Out". See the accompanying announcements for more information. We hope to see you at the Canyon!

## **Notes from Chaetura Canyon – September / October Edition**

On July 11 at 10:30 AM, eleven Austin Nature and Science Center Summer Camp students and two counselors arrived for a field trip. The curriculum of the camp encompassed various aspects of field biology. The tour of Chaetura Canyon focused on avian species. Heat was already a factor by the time everyone assembled on the sun drenched deck. Although a few species were observed at the feeders before the hike began, most species were heard as we walked the trails. Paul gave a brief primer on birding by ear and soon the attentive group was tuning into various avian vocalizations. The imaginative teenagers began to assign their own human translations to those vocalizations.

While in the open field area of the Sanctuary, disparate flight techniques were observed. Turkey Vultures soared overhead with nary a flap; White-winged Doves rocketed by with strong downward wing strokes then glided as they folded their wings to their body and then extended upward for the next stroke. Chimney Swifts flickered by with their stiff winged power strokes on upward as well as downward flaps in obvious contrast to the Barn and Cliff Swallows that seemed to float by in comparison. Many of the flight maneuvers were reenacted by Paul for descriptive and amusing display.

In the lower canyon, several nests (no longer in use) were observed including those of Northern Cardinals and an abandoned (after successful nesting) Rufous-crowned Sparrow nest beneath a clump of Lindheimer Muhly just off of the trail. After the final climb up everyone gathered at the newly constructed outdoor classroom area dubbed "The Kiva" to update field journals and tally the 22 avian species identified during the hour long walking tour. Several gallons of cold water were downed along with lunch before the group congregated inside the residence to view a video of the clandestine nesting behavior of Chimney Swifts.

We extend special thanks to Anne Donovan and Ann Connell for their assistance in making this field trip possible.

## **Notes from Chaetura Canyon, November - December Edition**

The Second Saturday Swift Watch in August presented us with a new protocol. The Chimney Swifts had moved their roost from a wooden tower built onto the house to the "Castle" located on the south end of the Sanctuary. So, after monstrous munchies, drinks and a video presentation, the group of visitors took a slow interpretive walk down to a new viewing site constructed near the cinderblock tower.

With "clickers" and Chimney Swift fans in hand our 12 participants made a spectacularly consistent count as swifts flew within 3 to 4 feet of their faces. Most had never seen a Chimney Swift, so there were a lot of "OOOHs and AAAHs" and frantic clicking as the 170+ swifts went to roost.

A flashlight walk back to the residence was waylaid at the new workshop area (dubbed the "Kiva") while everyone admired the hand-cast botanical seating stones.

The September Second Saturday event was cancelled due to forecasts of heavy weather from hurricane Ike. In reality, we did not receive a drop of rain or gust of wind from the category-2 hurricane that ravaged the Gulf Coast.

Upon special request, an event was organized for members of the Wimberley Birding Society on September 6<sup>th</sup>. After a leisurely snack attack and wine sip on the deck overlooking the Canyon, the upper trails of the Sanctuary were opened for a guided tour. After we returned, participants watched a video of nesting and roosting activity inside the Observation Towers that provides a rare look at the secret home life of Chimney Swifts on the Sanctuary. A fine time was had by all, and additional funding was raised as well.

Our second annual "Dinner with the Swifts" fundraiser sold out even before it was announced in the September Signal Smoke. In fact, several would-be participants had to be turned away. We are delighted that the event has become so popular, but we regret that everyone who wanted to attend could not be accommodated. We have been asked to start an "early notification" list for next year, so let us know if you would like to be included.

This year we opened the gate at Chaetura Canyon to more than 100 visitors who came to learn about Chimney Swifts (and other wildlife), habitat restoration and to socialize with fellow conservation-minded Central Texans. Thanks so much to the many supporters of this tiny jewel of the Travis Audubon Sanctuary system.

Chaetura Canyon will be closed until 2009. However, look for our booth at this year's Holiday Gala. Happy Holidays, y'all!

**National Wildlife Federation Habitat Stewards  
Plant and Bird Workshop at  
Travis Audubon's Chaetura Canyon Bird Sanctuary  
January 13, 2008  
9:00 AM 'til 12:00 Noon**

- participants limited to 15
- fee of \$10.00 per person payable to the TAS Chaetura Canyon Fund
- two hours for a plant and bird walk (32 points of interest)
- one hour of trail maintenance and plant rescue
- participants are welcome to "adopt" selected rescued plants (primarily grasses) if they provide their own pots
- a light lunch will be served on the deck at noon

Participants:

Leslie Pool  
Will Grover  
Kristen Harris  
Mary Helen Quinn  
Sally Scott  
Cindy Patrizi  
Suzanne Napier  
Anita Knight  
Cheryl McGrath  
Mark Lyon  
Jane Tillman  
Connie Matthies  
Elayne Lansford

Funds Raised:

Tuition	\$ 150.00
Plant Sales	\$ 10.00
Merchandise Sales	<u>\$ 6.00</u>
Total Income	\$ 166.00

Expenses:

Trail Guides	(\$ 4.84)
Food	<u>(\$ 46.62)</u>
Total Expenses	(\$ 51.46)

Income Less Expenses	\$ 114.54
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Total Volunteer Hours	42
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***Chaetura Canyon***  
***Features, Plants and Points of Interest***  
***Urban Habitat Stewards January 13, 2008***

*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  
Foxtail Grass / Cedar Sage / Yaupon**
- 3. Bat House**
- 4. Juniper with Fox Squirrel nest / Elbow bush understory**
- 5. Bumelia understory – habitat for newly-fledged birds**
- 6. Native grasses / cedar management in stages**
- 7. Chimney Swift Towers / Agalinis with seed**
- 8. Northern Mockingbird nest / nest boxes in field and elsewhere**
- 9. Coral Honeysuckle**
- 10. Masonry Chimney Swift Towers / log pile**
- 11. Mountain Laurel / Texas Asters / Tropical Sage**
- 12. Wren habitat / solitary bee nest / Ligustrum**
- 13. Red Oak saplings / Juniper management / White-tailed Deer  
exclusion**
- 14. Juniper Management / Texas Persimmon / Pyracantha  
Flame-leaf Sumac / Zexmania**
- 15. Carolina Buckthorn and new plantings**
- 16. Natural cavities**
- 17. Imported Fire Ants**



***Chaetura Canyon***  
***Features, Plants and Points of Interest***  
***Urban Habitat Stewards January 13, 2008***  
*Georgan and Paul Kyle, Sanctuary Stewards*  
*512-266-3861 / [dwa@austin.rr.com](mailto:dwa@austin.rr.com) / [www.ChimneySwifts.org](http://www.ChimneySwifts.org)*

- 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. Brush pile / Lindheimer's Muhly / Rice Grass  
Juniper Management**
- 21. Cedar Elm snag with nest cavity / Rusty Blackhaw**
- 22. Red Buckeye / Twisted-leaf Yucca / small caves and burrows**

***PLEASE WATCH YOUR STEP!***

- 23. Northern Cardinal nest / Juniper and Green Briar**
- 24. Turkey Vulture Cave / Silk Tassel – male and female / Texas Ash**
- 25. Fractured limestone ledges**
- 26. Rufous-crowned Sparrow nest / Mustang Grape vine  
compacted brush pile**
- 27. Mature Juniper / Red Oak saplings / Juniper re-growth  
Wafer Ash / Golden-eye**
- 28. Non-native Honeysuckle Bush / Golden Groundsel**
- 29. Mature Juniper / Turk's Cap / Virginia Creeper / Pigeon Berry**
- 30. 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**
- 31. Small water features / drip / feeders (bird and butterfly)  
Carolina Buckthorn / Cardinal Berry**
- 32. Althea**

**Capital Area Master Naturalists  
Stewardship Day and Lunch  
February 10, 2008**

Six volunteers from the Capital Area Master Naturalists converged on Chaetura Canyon at 9:00 AM on February 10. The day began with a brisk shuttle of branches from an old brush pile to the staging area for brush chipping along the roadway.... an up hill trek. After we all caught our breaths from that aerobic exercise, habitat restoration began. The compacted soil where the pile had been was broken up and “thunder dirt” (a marvelous organic soil amendment that benefits native plants produced by Geo Growers) was thoroughly incorporated into the soil. Grasses from a nearby trail were then transplanted. The area received a good drink of water and was mulched with the smaller detritus from the old brush pile. Lunch on the deck overlooking the Canyon followed the hard work.





## CHALUPAS AND CHIMNEY SWIFTS at CHAETURA CANYON!

*Where? Travis Audubon's Chaetura Canyon Bird Sanctuary*

*When? April 12<sup>th</sup>, 6:00 PM 'til 10:00 PM (Rain Date: April 19<sup>th</sup>)*

- 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 Georgan 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 / MUCOBA 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**  
**April 12, 2008**  
**Guest List and Summary**

1. Nancy Manning	85.00
2. Sarah Manning	Nancy Manning's guest
3. Chris Masey	35.00
4. Amy Trost	35.00
4.5 Catie Masey	NC
5. Terri Siegenthaler	70.00
6. Kirsti Harms	Terri Siegenthaler's guest
7. John Donovan	35.00
8. Cathy Nordstrom*	35.00
9. Phil Nordstrom*	35.00
10. Nell Martin	35.00
11. Nancy Winfield*	35.00
12. Ed Sones	140.00
13. Betty Gross	Ed Sones' guest
14. Stephanie Leuenberger	"
15. David Wolfe	"
16. Joan Hendrix	35.00
17. Hammond Hendrix	35.00
18. Chris DuCharme	50.00
19. Caryl Dalton (did not attend)	40.00 (\$5.00 additional donation)
20. Jim Thatcher	35.00
21. Diane Seidel	35.00
22. Georgean Kyle	Host
23. Paul Kyle	Host
24. Ann Donovan	CCMC

Admissions	770.00
Plant Sales	<u>53.00</u>
Total Revenue	823.00

Expenses (264.85)

Net 558.15

In Kind Donations: Anne and John Donovan (wine and guacamole): ~ \$ 75.00

Total volunteer hours (Paul 28 / Georgean 46): 74

\* New TAS Members (1 individual, 1 family)

**Second Saturday Swift Watch  
At Chaetura Canyon  
June 14, 2008  
7:00 – 9:00 PM**

Hosts: Georgean and Paul Kyle

- |     |                  |   |
|-----|------------------|---|
| 1.  | Wynn Estes       | TAS, DWA, Tower Workshop, winter 2007               |
| 2.  | Alison Estes     | Guest of Wynn Estes                                 |
| 3.  | Jonathan Whitney | Guest of Wynn Estes                                 |
| 4.  | Marie Laing      | TAS, DWA, Great Hills Park Swift Tower Liaison      |
| 5.  | *Gloria Merlo    | guest of Marie Laing                                |
| 6.  | *Donna Keel      | Republican Candidate, State District 47             |
| 7.  | *Michael Keel    | Son of Donna Keel, age 11                           |
| 8.  | Nancy Manning    | TAS Executive Director                              |
| 9.  | Roger Beckman    | TAS Board Member                                    |
| 10. | Kim McKnight     | TAS, NWF Steward                                    |
| 11. | Loretta Stiles   | TAS, Turns 3 in August (daughter of Kim McKnight)   |
| 12. | Bonnie Stiles    | TAS, 2 ½ months old (daughter of Kim McKnight)      |
| 13. | *Pat Powers      | DWA, Austin Fire Department, Chimney Swift Advocate |
| 14. | *Caroline Powers | DWA, Chimney Swift Advocate                         |

Funds Raised

Cash Box Donations	\$ 71.95	
Sales	\$ 52.00	
Sales Tax Collected	\$ 4.29	
	<hr/>	
Gross:	\$ 128.24	
Food and drinks	(\$ 33.31)	
Lighting	(\$ 13.98)	
Sales Tax	(\$ 4.29)	To TAS General Fund
T Shirt Sales	(\$ 14.00)	To TAS General Fund
	<hr/>	
Chaetura Canyon Net:	\$ 62.66	TAS General Fund Net: \$ 18.29

TAS: Travis Audubon Society Member  
DWA: Driftwood Wildlife Association Member  
\* Expressed interest in joining TAS as new members!

**Second Saturday Swift Watch  
At Chaetura Canyon  
July 12, 2008  
7:00 – 9:00 PM**

Hosts: Georgean and Paul Kyle, Sanctuary Stewards

1. Anne Donovan	TAS, DWA, CCMC
2. John Donovan	TAS, DWA
3. Bill Edwards	TAS BOD, DWA
4. Ann Edwards	TAS, DWA
5. Jason Edwards	
6. Shelia Hargis	TAS BOD
7. Laurie Foss	TAS, Field Trip Committee Chair
8. Elaine Rushing	TAS, DWA
9. Barbara Anderson	TAS, DWA
10. Priscilla Murr	TAS, Hornsby Bend Committee Chair
11. Julia Heskitt	TAS
12. Robert Skiles	TAS, Chaetura Canyon Property Partner
13. Jeff Mundy	TAS BOD
14. Pat Powers	DWA
15. Caroline Powers	DWA

Funds Raised

Cash Box Donations                      212.00

Food and drinks                              30.65

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Chaetura Canyon Net:                      181.35

TAS: Travis Audubon Society Member

DWA: Driftwood Wildlife Association Member

**Second Saturday Swift Watch  
At Chaetura Canyon  
August 09 2008  
7:00 – 9:00 PM**

Hosts: Georgean and Paul Kyle (CCMC)

- |                        |                                    |
|------------------------|------------------------------------|
| 1. Ricki Ratliff       | TAS                                |
| 2. Larry Ratliff       | TAS                                |
| 3. Catherine Hulka     | TAS                                |
| 4. Verna Hazelwood     | Guest of Catherine Hulka           |
| 5. Mary Miller         | TAS                                |
| 6. Michael Hendrickson | TAS                                |
| 7. Paula Crawley       | TAS                                |
| 8. Richard Crawley     | TAS                                |
| 9. Deane Willis        | Guest of Paula and Richard Crawley |
| 10. Searcy Willis      | Guest of Paula and Richard Crawley |
| 11. Claude Morris      | BOD                                |

Funds Raised

Cash Box Donations	\$ 120.00	Account # 8013-01
Sales	\$ 14.00	Account # 8013-03
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	\$ 134.00	

\* TAS: Travis Audubon Society  
CCMC: Chaetura Canyon Management Committee  
BOD: Board of Directors

Drinks, snacks, fellowship and PowerPoint presentation were on the deck.

Swift Watch was at the “Castle” tower on the south end of the Sanctuary – this was a first.

**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:**

Amy Laughlin  
Sev Travis

**Students:**

Charles Bintliff  
Rebecca Boudreaux  
Elizabeth Conlon  
Venkatesh Dagupati  
Sheng-Ann Liu  
Ying Liu  
Nicole Meyer  
Samantha Miller  
Victoria Severance  
Noah Stevens-Stein  
Zoi Thompson



**Wimberley Birding Society  
Swift Watch at Chaetura Canyon  
Saturday, September 6, 2008**

Join Sanctuary Stewards Georgean and Paul Kyle for an evening of Chimney Swift watching and a native plant sale specially organized for members of the Wimberley Birding Society at Travis Audubon's Chaetura Canyon Bird Sanctuary from 6:30 until 8:30 p.m. (Bring your own food and drink.) After a leisurely snack attack – perhaps sandwiches or other such edibles -- the upper trails of the Sanctuary will be open for a guided tour. Expect mountain laurels, Texas persimmons, cedar elm, Texas oaks, plateau live oaks plus a variety of shrubs, native grasses, flowers and bird life. (150 bird species have been recorded; 36 nest on the grounds and there are frequent evening flyovers of double-crested cormorants, great-tailed grackles and often some surprises!) After the tour, we will gather on the outdoor deck and partake of our favorite adult beverages and/or soft drinks, as the swifts gather at dusk. Participants are able to watch a live video feed of nesting and roosting activity inside the Observation Towers that provides a rare look at the secret home life of Chimney Swifts on the Sanctuary. Donation of \$5 per person and proceeds from plant sales go to Travis Audubon to help with Sanctuary maintenance. This very special event is limited to 20 participants. Map and directions will be provided to participants.

Participants

Bill & Bobbie Wofford  
Sandy Wallace  
Barbara Dawkins  
Greg & Mary Pat Bolton  
Audie Loretta Hebert

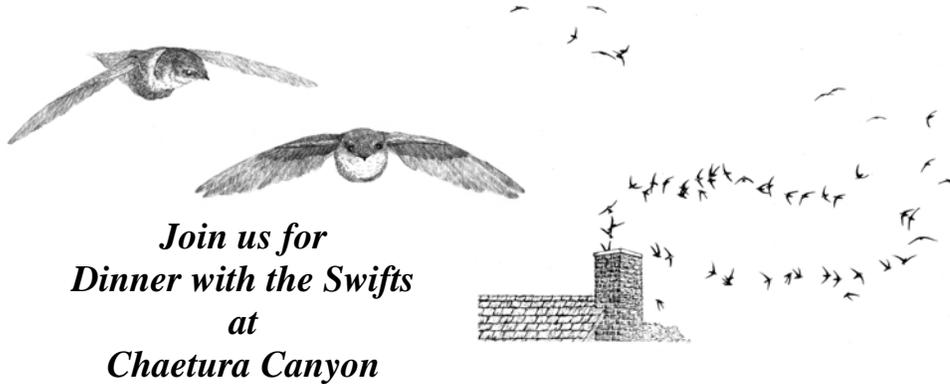
Jerry & Dotty Hall  
Judy McLarry  
Lynne Schaffer  
Linda Lang  
Al & Linda Green

David Glenn  
Sally England  
Don & Nan Perkins  
Dana Green

Donations (\$5.00 donation each)	\$ 90.00
Additional cash box donations	\$ 61.00

Total Donations	\$ 151.00	Account # 8013-01
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***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 19th or Saturday September 20th**

**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*



# *Dinner with the Chimney Swifts at Chaetura Canyon*

## *Appetizers*

*Marinated Antipasto*  
*Artichoke and Parmesan Spread*  
*Cream Cheese with Roasted Pineapple and Habanera Sauce*

## *Main Course*

*Savory Garden Torta*  
*accented with*  
*Asiago and Provolone Cheese*  
*and layered with*  
*Sautéed Mushrooms and Home-grown Zucchini*  
*Oak-roasted Red Bell Peppers and Sun-dried Tomatoes*  
*Home-grown Spinach and Herbs from*  
*Georgan's Organic Garden at Chaetura Canyon*

*Sautéed Asparagus*  
*with Oak-roasted Red Bell Peppers*

*Baby Greens with Fruit, Nuts and Raspberry Vinaigrette*  
*Fresh Baked Bread with Herb Butter*

## *Dessert*

*Tiramisu*  
*with*  
*Raspberry Sauce and Chocolate ChimneySwifts*

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

*Wine Selection*  
*Courtesy of*  
*Ann and Don Connell*

*Beer Selection*

*Shiner Bock*

*Dos Eques*

*Corona Extra*

*Chaetura Canyon Stout*

*(brewed on-site)*

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

## Dinner with the Chimney Swifts at Chaetura Canyon 2008

### Donations

1. J. David Bamberger	\$ 100.00
2. Caryl Dalton*	\$ 50.00
3. Ethyl Kutac*	\$ 50.00
4. Pat and Julie Oles	\$ 100.00
5. Barbara Anderson	\$ 25.00

Total Donations \$ 325.00

### September 19, 2008 Friday

1. Marsha May	VIP Guest
2. Ed Sones	\$ 100.00
3. Kay Sones	\$ 100.00
4. Annie Peterson	\$ 100.00
5. Brenda Everett	\$ 100.00
6. David Wolfe	\$ 100.00
7. Beth Gross	\$ 100.00
8. Jane Tillman	\$ 100.00
9. Mark Lyons	\$ 100.00
10. Ethyl Kutac	\$ 100.00

Friday Reservations \$ 900.00

### September 20, 2008 Saturday

1. Anne Donovan	\$ 100.00
2. John Donovan	\$ 100.00
3. Jenny Cloudman	\$ 100.00
4. Terry Cloudman	\$ 100.00
5. Chris DuCharme	\$ 100.00
6. Nancy Podio	\$ 100.00
7. Tony Podio	\$ 100.00
8. Jim Hargrove	\$ 100.00
9. Linda Hargrove	\$ 100.00
10. Caryl Dalton	\$ 100.00

Saturday Reservations \$1000.00

Total Funds Raised \$2225.00

\* Donations over and above the \$ 100 per plate reservation

**Dinner with the Swifts at Chaetura Canyon**  
**September 19 - 20, 2008**  
Expenses and In-kind Donations

Food and drink (reimbursement required)	\$ 417.31
Wine donated by Ann and Don Connell (~\$ 200.00)	No Charge
Time donated by Ann and Don Connell (18 hours @ \$18.00: \$324.00)	No Charge
Catering, event preparation and hospitality by Georgean and Paul Kyle (120 hours @ \$ 18.00: \$ 2160.00)	No Charge



**Travis Audubon Society  
Holiday Gala  
December 7, 2009**

For this event, there were three sources of merchandise. The Driftwood Wildlife Association and Rootin' Ridge Toymakers donated merchandise to stock the booth. Plants propagated at Chaetura Canyon were also available. The total proceeds of all items actually sold are hereby donated to Travis Audubon with the understanding that all of the proceeds will be used for maintenance of and programs at Chaetura Canyon. Merchandise that was not sold was returned to the donors.



<b>Donor</b>	<b>Amount</b>
Driftwood Wildlife Association	\$ 169.00
Note Cards	
Limited Edition Prints	
Books	
Nest Box Kits	
Feeder Logs	
Rootin' Ridge Toymakers	\$ 117.00
Kaleidoscopes	
Kaleidoscope Kits	
Flower Presses	
Bee Bungalows	
Chaetura Canyon	\$ 110.00
Native Plants	
Donation Box	\$ 42.00
Total Sales for Chaetura Canyon Account	\$ 438.00

**Chaetura Canyon Fund  
Financial Statement 01-09-2009**

Income 01-01-2008 – 12-31-2008

Urban Habitat Workshop	\$ 150.54
Chalupas and Chimney Swifts	\$ 770.00
Second Saturday Swift Watch	\$ 403.95
Wimberley Birding Society	\$ 151.00
Dinner with the Swifts	\$ 2,325.00
Holiday Gala Sales	\$ 438.00
Peterson Charitable Lead Trust	\$ 4,000.00
Other Donations	\$ 5,350.00
Sales	\$ 152.00

Total	\$ 13,740.49
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Expenses (Budgeted 2008)

Estimated Taxes	(3,183.40)	\$ 4,014.29*
POA Fees	( 335.00)	\$ 630.00**
Water	( 360.00)	\$ 247.02
Maintenance - Property	( 710.00)	\$ 678.35
Maintenance – Residence	( 510.00)	\$ 695.89***
Administration	( 250.00)	\$ 75.00
Fundraising	(1,000.00)	\$ 887.17

Total	(6,348.40)	(\$ 7,227.72)
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Income less Expenses as of 01/09/2009	\$ 6,412.77
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- \* Property value increased by 100% in 2008
- \*\* Apache Shores increased the special assessment above the 2007 level
- \*\*\* Unscheduled repairs to the foundation were started in 2008

**Chaetura Canyon Income and Expense Offset  
01-01-2008 thru 12-31-2008**

In kind donations from Stewards	\$ 631.24
Volunteer Hours	Hours ~Value per hour
Stewards:	941      \$ 18.00      \$16,938.00
CCMC Members:	44            “            \$ 792.00
Other Volunteers:	59            “            \$ 1,062.00
Total hours:	1,044        “            \$ 18,792.00
Residential Expenses paid by Stewards:	
Utilities	
Phone:	\$ 1,784.14
Electrical:	\$ 978.36
Trash pickup:	\$ 196.30
Water (less reimbursement):	\$ 557.57
Insurance (liability and residential)	\$ 1,982.88
Total Residential Expenses paid by Stewards:	\$ 5,499.25
<hr style="border: 0.5px solid black;"/>	
Total Expense Offset:	\$ 24,922.49
Funds Generated:	\$ 1,3640.49
<b>Total Income and Expense Offset:</b>	<b>\$ 3,8562.98</b>

