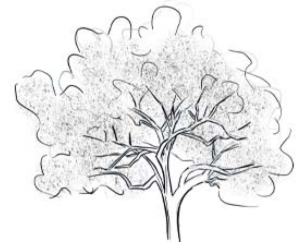




# Gardens of Oak Hollow

A SMALL COMMUNITY WITH A BIG HEART

## Neighborly News



Number 062

30 May 2023

### Neighborly Welcome



Do you remember when you first moved into our Community?

Do you remember how long it took for you to become familiar with how our Community works?

- the Block Captains?
- the Community socials (Spring Fling and Fall Fling)?
- the Covenants?
- the HOA Board?

### Newcomers

As our Community homes continues to experience turn-over, the HOA Board has taken on a project to create a Welcome letter for the newcomers.

### Your Input

What do you think should be included for the newcomers?

Drop an email to our Community Mailbox to share your ideas about what you think would be most useful for our soon-to-be new neighbors.

Let's make this a REAL community project.

Community Mailbox

[community@gardensofoakhollow.com](mailto:community@gardensofoakhollow.com)

### Memorial Day



Yesterday was Memorial Day and we proudly posted our Flag throughout our Community. As I reflect about the meaning of Memorial Day, I decided to share a few items from Barbara Maranzani's article (link below).

### Ancient Roots

The practice of honoring those who have fallen in battle dates back thousands of years. One of the first known public tributes to war dead was in 431 B.C., when the Athenian general and statesman Pericles

delivered a funeral oration praising the sacrifice and valor of those killed in the Peloponnesian War—a speech that some have compared in tone to Abraham Lincoln’s Gettysburg Address.

## Early Commemoration

On May 1 1865 in Charleston, South Carolina, three weeks after the Confederate surrender, more than 1,000 people recently freed from enslavement, accompanied by regiments of the U.S. Colored Troops (including the Massachusetts 54th Infantry) and a handful of white Charlestonians, gathered in the camp to consecrate a new, proper burial site for the Union dead. The group sang hymns, gave readings and distributed flowers around the cemetery, which they dedicated to the “Martyrs of the Race Course.”

## Decoration Day

In May 1868, General John A. Logan issued a decree that May 30 should become a nationwide *Decoration Day* to honor the more than 620,000 soldiers killed in the recently ended Civil War. Americans should lay flowers and decorate the graves of the war dead “whose bodies now lie in almost every city, village and hamlet churchyard in the land.” According to legend, Logan chose May 30 because it was a rare day that didn’t fall on the anniversary of a Civil War battle.

<https://www.history.com/news/8-things-you-may-not-know-about-memorial-day>



---

## Natural Bridge Caverns

---



## Explorers

Back in 1960, four college students from St. Mary's University were convinced that large underground passages must exist under the amazing 60-foot limestone bridge.

After they obtained permission to explore and on their fourth expedition, the students felt a cool draft from a rubble-filled crawlway that could indicate the presence of more rooms or passages.

The explorers made their way carefully climbing and crawling through two miles of vast cavern passage. The discoverers knew immediately what an astonishing find they had made. The first 1/2 mile is the most spectacular part of the caverns.

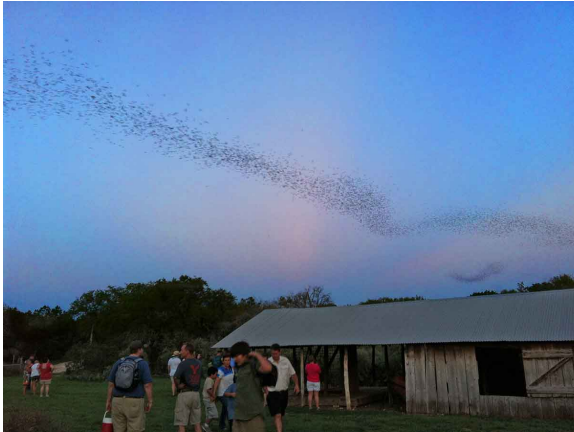
## Discovery Tour



Today you can visit the caverns the four students discovered. Natural Bridge Caverns has named this their **Discovery Tour**. - the most spectacular part of the

caverns, for the enjoyment of guests from around the world. Discovery Tour was developed with two main goals in mind: preservation of the caverns' environment and comfort of its guests.

## Bracken Bat Flight



Natural Bridge Caverns partners with Bat Conservation International offering limited **Bracken Bat Flight** public tours to the Bracken Cave during the summer. Bracken Cave is the summer home of more than 15 million Mexican free-tailed bats. Guinness Book of World Records acknowledges Bracken as the world's largest bat colony and one of the largest concentrations of mammals on earth.

Mexican free-tailed bats are an essential predator of corn earworm moths and other crop pests. The Bracken colony alone is estimated to consume over 100 tons of these moths every summer night.

The emergence of these millions of bats, as they spiral out of the cave at dusk for their nightly insect hunt, is an unforgettable sight. I agree!! The night I watched them they continued to swarm out in a spiral for hours on end. Mother Nature at her Finest !!

More About Bats

<https://www.batcon.org/about-bats/>



*Hey!  
Let'a hang  
our  
together !!*

Thanks to LaffGaff.com, here are some bat jokes to wrap up this newsletter.

What's the first thing bats learn at school?  
The alpha-bat.

What do you get if you cross a computer with a vampire bat?  
Love at first byte.

What do you call a bat in a belfry?  
A dingbat.

Why do vampire bats drink blood?  
Because coffee keeps them awake at night.

Why are vampire bats like false teeth?  
They both come out at night.

What's the best way to hold a bat?  
By the handle.

What do you get if you cross an ice cube with a vampire?  
Frost bite.

Why are softball games at night?  
Because bats sleep during the day.

What do you call a little bat?  
A battle.