

NEWSLETTER SEPTEMBER 2023

Birdsong Brackenridge



2023 is the Year of Birdsong Brackenridge



As we approach fall, let's take the time to see Birdsong Brackenridge birdhouses created by ten nationally recognized architects at the McNay Art Museum. Viewing is free and the exhibit can be found at the McNay's main entrance and in the Stieren Center for Exhibitions Sculpture Garden through the end of November. Enjoy the offerings of the McNay while you are there!

[Learn More](#)

George in the Park

BPC's George the G.O.A.T was spotted at the Koehler Pavilion, checking out the area for our upcoming Parktoberfest!

The Koehler Pavilion c. 1925 was improved by the Works Progress Administration in the 1930s and a patio facing the San Antonio River was added in more recent years. Koehler is a very popular venue for gatherings and where a cold beer can be enjoyed.



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Partnerships Make the Difference - BPC Friends Carol and Peter McGanity



We're grateful to Carol and Peter McGanity for their generous contribution to making a lasting difference for visitors. They have a multi-generational family history of spending time in the Park. Carol's mother swam at Lambert Beach in



her youth, Carol rode horses on the trails as a schoolgirl, and their daughters had birthday parties at the Joske Pavilion. Now, they walk all the trails with their dog, Bob Wills!

"After hosting a picnic dance in the almost 100-year-old Koehler Pavilion, we realized the Pavilion needed updating--new wiring, better lighting and much needed ceiling fans. We wanted to contribute towards its renovation and celebrate the German heritage of a riverside beer garden," said Carol. With our contribution, it will be ready for more family reunions, company gatherings, birthday parties and picnic dances for generations to come," she added. The Parks Department had plans for maintenance, so the McGanity's joined together, along with the Conservancy, to refurbish the Pavilion. It will be completed, just in time for Parktoberfest!

Special thanks also goes to local architect Jay Loudon, owner of Work5hop, for creating the plans.

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2023 Parktoberfest



Sunday, September 24, 2-5 p.m.

Brackenridge Park Koehler
and Gropius Pavilions



and Cypress Pavilions

3700 N. St. Mary's St.
(near the Zoo entrance)

BPC's 12th annual Parktoberfest, is just around the corner. We celebrate the land bequest of Emma Koehler made in memory of her husband Otto Koehler, San Antonio Brewing Association owner which produced Pearl beer.

We invite you to join us to enjoy German music by Beethoven Männerchor and jazz music from The Dirty River Jazz Band; artists of Hausmann Millworks - A Creative Community displaying their artwork; free craft beer samples from local breweries. Food and drinks will be available for purchase. The event will also feature Charlie Staats with his Pearl Brewing Company Memorabilia.

Admission is free, thanks to sponsors: City of San Antonio Parks & Recreation Department, Trinity University's KRTU Jazz 91.7 FM, 78209 Magazine and Schilo's!

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8th Annual Monarch Butterfly & Pollinator Festival

This year's FREE 8th Annual Monarch Butterfly & Pollinator Festival will be held on Saturday, October 7 from 9am-1pm at Brackenridge Park right next to the Zoo entrance!

Tag monarch butterflies and transform into a pollinator for the day as you immerse yourself in an educational playland to celebrate the monarch butterfly, pollinators, and the ecosystems that sustain both them and us. Over 30 educational partners will provide hands-on, nature-based experiences for children and adults.

This community endeavor supports the Mayor's Monarch Pledge and the city of San Antonio as a Monarch Champion City, and is presented in partnership with the Brackenridge Park Conservancy, Keynote Sponsor.

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**MONARCH
BUTTERFLY &
POLLINATOR
FESTIVAL
SATX**

Summer Intern

Nicolas Minutti



A special thanks to Nicolas Minutti who interned this summer. Nico is headed back to Tulane University this fall. He is an Alamo Heights HS graduate, fluent in German, Spanish and English and is pursuing his BS in Psychology and BA in German with an expected date of May 2026.

Thank you for being a part of the BPC team. Prost, Buena Suerte and Good Luck!

Share Your Walk

Lt. Col. Harold Reich

Thank you to Col. Harold Reich, who is now 102 years young, for sharing this historic photo of him as a young man, taking a backflip, at Lambert Bathing Beach about 1938.



In 1915, Parks Commission Ray Lambert was one of the earlier reformers to champion municipal playgrounds and recreational areas. He created Lambert Beach, at the bend in the San Antonio River by the vacant Water Works Pump House and the Eleanor Brackenridge Playground next to it. People swam in their "fine bathing suits," enjoyed summers with live concerts by the San Antonio Municipal Band and watched the latest movies, shown on a screen hung on the south wall of the pump house.

If you have a story to share, please send it to us at info@brackenridgepark.org.

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2023 BPC Events



- Big Give SA, **September 20-21**
- Solar Eclipse Watch on Alpine Drive, **October 14**
- Family Fishing Day, **October 28**

Learn More

Brackenridge Park Conservancy

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