

PARD'ner Award – Norma Herrera

In the spirit of celebrating partnerships, the PARD'ner Award acknowledges the work of individual(s) that benefits a current effort of the Parks and Recreation Department.

Our 2017 PARD'ner Award recipient is a well deserving friend of the Parks and Recreation Department. She is a Juvenile Case Manager for New Braunfels municipal court. Through her partnership with the department she has been responsible for the completion of many volunteer hours and projects with New Braunfels youth for the past few years. In the summer months, she can be seen working in Landa Park side by side with her kids. Her group is responsible for many mulching efforts and this year assisted with the landscaping project at the renovation of the Landa Park miniature golf course.

This year's PARD'ner Award goes to Norma Herrera. Norma, we appreciate all the work and time invested in the parks and look forward to continuing our partnership for years to come.

Solid As A Rock Award – John Davis

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

This year our Solid as Rock award recipient is an individual who can always be counted on, he devotes much of his time to beautifying our parks system. And when I say much of his time, this year he has logged over 420 volunteer hours working at the Dry Comal and Panther Canyon Nature Trails, Puppy Playland, Landa Park and Fischer Park. 420 hours and those are just the hours we know about!

Not only does he lend his time he also lends his photography talents, capturing pictures of our parks, plants and volunteer efforts. This year's Solid as a Rock award goes to John Davis. Thank you John for being our most dependable asset!

Golden Hammer Award – Skip Nolte

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

This year's Golden Hammer Award recipient is an individual who has demonstrated willingness and lots and lots and LOTS of their own time to a park project in New Braunfels. This year's winner put his whole heart and soul into Landa Park Miniature Golf. Hardworking is an understatement; he was thorough, attentive and tireless – with details and coordinating efforts. He was a faithful task manager, working closely with staff to ensure he could deliver the vision for the stunning cedar pergola entry way and various other cedar accents that truly make the putt-putt fit into Landa Park's signature park style.

He's a past president of the New Braunfels Evenings Lions Club. He's a former Boeing engineer, a native to New Braunfels and a devoted son always making time to visit with his mother at the Rio Terra. This year's Golden Hammer Award recipient is Edward "Skip" Nolte Jr.

Seele Education Award – Henry Hahn

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

This year's Seele Education Award goes to one of our local Lindhiemer Master Naturalists. This individual tests the water in the Fischer Park ponds monthly as a volunteer with the Texas Stream Team. In addition, he volunteers his time to assist with the numerous school field trips that visit the Fischer Park Nature Education Center. He takes his time explaining water sampling methods and information to each student. He also supplies the Nature Education Center with water conservation publications and educational tools to use in our various programs.

This year our Seele Education Award goes to Henry Hahn. Thank you Henry!

Bud Dallmann Award – Paige Bird

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

Our next honoree brings energy and passion for swimming to young people every single day and attitude that constantly pushes fellow coaches to try and match that dedication and passion. This coach knows every single team member and genuinely cares about helping each and every one of them improve to be the best athlete and person that they can be.

Through this coach's leadership, the program has grown to over 300 participants in the last two years with athletes setting local, state and national records in their events.

This coach was selected to carry on a legacy by the awards namesake, Coach Bud Dallmann, as he knew she would put the spirit, history and Can-Do attitude of the Landa Park Dolphins in her hands. She doesn't just give her time, she also gives her families time as you can find her young kiddos helping set up for practice and her husband got construction going on the team's new trailer at the Aquatic Complex. With overwhelming gratitude for continuing the vision and dedication of Coach Bud, Paige Bird is recognized for her efforts by being awarded the 2017 Bud Dallmann Award.

Roger Dolle Award – Eagle Scout Dylan Newman

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

This year's Roger Dolle Award goes to an Eagle Scout who built and installed four houses for solitary bees in different parts of the prairie restoration area at Fischer Park. Solitary bees are great pollinators that nest in holes drilled in wooden blocks. This individual organized family and friends to quickly complete his project and the bee houses were quickly utilized by the bees, showing the need for them. Since installation of the solitary bee houses, Fischer Park's prairie has been recognized as a pollinator habitat and we received a \$5,000 grant from the Bayer Feed a Bee Program.

The 2017 Roger Dolle Recipient is Dylan Newman, Congratulations Dylan.

Emmie Faust Award – Taco Palenque

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

Our next award recipient has been a great partner for our recreation programs as a sponsor of Fall Flicks at Fischer Park, the Daddy/Daughter Sweetheart Dance, Grand Re-Opening of the Landa Park Miniature Golf Course and more recently the Dos Rios River Cleanup. They have graciously donated their food and staff time to add to our guests' enjoyment at all of these events. They are incredibly generous, flexible and responsive to our requests to support parks and recreation programs.

Taco Palenque is committed to the New Braunfels community and we appreciate how eager they are to be a part of New Braunfels Parks and Recreation programs.

Congratulations Taco Palenque on being the 2017 Emmie Faust Award recipient.

Sweetheart Award – Mark Shellard

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

This year's sweetheart award recipient has been a priceless addition to many of our special events including the Landa Park Miniature Golf Grand Re-Opening, soul searching, Daddy Daughter Sweetheart dance and river operations. He has lent a hand at whatever help we might need and used his drone flying talents to capture aerial drone shots of many of our events. His smile is contagious and his energy is unstoppable.

This year our Sweetheart Award goes to Mark Shellard, fiancé of Robin Kunkel. We can't thank Mark enough for being a "good sport" and pitching in to contribute to the success of our special events.

Hall of Fame Award– Jeff Van Kleef

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

This year's Hall Of Fame Award winner served on the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board from 1985 – 2002. During these 17 years of service, he attended meetings, advocated, volunteered and served his community all to preserve and protect the parks system of New Braunfels.

He and his fellow Advisory Board members relentlessly advocated for funding to make much needed improvements and repairs to our parks. They certainly laid the ground work for the millions of dollars of improvements our parks system has seen over the last 15 years. We could not have gotten here without the vision laid by him and his colleagues.

For his uncommon generosity and commitment to the parks, Mr. Jeff Van Kleef is the recipient of the 2017 Hall of Fame Award.

Frank Chapa Golf Service Award – Gerry Layman

This award is named after Mr. Frank Chapa, who set the standard for exceptional customer service to the patrons of the Landa Park Golf Course. This award is presented to a volunteer for extraordinary dedication to the Landa Park Golf Course including outstanding customer service, attention to detail and exceptional quality.

This year's recipient has been a volunteer at Landa Park Golf Course since October 2014. Our staff feels he goes above and beyond the attributes for this award. In addition to his regular scheduled hours, he will often fill in for other volunteers when needed. He always has a smile and a great attitude that makes our day. When he is not volunteering his time he enjoys playing golf at Landa Park Golf Course with his friends.

Although our recipient has been out with illness since January, his attitude and strive to get better is inspiration to all of us. Recently he has been making his way back out on the golf course. His treatment is going well and is expecting to be back on our volunteer staff in the near future.

Our 2017 Frank Chapa Golf Service Award Winner is Mr. Gerry Layman. His time and dedication to doing his job shows his love for the game and the Landa Park Golf Course. Congratulations Gerry!

Jesse Garcia Youth Public Service Award – New Braunfels Christian Academy

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

This past year began a great partnership between this year's Jesse Garcia Youth Public Service Award recipients and the Parks and Recreation Department.

The groups service project brought 175 students, more than 30 teachers and parent volunteers out to plant, paint, pick up trash, spread mulch and remove brush from Panther Canyon, Landa Park, HEB soccer fields, Fischer Park and the Dry Comal Nature Trail. This group volunteered a combined total of more than 550 hours in the Parks.

For this large scale workday the New Braunfels Christian Academy is well deserving of the Jesse Garcia Youth Public Service Award for the 2017 year

E.P. "Pete" Nowotny Award for Civic Organization of the Year – NB Evening Lions Club

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

When we began master planning the miniature golf course we knew the walkway entry needed to be special. It needed to be welcoming to our patrons whether they were visiting for the first, second or third time. This club knew they wanted to be a part of the project and giving a financial donation was certainly one way to give, but it was not enough for this club. This club wanted to serve—to truly be a part of the project. We Serve! That's the motto for this group and it means a lot to us here at Parks & Rec, without it we would not have our pergola our welcome gateway to a great family pastime in the park.

These men and women (young and seasoned) made the time to build and install the Pergola at Landa Park Miniature Golf— and that's what makes it even more special. They didn't stop there the club members were also able to secure the sturdy and decorative sign posts that highlight our generous hole sponsors and let patrons write their scores, adding a design continuity throughout the putt-putt that really stands out. We are honored to be on their list of supported organizations. Thank you to the men and women of the New Braunfels Evening Lions Club our 2017 EP Nowotny Award for Civic Organization of the Year.

Teddy Roosevelt Conservation Award – Andre Gibson

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

This year's Teddy Roosevelt Conservation Award goes to an individual who previously worked at the Nature Education Center, and has since come back to assist us as a volunteer. This individual volunteers his time to maintain the butterfly garden, trim trees and clear huisache, as many of you volunteers know is a daunting task. This individual generously shares his knowledge of conservation topics with visiting school groups, scout troops and helps us provide services to school field trips.

Andre Gibson is our 2017 Teddy Roosevelt Conservation Award winner, Thank you Andre for lending a helping hand and helping us preserve the natural resources of Fischer Park and New Braunfels.

Skinner Legacy Award – David Hubbard and the New Braunfels Parks Foundation

This award is given to a group or individual who works toward the fulfillment of an identified need within the community. The award is named after the Skinner family, who worked for four years to construct the JAWS Skatepark. Their unending devotion to seeing the project to completion was truly remarkable. This family created a legacy that the youth of New Braunfels will enjoy for years to come.

This year's Skinner Legacy Award goes to a group who worked to finalize fundraising and renovations of the Landa Park Miniature Golf Course. This group chose the golf course as the target project for fundraising from the Landa Park 80th Anniversary Gala, raising just over \$70,000. Following the Gala, additional requests for funding went out and an additional \$80,000 in dollars and donated services was committed.

The renovated course opened in June of this year and has been a huge hit with our park guests. The extended hours that we are now able to offer due to the new lights, provide an option for family activity on weekend nights. This past year, the New Braunfels Parks Foundation, under the leadership of David Hubbard made this project a reality. A huge thank you to David and all of the Park Foundation members

City of a Prince Volunteer Service Award – Joyce Culbertson

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

We got to know this year's City of Prince recipient back in 2013 when she contacted our office requesting shade at the playground area in Landa Park. When we asked if she would be willing to help us fundraise for this effort, she did not hesitate to say YES! She went on to work with Moms of New Braunfels in raising money and selecting the most needed spot for shade.

She became a member of the Parks Foundation Board in 2014 and has served as the Treasurer and most recently the Vice President.

She has a tendency to jump right in when asked to serve. She has also been our liaison between Moms of NB, NB Public Library and the Parks and Recreation Department for the Little Free Library in Landa Park.

This past year, she served on the Landa Park Master Plan Steering Committee helping to develop a plan for the future of the park. This plan was recently adopted by the City Council.

Throughout all of this service, Joyce shows up with a smile on her face and a "let's get it done" attitude. We are indebted to her for all she has done.