

The Mission of Eagle's Wings Retreat Center is to serve Catholic and other Christian Youth

Eagle's Wings

And to provide a Christ centered retreat facility and environment.

Volume 3

Issue 1

www.eagleswingsretreatcenter.org

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From the Desk of Joe Noonan President



As I sit here writing this letter as the new president of the Eagle's Wings Board of Directors, all kinds of things come to mind. The very first thing I want to express is a heart-felt thanks to Katie Haffner who was President for the first 3 years of our existence. Katie did a great job leading us in our formative years and deserves much credit for the progress we have made to date and of course is due a well deserved break. Thank you Katie!!!!

As you will see in this issue of our newsletter there have been many wonderful things happening at Eagle's Wings. One of the most exciting is the start of construction on the Main Campus and another is the second land donation by the Haffner's to Eagle's Wings Retreat Center.

When we began Eagle's Wings 3 years ago one of my dreams was to provide a wonderful place for our youth to experience Christ and to grow in their spirituality and that EWRC would be built by the people of Central Texas through their contributions in time, talent and treasure. We have come a long way during our first 3 years with many people being involved and even with some participation from individuals outside of Texas. We have made great progress and have many accomplishments that reflect our efforts and God's blessings. My belief is that as a people of faith we can make this happen. With the start of the main campus and our Lenten season, I hope and pray that in the next 3 years we will have our main campus built. We need you to make this happen. **So join the team and help make it happen.**

Joe Noonan

In this issue

Additional Land Donation – Page 2

Godstock 2007 – Page 3

Spotlight on Don Logan – Page 3

Note from Don Comedy, Development Director – Pg. 3

Ground Breaking on Main Campus

A formal groundbreaking ceremony was held Saturday, February 17, 2007 at the Eagle's Wings Retreat Center to kickoff the main campus infrastructure construction.



For the ground breaking was from left: Bruce Matous, Matthew Matous, Mary Koederitz, Bill Koederitz, Gina Moore, Don Collier, Joe Noonan, Diego Avila, Joseph Pearson, Curt Haffner and Katie Haffner. Not pictured are Johnnie DeLeon and Stephanie Glorioso



Matous's team pouring floor of waste water treatment plant
Actual construction began in December 2006 when **Bruce Matous** Construction of Temple donated and built the new waste water treatment plant and started to rough in the roads.

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Road Building



Carmelo Macias' crew doing the road survey

Carmelo Macias of Macias & Associates of Austin donated his company's time to survey the road.



Bruce says, "If you get off the Cat, we can work on these roads."

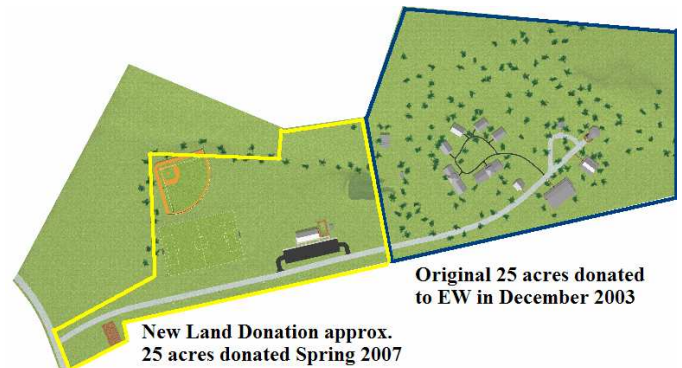
Since Matous Construction began, there have been several other contractors that have been in discussions with us regarding the possibility of donating their time and/or materials to help us with this phase of the project. This is truly a wonderful outpouring of generosity to help us with this special place for our youth.

If you are a contractor or know of someone that would love to help us continue to make progress on the infrastructure please contact Curt Haffner at 512-715-0017 or Curt@eagleswingsretreatcenter.org. This is like a subdivision development with many items still needed.

Land Donation

By Don Comedy

Curt & Katie Haffner are in the process of donating approximately 25 more acres to Eagle's Wings Retreat Center, Inc. This increases our total property to about 50 acres. It puts the entire main campus, sports fields, pavilion and the entire infrastructure on Eagle's Wings property. We continue to lease (for one dollar/year) another 86 acres to use for retreats, hiking, camping, etc. This second land donation by the Haffners continues their extraordinary contributions through land, money and their continuous full time volunteer effort in this endeavor.



This picture is a rough representation showing the new land donated to the left of the original 25 acres all the way to Hwy.

Frequently asked Questions

Why did EWRC build some buildings on leased property instead of the property owned by Eagle's Wings?

Short answer: We were trying to get something up quickly so we could start to use Eagle's Wings ASAP.

Long answer: When we first designed the Master Plan for our Main Campus we knew that it would be some time before we would have enough money to start building not only the buildings but also the supporting infrastructure. We didn't want to try building on the main campus without a clear strategic plan in place. We also knew that we needed to become operational by holding retreats and making this a working and viable retreat center. We decided to construct buildings using volunteers, where possible, in an area where we already had some infrastructure. This allowed us to start using this beautiful piece of property and serving the many church and school groups that were looking for a place to hold their retreats.

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Godstock is Coming



April 21-22, 2007 marks the return of what is becoming a wonderful tradition. Godstock 2007 is a celebration of faith intended for Catholic high school youth from around the Austin Diocese and will be held at Eagle's Wings. Activities will include bands, games, devotionals, speakers, Reconciliation and Mass with Bishop Aymond. Last year, 300 teens participated and we expect approximately 600 teens for this year's festival!



Spotlight on Don Logan

By Don Collier

One of the first steps taken in the early life of EWRC was to capture the vision for a youth retreat center into a viable master plan. To accomplish this God sent us a wonderful man named Don Logan who had excellent training and professional licenses in both architecture and engineering and reinforced with over 50 years of hands on construction design experience. Don came to EWRC with a generous willingness to donate his services to this wonderful project. He worked hard with Curt and Katie and created an excellent master plan which defines the nature, character and detail of what is to become a marvelous youth retreat center. Don has finished the EW building designs and in honor of all his work we are naming the road through the dormitory and lodge area '**Logan's Way**' saluting him for the positive 'way' in which he has served Christ and our youth. May Don's service be an inspiration to us all.

What Does It Cost?

By Don Comedy

Why don't we ask, *what is it worth?*

We all have some special wants in our personal lives. It might be something major like a new house or a new car or something like a new set of golf clubs or in my case right now, a new camera. Our interest might also be drawn to something more modest like a new pair of shoes, but almost without fail, we ask, what does it cost. As a friend of Eagle's Wings Retreat Center, I know that you are also interested in the growth of the center. As the newly named Development Director of EWRC, I'm charged with organizing the capital campaign to build the main campus. In the process of that project, I'm going to be asking a lot of you to change how you might be thinking. We know the price tag of the main campus construction, but we can't conceive what it will be worth. You see, bricks and mortar are finite things in which we can easily place a value, but what we may never know is how many lives will be changed because we chose to expend some effort. As we move forward with this endeavor let me encourage you to focus on what the project is worth and not what it cost.

The mission of the center is to assist youth in developing a closer relationship with God; promote Catholic & Christian values; provide opportunities for personal growth and insights; and to gain a greater appreciation for the environment.

Accomplishing that mission: **priceless.**



Students from St. Mary's Catholic School in Temple attend mass while on a retreat about Stewardship.

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Retreats/Events Schedule

Mar. 12-14 STM Teen Mission Trip
Mar. 17 Holy Family, Copperas Cove Adult Lent retreat
Mar. 24 OMOS, Burnet RCIA adult group
Mar. 24 STM Families in Faith Service Project
Mar. 30- Apr. 1 St. Ignatius, Austin Youth retreat
Apr. 14-15 Sacred Heart, Elgin Confirmation Retreat
Apr. 21-22 GODSTOCK
May 12 Holy Family, Copperas Cove Confirm. Retreat
May 18-20 Santa Barbara
May 20 Western Deanery ACTS Picnic

To hold your next retreat at Eagle's Wings, contact Curt or Katie Haffner. Phone: 512-715-0017 or email:

katie@eagleswingsretreatcenter.org.

Donations

Your donations are tax deductible to Eagle's Wings a 501(c)(3) tax exempt organization. Convenient ways for you to make donations are:

1. Checks sent to Eagle's Wings
2. Credit Card (contact us at 512-715-0017)
3. Pay Pal on the website
4. Automatic Payments from your account (we need to send you the forms)



Eagle's Wings Retreat Center
PO Box 248
Burnet, TX 78611

WISH LIST

Small Items

- Park Benches for the outdoor stations of the cross
- Tree Loppers, heavy wire cutters, pitchforks, wheelbarrows, hammers
- Large canopy tents (like a revival tent)
- Lumber to fix warped picnic tables
- Picnic Tables (plastic) available at Sam's
- Large 16 ft. wooden cross for top of Eagle Mountain
- Gutters for Eagle's Nest & Bunkhouse

Larger Items

- Hay Wagon
- Trailer for construction site
- We are looking for a parish or group that would like to build the deck for the seating area at the outdoor chapel. **(This is a neat parish project!)**

Newsletter Editors: Alison Koederitz & Joe Noonan
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