

# BALD CYPRESS

## THE NATURAL RESOURCE THAT BUILT KERRVILLE

### OVERVIEW

The Bald Cypress gives the Guadalupe River a distinctive and sometimes mysterious appearance. The tree is a conifer, but loses its needles in a gorgeous rusty-red display each autumn and is, in fact, bald during the winter. It is also the reason for Kerrville's establishment in 1846.

### DID YOU KNOW?

According to the Texas Forest Service's Big Tree Registry, the Champion Tree of Texas, which is the largest of all trees, grows in the Hill Country near Rio Frio. With a trunk circumference of 440 inches and a height of 94 feet, it is the largest known Bald Cypress in the state.

### THE GIANT CYPRESS

Joshua D. Brown is the first recorded settler of present day Kerr County. Originally from Kentucky, he learned to make shingles at Curry's Creek, a small settlement in present day Kendall County. Reports of giant trees upstream to the west enticed Brown to investigate. With a group of 10 men, he set up a shingle-making camp in what later became Kerrville.

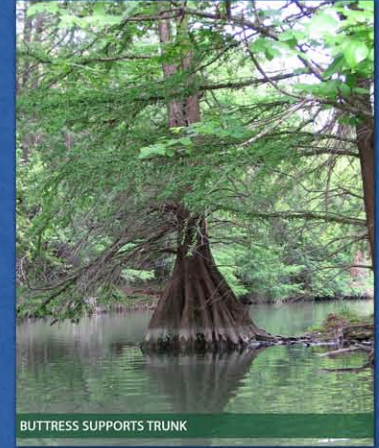
The giant tree down by Town Creek is a Bald Cypress – a true survivor. It has escaped numerous floods, logging, and even fire. It is over 300 inches in circumference.



LARGEST KNOWN BALD CYPRESS IN TEXAS



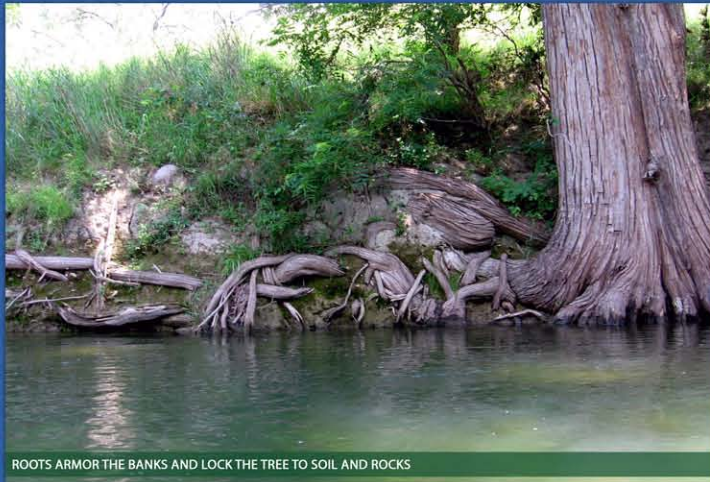
NEEDLES DROP IN THE AUTUMN



BUTTRESS SUPPORTS TRUNK

### NATURE'S PROTECTOR

Bald Cypress roots "knit" the banks of creeks and rivers. These intertwined tree roots stabilize the tree and the stream banks, reducing erosion.



ROOTS ARMOR THE BANKS AND LOCK THE TREE TO SOIL AND ROCKS



BALD CYPRESS HAVE STRONG BUTTRESSES TO SUPPORT THEM AGAINST STRONG FLOODS AND WINDS