

## *ESSENTIALS* **Hardin County**

Hardin County is 70 miles northeast of Houston. Unless noted, the area code is 409.

### **Kountze**

For general information, call the Kountze Chamber of Commerce, 246-3413 or 866-456-8689.

**Big Thicket Visitor Center**, 6102 FM 420 at US 69/287 some 7 mi. north of Kountze.

Hours: daily 9-5. Call 246-2337. For guided activities (2 weeks notice, min. 4 persons) and backcountry camping permits, call the **Big Thicket National Preserve** in Beaumont, 839-2689 ([www.nps.gov/bith](http://www.nps.gov/bith)).

**Kirby-Hill House Museum**, 210 W. Main, 246-8000 or 866/244-8442 ([www.kirby-hillhouse.org](http://www.kirby-hillhouse.org)). Hours: Tue-Sun 1-4. Admission: \$3 adult, \$2 senior, \$1 student. Full tour (40 min.) \$5 per person. The museum serves lunch every Fri. 11:30-1:30. Housed on site is the **Hardin County Tourist Bureau**, 246-8000

([www.indianspringscamp.net/HCTB](http://www.indianspringscamp.net/HCTB)). The Old Hardin Wildflower Assn. hosts the

**Wildflower Round-Up** Oct. 17-19 at the Super 8 Motel, 990 Pine St. (US 69).

### **Lumberton**

For general information, call the Lumberton Chamber of Commerce, 755-0554.

**Catfish Cabin**, 192 S. LHS Dr. (US 69), 755-6800 ([www.catfishcabin.com](http://www.catfishcabin.com)).

**Village Creek State Park** is off US 96 just north of the US 69/96 split. Follow the signs. Entrance and camping fees. The park offers interpretive programs or trail hikes every weekend year-round. For details, call 755-7322. For camping reservations, call 512/389-8900 ([www.tpwd.state.tx.us](http://www.tpwd.state.tx.us)).

## Saratoga

**Bragg Road** (Ghost Road) is an unmarked county road. From Saratoga, go north on FM 787 for 1.7 mi. and look for the arrow-straight road on the right.

## Silsbee

For general information, call the Silsbee Chamber of Commerce, 385-5562.

**Silsbee Ice House Museum**, 818 Ernest Ave., 385-2444. Hours: Mon-Fri 9-5.

Admission: donation.

**Pines Theater**, 340 N. 14th, 385-2241. Tickets: Mon-Thu \$1, Fri-Sun \$3 adults and \$1 children under 12, free under 3. Call for features and times.

**Roy E. Larsen Sandyland Sanctuary** has trailhead parking on TX 327 approximately 3 miles west of Silsbee. Open dawn to dusk. For guided hikes call 385-0445.

**West Texas Style Bar-B-Que**, 3078 US 96 N, 385-0957.

**Eastex Canoe Trails**, 1695 US 96 S (business), 385-4700 or 800/814-7390

([www.eastexcanoes.com](http://www.eastexcanoes.com)).

## Sour Lake

For general information, call the Sour Lake Chamber of Commerce, 287-3828.

**Bruno & George Wines**, 400 Messina Rd., 898-2829 or 963-8235

([www.brunoandgeorge.com](http://www.brunoandgeorge.com)). Call in advance for tour and wine tasting.

**Pelt Farm Bed & Breakfast**, 12487 Pelt Rd. (off FM 421 W), 287-3300

([www.peltfarm.com](http://www.peltfarm.com)).

## Big Thicket Resources

Read about Big Thicket heritage in books from the University of North Texas Press:

- Reflections on the Neches: A Naturalist's Odyssey along the Big Thicket's Snow River* by Geraldine Ellis Watson (2003)
- Tales from the Big Thicket*, edited by Francis E. Abernethy (republished 2002)
- Big Thicket Legacy*, compiled and edited by Campbell and Lynn Loughmiller (republished 2002)

Also try Howard Peacock's *Nature Lover's Guide to the Big Thicket* (Texas A&M Press, 1994).

All books are available at bookstores, via the publishers, and at the Big Thicket National Preserve Visitor Center (see above for location).

To learn about preservation, contact the Big Thicket Assn., Box 198, Saratoga 77585 ([www.btatx.org](http://www.btatx.org)).