

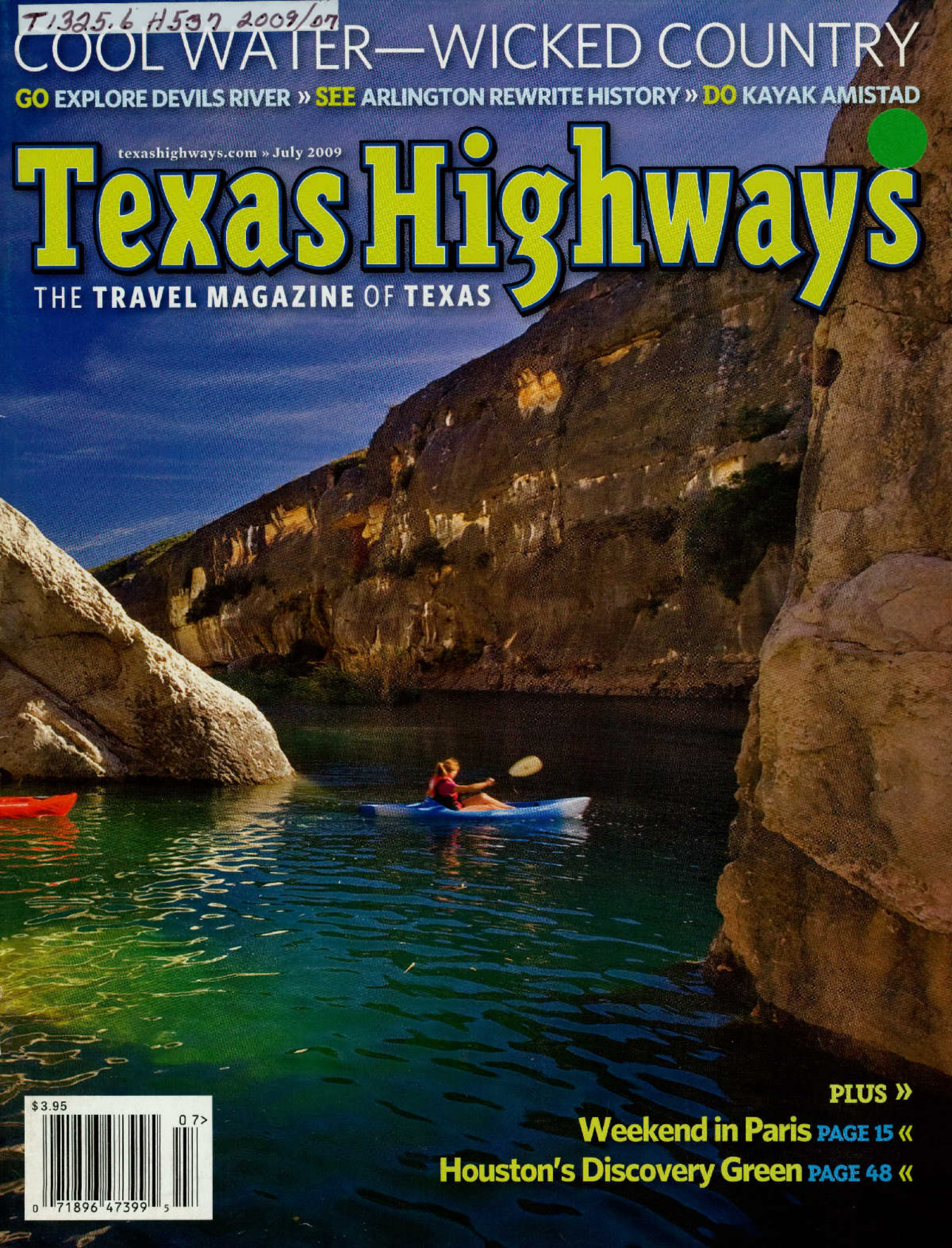
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# Texas Highways

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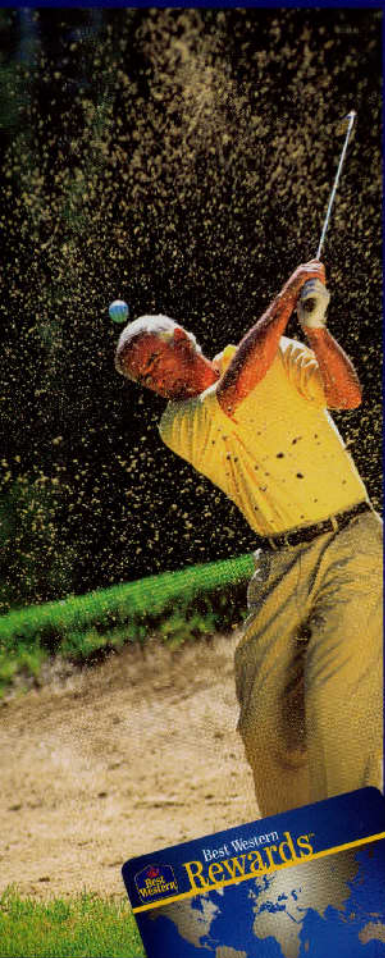


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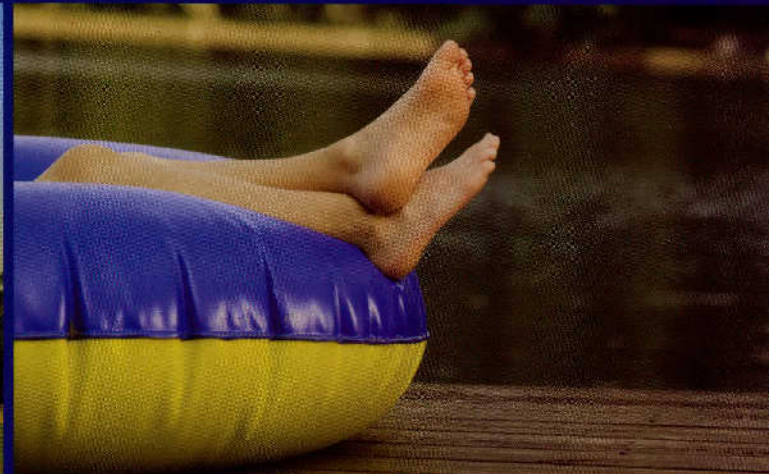
PLUS »

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Houston's Discovery Green PAGE 48 «



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COVER STORY

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## Borderland Amazing

With its current high water levels, Amistad National Recreation Area offers a wealth of outdoor adventures, including paddling to sites of Lower Pecos rock art.

Text by **NOLA McKEY**  
Photographs by  
**LAURENCE PARENT**



Check out [www.texashighways.com](http://www.texashighways.com) for more travel information

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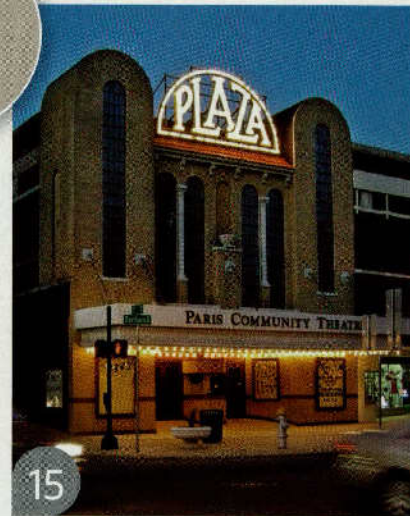
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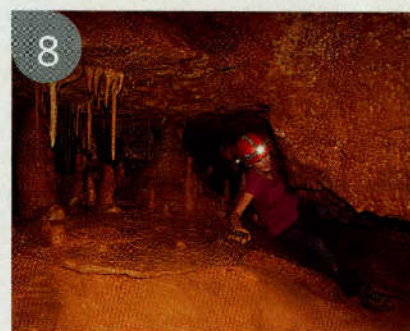
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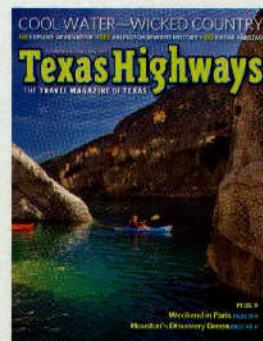
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Red-white-and-blue comes in all configurations



### About Our Cover

Kayakers Keri Thomas and Arnie Hufton paddle one of the dramatic canyons that mark the Pecos River arm of the International Amistad Reservoir. The 67,000-acre lake lies at the heart of the Amistad National Recreation Area in southwest Texas. Photo © Laurence Parent

### Photographic Prints Available



The cover and other images in this issue are available as prints in two distinctive formats. For more information, call toll-free 866/962-1191, or visit [www.texashighwaysprints.com](http://www.texashighwaysprints.com).

# A Bunch of Reasons to Visit Texas Wine Country



Looking for a new adventure? Or a getaway that isn't far away? Seeking your passport to the ultimate tastes of Texas? Whatever your reason, now is the perfect time to start discovering wineries across the Lone Star State. Pick up a free Texas Winery Passport at participating Texas wineries and start collecting your passport rewards. For more information and a list of wineries near you, visit us at [www.gotexanwine.org](http://www.gotexanwine.org)



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TEXAS DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE • COMMISSIONER TODD STAPLES



KEVIN STILLMAN

Monty Cook, left, and Adam Cain rely on Zebra Air when they fly Metroplex skies for News/Talk 820 WBAP. The pair took TH photographer Kevin Stillman up in the zebra to shoot Arlington's Cowboys Stadium (page 41).

## Texas From the Air

**M**ANY TIMES (IN FACT, ALL OF THE TIME) the photographers who work for *Texas Highways* go to great lengths—or great heights—to get the photographs that really make the difference. Even though we included just one small aerial view from staff photographer Kevin Stillman's images of Cowboys Stadium on page 41, we know that the only way you can appreciate the perspective on a huge monument is from the air. Look for more stadium aerials at [www.texashighways.com](http://www.texashighways.com).

And of course, this isn't the first time *TH* photographers have taken to the air. Previous Photography Editor Kevin Vandivier captured some amazing scenic landscapes of Palo Duro Canyon for last September's issue. After the photographs appeared in the magazine, *TH* friend Eric Miller chose one for an exterior wrap-around image to adorn Amarillo's Visitor Information Office on Buchanan Street downtown.

I spend a lot of time talking to fanatical photographers, but I'm still always surprised at the sometimes-crazy steps they take to capture a great image. They get cranes with cherry-picker baskets to hoist them out over lanes of zooming traffic to get realistic road shots. They work odd hours with strange equipment. One time, *Texas Parks & Wildlife* photographer Earl Nottingham and I staggered over a bizarre West Texas landscape as he light-painted hoodoos and photographed a local character holding scorpions that glowed in the dark. (A quick note: When someone asks you where you've been late at night, my suggestion is that you don't say you've been light-painting hoodoos.) Last year when I was riding a roller coaster, one photographer wanted to strap some sort of video camera to my head. But I have NOT yet climbed into a zebra-painted plane to fly over a football stadium. Maybe that's next on my bucket list.

Charles J. Lohrmann, Editor

P.S. What accomplishments should be on a true Texan's bucket list? Send suggestions by email to [letters05@texashighways.com](mailto:letters05@texashighways.com).

# Texas Highways

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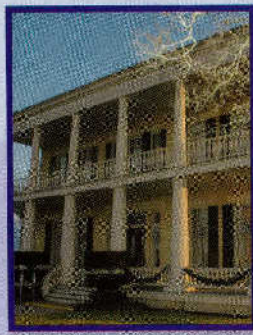


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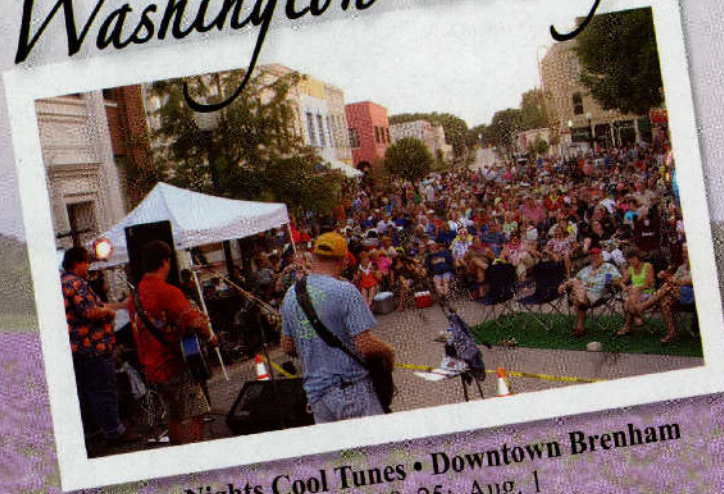


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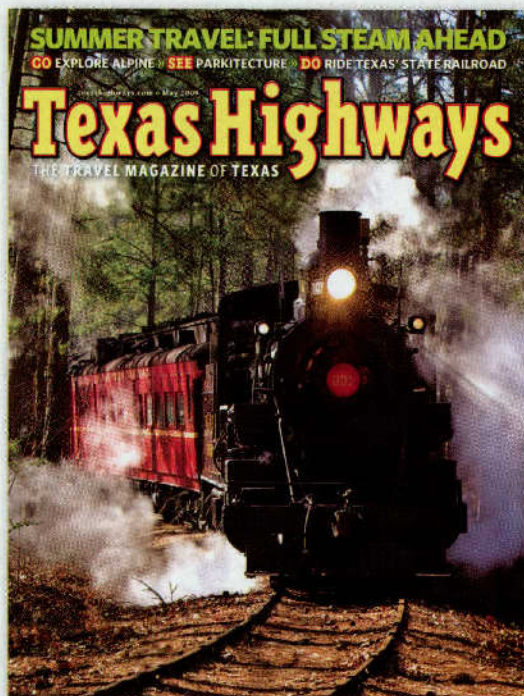
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Photo: Butch Ireland, B/C/S, Eagle

Photo: Murry Grigby

Keep up the good work on *TH*—I'm sure it encourages people to visit your lovely state.

—MARY MACKAY,  
Aberdeen, Scotland



## Workin' Toward the Railroad

Although our wedding anniversary was in April, we are stretching the celebration over the entire year. With the help of *TH*, we are taking a road trip each month as a mini celebration. All have been great experiences.

We look forward to other adventures in the remaining months of the year, with "Trails of Rails: Tracking History Along the Texas State Railroad" [May] looking like it will be a real winner. Many thanks for your great magazine.

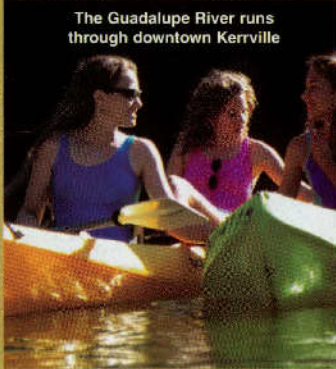
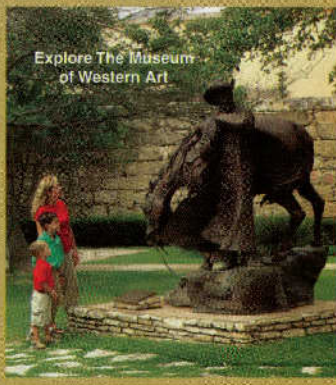
**MAJOR GENERAL AND  
MRS. FLOYD W. BAKER, M.D.**  
U.S. Army, Retired  
San Antonio

## Fountain of Memories

I enjoyed June Naylor's article on "Highland Park Pharmacy: The Scoop on a 1912 Soda Fountain" [April]. I grew up



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## TH READER RECOMMENDATIONS

### Seafood Surprise

**I THOUGHT** I knew all of the good South Texas seafood restaurants, but recently, I found **Beulah's in Port Aransas**. Everything was so good that I realized I had never had great seafood! For appetizers, I recommend the calamari and the portobello-mushroom fries. My sister and her husband had the pan-seared scallops, and my husband and I had the oven-roasted red snapper. We can't wait to return. The atmosphere is casual, yet elegant, for the beach-going population.

**JOYCE WEST**  
Woodsboro

*Beulah's (part of The Pelican Club) is at 914 Tarpon St.; 361/749-4888; www.thepelicanclubisbeulahs.com.*



within a few blocks of Knox Street, and I also well remember the Knox Street Theater, where many a Saturday afternoon my brother, sister, and I enjoyed a serial, a feature, a comedy, and a newsreel—all for 10 cents! And a bag of popcorn or an ice cream cone at Ashburn's for a nickel.

**MARGARET PORTER**  
Nashville, Tennessee

## Our Big Bend Backyard

The Big Bend issue [February] provided a great overview of this special part of the state. While your readers are planning their summer vacations, I want them to know they don't have to jump on a plane to get to paradise. There are many "hidden" getaways near Fort Davis. Be sure to check out Hope's Ranch Guest House and Old Schoolhouse Bed & Breakfast [432/426-2050; [www.schoolhousebnb.com](http://www.schoolhousebnb.com)], Double M Guest Ranch [432/426-2473; [www.mm.guestranch.com](http://www.mm.guestranch.com)], and La Cabaña Escon-



## Not Fade Away

**MY FAMILY** and I were in **Austin** and ate at **Hut's Hamburgers**. We enjoyed the All-American Buddy Holly Burger. Other dishes are also named for famous people. The furnishings and memorabilia on the walls made us feel like we were back in the '50s again.

**VICKY PICKERING**  
Houston

Hut's Hamburgers is at 807 W. 6th St.; 512/472-0693; [www.hutsfrankandangies.com](http://www.hutsfrankandangies.com).

dida [at The Sproul Ranch; 432/426-3097; [www.rmsproulranch.com](http://www.rmsproulranch.com)]. Another best-kept secret? The high altitude and low humidity of Fort Davis makes it a wonderfully cool place to visit in August! Keep up the good work.

**CARLA KENNEDY**  
Fort Davis

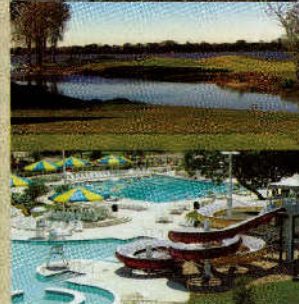
## CONTACT TH

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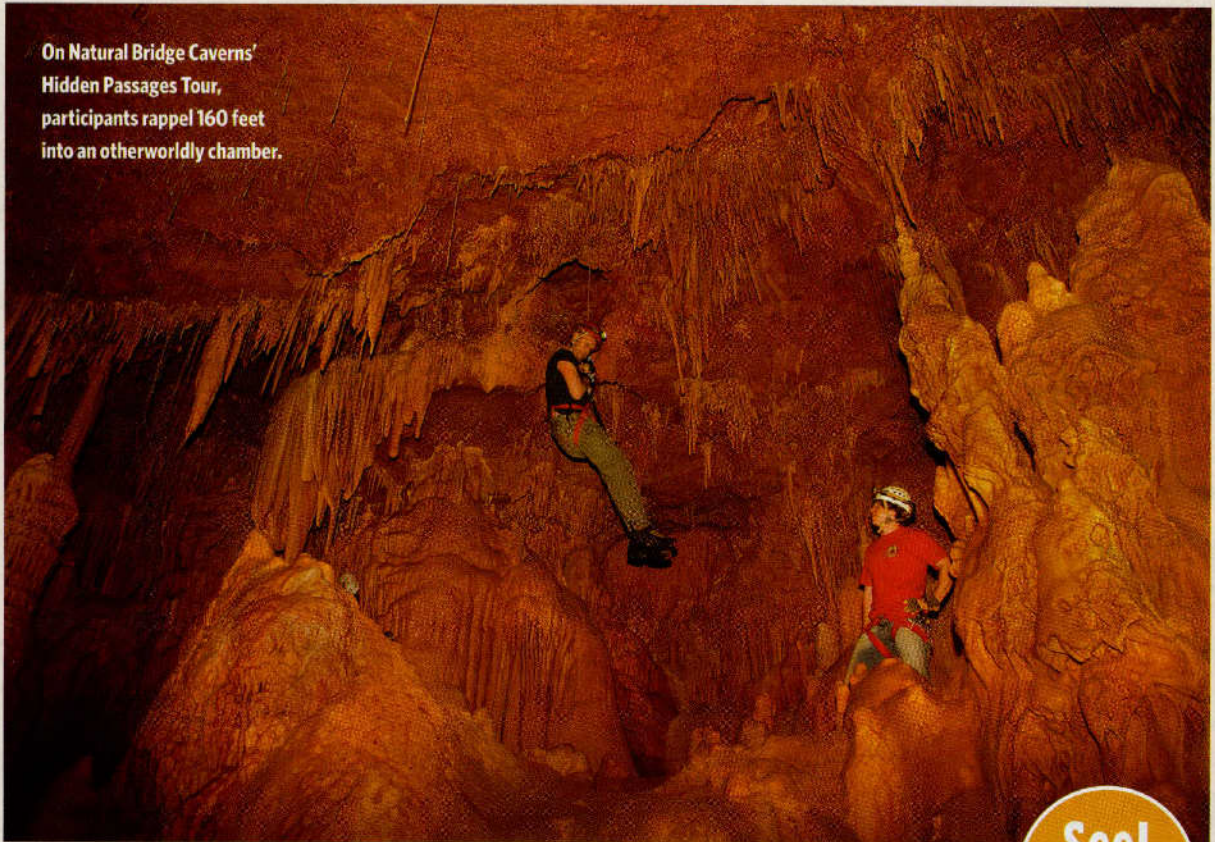


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# Postcards

INSIDE: CALVERT'S SWEET ON CHOCOLATE...12 PARIS, TEXAS—OUR VERY OWN EIFFEL TOWER ...15

On Natural Bridge Caverns' Hidden Passages Tour, participants rappel 160 feet into an otherworldly chamber.



See!

Wild animals next door at Natural Bridge Wildlife Ranch

## What Lies Beneath

A tour of *Natural Bridge Caverns* reveals secrets of the ages Text by **ANTHONY HEAD**

**P**ERHAPS THE MOST STRIKING scenery between San Antonio and Canyon Lake lies underground. The extensive cave system known as Natural Bridge Caverns is registered as a National Natural Landmark and a State Historic Site, and its otherworldly, subterranean formations date back 40 million years.

Each year, thousands of people come to take a tour; most visitors embark on a 75-minute guided excursion through what are known as the Discovery Passages—a magnificent string of underground rooms discovered in 1960 by a group of adventuresome college students.

But my buddy Kirk Weddle, a photographer, wanted to experience parts of the

caverns that most people don't see. He cajoled me to join him on a Hidden Passages Adventure Tour of a wing of the cave that hasn't been equipped with handrails, pathways, or other concessions to visitors.

Travis Wuest, Vice President of Natural Bridge Caverns, prepares us for the initial descent through a dark, 160-foot-long shaft, a mere 22 inches wide. As

Wuest clips a rope to the harness around my waist, Kirk and I glance at Kirk's wife, Tracy, who looks nervous. She decides to take the alternate entrance, which allows cavers to skip the tube.

"It wouldn't be high adventure if someone didn't chicken out," Wuest says. He admits that the beginning of this enhanced excursion is what some guests find the most difficult. Then he cranks the winch, and down I go.

The cavers who discovered this section of the caverns in 1968 first used this shaft. It's a tight squeeze, to say the least. And it gets dark pretty quickly. As I descend

This huge cave would have made a perfect cowboy hideout.

further, the light from above shrinks until it's just a pinprick. I switch on my headlamp and imagine what it must have felt like for those original explorers.

After a few minutes, a light appears below and the rich aroma of deep earth intensifies. I touch down inside a humid, well-lit cavern called the Cathedral Room. Natural rock formations shaped like copper-colored scoops of ice cream fill this subterranean space, providing the illusion of melting walls. Translucent minerals catch the light and gleam like diamonds. Water drips from above to form puddles of pure, naturally filtered rainwater.

When our party assembles, it also includes Brian Vauter (the cavern geologist) and Brett Kelley (our guide). With the light from our helmets to guide us, we trudge deeper into the cavern while Kelley points out stunning dripstone formations. Stalactites hang like giant icicles from the cavern ceiling; thick, conical stalagmites rear up from the limestone floor into rounded tips. Mineral deposits, [continued on page 10] ©

# Great Gault!

Archeologists dig for clues near Belton

## TEXAS ARCHEOLOGIST CLARK WERNECKE

helped excavate sites in Belize, Guatemala, and the Middle East before discovering that some of the world's best-kept secrets are right here in Texas. Bell County's Gault Site, first discovered in 1929 by University of Texas anthropologist J.E. Pearce, has since revealed more than 1.9 million artifacts dating back 13,000 years, including projectile points and other tools used by the

earliest peoples in the Americas. "Working on a Paleo-Indian site is very different than excavating, say, a Mayan city in Belize. There is no architecture. The sheer number of artifacts is overwhelming. You cannot afford to miss a single clue," says Wernecke.

On May 2, the Bell County Museum in Belton debuted a new permanent exhibit called *The Gault Site: A Wealth of New Archeological Information*, which will include murals, displays of significant discoveries, and a film about the site produced by the Texas Historical Association.

Wernecke explains why the Gault site has proven so rich in artifacts. "The Edwards Plateau has one of the world's largest supplies of chert—one of the best materials for making tools," he says. "And the geographic diversity surrounding the plateau meant that there was always a steady food supply, as well as the water and shelter the tribes needed to survive."

To help out with ongoing excavations, see [www.gaultschool.org](http://www.gaultschool.org). For details about the exhibit in Belton, call 254/933-5243; [www.bellcountytexas.com/museum](http://www.bellcountytexas.com/museum).

—Lori Moffatt

Students and staff at the Gault Site near Belton meticulously document every artifact excavated. Some items date back 13,000 years.



Archeologist Danni Davies studies projectile points and other Paleo-Indian tools found at Texas' Gault Site.



Students and staff at the Gault Site near Belton meticulously document every artifact excavated. Some items date back 13,000 years.

Go!

Tales from the dig at [texashighways.com/postcards](http://texashighways.com/postcards)



## City of Cowboys and Culture

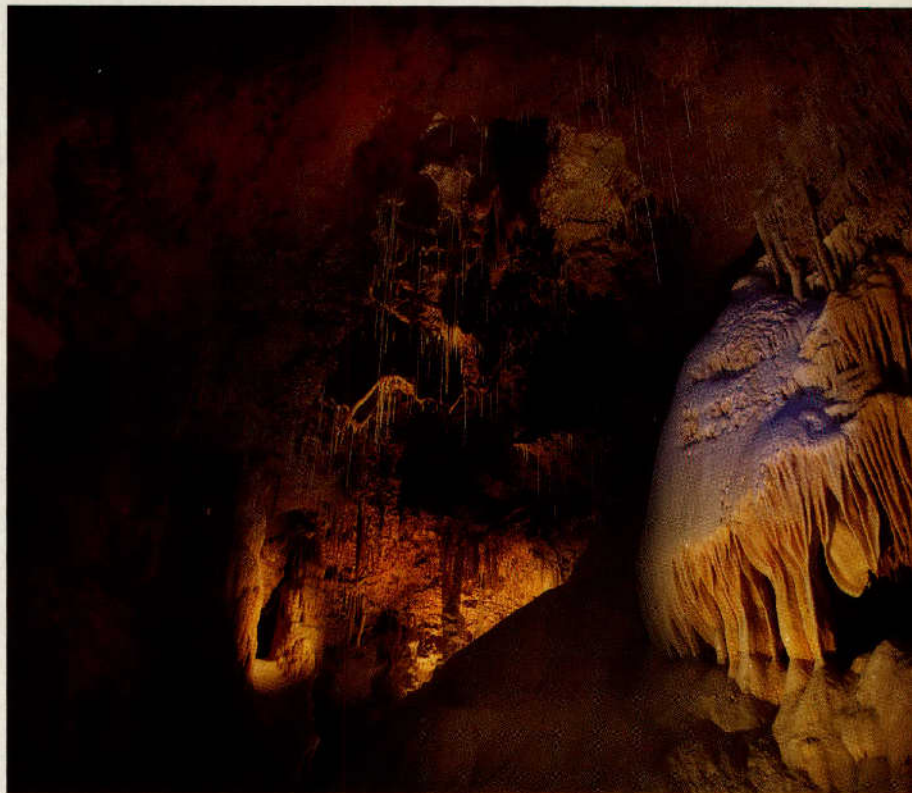
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# FORT WORTH

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The phantasmagorical walls of the Cathedral Room appear to melt.

continued from page 91  
fissures, and watermarks from the distant past stripe the cave walls.

We follow a mud-slick path into a deep pocket of darkness called the Ball Room. Slender, hollow formations called soda straws grow from the ceiling. Limestone outcroppings perch from the walls like gargoyles. When we arrive at a sharp drop-off, we must rappel down similarly rocky walls into Box Canyon. While carefully picking my way down, I comment that this huge cave would have made a perfect cowboy hideout. But Wuest says they've found no evidence that people or other mammals have ever lived here. Even insects appear to be scarce.

When the group stops for a water break, Vauter provides a quick geology lesson, estimating that the limestone that surrounds us originally formed about 140

Natural rock formations shaped like copper-colored scoops of ice cream fill this subterranean space.

million years ago. Groundwater passed through the soil and slowly—ever so slowly—ate through the limestone to carve the cavern. “The cave we’re standing in is roughly 12 million years old,” he says.

Time feels like it’s standing still here, but that’s not quite accurate. Things happen slowly underground. Formations in this “living cave” grow about a cubic inch every century from the dripping water and calcite, a pace to make glaciers seem speedy.



We crawl like contortionists through a narrow pass and into the Fault Room, so named because an earthquake faultline allowed water to form this enormous cavern with vaulted ceilings. We stand 230 feet below the earth's surface; amazingly, the temperature remains a constant 70 degrees here. Kelley points up to a 14-foot soda straw, the third-longest in North America. I also learn the caverns offer more than spectacular visual attractions.

"You're sitting on a potentially significant climactic library for this part of Texas," says Vauter. "By taking samples of the flowstone, we can examine

the climate from tens of thousands—even hundreds of thousands—of years ago. Caves like this are a wealth of information."

On cue, we shut off our headlamps. This complete absence of light, while calm and soothing at first, begins to feel thick, heavy, isolating. And it feels like it could last forever. After lighting back up, I ask Vauter if caves are a resource for our future. He tells me that pharmaceutical companies suspect cave-dwelling

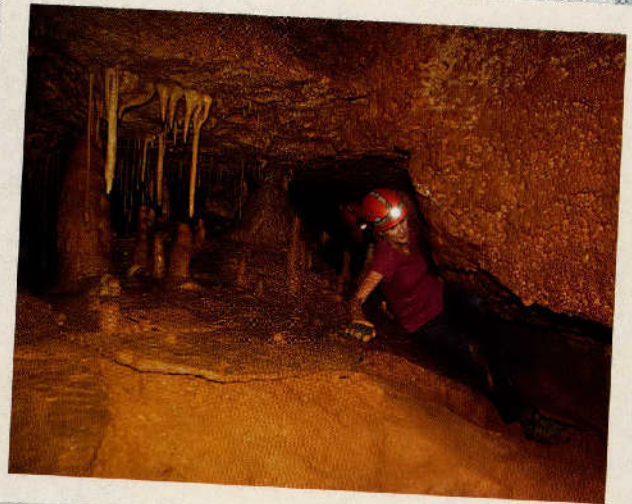
organisms might be the key to medical advances, and then he reveals that robotic probes for space travel are first tested inside caves. If they can successfully navigate and explore Earth's more challenging terrain, he says, they should be able to do the same someday on a distant planet.

As for today, it's time to crawl, climb, and hike the 1.25 miles back to the surface. The round-trip excursion lasts about three hours, and it leaves my clothes dirty and my muscles

**A tight squeeze. Tracy McGoldrick explores some of Natural Bridge Caverns' most challenging passages.**

taxed. Back in the Texas sunlight, we wash million-year-old mud from our boots. The water carries it away into the topsoil, and I wonder how long it will take before it makes its way back into the caverns. **TH**

[More Postcards on page 56]



## Natural Bridge Caverns

is on FM 3009, 30 minutes north of downtown San Antonio. From San Antonio, follow Interstate 35 to Exit 175, and go west on FM 3009/ Natural Bridge Caverns Rd. Drive 8 miles to the entrance. **Call 210/651-6101; [www.naturalbridgecaverns.com](http://www.naturalbridgecaverns.com).**



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## Cocoa Moda

*Chocolate revitalizes a former Victorian boomtown*

Text by **LORI MOFFATT**

**See!**

Homes in Calvert's National Historic District

Chocolatier Ken Wilkinson has cooked around the world. Now he cooks in Calvert.



**F**LAMBOYANT CHARACTERS LIKE FORMER BRIT **KEN WILKINSON**, who arrived in the sleepy Brazos Valley town of Calvert a few years ago to build a world-class chocolate shop, tend to start tongues wagging.

"The first time I saw Ken, waving his arms up and down Main Street, well, I didn't know what to think," says Calvert businesswoman Jody Powers, whose bakery, Zamykal Kolaches, opened on Main a few years ago. "He was dressed immaculately, very 'from the city.' I had no idea what he was planning to do."

Nor did Wilkinson, exactly. He just knew that he wanted to open a chocolate boutique, using recipes and techniques he had learned in Europe, and that his present hometown of Houston wouldn't support the scenario he envisioned. Real estate cost too much, for one, but he also thought that city-dwellers might be too distracted to linger and wax rhapsodic over the textural experience of an enrobed key-lime ganache or the painterly dusting of raspberry essence on a perfectly spherical truffle. He wanted to greet passersby with a "Hulluh, mates! Do you like anisette, by chance?" and invite them in for a taste and a theatrical conversation

**CocoaModa owner Ken Wilkinson, dressed in chef's whites, calls chocolate one of life's greatest pleasures.**

embellished with tales of cooking for royalty, kitchen alchemy in Switzerland, and culinary adventures in the Caribbean.

So when Wilkinson came across a deteriorating 1874 bank building along Main Street in Calvert, a Victorian town that boasts one of the largest historic districts in the United States, his entrepreneurial wheels started spinning. Calvert, he soon learned, enjoyed great prosperity in the 1870s as a rail link for goods headed to and from Galveston. By the 1950s, though, when the area's cotton plantations were mechanized and work grew scarce, the town settled into a rhythm of languor. Many of Main Street's historic buildings lay vacant. Could he be the galvanizing force in a downtown revitalization?

Wilkinson, a self-described "exacting bastard with a low tolerance for compromise," bought the building, restored it, and opened CocoaModa. He and his crew replumbed, rewired, and replaced the mortar between each brick. They repaired windows, restored the pressed-tin ceiling, painstakingly stripped and refinished woodwork, and finally, added a marble-and-glass candy case from which Wilkinson sells his handmade truffles and chocolate-covered candied fruits. When he needed more space for his cooling tables, melting machines, and other equipment, he bought and restored another two buildings across the street to house the CocoaModa factory. A viewing room here allows visitors to watch truffles roll down a conveyor belt en route to Wilkinson's Deco-inspired candy boxes.

At the CocoaModa boutique, Wilkinson reaches into the case and extracts a single truffle from a gilded platter. It's the color of ivory with a shimmery dusting of the palest green, and it makes me think of a bejeweled quail's egg. "This," says Ken with a flourish, "is my key-lime truffle." I take a bite, my teeth breaking through the crunchy shell and into a mildly sweet, astonishingly creamy center made from white chocolate ganache. That point where crunch turns to creamy is what chocolatiers call "snap," Wilkinson tells me.

I try other confections, too—an earthy

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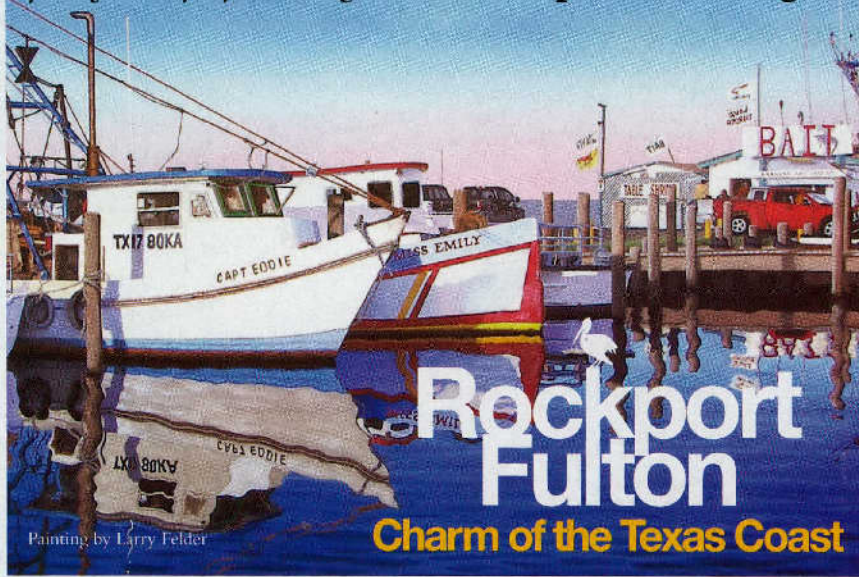


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Painting by Larry Felder

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## Scoops for You

*We all scream for National Ice Cream Month*

**POLITICS ASIDE, WHEN THE LATE** President Ronald Reagan decreed the month of July as "National Ice Cream Month" in 1984, few people waffled whether it was a designation worth celebrating.

This month, get your brain-freeze on with scoops at **Blue Bell Creameries** in Brenham (a new, top-secret flavor debuts July 1), **Amy's** in Austin (repeat after me: high butterfat), **Old Town Creamery** in Plano (where the menu includes such exotic choices as Indian-style *falooda*), the **F-Street Dairy Bar** in Harlingen (enjoy an old-fashioned sundae at the 1940s fountain), **Hank's Ice Cream** in Houston (where the banana-pudding scoops lead the pack), **Milwaukee Joe's** in Southlake and Bedford (serving up concoctions like Tahitian coconut and mocha), and **Wild About Harry's** in Dallas (made-from-scratch frozen custard in such flavors as lemon and coffee).

So, as you can see, the flavor possibilities are endless. —Lori Moffatt



**Do!**

Take a tour of the Blue Bell factory in Brenham

**Mix it up! It's National Ice Cream Month.**

(and still snappy) truffle of espresso and dark chocolate; a truffle with a subtle kiss of orange and a decorative glimmer of 14-carat gold; a spicy sliver of ginger enrobed in more dark chocolate; and finally, a complex, bittersweet marriage of dark chocolate to dark chocolate that sends endorphins zinging.

Chocolate-fueled and wide-eyed, I'm glad that CocoaModa has a bistro with a menu that promises to bring me back to earth. "I'm not interested in sauces or herbs or wines that mask the flavor of quality ingredients," Wilkinson says, bopping the tablecloth with his fist for emphasis. "I want to enhance the flavor of the food, not overpower the flavor of the food!" he says. Wilkinson's influences, primarily French comfort food, reveal themselves in such dishes as a salty-crispy-creamy *croque monsieur*, a delicate tomato-and-orange soup called *potage jonelle*, and a classic French *cassoulet*, the latter a stunning stew of savory pork sausage and white beans topped with a buttery crust of breadcrumbs and Parmesan.

Groups of tourists from College Station and Houston come in while I'm dining, and Wilkinson drains his coffee cup and breaks away to hold court—"Would you like to try a blackberry truffle? How are you enjoying your time here in Calvert? Have you seen the beautiful homes to the east of us?"

I can't help but smile.

"I see people all the time walking around with their little CocoaModa bags," says Jody Powers. "And it's such a delight. Have I seen my own business pick up? Absolutely. Ken and I both came to town with the idea that Calvert will be back on the map once people start restoring these buildings and attracting visitors again. Won't Calvert be something then?" **TH**

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This exhibition was organized by the McNay Art Museum.

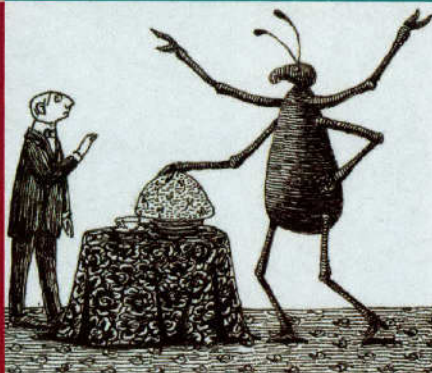
**Elegant Enigmas**  
The Art of Edward Gorey

June 10 | September 13

Carnivorous plants, falling masonry, and uninvited guests fill the unique, imaginary world of American author and illustrator Edward Gorey (1925–2000).

This exhibition was organized by the Brandywine River Museum, Chadds Ford, Pennsylvania.

Images: Georgia O'Keeffe, *San Water White*, 1922, Collection of the Slick Family, © Georgia O'Keeffe Museum; Edward Gorey, *I am the Bellman Bug*, "It declares: 'I am here to diffuse the interest of delat'ion'"; 2006, Courtesy of the Edward Gorey Charitable Trust.



**CocoaModa**

is at 518 S. Main St. in Calvert. Hours: Wed-Fri 11 a.m.-10 p.m.; Sat 9 a.m.-10 p.m.; Sun 9-5. Call 979/364-2190; [www.cocoamoda.com](http://www.cocoamoda.com).

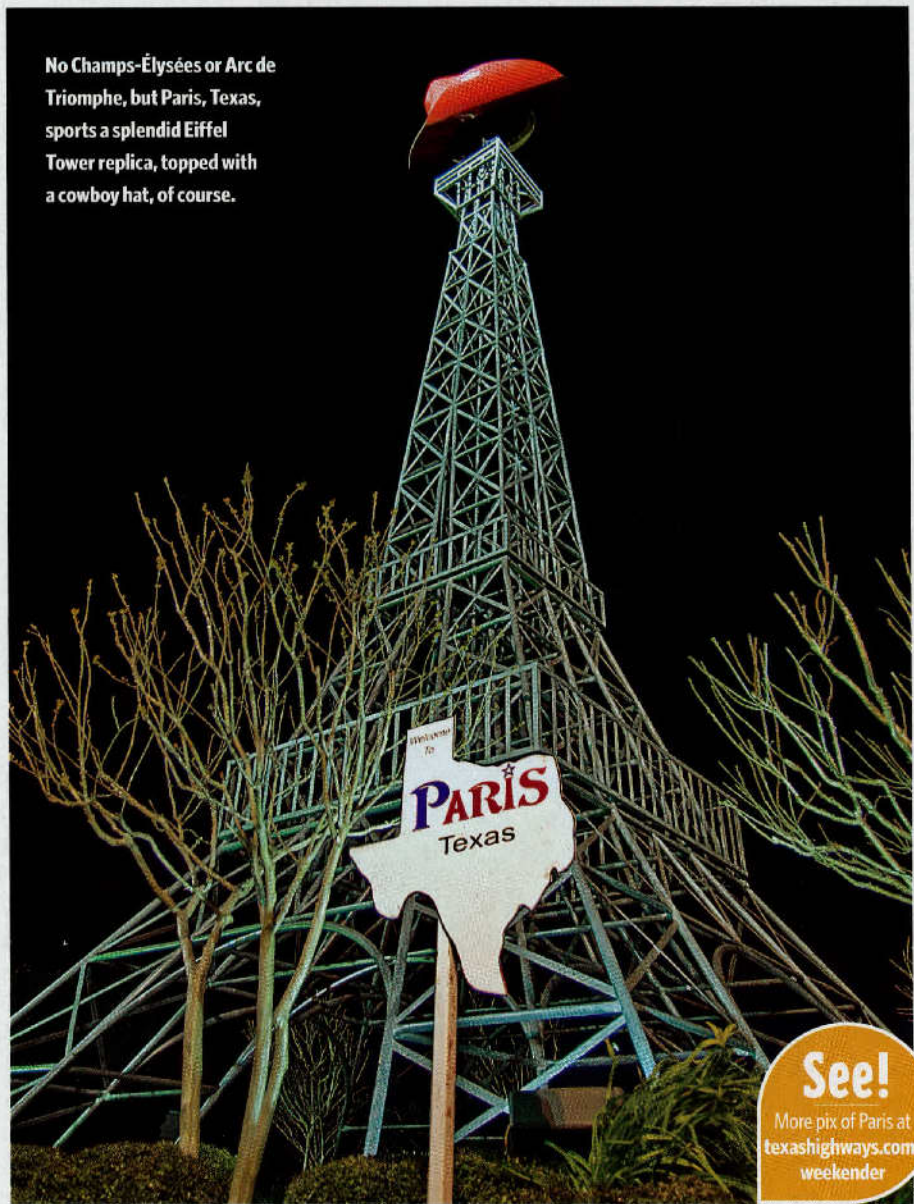




## Paris, Anyone?

You're gonna love it in Lamar County. *Très magnifique!*

Text by **MARTY LANGE**



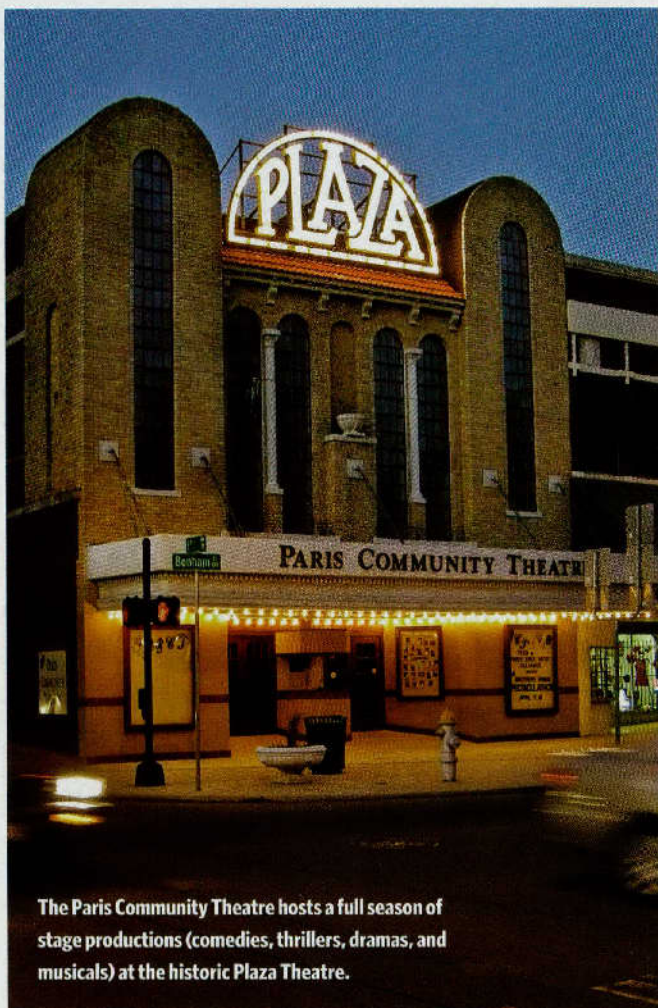
**See!**

More pix of Paris at  
[texashighways.com/  
weekender](http://texashighways.com/weekender)

Check out this appealing crossroads in the heart of the Red River Valley.

**E**VER SEE THE GIGANTIC POSTCARD-STYLED BILLBOARDS ON INTERSTATE 30 that recommend you visit Paris, Texas? Recently, I accepted the colorful invitations and reacquainted myself with this historic northeast Texas community. If you haven't been there lately, or never at all, it's time to check out this appealing crossroads in the heart of the Red River Valley. The Texas city with the French connection offers a multitude of sweet sightseeing and travel discoveries. The Lamar County seat and state's Crape Myrtle Capital, Paris maintains a gracious, Southern-small-town feel.

One of my favorite highlights during two recent visits, the 65-foot tall (plus cowboy hat on top) Eiffel Tower replica stands at Love Civic Center (it's *de rigueur*). The charming little Paris Bakery (yes, you can order a perfect croissant or brioche) fits the bill, too, with a bounty of artisan breads, pastries, soups, and sandwiches for breakfast and lunch. And I enjoyed driving by dozens of beautiful, historic homes, including the 1867 Sam Bell Maxey House (take the guided tour) and the tastefully restored Kaufman Terrace, a 19th-Century home built by Virginian-turned-Parisian James Daniel. Daniel was a Civil War captain who helped design Paris' original water, sewer, and street systems; he once owned the town's



The Paris Community Theatre hosts a full season of stage productions (comedies, thrillers, dramas, and musicals) at the historic Plaza Theatre.

street railway. While seeking out famous cattle baron John Chisum's monument and gravesite, I also discovered the 1889 Wise House (a three-story, red-brick Victorian Queen Anne mansion built for a prominent English cotton merchant).

Impressive only begins to describe the Hayden Collection of American Art & Furniture at Belle Cheniere (by appointment only), where Dr. William and Elizabeth Hayden have thoughtfully and passionately provided a concise, yet encompassing gallery of treasures, including works by American masters Winslow Homer, Mary Cassatt, Thomas Hart Benton, and many more.

But you can see other Paris nods to art, culture, and architecture without making an appointment. Noteworthy paintings by Paris native Jerry Bywaters

grace the foyer of the public library. Across the street from the library stands the Grecian Peristyle in Bywaters Park, host to the Paris Municipal Band's summer concert series. Travel columnist Mary Walker Clark ([www.thetravelinggene.com](http://www.thetravelinggene.com)) calls the band one of Paris' top hidden gems.

Nearby, on the historic square, the longstanding, critically acclaimed Paris Community Theatre presents dramas and comedies year round at the photogenic Plaza Theatre. Across the street, at the downtown plaza, the 1927 marble Culbertson Fountain gently bubbles away. Around the corner, C&C Guitars, a tiny shop full of snazzy, six-string instruments, attracts musicians from throughout the region. And, as I continued to stroll around the square, the striking retro interior design of Peoples National Bank recalled an era before investment scams, bombastic bonuses, and bailouts.

A tour of Swaim's Hardware downtown makes for a satisfying trip back in time. The store dates to 1932, and its marvelous maze of aisles and adjacent warehouses—crammed full of nuts, bolts, tools, ladders, paint, building materials, and plumbing and electrical supplies—offers superb selection with personal customer service.

The sheer number of stately, historic icons makes Paris feel like an architectural academy. You'll appreciate a visit to the 1917 marble-and-granite Lamar County Courthouse, with its triple-arched Main Street entrance and spacious courtrooms. The majestic, stained-glass octagonal dome of First United Methodist Church reflects a stunning kaleidoscope of colors. And, west of downtown, the 1914 Santa Fe/Frisco Union Station Railroad Depot (home to the county chamber of commerce, a genealogical research library, and a transportation museum), Lamar County Historical Museum, and Heritage Hall complex give credence to the value of preserving small-town Texas landmarks.

**Paris**  
is in northeast Texas,  
halfway between Dallas and  
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[www.paristexas.com](http://www.paristexas.com).



My inner Dwight Yoakum delighted in a visit to Crazy Horse Western Wear, a very cool Western-apparel store in Reno (suburban Paris, if you will). Let the friendly folks at Crazy Horse help you get country. Walk out of here wearing a stylish jacket, pearl snap/smile pocket shirt, jeans, silver-tipped belt, boots, and a cowboy hat. You'll be inspired to watch a good Western on DVD, go to a rodeo, read Louis L'Amour, drive a pickup truck, or tune in to CMT.

And speaking of boots, a stop at the city's Evergreen Cemetery, which holds nearly twice as many graves as the town's current population, reveals the famous "Jesus in cowboy boots" stone monument at Willet Babcock's gravesite. Babcock, a 19th-Century furniture dealer, ran the Paris Opera House above his showroom. He commissioned the statue shortly before his death in 1881. A nearly life-size, somber male figure leans against a large cross, wearing a biblical robe and yes, cowboy boots.

For accommodations, plenty of chain hotels and motels offer rooms, or you may wish to camp at nearby Lake Pat Mayse, where I had a Zen moment at the scenic overlook by the U.S. Army Corps of Engi-

neers dam. On a springtime visit here, I thrilled to the sight of brightly blooming dogwoods within the surrounding forest.

Hungry? Try a steak or all-you-can-eat catfish at the popular Fish Fry; terrific barbecue ribs at highly regarded Scholl Bros. Bar B Q; breakfast or lunch at the cozy Paris Bakery; or downtown-on-the-square's excellent Jaxx Burgers.

But perhaps my most sublime pleasure emerged during a serendipitous late-afternoon walk along the pleasant tree-lined canopy of the Trail de Paris parkway in southeast Paris. Several miles of trail led me to a Friday-night high school football game between Greenville and Paris at venerable Noyes Stadium. I sensed a pronounced pride and energetic vibe as the historic venue filled with teams, bands, cheerleaders, concessionaires, support staff, and fans, a colorful sunset in the Western sky providing a gorgeous, golden glow. You know—like Paris, *La Ville-Lumière*, the City of Light.

Can you envision a trip to Paris in your future? Yes. *Oui. Absolument.* **TH**

## Tour de Paris Bicycle Rally

**BEGINNING AT LOVE CIVIC CENTER**, home of the Eiffel Tower replica, the Tour de Paris celebrates its 25th anniversary July 18. All cyclists ride through Paris' beautiful, historic downtown square, and have a choice of four different tour-route distances—100K, 70K, 40K, and 15K. Activities also include a carbo-loading, all-you-can-eat pancake breakfast for \$5; recharging with hot burgers and fresh fruit smoothies after the ride; watching the Tour de France on a big screen; and prizes throughout the day with a chance

to win a bicycle. For registration information, see [www.tourdeparis.com](http://www.tourdeparis.com), or call 800/PARISTX. —Marty Lange

**Go!**

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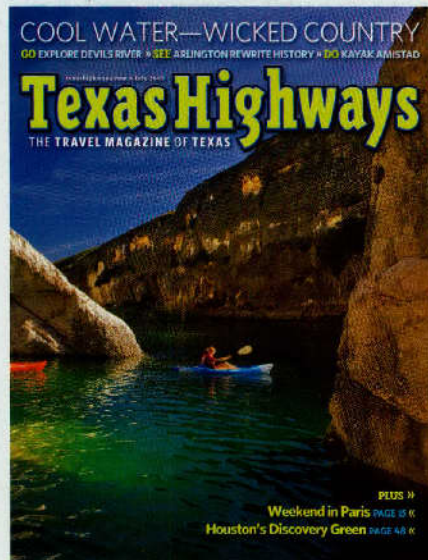
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# BorderlandAmazing

WATER, EARTH, AND SKY MEET AT AMISTAD  
NATIONAL RECREATION AREA

*Text by* **NOLA McKEY**

*Photographs by* **LAURENCE PARENT**



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**Amistad.** The Spanish word means “friendship,” but to many visitors at Amistad National Recreation Area, about 10 miles northwest of Del Rio, the name conjures up intrigue and adventure. This remote, 57,292-acre park on the Texas-Mexico border boasts an enormous lake, miles of pristine shoreline, rugged terrain, and numerous, world-class prehistoric pictographs. While the National Park Service site is well known to anglers—the fishing here is legendary—it’s relatively undiscovered by other outdoor types.

“A lot of people don’t realize what we have here,” says Greg Garetz, the park’s chief of education and resource management. “Besides fishing, we’ve got excellent water-based recreation almost year round, including swimming, water-skiing, boating, and scuba diving. It’s also a great place for picnicking, hiking, and camping. When you add in the variety of plants and animals, the significant archeological sites, and the spectacular scenery, it’s really an amazing place.”

The heart of the park—the International Amistad Reservoir (or Lake Amistad, as it’s commonly known)—lies at the confluence of the Rio Grande, Devils, and Pecos rivers.

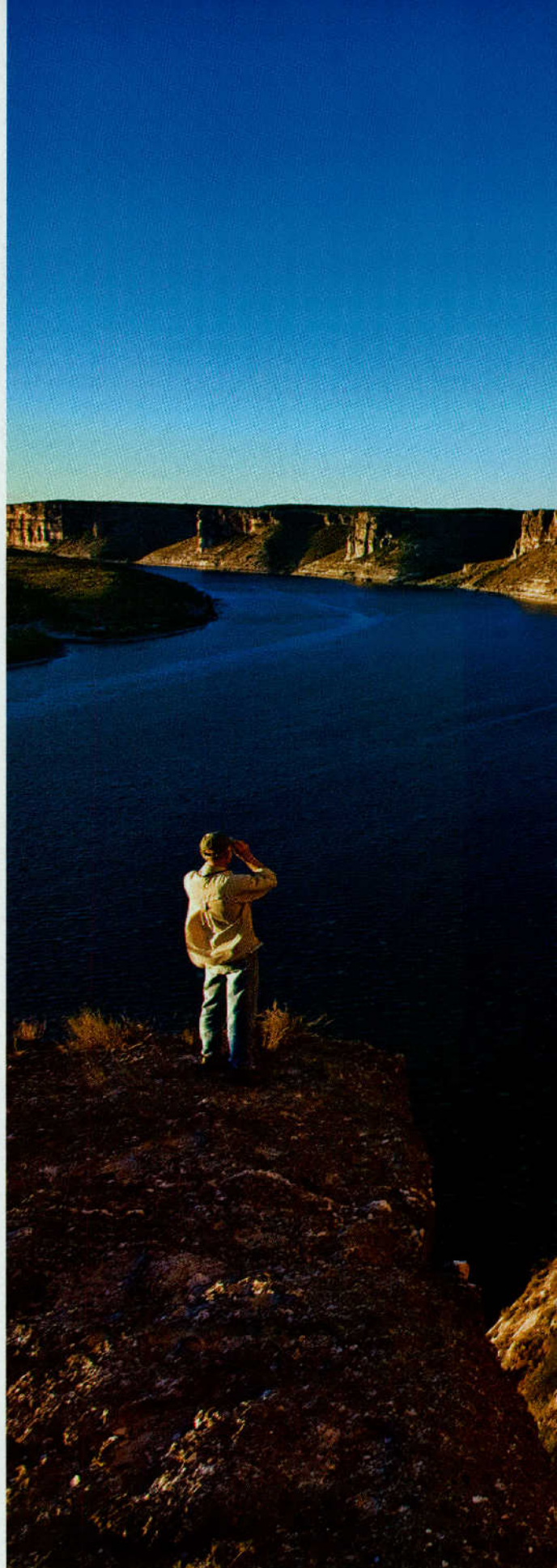
Created in 1969 as a result of the construction of Amistad Dam, a joint project of the United States and Mexico, the lake varies in size with seasonal rainfall. When the water remains at what park staff call the “lake conservation level” of 1,117 feet above sea level, it covers 67,000 surface acres (43,500 acres are within United States boundaries).

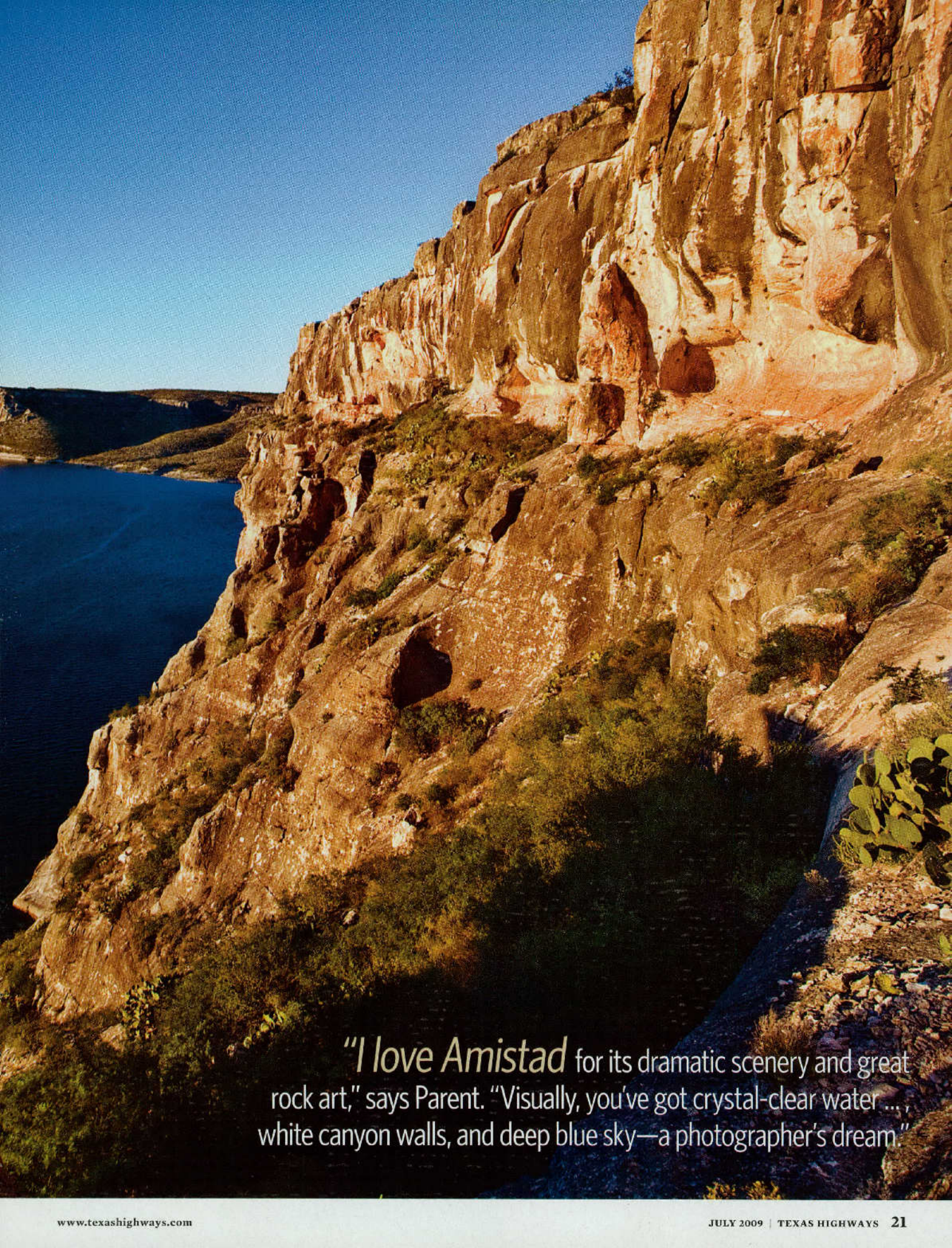
Noted landscape photographer Laurence Parent discovered the park about 15 years ago. “I’ve never been much of a fisherman, but I love Amistad for its dramatic scenery and great rock



For more on birding and wildlife at Amistad, see [www.texashighways.com/webextra](http://www.texashighways.com/webextra).

RIGHT: Hiker David Baxter surveys the Devils River arm of 67,000-acre Lake Amistad, which lies at the heart of Amistad National Recreation Area. PREVIOUS SPREAD: The white limestone walls of the Pecos River canyon add drama to reflections in the water below.





*"I love Amistad* for its dramatic scenery and great rock art," says Parent. "Visually, you've got crystal-clear water ... , white canyon walls, and deep blue sky—a photographer's dream."





*“Now is a great time* to see [the pictographs here],” says Parent. “One of the most famous sites—Panther Cave—was difficult to access when the lake levels were lower.”

art,” he says. “Visually, you’ve got crystal-clear water in the Devils and Pecos river canyons, white canyon walls, and deep blue sky—a photographer’s dream. I’ve come more often in the last few years, since the water has been up. With the higher water levels, you can kayak into more areas, especially the upper canyons.”

The access wasn’t always this good. “From about 1994 to 2004, the lake levels were really low because of the drought in West Texas, and you couldn’t launch a boat on the Pecos,” says Garetz. “The drought broke in 2004, and then, last September, Tropical Storm Lowell hit Mexico, which resulted in a tremendous amount of water flowing down the Rio Grande to Amistad. The last time the lake was this full was 17 years ago, back in 1992. Today, you can easily launch from the Pecos River boat ramp, near the Highway 90 High Bridge.

“The higher lake levels have really helped park visitors in a lot of ways,” adds Garetz. “The higher water allows kayakers to get to the upper reaches of the Pecos and Devils river canyons, where there are spectacular backcountry campsites. Higher water levels mean there’s a lot more area for water-skiing, too. It even helps the scuba divers—right now the water comes right up to the steps at Scuba Cove, a protected diving cove near the Diablo East boat ramp. It’s really a nice time for people to visit.”

The only recreational activity that hasn’t benefited from the higher water levels is fishing. “It’s still good,” says Garetz, “but not as good as it was from 2004 to 2007. During those four years, the fishing—especially for largemouth black bass—was phenomenal.” He explains that when the lake came up 20 feet in just a few weeks last fall, the hydrilla beds used for cover by the black bass were suddenly 20 feet below the surface. “It was great for the fish, but now the fishermen have to work a little harder to locate and catch the bass,” he adds.

An avid outdoorsman, Parent says he enjoys exploring both the Devils and Pecos river canyons, but he likes the Pecos River the best. “It’s narrower and more dramatic,” he says, “and, of course, it has the two high bridges: the Pecos River High Bridge and the Southern

A shelter cave high above the lake offers an unusual perspective for viewing Amistad’s rugged beauty.

This well-known pictograph draws boaters to Panther Cave, one of two major rock-art sites accessible via Lake Amistad.



## Rock-Art Primer

THE PICTOGRAPHS in Panther Cave and Parida Cave, which are accessible via Lake Amistad, number among the many ancient paintings on canyon walls throughout the Lower Pecos River Area, known collectively as “Rock Art of the Lower Pecos.” According to Carolyn Boyd, an archeologist and rock-art expert, these pictographs are some of the finest in the world.

“These magnificent images are like 4,000-year-old books that record the myths and rituals of the people who produced them,” she says. “The really exciting thing is that we are breaking the code and are beginning to be able to read these ancient texts.”

Boyd is executive director of the Shumla School, a research and education organization based in Comstock, northwest of Del Rio, which offers total-immersion programs on the art and archeology of the region.

“We have school groups that come from across the state to spend a full week visiting rock-art sites and learning about Texas prehistory. One of our most popular adult programs is the Pecos Experience. Each year we invite an international scholar to join a small group of interested folks at the Shumla campus for a week of exploration in the Lower Pecos canyonlands. This October, the famous French archeologist Jean Clottes will be returning as our visiting scholar.”

Boyd says Shumla is seeking volunteers to help conduct “the most extensive rock art-recording project ever undertaken in the Lower Pecos.” For details about volunteering or Shumla programs, call 432/292-4848; [www.shumla.org](http://www.shumla.org). —Nola McKey



*Lake Amistad's* current high water levels afford kayakers wonderful access to the Devils and Pecos river canyons, which offer striking contrasts and beautiful vistas.

Pacific—now Union Pacific—Railroad Bridge.”

One of his favorite sites is four miles downstream from the mouth of the Pecos—the quarter-mile-long Lower Railroad Tunnel, which was built in the 1880s and is now partially flooded with high water. “As you float through the tunnel, it’s hard to imagine that more than 100 years ago, smoky steam engines chugged through the same place, pulling long strings of cars,” says Parent. “Today, water laps at the walls, and a few bats flit by overhead.”

While Parent relishes Amistad’s dramatic scenery, he also enjoys exploring and photographing the park’s famous pictographs (see “Rock-Art Primer,” page 23). “The rock art here is some of the best anywhere,” he says. “It’s amazing



Amie Hufton (right) and Keri Thomas pull their kayaks upstream in the Pecos River at the head of the lake.

that the pictographs have lasted so long, some of them thousands of years. Now is a great time to see them; one of the most famous sites—Panther Cave—was difficult to access when the lake levels were lower.”

Difficulty is something that Parent is familiar with as a photographer. “Shooting trips are a lot of work,” he says. “To get photos at Amistad, I hike, I use a motorboat, I kayak. I start by lining up kayaker friends willing to go on a trip and be photographed. Then a photographer friend and I haul his flat-bottomed fishing boat out to the lake, where we load up camera equipment, kayaks, and kayakers.

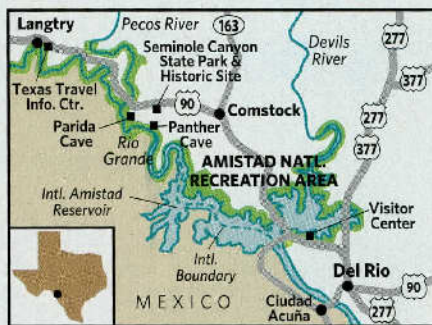
“To get the view I want, I’ll climb giant boulders in the middle of the water and risk dropping my camera into the lake. I’ve almost fallen in myself, leaping from a boat to a rock or hanging off the bow for a different angle. On one trip, the wind was blowing hard, making it difficult for my kayaker friends to paddle and almost impossible for us [photographers] to keep our boat in position. Plus, we were all in wet swimsuits, getting chilled in the cool wind.

We head out before dawn and get in after dark.”

A true professional, Parent always brings back the goods despite the difficulty, as the images on these pages attest. Thanks to his derring-do, you can enjoy Amistad National Recreation Area through his experienced lens. However, he’d be the first to encourage you to see this paradise on the border for yourself. Do it soon, while lake levels are high. **TH**

Senior Editor **NOLA McKEY** would like to learn more about Amistad’s mysterious pictographs and enroll in a program at the Shumla School. Photographer **LAURENCE PARENT**’s book *Big River, Rio Grande* includes more Amistad photos and will be published this fall by University of Texas Press.

→ **TH ESSENTIALS**



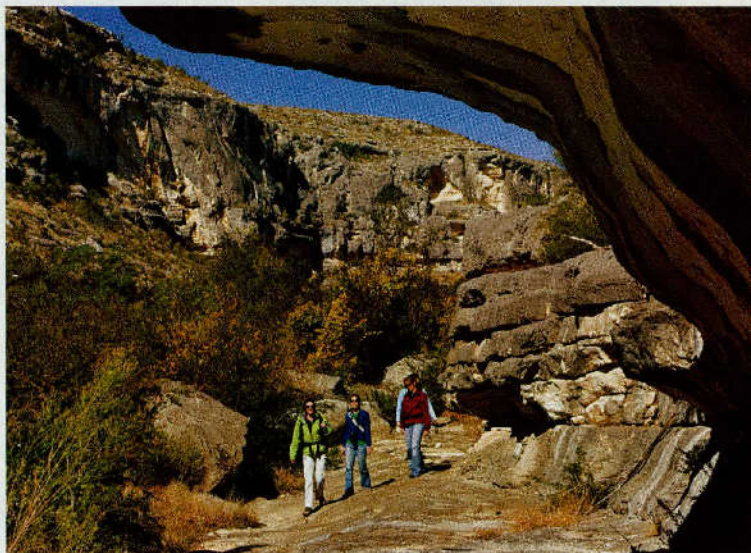
## Amistad

MANAGED BY THE NATIONAL PARK SERVICE, **Amistad National Recreation Area** is on the United States/Mexico border, northwest of Del Rio. To reach the visitor center from Del Rio, go west on US 90 for 7 miles. The center offers exhibits about the area’s prehistoric peoples, a bookstore, and a theater that shows videos about the Amistad area, rock art, and Big Bend National Park.

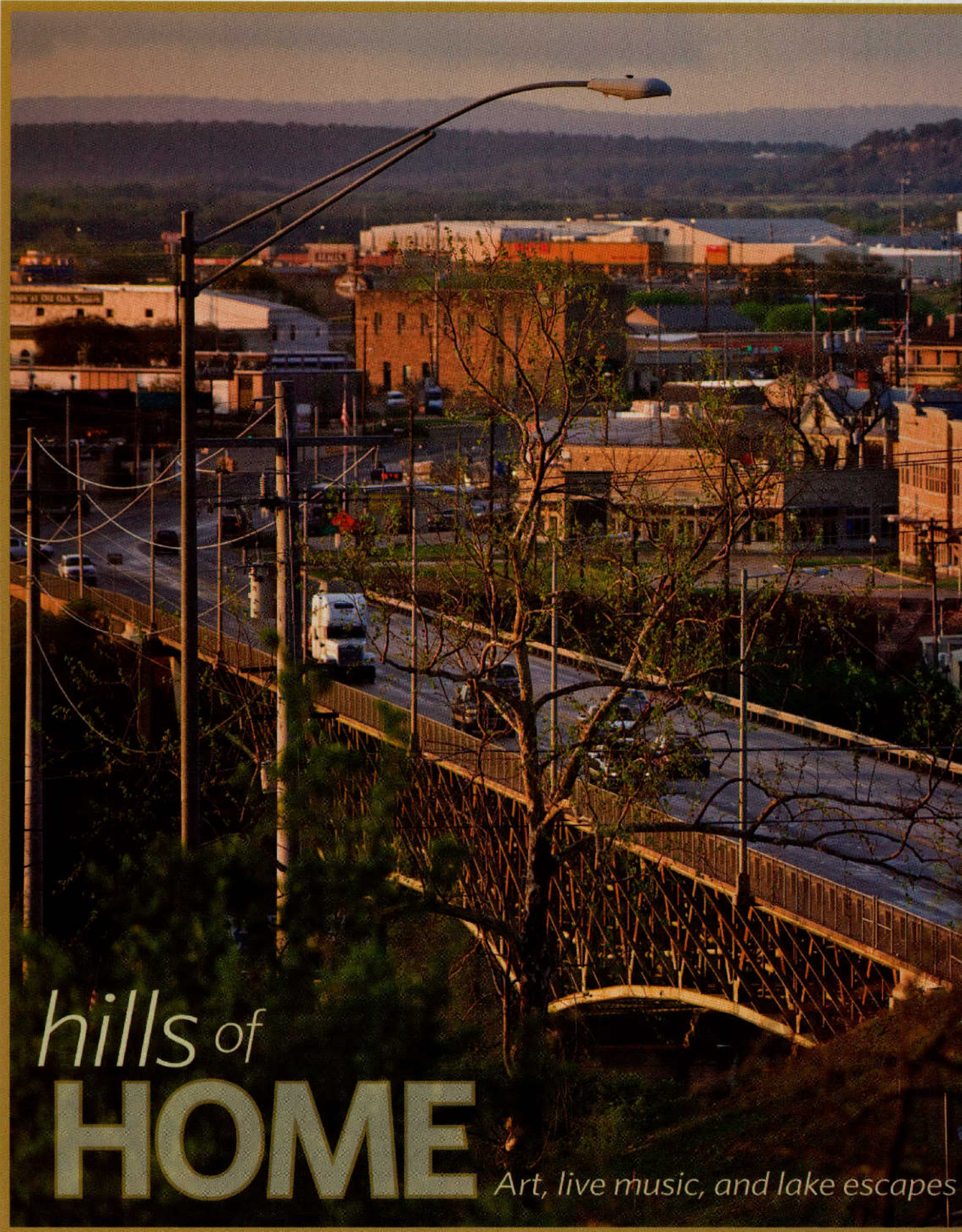
The **International Amistad Reservoir**, or Lake Amistad, provides access to two major **rock-art sites** (when lake levels allow): Panther Cave and Parida Cave. For details, contact the park (see phone number and Web site at the end of this column). For information about guided tours of rock art at nearby Seminole Canyon State Park & Historic Site, call 432/292-4464; [www.tpwd.state.tx.us](http://www.tpwd.state.tx.us).

Visitors can drive across **Amistad Dam**, half of which is in Mexico. As at all Mexican-border crossings, Americans who enter Mexico need a driver’s license, along with a passport, to re-enter the United States. However, if you do not want to enter Mexico, you can park or turn around before passing the immigration checkpoint.

**Lodging** ranges from houseboat rentals on the lake to motels in nearby Del Rio. For details, call 830/775-3551 or 800/889-8149; [www.drchamber.com](http://www.drchamber.com). For information about **day-use areas, overnight camping fees, reservations, and park rules**, call 830/775-7491; [www.nps.gov/amis](http://www.nps.gov/amis).

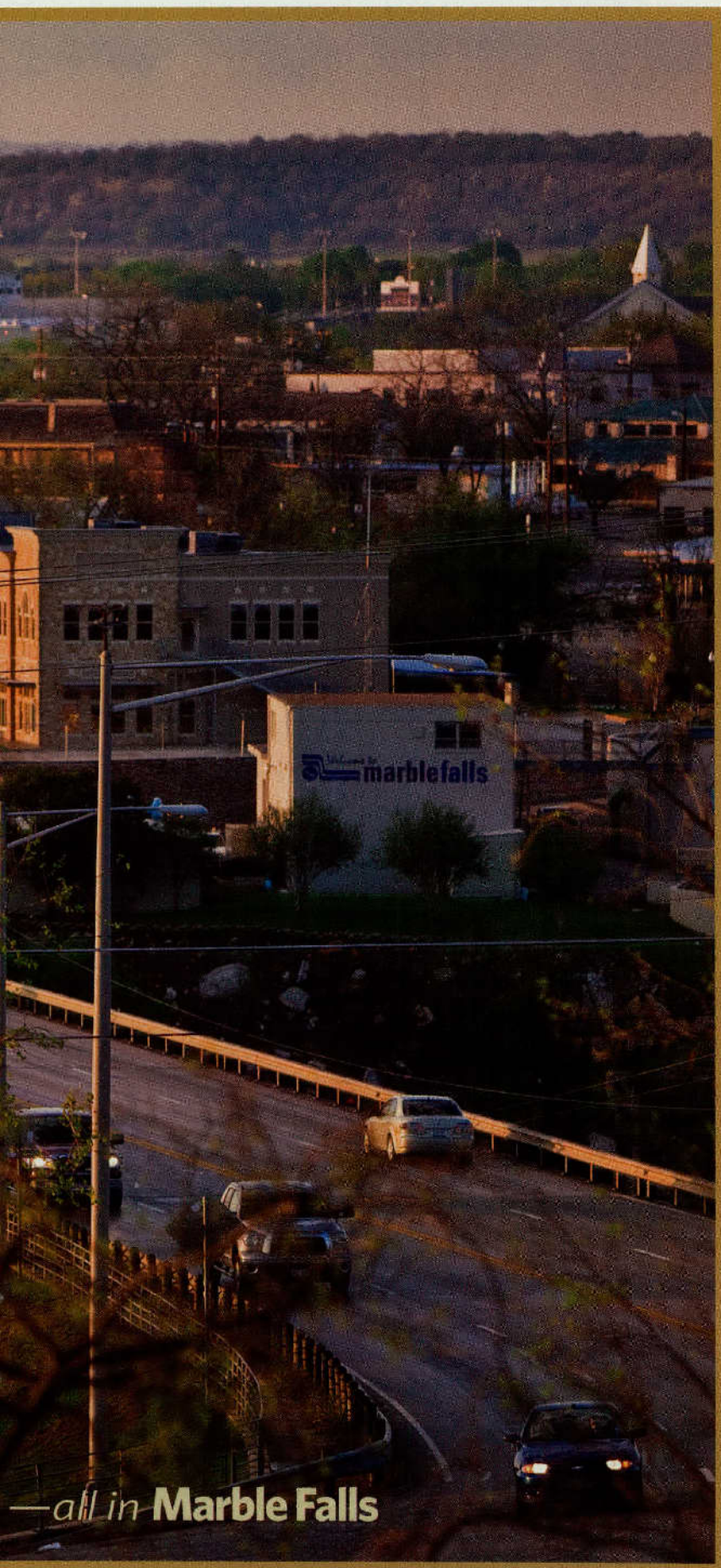


You don’t have to paddle to access Amistad’s striking vistas. Here Keri Thomas, Lora Hufton, Amie Hufton, and Marilee Garza enjoy the trek through Deadman’s Canyon.



*hills of*  
**HOME**

*Art, live music, and lake escapes*



—all in **Marble Falls**

Text by **JOHN MORTHLAND**  
Photographs by **J. GRIFFIS SMITH**



**ALONG US 281 ON THE HILLSIDE** JUST south of the Colorado River in Marble Falls, an historical marker honors Oscar J. Fox, the Western composer who set existing poems to original music to create such cowboy standards as *Git Along Little Dogies*. That very spot, with its sweeping view of the Hill Country and across the bridge over Lake Marble Falls, moved Fox, who was born in Burnet County, to write the music for the 1925 *The Hills of Home*. And I have to say, I'm with Mr. Fox: That entryway into Marble Falls from the south never fails to inspire.

With its rich history, bucolic setting, and range of diversions of both the indoor and outdoor variety, Marble Falls has always been one of the gems of the Highland Lakes region. The town's namesake waterfalls

LEFT: A northeasterly view of Marble Falls in early spring, as travelers make their way across the US 281 bridge. ABOVE: Time for a trim? DeSpain Barber Shop at 302 Main has kept the town clean-cut since 1956.

# hills of HOME

once cascaded 20 feet along the river, but became engulfed by the lake when Max Starcke Dam was built in the 1950s.

Today, Marble Falls hosts such contrasting annual events as the LakeFest Drag Boat Races in August and October's Sculpture on Main project, and the Bluebonnet Music and Fine Arts Festival (March) and blazing Walkway of Lights during the holidays. There's a lively art scene with lots of live music. And as long as that spectacular southern "front door" offers the view that it does, Marble Falls will seem like a picture-perfect getaway.

**ONE OF THE TOWN'S HISTORIC LODGING** options, the 1907 Wallace Guest House features five suites appointed with turn-of-the-20th-Century antiques. But on this trip, I start out at the picturesque Horseshoe Bay Resort Marriott Hotel on the south shore of Lake LBJ. I'll spend the rest of my visit at the cozy Boat House of Hugh and Cindy Vaughn in Kingsland. A single-story retreat sitting on stilts above a channel off Lake LBJ, The Boat House sleeps four comfortably and has an outdoor kitchen, hammocks, and a fishing pier. Hugh and Cindy prove to be exemplary hosts, as well as great sources of Marble Falls insider tips.

You don't have to be a resort member to stay at the Horseshoe Bay Marriott, and as a guest, you're free to use the resort facilities. Since it's raining the afternoon I arrive, I decide not to make my once-every-blue-moon attempt to play golf, a circumstance for which the proprietors should be eternally grateful. But a drive around the 7,000-acre resort property reveals three 18-hole courses (plus an 18-hole putting course), numerous villas and condos to supplement the 385-room hotel, a spa, swimming pools, tennis courts, and even a private airstrip for the *real* high-rollers. That night at the Yacht Club on the marina I enjoy a tender, textured, bone-in filet that oozes beefy flavor. This meal, combined with the savory red beans and rice I'd had for lunch at The Real New Orleans Style Restaurant (a Round Mountain diner established by a church congregation displaced by Hurricane Katrina), will doubtless provide the best eating day of my trip.

The next morning begins with one of life's true pleasures: breakfast at the Blue Bonnet Cafe, a classic country diner famous also for its chicken-fried steak and "home-baked" pies (best-sellers include coconut cream and lemon cream or meringue). Then, to get the lowdown on the Sculpture on Main program, I drive a few miles east of town to the Pogue Sculpture



Gallery and Foundry, Inc. Sculptor Dan Pogue gives me the quick tour of his digs, which includes looks at some of his majestic

Patrons of the legendary Blue Bonnet Cafe can catch glimpses of the comfort-food wonders in action.

works-in-progress. Returning to town, he shows me the sculptures displayed year-round on the sidewalks, medians, and plazas of Main Street (a handful more are scattered off Main).

Marble Falls has recently polished its Main Street with a significant facelift, and the 37 artworks contrast nicely with storefronts that in some cases are a century old. We see Joel Lacome's imposing, resin *Sound of Spheres* beneath the ageless Hanging Tree at Old Oak Square; John Van Camp's limestone abstract *Frozen Dance* just south of Third Street; and Pogue's own bronze *La*

*Fiesta* in front of the Uptown Marble Theater. They will remain here for a year following an annual October juried competition that attracts sculptors from all over; then some pieces will be sold to make room for newer ones.

Since it has shaped up as an art day, I stick around the Main Street area that afternoon. The jSpace and Riverbend Fine Art galleries and Patina, a store that bills its wares as one-of-a-kind art and home décor

Scott Sustek's *La Paloma* numbers among some 40 works currently on display as part of Marble Falls' Sculpture on Main program.



For Marble Falls insider tips from Cindy and Hugh Vaughn, see [texashighways.com/webextra](http://texashighways.com/webextra).



**BEGIN THE DAY** with breakfast at the Blue Bonnet Cafe. Then head a few miles to the Pogue Sculpture Gallery and Foundry, Inc., to get the lowdown on Sculpture on Main.



**WITH SUBTLE SHADES** of brown bordering on monochromatic, Longhorn Cavern seems like an underground equivalent to the Western plains.

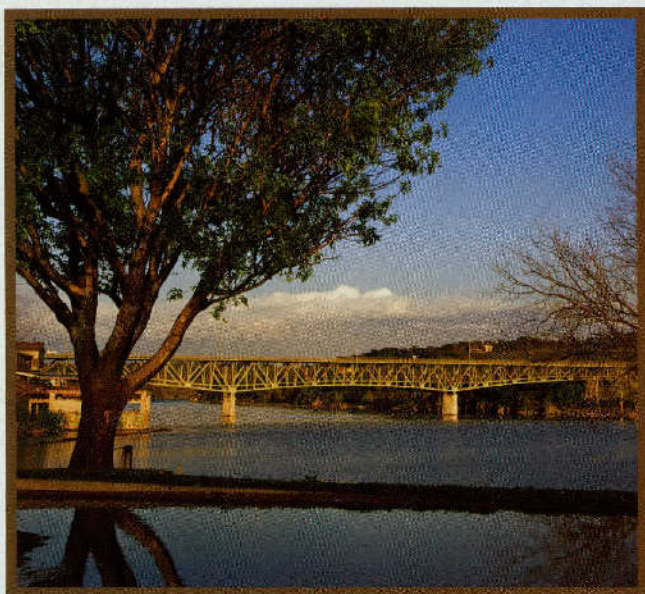
(think vibrant paintings, handcrafted furniture, and accessories), display the most striking work, much of it local, and both wildly eclectic and wildly colorful. And at The Falls on the Colorado Museum, I admire a faded black- and-white photo of former Marble Falls mayor Ophelia “Birdie” Crosby Harwood riding sidesaddle in a parade—Harwood was the first female mayor in Texas and the first female American mayor ever put in office by an all-male electorate (in 1917, three years before suffrage began).

I devote the next day to the great outdoors, which in these parts means two perennial favorites: Longhorn Cavern and the Vanishing Texas River Cruise. Longhorn Cavern, a few miles north of town, has a novel history.

During the 1920s, when it was owned privately, the cave housed a nightclub, complete with a ballroom featuring a nine-piece band, a restaurant, and an illegal bar. As visitors can clearly see during the 85-minute standard tour, there are virtually no stalactites, and the cave has less color than some others I’ve toured. But that’s maybe what I like best about it: With shades of brown contrasting so subtly that the effect sometimes borders on monochromatic, it seems like the most *Texas* cave, sort of an underground equivalent to the Western plains.

The Vanishing Texas River Cruise leaves from the Canyon of the Eagles Lodge, on the east shore of Lake Buchanan, and part of the fun is getting there. Once you pick up FM 2341 off Texas 29 just west of Burnet,





ABOVE: Land o' lakes. The US 281 bridge has spanned this stretch of the Colorado River for more than 70 years.

the final 14 miles of the drive wind through some of the Hill Country's most ruggedly beautiful landscape while offering stunning views of the

lake. Cruise-goers can view bald eagles in the winter, which proved an exhilarating experience when I did it years ago—but this time I'm a few months early for the eagles. In fact, our tour guide actually seems to be downplaying expectations in general, warning that recent droughts have changed the picture considerably: less vegetation and wildlife to see, and smaller waterfalls. But little compares with the soothing silence out in the middle of a large body of water, and this trip doesn't disappoint. Sure, the water is low, but the egrets have come out in force, joined by an occasional green heron. Craggy stone canyon walls drop dramatically down to the water line at several points, and the falls sparkle in the afternoon sun.

On my last night in Marble Falls, Cindy and Hugh Vaughn take me to see Marcia Ball and her band rock The Uptown Marble Theater back on Main Street. Opened in 1942, the theater showed its last movie in 2003 before shutting down. Then Russell Buster, who'd already redeveloped several properties along Main, bought the theater and reinvented it as a live entertainment hall. The 280-seat room retains a lot of intimacy and sounds great. With her festive, second-line New Orleans R&B romps and her yearning ballads, Ball is a house favorite. And the Louisiana-bred, Austin-based singer-pianist left no doubt as to why, playing nearly three hours and leaving the crowd jubilant as we strolled out into a cool, clear Hill Country night. **TH**

Austin-based writer **JOHN MORTHLAND** gets to Marble Falls more often than to any other town in the Hill Country. Also a Marble Falls fan, Photography Editor **GRIFF SMITH** dodged golf-ball-size hail during this shoot.

www.texashighways.com

→ **TH** ESSENTIALS

## Marble Falls

MARBLE FALLS lies 45 miles west of Austin and 85 miles north of San Antonio. For more information, call the **Marble Falls/Lake LBJ Chamber of Commerce** at 830/693-2815; www.marblefalls.org. Also find more on the **Historic Main Street Association** Web site, www.historicmainstreet.org. Contact information for sites in the story follows.



### Restaurants

**The Real New Orleans Style Restaurant**, 15041-B US 281 N., Round Mountain (11 miles south of Marble Falls), 830/825-3600; www.therealneworleansstylerestaurant.com.

**Blue Bonnet Cafe**, 211 US 281, 830/693-2344; www.bluebonnetcafe.net.

### Lodging

**The Wallace Guest House**, 910 3rd St., 830/798-9808; www.wallaceguesthouse.com.

**Horseshoe Bay Resort**, 6 miles southwest of Marble Falls, 877/611-0112; www.hsbresort.com. Resort Yacht Club, 830/596-0881.

**The Boat House**, 1222 CR 132A, Kingsland (12 miles northwest of Marble Falls), 325/388-5585; www.texasrockers.com.

### Galleries

**Pogue Sculpture Gallery and Foundry, Inc.**, 7670 FM 1431 E. (7.5 miles east of Marble Falls), 830/693-9544; www.danpoguesculpture.com.

**jSpace Gallery**, 206 Main St., 830/693-5973; www.jspacegallery.com.

**Riverbend Fine Art**, 710 1st St., 830/693-6632; www.riverbendfineart.com.

**Patina**, 1506 FM 1431 W., 830/637-7662; www.patinaofmarblefalls.com.

### Attractions

**Falls on the Colorado Museum**, 905 3rd St., 830/798-2157; www.fallsmuseum.org.

**Longhorn Cavern State Park**, 6 miles west of US 281 on Park Road 4, 830/598-2283; www.longhorncaverns.com.

**Vanishing Texas River Cruise**, at Canyon of the Eagles Lodge, where FM 2341 ends 14 miles north of US 29, 512/756-6986; www.vtrc.com.

**The Uptown Marble Theater**, 218 Main St., 830/693-9996; www.uptownmarble.com.



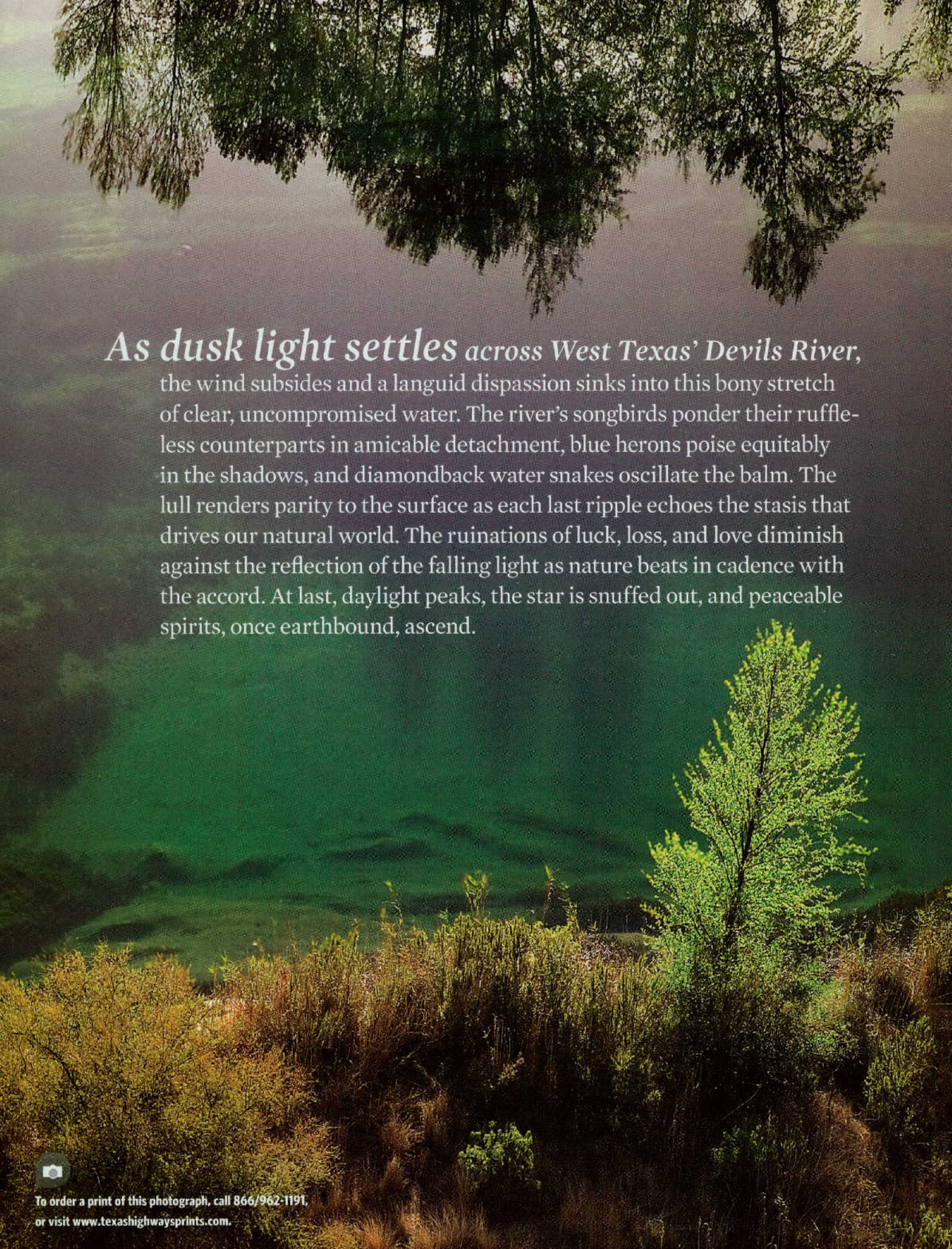
# Friends with the Devils

*This serene stream winds through wicked terrain*

*Text and Photographs by E. DAN KLEPPER*



To order a print of this photograph, call 866/962-1191,  
or visit [www.texashighwaysprints.com](http://www.texashighwaysprints.com).



*As dusk light settles* across West Texas' Devils River, the wind subsides and a languid dispassion sinks into this bony stretch of clear, uncompromised water. The river's songbirds ponder their ruffleless counterparts in amicable detachment, blue herons poise equitably in the shadows, and diamondback water snakes oscillate the balm. The lull renders parity to the surface as each last ripple echoes the stasis that drives our natural world. The ruinations of luck, loss, and love diminish against the reflection of the falling light as nature beats in cadence with the accord. At last, daylight peaks, the star is snuffed out, and peaceable spirits, once earthbound, ascend.



To order a print of this photograph, call 866/962-1191,  
or visit [www.texashighwaysprints.com](http://www.texashighwaysprints.com).

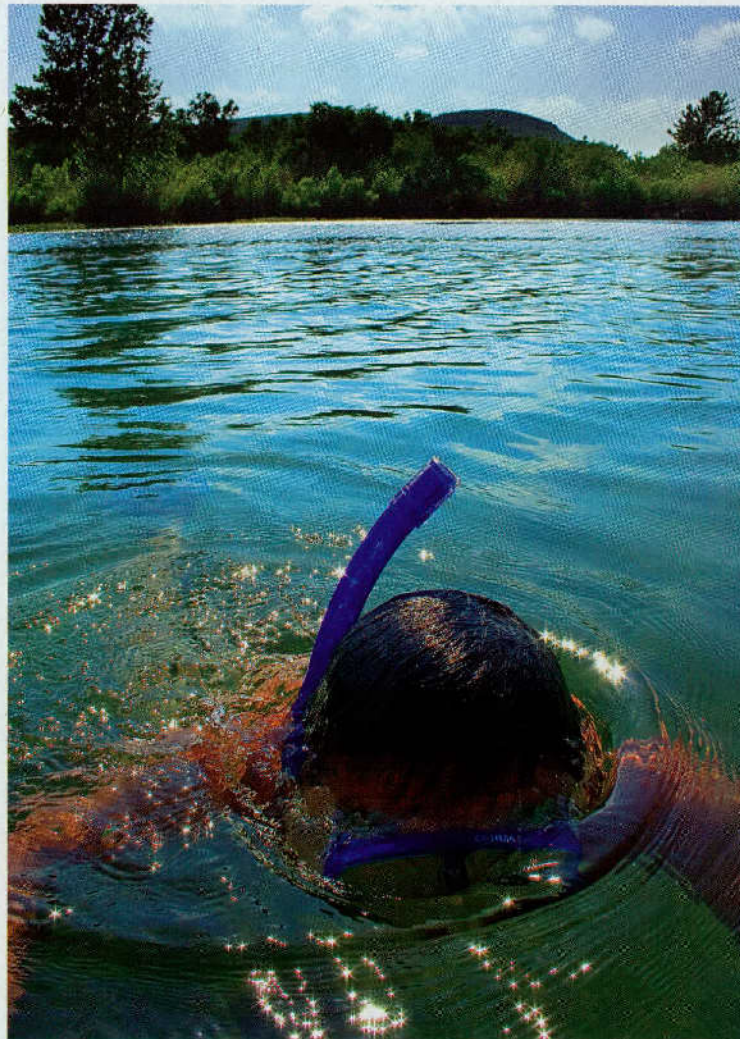
Sound like a paradise?

Yes, and it's surprising to discover such a place—Devils River—attached to a hellion's name. But, in truth, the Spanish had several names for the Devils River, the target of watershed drainage for parts of Crockett, Schleicher, Sutton, and Val Verde counties on its way to Amistad Reservoir on the Rio Grande. In 1590, explorer Gaspar Castaño de Sosa called it the Laxas, meaning lax, or having a loose and porous structure. Later, Spanish settlers called it the San Pedro after the martyr Saint Peter. The river conveys benevolence on the surrounding *despoblado* (uninhabited, deserted land) in much the same way that its namesake Saint Peter bestowed blessings, providing sanctuary throughout a parched and stony land.

But such appellations ended in 1840 when Texas Ranger Coffee Hays arrived at the river's edge. He looked down on the water and decided it likely belonged to the devil, not Saint Peter. Subsequently, to soften the blow against a strikingly beautiful country, the apostrophe was dropped, but the name "Devils" stuck.

The details of the river's past often seem ambiguous, due in part to the paucity of historical references before the 1800s, and limited access to its banks throughout modern times. It is also possible that the Devils' slim record is a result of its remaining almost exclusively within the domain of the natural world. Very little has changed along its course throughout the last 150 years.

PREVIOUS SPREAD: An inviting view of Dolan Falls on the Devils River. LEFT: The Devils, perhaps the most pristine river in Texas, flows almost 50 miles from its headwaters in Val Verde County to Amistad Reservoir and the Rio Grande.



To travel the Devils by canoe or kayak (the only options) requires a strong will, skill, and a commitment of time and muscle power necessary to maneuver its white water and headwinds. But the Devils and its country can also be appreciated from several points along the state's rural byways, including one route that begins in Val Verde County.

Start your tour in the ranching community of Comstock, near the intersection of US 90 and Texas 163, established as a station on the Galveston, Harrisburg, and San Antonio Railway in the 1880s. From here, a short stretch north along Texas 163 carries travelers high above the Rio Grande flood plain where vistas southward reveal the profile of Sleeping Woman Mountain in Old Mexico. Less than a dozen miles farther north lies Dead Man's Pass, a squeeze between rolling bluffs that may have been a favorite ambush site. Named

The clean and clear Devils begs to be snorkeled. for the skeletal remains discovered long ago in nearby Deadman's Canyon, the pass signals the halfway point between Comstock and Baker's Crossing.

The Devils River makes its first appearance along Texas 163 at Baker's Crossing. The crossing was the second in a series of 20 river fordings on the historic route from San Antonio to El Paso established by the Whiting-Smith Expedition of 1849. Wagon trains negotiated the river's shallows and risked confrontation with Apaches along this Devils River Valley trace. Nearby, in 1857, Camp Hudson was constructed to protect travelers from frontier dangers. All that remains of the camp lies in history books.

Today, Baker's Crossing serves as a private camping area and river put-in. Descendant Sheppard Baker inhabits the family



*Once trekkers ascend to the escarpment above the river, the views are vast and stark, offering a minimalist's aesthetic on a grand scale.*

home that sits above the river crossing and maintains the 12 campsites available for day picnickers as well as paddlers preparing to tackle the long trip downstream.

The Devils' headwaters can occasionally appear hellish, particularly when witnessed engorged in full-fledged calamity. The river is fed first by a dead-dry watershed, giving rise in northeastern Crockett County and continuing southward along draws known locally as Dry Devils, Granger, Buckhorn, Rough, Johnson, Flat Rock, and House, just a few among many. During summer's monsoon rains, these trajectories channel the runoff, swelling the arroyos to cattle-choking proportions, overpowering a waterway that is sustained otherwise by the gentle flow of underground springs.

Absent torrential rains, the Devils' headwaters rise pastorally among groves of pecan trees many miles after the river's actual watershed begins.

**A**s Texas 163 continues northward alongside the Devils, the highway passes near the river's headwaters at Pecan Springs, an oasis that lies within the private confines of the Hudspeth River Ranch. Claudia Abbey Ball, the ranch's matriarch and granddaughter of the late "Cowboy Congressman" Claude Hudspeth, continues to operate the impressive spread, and her stewardship is responsible for the superb condition of the Devils here. Although not accessible to the public, the Devils can be seen from the road and reveals a glass-clear waterway and a riparian habitat unmatched in the state.

Above the headwaters, the Devils becomes an intermittent series of pools and gravel draws. While all of this land is private (trespassers along the Devils have been greeted with a warning shot) wildlife freely inhabits these watery ecosystems, and watchful travelers may spot migrating osprey, belted kingfisher, and beaver.

At the ghost town of Juno, travelers may turn onto RR 189 and head east through Devils River watershed country, crossing the many dry

Perfect panoramas such as these are common at Devils River State Natural Area.



*At Amistad, the Devils and the Rio Grande have merged into a massive, binational lake covering nearly 67,000 acres.*

draws and arroyos that feed the river and flood dangerously when inundated. Here, goat and sheep ranching share the land with oil and gas drilling. Evidence of both dominates the landscape along RR 189 to the intersection with US 277, as well as northward along US 277 to Sonora.

Sonora, seat of Sutton County, lays claim to the Devils more readily perhaps than any other town simply because it bestowed the river's name to its oldest continuing operating business—the *Devils River News*. The 75-cent weekly began publication in 1890 and covers the typical fare found in most rural American towns—local elections, track meets, softball schedules, and the like. Sutton County's magnificently restored courthouse, a Second Empire flourish of mansard roofing, fancy iron cresting, and stone quoins, succeeds in encapsulating the Napoleon III era-French style that Texas architect Oscar Ruffini sought. The interior wall stenciling and glazing reveals handsome detail

throughout, particularly in the impressive courtroom. Dining tip: The Sutton County Steakhouse, along Interstate 10 next door to the Days Inn-Devils River, may serve the best chicken-fried steak in all the land.

**H**eading back south along US 277 from Sonora for approximately 60 miles will bring travelers to Dolan Creek Road and a sign for the Devils River State Natural Area (SNA). Dolan Creek Road, a gravel roadbed prone to washouts during heavy rains, travels westward across private properties before arriving at Devils River SNA around 22 miles later. The SNA is a favorite public access point for the Devils River and, for most Texans, represents the heart of the river's natural world.

Devils River SNA, once known as the Finegan Ranch, offers primitive camping, bunkhouse rentals, hiking and biking trails, and a river put-in by the park concessionaire for canoes and kayaks. Paddlers who wish to

launch a canoe or kayak are provided direct access to the river. Otherwise, visitors must hike or bike the final mile along the SNA's main gravel road to the river's edge.

After crossing the usually dry Dolan Creek, hikers top a small rise before the river reveals itself—an aquatic ripple across an endless desert vista. Springs are responsible for almost 80% of the Devils' flow, rendering it remarkably clear. The river consists of long, deep pools, wide shallows, and turbulent rapids. The placid surface of the river belies a significant current that will carry a swimmer caught unawares quickly downstream. But that shouldn't deter visitors with strong swimming skills from snorkeling the submerged limestone edges of the river



For more on  
Devils River State  
Natural Area, see  
[texashighways.com/webextra](http://texashighways.com/webextra).





A sailboat and a picnic shelter (far right) share the scenic surroundings at Rough Canyon Marina, where the Devils empties into Amistad Reservoir.

channel. The fish are plentiful, including catfish, bass, and minnows, and it is not uncommon to see turtles

sunning in groups on exposed boulders. Visitors can make like turtles themselves and stretch out along the shoreline's limestone ledges, spending the entire afternoon doing absolutely nothing.

But for mountain bikers, hikers, and equestrians, Devils River SNA's 12-mile multiuse Loop Trail provides a chance to commune directly with the river's spirits. Once trekkers ascend to the escarpment above the river, the views are vast and stark, offering a minimalist's aesthetic on a grand scale. The geology consists of limestone tiers, topped with fat, rounded caps where a series of windmills echo in the distance. Almost six miles of the trail wander across semidesert grassland where a classic triad

appears: Edwards Plateau meets Trans-Pecos meets South Texas Brush Country. And if trekkers are lucky enough to hit the trail at the right time, they can spend those miles knee-deep in wildflowers.

**D**ownriver from the SNA, the Devils is joined by the waters from Dolan Springs and, together, they tumble over Dolan Falls. The falls and surrounding area lie within the stewardship of the Nature Conservancy. While the Dolan Falls area isn't regularly accessible to the public, the Nature Conservancy periodically offers volunteer opportunities associated with the preserve. River runners are required to negotiate a safe portage around the falls, because the drop and its powerful hydraulics will snap a boat in two.

The final destination of the Devils' flow was once the Rio Grande, but now the river empties into the mammoth Amistad Reservoir, the centerpiece of the National Park Service's Amistad National Recreation Area. Here at Amistad, the Devils and the Rio Grande have merged into a massive, binational lake covering nearly 67,000 acres. The Devils arm of Amistad

can be accessed at Rough Canyon Marina on Park Road R2, off US 277 as it heads south into Del Rio. Anglers can cast from the shores or motor along the shallows, working the inundated brush and submerged outcrops for bass. Picnic ramadas, a fee-based boat ramp, and a public fish-cleaning station are all available courtesy of the NPS. In addition, visitors will find a hotel, bait shop, boat rentals, and boat storage, an ironic array of recreational services for a river that begins with a clear-cut indifference to human endeavor. It is easier to embrace the river's moniker here: Seen from the air, the river and the lake merge to form a snarl as the Devils undulates like the whipped tail of an Amistad dragon. But, like its name, the resemblance is only a human invention. The Devils River has never been the stockpile of sinners or saints. It has, instead, always belonged to nature. **TH**

*Writer/photographer E. DAN KLEPPER is no stranger to the Devils River. "I swam and fished the Devils in my youth, and have returned to the state natural area many times since. Despite the name, the Devils always feels like heaven to me."*

## ➔ TH ESSENTIALS

### Devils River

THE DEVILS RIVER, a pristine, whitewater river in southwest Texas, flows through Sutton and Val Verde counties into the Amistad Reservoir on the Rio Grande near Del Rio.

**Baker's Crossing** is 22 miles north of Comstock, off Texas 163. 12 campsites, fees vary. Day rates and put-in rates available; 432/292-4503.

For details regarding **Devils River State Natural Area**, call 830/395-2133; [www.tpwd.state.tx.us/devilsriver](http://www.tpwd.state.tx.us/devilsriver). All fees and reservations are handled through Texas Parks & Wildlife's central reservations at 512/389-8900.

For additional information on **Sonora**, call 888/387-2880; [www.sonoratx-chamber.com](http://www.sonoratx-chamber.com).

The **Nature Conservancy** is online at [www.nature.org](http://www.nature.org).

Contact **Amistad National Recreation Area** at 830/775-7491; [www.nps.gov/amis](http://www.nps.gov/amis). For **Rough Canyon Marina**, call 830/775-8779.





*Arlington* America's



With the Cowboys moving in,  
this Metroplex destination  
is rewriting history

*Town?*



*Text by* **CHARLES LOHRMANN**  
*Photographs by* **KEVIN STILLMAN**

**I**T'S A COOL AND SUNNY SPRING morning, and I'm standing on the highest point in Tarrant County—a hill overlooking the western sweep of Arlington—noting that overgrown trees hide the suburban development that fills the land below, just north of Texas 180. I'm happy to miss the recent construction, because I'm imagining the perspective this same view offered 75 years ago. In those days, on a particularly festive evening, I might have heard the music of Tommy Dorsey's band and acknowledged the celebratory clink of revelers' champagne glasses. Then, if I turned around to survey the rest of the rock-walled garden where I now stand, I might have seen Ginger Rogers dancing

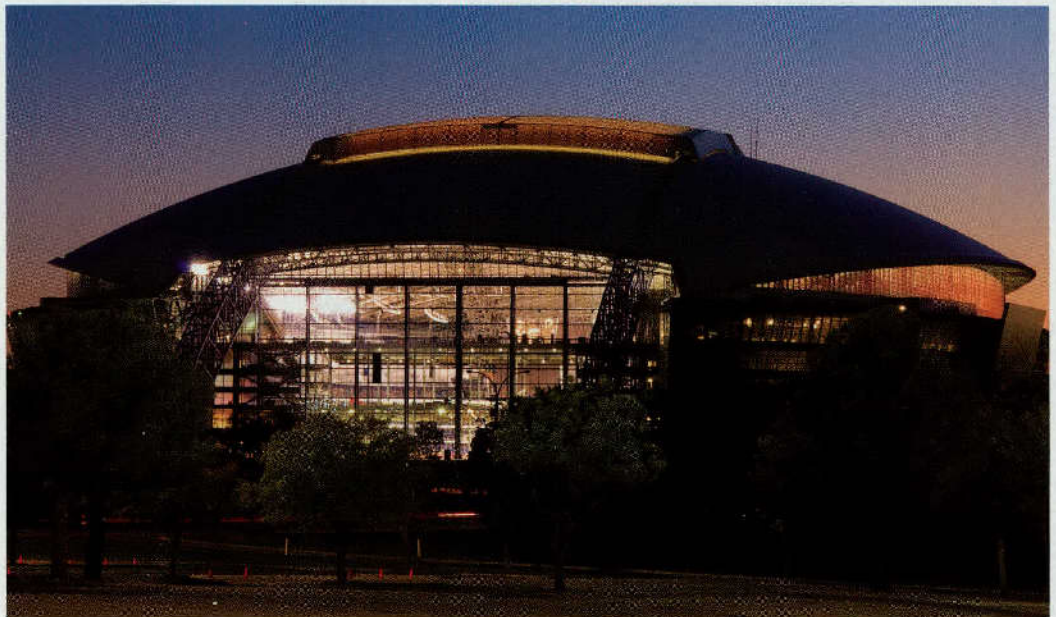
**LEFT:** The stone entry to Top O' Hill Terrace, on Texas 180/Division Street in west Arlington, witnessed the high life in the 1930s and '40s. **ABOVE:** The rectangular Rangers Ballpark in the foreground awaits completion of the new Cowboys Stadium in Arlington's entertainment district. CLASSIC AUTO COURTESY OF TOM DODSON

past. Or caught a glimpse of Howard Hughes, the dashing aviator-industrialist-turned-movie magnate, surveying the gathering of movie stars and high rollers.

**T**his site is the tea garden of Top O' Hill Terrace. Even though the buildings and grounds now define the campus of Arlington Baptist College, Top O' Hill lives in local history as a glamorous, yet notorious, casino and nightclub that raised eyebrows during the 1930s and '40s: Renowned boxers rubbed shoulders with local big shots and all joined shady characters on the sly to play cards, roll the dice, and live the high life.

The stadium's end-zone windows can slide open, and the roof panel can retract along the tracks of the huge arches.

Arlington is now the seventh-largest city in the state with a population of nearly 400,000, but the city still works hard at redefining itself and knows how to draw a crowd. As I learn more about Top O' Hill Terrace, I'm realizing that drawing a crowd is not a newly discovered skill in this pocket of the Metroplex.



When America's Team plays its first game here in August 2009, this monumental structure will have swallowed up over \$1 billion.

I'm part of a group enjoying Vickie Bryant's 90-minute private tour of Top O' Hill. In this pastoral setting, with a few choice stories to spur the imagination, the past—and the characters that inhabit it—seems very close. And that's mostly the result of Bryant's diligent research, gathering oral histories from the few still living who remember the place, and collecting artifacts of that fast-life era.

How can a Baptist College thrive in a campus with such a checkered past? No one ponders this question more devoutly than Bryant. "Here I am, a preacher's wife," she says, "and I'm telling stories about gamblers and ladies of the evening." In order to bridge the philosophical split between gambling and religion, Bryant has coined the theme "From Poker to Preachers," and conducts by-appointment-only tours that bring attention to the racy stories, replete with escape tunnels and secret passages. One display features a luxurious Neiman-Marcus cape once worn by one of the "working girls" but appropriated by an early woman of the church college. "We felt like it was OK to exhibit the cape because she wore it to church and it was sanctified," Bryant explains.

Six Flags Over Texas' Festival Latino features a lowrider parade through the park at the end of the day.



TONY HAWK'S  
**Big Spin**

TONY  
HAWK



TEXAS  
TRUCK  
**86C-GV3**

TEXAS  
**STREET LIFE**  
DON'T MESS WITH TEXAS



**W**e'd love to hear more about Top O'Hill, but must move on to explore the dramatic contrasts of Arlington today. Just five miles away from the modest Arlington Baptist College, we're gazing in amazement at one of the most over-the-top building projects in the state, if not the world: the new stadium home for the Dallas Cowboys (officially named Cowboys Stadium). When America's Team plays its first game here in August 2009, this monumental structure will have swallowed up over \$1 billion.

As our little group contorts ourselves into safety vests and re-sizes the hard hats in preparation for touring the building, Dallas

Life in the stands: For Madison Quiroga, it wouldn't be a real ball game without ice cream.



Cowboys Communications Director Brett Daniels reels off statistics: biggest arches, 100,000 seating capacity, 3,000 video monitors, largest video display scoreboard unit in the world. As we make our way to the arena field, we see swarms of tradesmen clamoring around every nook of the monstrous structure to make sure the building is ready for the opening event in early June—country star George Strait. I can't help noticing that Daniels looks over his shoulder as he mentions that Cowboys owner Jerry Jones could show up at any time to check the progress on his pet project. The boss knows how to make his presence felt, whether he's there or not.

The soon-to-be lavish suites, deluxe locker rooms, and cavernous interior hallways (two 18-wheelers can park side by side in the enormous tunnel that taps into the service entrance) make it clear that this is not just a monument to football, it's a monument to full-scale spectacle. When I stand on the field and look up at the seven-story-high, flat-panel video screen (160 feet long and 72 feet high), I'm not imagining a gigantic instant replay, rather I'm anticipating Bono and Edge appearing many times larger than life when U2 takes over the building in October of this year.

The two screens facing the fans require their own elevator to access the seven interior floor levels. The scoreboard

We visit the ballpark neighborhood midmorning, and tailgating fans are partying in full swing: smoking grills, music, general frivolity.

Loyal fans fill the Rangers Ballpark to see the Texas Rangers beat the Cleveland Indians on opening day.



The Levitt Pavilion draws the community together to share an event, and the setting reminds me of the old-fashioned bandstands in parks and plazas around the country.

assembly, which includes the two large screens and a smaller screen facing each end zone, cost something like \$40 million more than the entire Texas Stadium that the Cowboys are leaving behind in Irving. And this stadium represents another coup for Arlington, which now might be called America's Town, to accommodate America's Team. Arlingtonians already host America's Pastime right across the street at the Rangers Ballpark, where the Texas Rangers took on (and defeated 9-1)

the Cleveland Indians in the opening-day game. We visit the ballpark neighborhood midmorning, and tailgating fans are partying in full swing: smoking grills, music, general frivolity. It's an uncharacteristically chilly, late-spring day, and the grills are attracting partyers who keep warm as they enjoy their revelry.





As we make our way to the field, the flyover of B-2 bombers sets off car alarms across the parking lot. On the way to our seats, one of our group insists on locating a particular concession stand that grills onions perfectly for the hot dogs and serves them up with aromatic garlic fries. And, once settled in the stands, rabid fan or not, there's nothing like the methodical pace of a baseball game to transport you to a more relaxing dimension of the American Experience.

From the ballpark, it's easy to see the attraction that first made Arlington a popular destination (after Top O' Hill, of course): Six Flags Over Texas. The Texas Giant and the Titan stand quiet today because it's a weekday and the park opens full-time later in the spring. We made our visit to the park the day before—on a Sunday afternoon—and spent a few hours taking in the attractions of Festival Latino, including a lowrider parade complete with vehicles jumping off the ground.

For an alternative afternoon's entertainment (particularly on a hot day), the University of Texas at Arlington Planetarium offers welcome respite. We lean back in hyper-comfortable chairs to experience a film that explains Egyptian astronomy. I am completely transfixed, and although the trailer for the film about the Mayan culture tempts me, we have another destination downtown.

As the afternoon fades, we drive to central Arlington to take in an early-evening performance at the Levitt Pavilion, one of only five such performance venues in the country. A cordial crowd settles into lawn

chairs and onto blankets to relax and visit as children chase each other around the edges of the gathering. A family Texas Swing act, the Quebe Sisters, brings those assembled to life with its three-fiddle renditions of the Swing standards.

The Levitt Pavilion, a key component of Arlington's downtown redevelopment, draws members of the sur-

rounding community together to share musical events, and the setting reminds me of the old-fashioned bandstands in parks and plazas around the country. This is another way Arlington is redefining itself and embellishing its history. **TH**

*TH Editor CHARLES LOHRMANN encourages history buffs to call Vickie Bryant and take the Top O'Hill tour. Photographer KEVIN STILLMAN most enjoyed photographing Tom Dodson's classic vehicle (1941 vintage) at Top O'Hill Terrace.*

## → TH ESSENTIALS



## Arlington

ARLINGTON lies immediately east of Fort Worth, and includes territory south of Interstate 20 to north of Interstate 30, with Texas 360 running north to south through the city. For general information, contact **Arlington CVB and Visitors Center**, 1905 E. Randol Mill Rd., 800/433-5374; [www.arlington.org](http://www.arlington.org).

### Restaurants

**My Martini**, 859 NE Green Oaks Blvd., 817/461-4424; [www.mymartinibistro.com](http://www.mymartinibistro.com).

**Olenjack's Grille**, 770 Road to Six Flags East, Ste. 100, in Arlington's Lincoln Square, 817/226-2600; [www.olenjacksgrille.com](http://www olenjacksgrille.com).

### Attractions

**Top O' Hill Terrace**, tours by appointment only, contact Vickie Bryant, Arlington Baptist College, 3001 W. Division, 817/461-8741 ext. 109; [vbryant@abconline.org](mailto:vbryant@abconline.org).

**Six Flags Over Texas**, 817/640-8900; [www.sixflags.com/overTexas](http://www.sixflags.com/overTexas).

**Levitt Pavilion for the Performing Arts**, 505 E. Border St., 817/543-4303; [www.levittpavilionarlington.org](http://www.levittpavilionarlington.org).

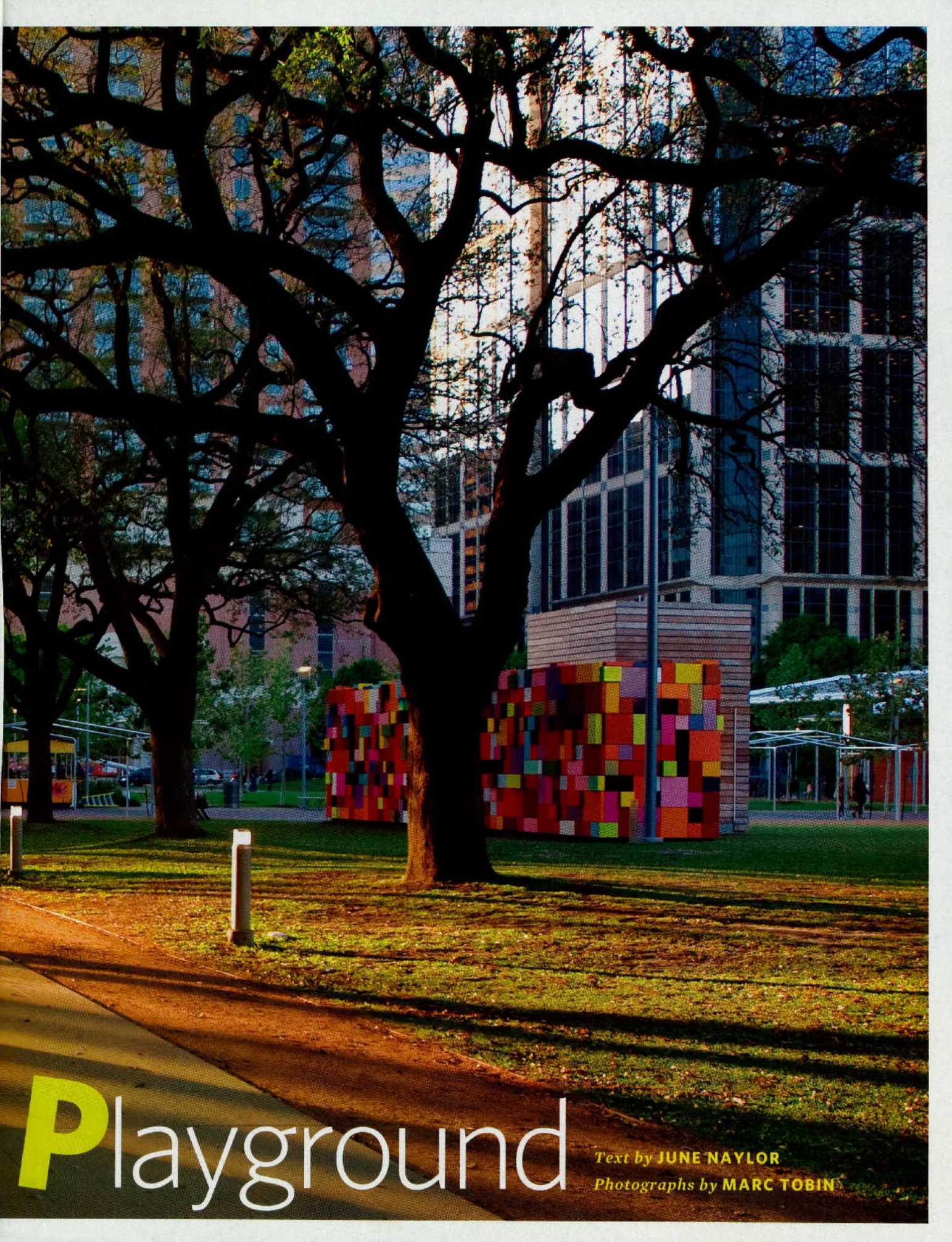
**The Gallery at University of Texas at Arlington**, Fine Arts Building, 502 S. Cooper St., 817/272-3110; [www.uta.edu/gallery/visitor.php](http://www.uta.edu/gallery/visitor.php).

**University of Texas at Arlington Planetarium**, 700 Planetarium Place, 817/272-1183; [www.uta.edu/planetarium](http://www.uta.edu/planetarium).



Houston's  
Discovery Green

Downtown



# **P**layground

Text by **JUNE NAYLOR**  
Photographs by **MARC TOBIN**



**Yes, you can drink in**

the fresh air and relax here, but it's also a destination created to entertain, educate, and exercise you.

Houston has made irresistible the formerly unthinkable: The city wants you to come outside and play. Yes, Houston—especially in summer. With the development of Discovery Green on downtown's east side, the Bayou City has joined the ranks of New York and San Francisco—cities renowned for their appealing urban green spaces.

When it opened in April 2008, the \$125 million Discovery Green added to the new energy fueling downtown Houston's current buzz. The megacity's longtime love affair with growth has turned inward to the heart of town, with recent development focusing on the region formed within the crossing of Interstate 45, US 59, and Interstate 10. Coinciding with a boom in fresh dining, shopping, and lodging downtown, Discovery Green replaced a string of ugly parking lots to give you dozens of ways to celebrate being outdoors, week in and week out. The park's 12 acres lie within easy walking distance of some of Houston's most cosmopolitan and cityfied attractions. Yet within Discovery Green's tree-lined borders, visitors can relax and let nature set the pace.

But first, you'll want to get your bearings: The heart of the park, a grassy lawn named for Houston philanthropist Jesse Jones, stretches from the city's convention center to a tree-lined promenade named for Houston Mayor Bill White and his wife, Andrea, who helped spearhead Discovery Green's development. Perpendicular to this north-south promenade, a second pedestrian walkway, the Brown Foundation Promenade, follows the Jones Lawn. Here, mature live oaks cast shade over a series of wooden benches—ideal vantage points from which to watch the park's parade of walkers and rollerbladers. And throughout the bell-shaped park, you'll find a jogging trail, amphitheaters, fountains, playgrounds, dog runs, restaurants, and gardens.

But you shouldn't dismiss

Discovery Green as simply another park. Yes, you can drink in the fresh air and relax here, but it's also a destination created to entertain, educate, and exercise you. You'd be hard-pressed, in fact, to encounter a dull moment. Public art, modern architecture, and subtle tributes to southeast Texas' natural history lend imaginative touches throughout. On the park's east end, framed by two rows of cypress trees along Avenida de Las Americas, French artist Jean Dubuffet's *Monument au Fantome*—an abstract seven-piece sculpture—juts 33 feet skyward. On the west end, near the Sarofim Picnic Lawn and a bird-themed playground designed to recall elements of Houston's migratory flyway, you'll find sculptor Doug Hollis' *Mist Tree*, a 15-foot-tall, 22-foot-wide stainless-steel structure that invites visitors to cool off within its rain curtain.

If you want to sail model boats, you'll find a dedicated area on Kinder Lake, which covers more than an acre on the park's northeast corner. If you're ready to play croquet, you'll find equipment available most weekends on the Grace Event Lawn. If you'd like to take in an arts performance or a film, you'll find dozens on the schedule most months of the year. Searching for a Pilates or tai chi class? It's here. A farmer's market or writing workshop? Check the calendar for the right day. Throughout the year, you can count on readings and other art performances at the park's numerous amphitheaters, stages, lawns, and meeting spaces. Oh, and just about everything is free.

Driving such a dynamic place, naturally, requires someone with unusual energy, which Guy Hagstette,

PREVIOUS SPREAD: Along with oak-shaded walkways, restaurants, and numerous performing spaces, visitors to Discovery Green also encounter imaginative public artworks, including Margo Sawyer's playful installation *Synchronicity of Colors*. LEFT AND RIGHT: Kids and adults alike can sail model boats on Kinder Lake, or follow Allison and Brad Green's lead and simply lounge on its banks.





## Visitors see a side of Houston that's dramatically different from what they see when driving through on the freeway.

president of Discovery Green Conservancy, happens to possess. A native Houstonian and downtown resident for nearly 15 years, Hagstette worked with Mayor Bill White and some of Houston's most generous citizens to develop the right formula for an outdoor venue that could serve multiple purposes. They sought input from developers with like-minded projects in Atlanta, New York, San Francisco, and Boston, and asked fellow citizens in Texas for their thoughts, as well.

"We reached out to Houstonians, holding a series of public meetings to ask what they wanted," says Hagstette, who oversaw a process that lasted about three years. "Like everyone in the current economic conditions, we were nervous, but the

project has been incredibly successful."

More than 700,000 people visited Discovery Green in its first year, says Hagstette. The extensive range of attractions draws locals and tourists alike. Facing the George R. Brown Convention Center and the Hilton Americas, Discovery Green even appeals to business travelers, who can leave their meeting rooms to relax and catch up on e-mail in the park, thanks to a Houston Public Library program that offers free Wi-Fi access and computer work stations.

Year-round, you see sports fans coming in for a Houston Rockets or Astros game, playing in the park, and making a day of it. The park's position midway between the Toyota Center and Minute Maid Park

makes it easy to have a meal, grab a cocktail, or take in a show before or after a game.

"Visitors come, and they see a side of Houston that's dramatically different from what they see when driving through on the freeway," Hagstette says. The appeal, he says, has much to do with Discovery Green's diverse programming and focus on Houston's cultural scene.

Chief among the music events is the series of free Thursday evening concerts on the Anheuser-Busch Stage, where you'll find people picnicking beneath the stars on blankets spread out next to the lake. One of

At night, glittery lights create a cosmopolitan vibe. Daytime activities include Pilates and yoga classes.



last year's most popular events returns this summer—a weekly live-music series called Sundays in the Park, which highlights performers for adults and kids through the end of June. While the live-music programs grow sparse during July and August, they pick up again in September, when a group called The Fab 40 Plays Abbey Road brings together more than 40 local musicians to play the Beatles' beloved *Abbey Road* album in its entirety.

In addition to ballet and other dance presentations, Discovery Green presents monthly silent-film concerts, pairing a 1920s silent movie with live music by a Texas musical group. Weekend-long art exhibits are fun and quirky: The recent Light As Air Festival brought together a collection of inflatable sculptures and included workshops.

Regularly scheduled yoga, Pilates, and fitness dance classes figure into the health, wellness, and better-living programming at Discovery Green, too. The Central City Co-op Downtown Green Market takes place on Sunday afternoons; here, you'll find vendors selling fresh, organic produce and various edibles, soaps, and home products fashioned from local, organic ingredients.

The fun doesn't stop when the weather turns cooler, either. Last winter, the ice-skating rink at Kinder Lake was, by all accounts, a smash hit. Look for it to return on Thanksgiving Day and last through mid-January.

You can have a meal or a cocktail without leaving the park, as well. The Grove thrives as a chic but casual restaurant that often runs in high gear even on midweek evenings. That's because chef Ryan Pera—who previously won raves for his work at Houston's Alden Hotel—tempts diners with his American rustic-cuisine specialties like deviled eggs with Spanish chorizo and tapenade, along with braised Long Island duck legs with baby turnips and wild mushrooms.

On The Grove's rooftop, a bar called the Trehouse

➔ TH ESSENTIALS



## Discovery Green

DISCOVERY GREEN is between McKinney and Lamar, in front of the George R. Brown Convention Center. The address is 1500 McKinney. Park in the convention center garage, or at metered spots, or in surface lots nearby. Park hours: Daily 6 a.m. to 11 p.m. Most programs are free. Visit [www.discoverygreen.com](http://www.discoverygreen.com); 713/400-7336.

The park's two restaurants are **The Grove**, 713/337-7314; [www.TheGroveHouston.com](http://www.TheGroveHouston.com); and **The Lake House**, 713/337-7320; [www.thelakehousehouston.com](http://www.thelakehousehouston.com).

provides a mellow spot for cocktails and nibbles, with graceful live oaks forming a border along the restaurant's railing. Across the Jones Lawn, a casual eatery called The Lake House serves burgers, hot dogs, salads, shakes, wine, and beer. As throughout the park, a commitment to green living shines here, where all concession materials consist of eco-friendly, biodegradable products.

That may have been previously unthinkable in Houston, but it's the new reality—at least in downtown's new playground. Even in summer, you'll want to get back to nature. **TH**

*Writer JUNE NAYLOR loved the ginger margaritas and pulled-chicken tacos at Discovery Green's Treehouse. Photographer MARC TOBIN marvels at how the park's architecture compliments its green spaces.*



## Still Waters Run Deep

*Rediscovering the first town in Jackson County*

Text by **NOLA McKEY**

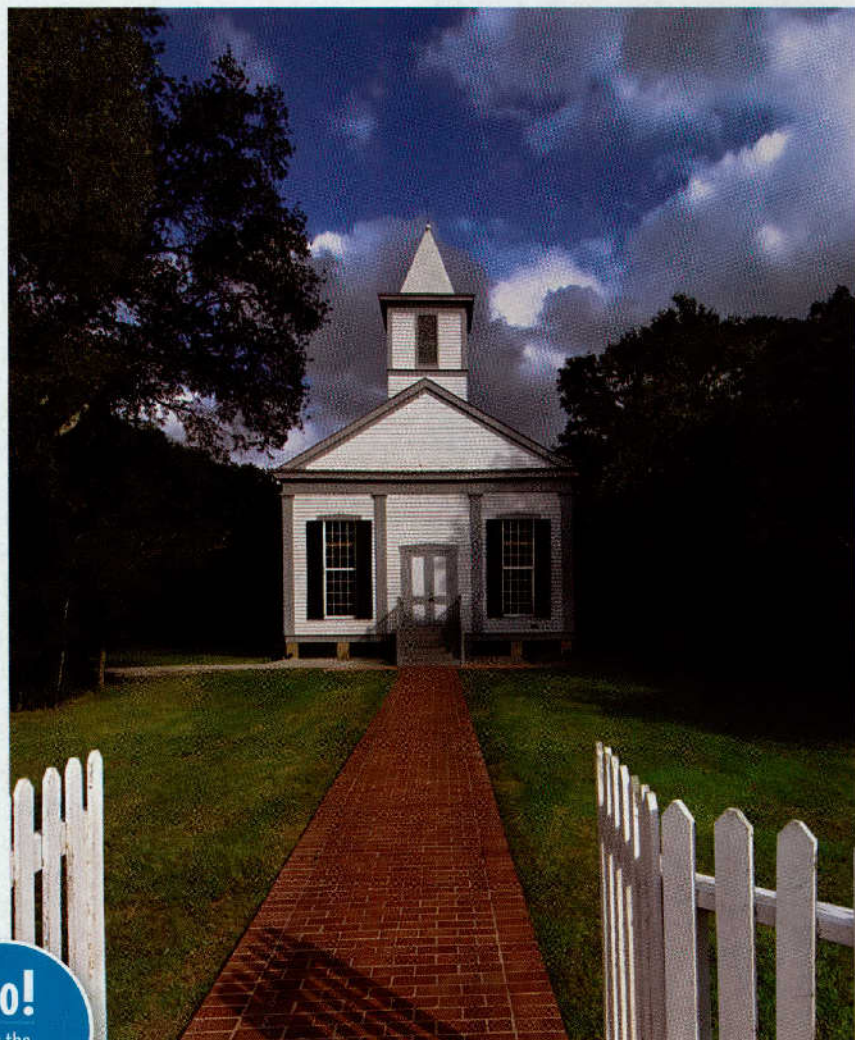
**I**T'S A SAFE BET THAT FEW OF THE boaters and water-skiers who frequent Lake Texana, near Edna, realize that less than 75 feet below the surface of this placid body of water lies the site of a once-bustling river port. In the mid-1800s, as many as 20 vessels a week docked here.

Established in 1832 on the Navidad River by Dr. Francis F. Wells, one of Stephen F. Austin's Old Three Hundred colonists, and Wells' sister-in-law, Pamela McNutt Porter, the town was originally named Santa Anna after Antonio López de Santa Anna. However, the Mexican soldier and politician's popularity soon waned and residents changed the name to Texana.

During the Texas Revolution, the town served both as a port of entry for volunteers and as a training camp. When the war ended and the Republic was organized into counties, Texana became the seat of Jackson County. "The Navidad was a navigable river then, and boats were able to dock and turn around at Texana," says Frank Condron, president

**Do!**

Tour the Historic Texana Church



of the Jackson County Historical Commission.

In mid-1836, New York capitalists Augustus and John Allen, in search of a site for an inland deep-water port, approached Wells about buying the land on which Texana was located. "After making their survey of the entire gulf coast they decided in favor of Texana, it being the farthest inland with no obstruction," writes I.T. Taylor in his 1936 book, *The Cavalcade of Jackson County*. When the Allen brothers offered Wells a substantial sum, he set a price twice that amount. Legend says his response so angered the brothers that one of them declared, "Never will this town amount to anything. I curse it. You ... will live to see rabbits and other animals inhabiting

its streets." The Allens then bought land on Buffalo Bayou and established their dream city of Houston there instead.

Nevertheless, Texana continued to grow. By 1840, it had regular steamboat service, and in 1858, residents erected a courthouse. In 1880, it boasted regular mail and stage routes, a flourishing business area, and a weekly newspaper.

The next year, agents of the New York, Texas and Mexican Railway proposed routing the railroad through Texana in exchange for \$30,000. When town leaders balked, the railroad moved seven miles north, bypassing the town. Many Texana residents followed and

A popular wedding site today, the 150-year-old former Texana Presbyterian Church stands near its original location.



## Traces of Old Texana

WHILE THE TOWN OF TEXANA NO LONGER exists, you can find traces of it at several sites in and around Edna (at US 59 and TX 111). **Lake Texana State Park** (7 miles east, on TX 111) also features occasional programs on the pioneer town. Call 361/782-5718; [www.tpwd.state.tx.us](http://www.tpwd.state.tx.us).



The **Brackenridge Recreation Complex** (across TX 111 from the state park), once the site of the Brackenridge Plantation, displays early **photographs** of the area and offers tours of the restored **Historic Texana Church**, which was built in 1859, moved to Edna in 1884, and finally moved here, a few miles north of its original location, in 2001. The quaint Greek Revival structure is a Recorded Texas Historic Landmark and listed in the National Register of Historic Places. Owned by the Lavaca-Navidad River Authority (LNRA), the park also includes the **Brackenridge family cemetery**. Call 361/782-5456; [www.brackenridgepark.com](http://www.brackenridgepark.com).

Two other sites display **Texana artifacts and photographs**: **LNRA headquarters** (at FM 3131 and FM 1822; 361/782-5229; [www.lnra.org](http://www.lnra.org)), and **Texana Museum** (403 N. Wells St.; 361/782-7146;



Lake Texana State Park, east of Edna, offers camping, hiking, fishing, and other watersports.

[www.jacksoncountytexas.com](http://www.jacksoncountytexas.com)), which offers exhibits on local history.

A number of buildings were moved from Texana to Edna in the late 1800s. Only two **historic homes** remain: the 1866 Bronaugh-Hasdorff home, at 203 E. Brackenridge St., and the 1876 George F. Horton home, at 404 Hanover St. —Nola McKay

established a new community called Edna. It soon became the county seat, and by 1884, Texana had become ghost town. It seemed as if the Allen brothers' curse had been fulfilled. Some might say the final blow fell in 1979, when Palmetto Bend Dam was built on the Navidad River less

than a mile below the old town site, forming Lake Texana and flooding the area.

Today, the reservoir is at the heart of Lake Texana State Park. Because Texana's namesake park attracts some 88,000 visitors a year, perhaps the Allen brother's curse was dispelled after all. **TH**

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# Word Up!

*Writers hone their skills at Mayborn*



**Some Mayborn Conference participants return as published authors.**

of connection among writers. In the evening, we strengthened that connection over dinner, sharing laughter as stories echoed across the banquet hall. Everyone had a common bond: a love for the written word.

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**AS I PLANNED TO ATTEND THE MAYBORN**

Literary Nonfiction Writers Conference of the Southwest, I anticipated the opportunity to rub elbows with renowned authors and established journalists as well as fledglings like myself.

The conference, sponsored by the Mayborn School of Journalism at the University of North Texas but held at the DFW Hilton in Grapevine, provides an intimate setting for literary enthusiasts who want to share their experiences in the journey of writing.

I spoke to George Getschow, a UNT journalism professor and former writer for *The Wall Street Journal*, who spearheads the conference as the writer-in-residence. Getschow explained how the conference caters to those who want to elevate the quality of their writing, regardless of age, skill set, or experience. "If you want to be a storyteller, Mayborn is the place for you," he said.

Participants visit with some of the finest writers in the world, learning about their journeys, their obstacles, and what it takes to keep going. Literary figures such as Joyce Carol Oates, Hampton Sides, and N. Scott Momaday have shared their experiences and expertise in years past, addressing not only the importance of quality, but the necessity

"They all understand each other even without speaking," Getschow explained to me later. Seeing the beginnings of relationships and the authors' fondness for storytelling made it easy to understand the group's tribal quality.

The Mayborn Literary Nonfiction Writers Conference of the Southwest is held at the DFW Hilton Lakes Executive Conference Center in Grapevine on July 24-26, 2009. See [www.themayborn.unt.edu](http://www.themayborn.unt.edu) for details.

— Julie Copenhaver



**Pulitzer Prize-winning author N. Scott Momaday shared his literary perspectives at the Mayborn Literary Nonfiction Writers Conference.**

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THE TRAVEL MAGAZINE OF TEXAS

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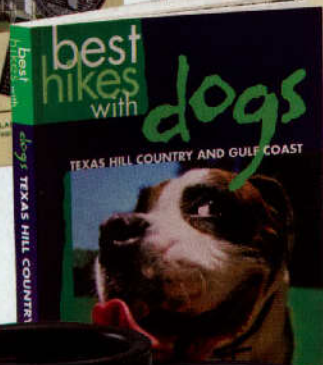
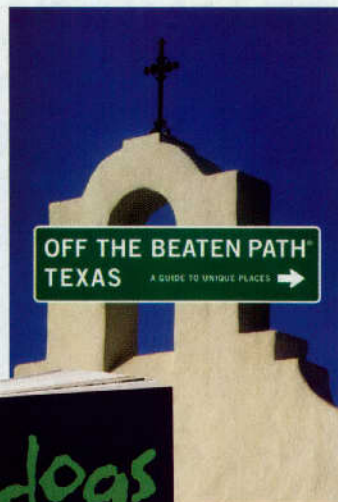
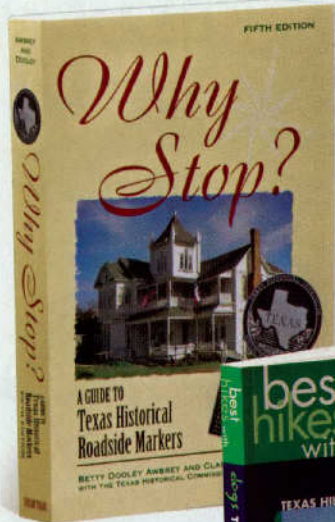
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## July Events

### BIG BEND COUNTRY

- ALPINE:** Theatre of the Big Bend's 44th Season July 3-August 2. Performances Friday-Sunday. Kokernot Outdoor Theatre. [www.sulross.edu/tobb](http://www.sulross.edu/tobb) 432/837-8218
- FORT DAVIS:** Coolest Fourth of July Celebration July 3-5. [www.fortdavis.com](http://www.fortdavis.com) 432/426-3015
- FORT STOCKTON:** Water Carnival July 16-18. Comanche Springs Swimming Pool. [www.fortstockton.org](http://www.fortstockton.org) 432/336-2264
- MARATHON:** Chili Cookoff July 4. 432/386-3576
- MIDLAND:** Summer Sunday Lawn Concert July 12, 19, 26. Museum of the Southwest. [www.museumsw.org](http://www.museumsw.org) 432/683-2882
- MONAHANS:** Freedom Festival July 4. Hill Park. [www.monahans.org](http://www.monahans.org) 432/943-2187
- MONAHANS:** Butterfield Overland Stagecoach & Wagon Festival July 25. Ward County Coliseum. 432/943-2187
- ODESSA:** Firecracker Fandango/Fourth of July Festival July 4. [www.mainstreetodessa.com](http://www.mainstreetodessa.com). 432/335-4682
- PECOS:** Night in Old Pecos/Cantaloupe Festival July 25. Downtown Oak Street. 432/445-2406
- SANDERSON:** Fourth of July Festivities July 4. Terrell County Courthouse. [www.sandersontx.info](http://www.sandersontx.info) 432/345-2291
- VAN HORN:** Fourth of July Celebration July 4. City Park. [www.vanhorn-texas.org](http://www.vanhorn-texas.org) 432/283-1884

### GULF COAST

- ALVIN:** July 4 Celebration July 4. Alvin Community College. 281/585-3359
- BAYTOWN:** July 3 & 4 Celebration July 3-4. Bicentennial Park. [www.baytown.org](http://www.baytown.org) 281/420-6597

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[www.toursonora.com](http://www.toursonora.com) 888-387-2880

**BAYTOWN:** *Disney's Beauty & the Beast* July 31-August 2. Lee College Performing Arts Center. [www.baytown.littletheater.org](http://www.baytown.littletheater.org) 281/424-7617

**BEAUMONT:** *Independence Day Celebration* July 4. Riverfront Park. 409/838-3435

**CLUTE:** *Great Texas Mosquito Festival* July 23-25. Clute Municipal Park. [www.mosquofestival.com](http://www.mosquofestival.com) 979/265-8392

**CORPUS CHRISTI:** *Big Bang Bay Cruise* July 4. Captain Clark's Flagship. 361/884-8306

**DEER PARK:** *Fourth Fest* July 4. Jimmy Burke Activity Center. [www.deerparktx.gov/recreation](http://www.deerparktx.gov/recreation) 281/478-2050

**GALVESTON:** *Fourth of July Parade & Fireworks* July 4. Downtown and Seawall Boulevard. 888/425-4753

**HOUSTON:** *Freedom Over Texas* July 4. Eleanor Tinsley Park. [www.freedomovertexas.org](http://www.freedomovertexas.org) 832/393-0868

**HOUSTON:** *Mariachi Vargas de Tecalitlán* July 18. Wortham Center. [www.mariachimusic.com](http://www.mariachimusic.com) 713/629-3700

**HOUSTON:** *Twelfth Night* July 31-August 8. Miller Outdoor Theatre. [www.milleroutdoortheatre.com](http://www.milleroutdoortheatre.com) 281/373-3386

**KEMAH:** *Fourth of July Spectacular* July 4. Kemah Boardwalk. [www.kemahboardwalk.com](http://www.kemahboardwalk.com) 281/334-9880

**KINGSVILLE:** *Fourth of July Kingsville Symphony Orchestra Concert* July 4. Jones Auditorium, Texas A&M Univ.-Kingsville. [www.kingsvillesymphony.org](http://www.kingsvillesymphony.org) 361/592-8516

**MISSOURI CITY:** *Independence Day Celebration* July 4. Buffalo Run Park. [www.missouricitytx.gov](http://www.missouricitytx.gov) 281/403-8500

**ORANGE:** *Wild Wednesdays at Shangri La* July 1, 8, 15, 22, 29. [www.shangrilagardens.org](http://www.shangrilagardens.org) 409/670-9113

**PALACIOS:** *Palacios Centennial Week* July 1-4. [www.palaciosbeacon.com](http://www.palaciosbeacon.com) 361/972-3009

**PEARLAND:** *July 4 Celebration of Freedom* July 4. [www.pearlandparks.com](http://www.pearlandparks.com) 281/652-1673

**PORT ARANSAS:** *Fireworks* July 4. Roberts Point Park. 361/749-4111

**PORT ARTHUR:** *Independence Day Celebration* July 4. Lamar State College, Port Arthur Campus. 409/984-6101

**PORT ARTHUR:** *Gulf Coast Jam* July 25. Port Arthur Civic Center. 409/548-4444

**ROCKPORT:** *Patriotic Boat Parade* July 4. Little Bay. Downtown. [www.rockport-fulton.org](http://www.rockport-fulton.org) 361/729-6445

**ROCKPORT:** *Rockport Art Festival* July 4-5. Festival Grounds. [www.rockportartcenter.com](http://www.rockportartcenter.com) 361/729-5519

**ROSENBERG:** *Family Fourth Celebration* July 4. Seabourne Creek Park. 832/595-3525

**SAN BENITO:** *Resaca Fest* July 4. W.H. Heavin Amphitheater. [www.cityofsanbenito.com](http://www.cityofsanbenito.com) 956/399-5321

**SOUTH PADRE ISLAND:** *Fourth of July Fireworks* July 4. Laguna Madre Bay. 956/761-6433

## HILL COUNTRY

**AUSTIN:** *Fourth of July Fireworks & Symphony* July 4. Auditorium Shores. [www.austinsymphony.org](http://www.austinsymphony.org) 512/476-6064

**AUSTIN:** *Bastille Day* July 11. French Legation Museum. [www.frenchlegationmuseum.org](http://www.frenchlegationmuseum.org) 512/472-8180

**BOERNE:** *Fourth of July Fireworks* July 4. 830/249-7277

**CAMP WOOD:** *Old Settlers Reunion* July 31-August 1. Lindberg Park. [www.mycampwood.com](http://www.mycampwood.com) 830/597-6241

**CASTROVILLE:** *Fourth of July Parade* July 4. Houston Square. [www.castroville.com](http://www.castroville.com) 830/931-2262

**CEDAR PARK:** *Fourth of July Celebration* July 4. Millburn Park. [www.cedarparktx.us](http://www.cedarparktx.us) 512/401-5888 or 512/401-5500

**COMFORT:** *Fourth of July Celebration & Parade* July 4. [www.comfortchamberofcommerce.com](http://www.comfortchamberofcommerce.com) 830/995-3131

**FREDERICKSBURG:** *Fourth of July Celebrations* July 4. [www.fredtextlodging.com](http://www.fredtextlodging.com) 830/997-6523

**FREDERICKSBURG:** *Gourmet Chili Pepper & Salsa Festival* July 24-26. Wildseed Farms. [www.tex-fest.com](http://www.tex-fest.com) 830/997-8515 or 866/839-3378

**GEORGETOWN:** *Fourth of July Celebration* July 4. San Gabriel Park. [www.georgetownstoma.org/4thofjuly.htm](http://www.georgetownstoma.org/4thofjuly.htm)

**KERRVILLE:** *1776* July 2-5, 9-12, 16-18. Cailloux Theater, 910 Main St. [www.caillouxtheater.com](http://www.caillouxtheater.com) 830/896-9393

**KERRVILLE:** *Celebration on the River* July 4. Louis Hays Park. [www.kerrvilletexascvb.com](http://www.kerrvilletexascvb.com) 830/257-7300

**KYLE:** *Independence Day Fireworks* July 4. Gregg-Clarke Park. [www.kylepard.com](http://www.kylepard.com) 512/262-3939

**LAMPASAS:** *Spring Ho Festival* July 6-12. Sulphur Creek and Hancock Springs. [www.springho.com](http://www.springho.com) 512/556-5301

**LEAKEY:** *July Jubilee* July 3-4. Real County Courthouse Square. [www.friocanyonchamber.com](http://www.friocanyonchamber.com) 830/232-5222

**TAYLOR:** *Taylor Rodeo* July 17-18. [www.taylorrodeo.com](http://www.taylorrodeo.com) 512/844-3863

**WIMBERLEY:** *VFW 64th Annual Rodeo* July 2-4. Veterans Park. 512/847-2174 or 512/847-2201

**WIMBERLEY:** *Independence Day Parade & Jubilee* July 3. [www.wimberley.org](http://www.wimberley.org) 512/847-2201

**WIMBERLEY:** *Shakespeare Under the Stars Presents The Winter's Tale* July 27-August 8. EmilyAnn Theatre. [www.emilyann.org](http://www.emilyann.org) 512/847-6969

## PANHANDLE PLAINS

**AMARILLO:** *Amarillo Globe-News Fireworks* July 4. Southwest Park. [www.visitamarillotx.com](http://www.visitamarillotx.com) 806/374-1497

**AMARILLO:** *Music in the Gardens* July 6, 13, 20, 27. Amarillo Botanical Gardens. [www.amarillobotanicalgardens.org](http://www.amarillobotanicalgardens.org) 806/352-6513

**BIG SPRING:** *Pops in the Park—An Evening of Patriotic Music & Fireworks* July 3. Comanche Trail Park Amphitheater. [www.bigspringchamber.com](http://www.bigspringchamber.com) 432/263-7641

**BIG SPRING:** *Funtastic Fourth Festival* July 4. Heart of the City Park. [www.mybigspring.com](http://www.mybigspring.com) 432/267-6278

**BROWNWOOD:** *Brown County Rodeo/Parade/Dance* July 23-25. [www.brownwoodchamber.org](http://www.brownwoodchamber.org) 325/646-9535

**BUFFALO GAP:** *Old-Fashioned Fourth of July Celebration* July 4. Buffalo Gap Historic Village. 325/572-3365

**CHILDRESS:** *July 4 Celebration* July 4. [www.childress.texas.net](http://www.childress.texas.net) 940/937-0064

**CISCO:** *The Great Santa Claus Bank Robbery* July 3, 5, 10-12, 16-19. Conrad Hilton Community Center. [www.bigcountrydinnertheatre.com](http://www.bigcountrydinnertheatre.com) 254/442-5000

**CLARENDON:** *132nd Saints' Roost July 4 Celebration* July 2-4. 806/874-2421 or 806/677-8596

**CLYDE:** *Festival by the Lake* July 4. Clyde Lake. [www.clyde.govoffice2.com](http://www.clyde.govoffice2.com) 325/893-4234

**DALHART:** *July 4 Fireworks* July 4. Rita Blanca Lake. [www.dalhart.org](http://www.dalhart.org) 806/244-5646

**DARROUZETT:** *Deutsches Fest* July 4-5. 806/624-2631

**DUMAS:** *Fourth of July Celebration* July 4. McDade Park. [www.dumaschamber.com](http://www.dumaschamber.com) 806/935-2123

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**FRIONA:** Texas Cheeseburger Festival & Car Show July 18. Main and 8th Street. 806/335-0198 or 806/250-3491

**KNOX CITY:** Seedless Watermelon Festival July 25. City Park. 940/658-3442

**MOBEETIE:** Old Mobeetie Music Festival July 24-26. Old Mobeetie Jail Museum. www.mobeetie.com 806/845-2028

**NAZARETH:** German Festival & Suds N Sounds July 11. www.nazarethgermanfest.com

**POSSUM KINGDOM:** July 4 Fireworks July 4. Possum Kingdom Lake. www.possumkingdomlake.com 940/779-2424

**SAN ANGELO:** July Pops Concert July 3. River Stage. 325/658-5877 or 325/655-4136

**SEYMOUR:** Rodeo & Old Settlers Reunion July 9-11. 940/889-2921

**SLATON:** July 4 Festival July 4. Slaton Park. www.slatonchamberofcommerce.org 806/828-6238

**SNYDER:** Fourth of July Celebration July 3-4. Towle Memorial Park. www.snyderchamber.org 325/573-3558

**SNYDER:** Scurry County Rodeo July 16-18. Old Rodeo Grounds. 325/573-8952

**STAMFORD:** Texas Cowboy Reunion Rodeo July 1-4. World's Largest Amateur Rodeo. www.tcrodeo.com 325/773-3138

**STANTON:** Old Settlers Reunion July 11. Downtown. www.stantontex.com 432/756-3745

**SWEETWATER:** Liberty Fest in the Park July 4. Newman Park. www.sweetwatertexas.org 325/235-5488

**WICHITA FALLS:** Old-Fashioned Fourth of July & Patriotic Parade July 4. Kell House Museum. www.wichitaheritage.org 940/723-2712

### PINEY WOODS

**CENTER:** What-A-Melon Festival July 10-11. Downtown Center Square. www.shelbycountytxchamber.com 936/598-9400

**CONROE:** Joe Ely/Sideshow Tramps July 2. Heritage Place Park. www.lakeconroetx.org 877/426-6763

**CONROE:** Independence Day Music Fest July 4. Heritage Park Place. www.lakeconroetx.org 936/827-0651

**GLADEWATER:** Fireworks & Boat Parade July 3. Lake Gladewater. www.gladewaterchamber.com 903/845-5501

**HENDERSON:** July 4 Parade July 4. Historic downtown. www.hendersontx.us 903/657-6551

**HUGHES SPRINGS:** Fourth of July Barbecue Cookoff July 3-4. Spring Park. 903/639-2351

**HUNTSVILLE:** Fourth of July Celebration July 4. Kate Barr Ross Park. www.huntsvilletx.gov 936/294-5725



**JACKSONVILLE: Fireworks** July 4. Lake Jacksonville. [www.jacksonvilletexas.com](http://www.jacksonvilletexas.com) 903/586-2217

**JACKSONVILLE: Tops in Texas Rodeo** July 8-11. [www.jacksonvilletexas.com](http://www.jacksonvilletexas.com) 903/586-2217

**JASPER: Fourth of July Patriotic Celebration** July 4. Martin Dies Jr. State Park. 409/384-5231

**JEFFERSON: Jefferson Salutes America Fourth of July Celebration** July 4. [www.jefferson-texas.com](http://www.jefferson-texas.com) 903/665-2672

**JEFFERSON: Jefferson Heritage Triathlon** July 19. Lake O' the Pines. [www.jefferson-texas.com](http://www.jefferson-texas.com) 903/665-2672

**KILGORE: Texas Shakespeare Festival** July 2-August 2. Kilgore College. [www.texasshakespeare.com](http://www.texasshakespeare.com) 903/983-8601

**LONGVIEW: Fireworks Festival & Freedom Celebration** July 3. Maude Cobb Activity Center. 903/237-1230

**MINEOLA: Fourth of July Fireworks** July 4. Mineola Civic Center. [www.mineolachamber.org](http://www.mineolachamber.org) 903/569-2087

**NACOGDOCHES: Freedom Fest** July 4. Downtown Nacogdoches. [www.visitnacogdoches.org](http://www.visitnacogdoches.org) 888/653-3788

**NEW BOSTON: Freedom Fest Celebration & Fireworks** July 4. T&P Trailhead Park. [www.newboston.tx.org](http://www.newboston.tx.org) 903/628-2581

**TIMPSON: Frontier Days** July 4. Timpson Square and SoSo Park. [www.shelbycountytxchamber.com](http://www.shelbycountytxchamber.com) 936/254-2603

**THE WOODLANDS: Houston Symphony Star-Spangled Salute** July 3. Cynthia Woods Mitchell Pavilion. [www.woodlandscenter.org](http://www.woodlandscenter.org) 713/224-7575 or 713/629-3700

## PRAIRIES AND LAKES

**ADDISON: Kaboom Town!** July 3. Addison Circle Park. [www.addisontexas.net](http://www.addisontexas.net) 800/ADD-ISON

**ADDISON: July Jazz** July 11, 18, 25. Esplanade Park. [www.addisontexas.net](http://www.addisontexas.net) 800/ADD-ISON

**ARLINGTON: Fourth of July Parade** July 4. [www.arlington4th.com](http://www.arlington4th.com) 817/303-5700

**ATHENS: Fireworks at the Fishery** July 4. Texas Freshwater Fisheries Center. 903/676-2277

**AVERY: Tomato Festival** July 4. Downtown. [www.cityofavery.com](http://www.cityofavery.com) 903/244-3920

**BASTROP: Patriotic Festival** July 3. Fisherman's Park. [www.bastropchamber.com](http://www.bastropchamber.com) 512/303-0558

**BEDFORD: City of Bedford 4thFEST Celebration** July 4. [www.ci.bedford.tx.us](http://www.ci.bedford.tx.us) 817/952-2323

**BELTON: Fourth of July Celebration** July 1-4. Downtown. [www.beltonchamber.com](http://www.beltonchamber.com) 254/939-3551

**BONHAM: Heritage Day Festival** July 25. Town Square. [www.visitbonham.com](http://www.visitbonham.com) 903/583-2455 or 903/583-1837

**BURLESON: Lions Club July 4 Parade** July 4. Old Town Burleson. [www.burleson.org](http://www.burleson.org) 817/295-6121

**CHAPPELL HILL: Fourth of July Parade & Summer Cowboy Event** July 4. [www.chappellhillmuseum.org](http://www.chappellhillmuseum.org) 979/337-9910

**CLEBURNE: Fourth of July Celebration** July 4. Lake Pat Cleburne. [www.cleburnechamber.com](http://www.cleburnechamber.com) 817/645-2455

**COLLEGE STATION: "I Love America" Fourth of July Celebration** July 4. George Bush Presidential Library and Museum. <http://bushlibrary.tamu.edu> 979/691-4068

**COMANCHE: Family on the Fourth Musical Celebration & Fireworks** July 4. [www.comanchechamber.org](http://www.comanchechamber.org) 325/356-3233

**COMANCHE: Comanche Open Rodeo & Parade** July 18. [www.comanchechamber.org](http://www.comanchechamber.org) 325/356-3233

**COMMERCE: Fourth of July Celebration** July 4. Bicentennial Park. [www.commerce-chamber.com](http://www.commerce-chamber.com) 903/886-3950

**CUERO: Fourth of July Fireworks** July 4. City Park. 361/275-2112

**DALLAS: Cool Thursdays Concerts** July 2, 9, 16, 23, 30. Dallas Arboretum. [www.dallasarboretum.org](http://www.dallasarboretum.org) 214/515-6518

**DALLAS: Taste of Dallas** July 10-12. West End Historic District. [www.tasteofdallas.com](http://www.tasteofdallas.com) 214/741-7180

**FARMERS BRANCH: Independence Day Celebration** July 3. Farmers Branch Historical Park. [www.farmersbranch.info](http://www.farmersbranch.info) 972/919-2620

**FORT HOOD: Freedom Fest** July 4. Hood Stadium. [www.hoodmwr.com](http://www.hoodmwr.com) 254/287-0337

**FORT WORTH: Mimir Chamber Music Festival** July 9, 11-12, 14, 17. Texas Christian University. [www.mimirfestival.org](http://www.mimirfestival.org) 817/257-5443

**FRISCO: Freedom Fest** July 4. [www.friscofreedomfest.org](http://www.friscofreedomfest.org)

**GRANBURY: Fourth of July Celebration** July 4-5. Historic Downtown Square. [www.granburychamber.com](http://www.granburychamber.com) 817/573-1622

**GRAND PRAIRIE: Lone Stars & Stripes Fireworks Celebration** July 3-4. [www.LoneStarPark.com](http://www.LoneStarPark.com) 972/263-RACE

**GRAPEVINE: Fireworks** July 4. Lake Grapevine. [www.grapevintexasusa.com](http://www.grapevintexasusa.com) 800/457-6338

**JOSHUA: Fourth of July Celebration** July 4. [www.joshua-chamber.org](http://www.joshua-chamber.org) 817/558-2821

**LADONIA: Rodeo & Frontier Days** July 9-11. Eastman Arena. [www.ladoniarodeo.com](http://www.ladoniarodeo.com) 903/886-1121

**LAKE DALLAS: Lake Cities Fourth of July Celebration** July 4. City Park. [www.lakedallas.com](http://www.lakedallas.com) 940/497-2226

**LOCKHART: Fourth of July Family Picnic & Fireworks** July 4. City Park. [www.lockhartchamber.com](http://www.lockhartchamber.com) 512/398-2818

**MANSFIELD: Rockin' Fourth of July** July 4. 500 Heritage Parkway South. [www.mansfield-tx.gov](http://www.mansfield-tx.gov) 817/804-5785

**McKINNEY: Killis Melton Ice Cream Crank Off** July 4. Chestnut Square Historic Village. 972/562-8790

**PARIS: Tour de Paris Bicycle Rally** July 18. [www.tourdeparis.com](http://www.tourdeparis.com) 800/727-4789

**RICHARDSON: Celebration of the Fourth of July** July 4. Richardson Symphony Orchestra. Eisemann Center for the Performing Arts. [www.richardsonsymphony.org](http://www.richardsonsymphony.org) 972/234-4195

**ROYSE CITY: Fourthfest** July 4. [www.roysecitychamber.com](http://www.roysecitychamber.com) 972/636-5000

**ROUND TOP: Shakespeare at Winedale** July 16-19, 23-26, 30-August 2. [www.roundtop.org](http://www.roundtop.org) 979/249-4042

**SALADO: Salado Legends** July 18, 25. Tablerock Festival of Salado. [www.tablerock.org](http://www.tablerock.org) 254/947-9205

**SEGUIN: Freedom Fiesta** July 3-4. Central Park. [www.seguintx.org](http://www.seguintx.org) 800/580-7322

**SHINER: Half-Moon Holidays** July 3-4. Green-Dixon Park. [www.shinertx.com](http://www.shinertx.com) 361/594-4180

**SOUTHLAKE: Stars & Stripes Celebration** July 3. Town Square. [www.SouthlakeParksandRec.com](http://www.SouthlakeParksandRec.com) 817/748-8019



2009

**Tomato Fest**  
Saturday, June 13

**July 4th Fireworks**  
On Lake Jacksonville

**Tops in Texas PRCA Rodeo**  
July 8 - 11


**Motorcycle Rally & Music Jam**  
October 3

**JACKSONVILLE**  
TEXAS

800.376.2217  
[www.jacksonvilletexas.com](http://www.jacksonvilletexas.com)  
[www.myspace.com/jacksonvilletexas](http://www.myspace.com/jacksonvilletexas)

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## Beyoncé's Houston Homecoming

**POP MUSIC SUPERSTAR.** Hollywood movie star. International sensation. Home girl Beyoncé brings her *I Am ... Sasha Fierce* World Tour to the **Toyota Center in Houston** on July 4 for the concert of the year and some guaranteed onstage fireworks. Texas welcomes the opportunity to celebrate her Grammy-winning success. For information and tickets, call 866/446-8849, or go to [www.houstontoyotacenter.com](http://www.houstontoyotacenter.com).



**SWEET HOME: Chicken & Polka Fest** July 12. [www.sweethomehall.com](http://www.sweethomehall.com) 361/293-9034 or 361/293-5479

**TEMPLE: July 4 Family Fun Fest** July 4. Miller Park. [www.discovertemple.com](http://www.discovertemple.com) 254/298-5401

**TERRELL: Fourth of July Symphony & Fireworks** July 4. Ben Gill Park. [www.terrelltexas.com](http://www.terrelltexas.com) 972/563-5703

**WACO: Fourth on the Brazos** July 4. Indian Spring Park. [www.brazosnightswaco.com](http://www.brazosnightswaco.com) 254/750-5781

**WALLIS: Old-Time Fun Festival** July 25-26. 979/478-6362

**WASHINGTON: Fireworks-on-the-Brazos** July 4. Washington-on-the-Brazos State Historic Site. [www.birthplaceoftexas.com](http://www.birthplaceoftexas.com) 936/878-2214 or 888/273-6426

**WAXAHACHIE: Crape Myrtle Festival & Driving Trail** July 3-4. 972/937-2390

**WEATHERFORD: Parker County Peach Festival** July 11. [www.visitweatherford.com](http://www.visitweatherford.com) 888/594-3801

### SOUTH TEXAS PLAINS

**EAGLE PASS: Fourth of July Celebration** July 4. Shelby Park. 830/773-4343

**PLEASANTON: Yesteryear Festival** July 18. Longhorn Museum. 830/569-6313

**SAN ANTONIO: Freedom Fest** July 4-5. Market Square. [www.sarametro.com](http://www.sarametro.com) 210/734-7663 or 210/279-1017

**SAN ANTONIO: Concerts Under the Stars** July 9, 23. San Antonio Botanical Garden. [www.sabot.org](http://www.sabot.org) 210/829-5100

**SAN ANTONIO: Conjunto Shootout** July 18-19. Market Square. [www.marketsquaresa.com](http://www.marketsquaresa.com) 210/207-8600

**WESLACO: Fourth of July Celebration** July 4. Isaac Rodriguez Park. 956/973-3155

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**Send future event information to:** Texas Events Calendar, Box 141009, Austin 78714-1009; fax: 512/486-5879; e-mail: [trv-tec@dot.state.tx.us](mailto:trv-tec@dot.state.tx.us). Listing deadlines: Spring (Mar, Apr, May) Dec 1; Summer (Jun, Jul, Aug) Mar 1; Fall (Sep, Oct, Nov) Jun 1; Winter (Dec, Jan, Feb) Sep 1.





## Window on Texas

Photograph by **J. GRIFFIS SMITH**

**FINS UP FOR FREEDOM** Wherever this month finds you in Texas, the United States, or abroad, happy Fourth! A metal marlin-topped weathervane/flagpole welcomes diners to Cap'n Roy's (seafood and Mexican) Restaurant, 1313 Padre Boulevard, South Padre Island (956/761-9990). Menu favorites include the fish tacos, Veracruz-style shrimp, and the Caldo Mariscos.



To order a print of this photograph, call 866/962-1191, or visit [www.texashighwaysprints.com](http://www.texashighwaysprints.com).

