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COVER
STORY

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Riding High at Texas Dude Ranches

Horses and hospitality reign at four scenic spreads where guests can play the cowboy way.

Text by DALE WEISMAN



Check out www.texashighways.com for more travel information

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30 | **Some Like It Hot**
Texas may be known for its spring wildflowers, but our sizzling summers also offer a bounty of beautiful blooms, from sunflowers to snow-on-the-prairie.
Text and photographs by **STEVEN SCHWARTZMAN**

40 | **National Museum of the Pacific War**
A dynamic Fredericksburg museum recounts the story of World War II in the Pacific.
Text by **JOE SHERFY**
Photographs by **J. GRIFFIS SMITH**

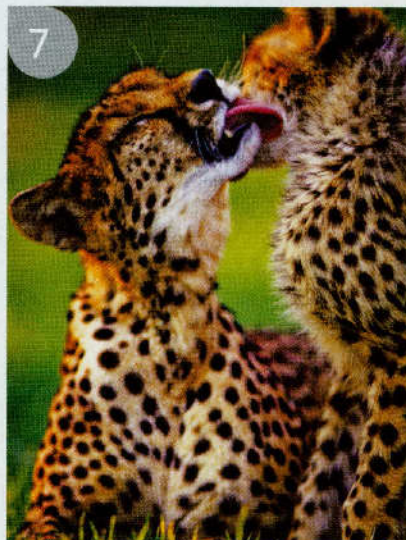
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Text by **MELISSA GASKILL**
Photographs by **MICHAEL AMADOR**



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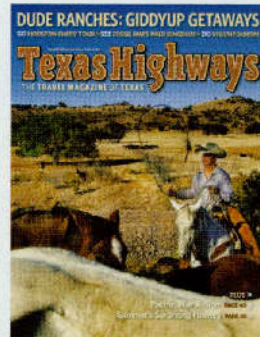
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When it comes to many-splendored feathers, the male painted bunting has few equals.



About Our Covers

FRONT: Prude Ranch cowboy Adrian "Dutch" Dutchover twirls a rope as he gathers horses on the 1,300-acre spread near Fort Davis. **Photo** © E. Dan Klepper

BACK: A rare Japanese "Rex" floatplane gleams through a gallery window at Fredricksburg's National Museum of the Pacific War. **Photo** by J. Griffis Smith

Photographic Prints Available



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Photo: Birch Ireland, B/C/S Eagle



July 4 Fireworks-on-the-Brazos
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Photo: Marry Grigoby



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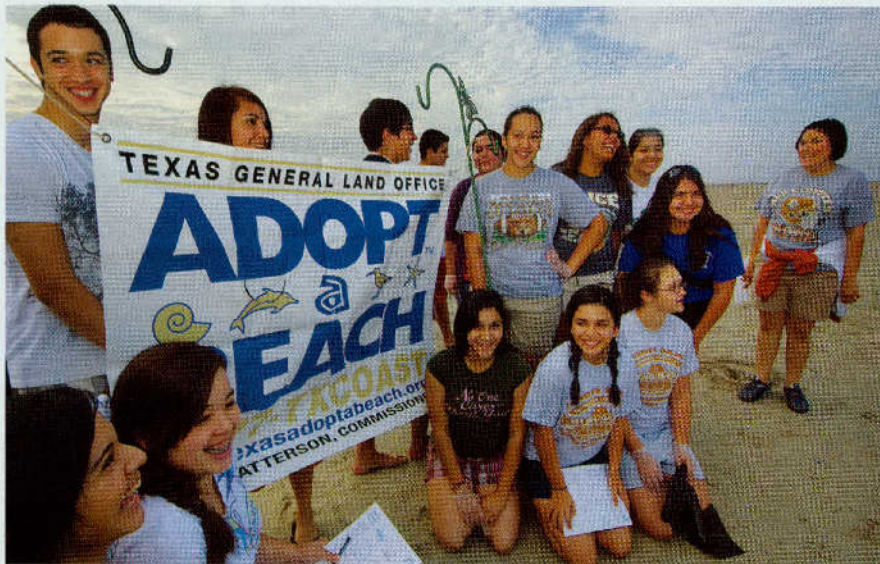
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MICHAEL AMADOR

Students from Alice ISD clean a stretch of the Mustang Island beach with energy and smiles. A trip that includes even a few hours of volunteer work will help you establish a more personal connection with your destination.

Making a Difference

WE'VE EXPLORED VOLUNTOURISM IN various ways in *TH*. After Hurricane Ike blasted Galveston in 2008, we noted that the Galveston Historical Foundation welcomed guests to help with restoration projects. Read about more ways to make a positive impact in Melissa Gaskill's feature on page 50.

You can take your cue from the students from Alice, who are taking time to clean a stretch of the Mustang Island beach. Learn how you can connect with the Adopt-A-Beach program at www.texasadoptabeach.org.

I'm reflecting on my own connection with another stretch of the coast after a recent morning's fishing at Port Aransas. Guide Ed Woodhouse (www.edfishing.com) picked me up at Fisherman's Wharf at 7, and within 15 minutes, we were anchored off the North Jetty. We soon caught a couple of sheepshead and two nice spotted trout. Then Ed hooked a trout that we were convinced was three feet long: We both saw it hit the surface for a split second before it started pulling the boat around. That's one of the big ones that got away!

During a lull between strikes, a sea turtle surfaced next to the boat and rolled his (or her) odd head my way, catching me in that mysterious opaque gaze for a few seconds before diving out of sight. Curious about our visitor (something like the sea turtle pictured), I called Donna Shaver, Chief of the Division for Sea Turtle Science and Recovery at Padre Island National Seashore, to ask what the future might hold for the creature. After my brief description, she said, "You probably saw a juvenile green sea turtle. They feed on the algae that grows on jetty rocks and wedge themselves into the jetty to sleep. That's important developmental habitat for the green sea turtles, and that one is likely to stay near there for the warm months."

I asked what might happen in the case of oil coming ashore, and Shaver said, "Based on what I've heard, oil is not expected to come ashore in the immediate future."

If only we could be sure all the sea turtles in the Gulf will be so lucky.



J. GRIFFIS SMITH

Charles J. Lohrmann

Charles J. Lohrmann, Editor

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Stars and Cars

Thanks for Mary O. Parker's story on drive-ins [May]. Wow, what memories the Sky-Vue in Lamesa brings. First date—and many others—there, then a whirl around the square and burgers at Boyd's drive-in. Love going back in time, and treasure those good memories.

HAROLD AND SARAH BOWERS
HANCOCK
Kingsland

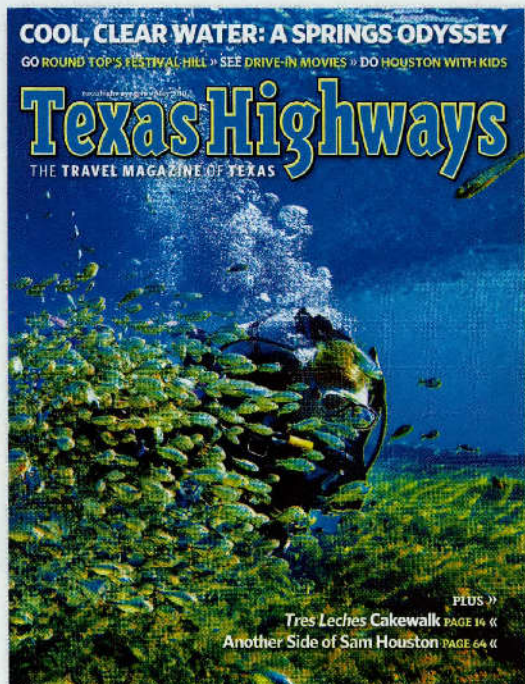
In the '50s, we would take our children to the Sky-Vue on Wednesday nights, when the price was \$1 for a carload. We couldn't afford the snack bar, so we took hot dogs and Kool-Aid from home. The children enjoyed the playground, and we always saw a good movie.

One night, my sister and I took our children to the drive-in in her 1955 Chevrolet Bel Air. On the way home, we were T-boned at an intersection. With all that steel around us, bruises and scratches were our only injuries.

The movie we saw that night has remained one of my all-time favorites:

"Festival Hill [May issue] is the best-kept secret in Texas! What they do for young musicians is amazing!"

—DONNA WELDER,
TH Facebook Fan



Heaven Knows, Mr. Allison, with Robert Mitchum and Deborah Kerr.

NEL LADD
Idalou

You did not mention The Brazos Drive-In [www.thebrazos.com] in Granbury. This family-run operation has been a wonderful place to take my kids and



➔ TH READER
RECOMMENDATION

To the Theater!

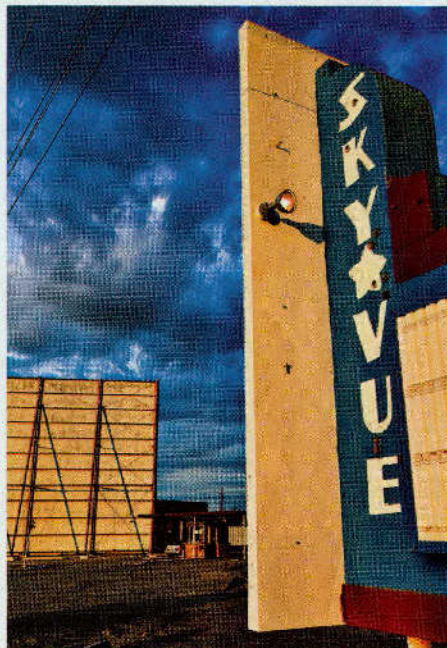
WE LOVE to visit **Fredericksburg**, and on our last visit were once again so pleased. We totally enjoyed the **Rockbox Theater**—the performers are fantastic musicians and so funny. The nationally recognized **Fredericksburg Theater Company's** production of *Seussical the Musical* was fantastic [check the website for current and upcoming productions]. In addition, we enjoyed our stay at the **Country Inn & Cottages**. It was so quiet and peaceful in the cabin (with the Jacuzzi) and outside watching the deer, elk, and peacocks!

NANCY AND SCOTT JONES, Beeville

Rockbox Theater is at 109 N. Llano; 866/349-6688; www.rockboxtheater.com.
The Fredericksburg Theater Company box office is at 306 E. Austin (theater at 1668 US 87 S.); 888/669-7114; www.fredericksburgtheater.org. *Country Inn & Cottages* is at 1644 US 290 W.; 830/997-2185; www.mycountryinn.com.

"Love May's drive-ins story. It will be fun to take my children and give them a taste of the good old days."

—RAPHAELLA
LEVERETT-CORBELLO,
TH Facebook Fan



Lamesa's Sky-Vue Drive In Theatre opened in 1948. Try the famous Chihuahua sandwich (pimiento cheese, cabbage, and chili tucked into two corn tortillas).

their friends over the years. It's a special place to a lot of people who have been going there for years. Thanks for your outstanding magazine.

JOHN WARD
Mansfield

Hit 66

Wow! I just finished reading June Naylor's great article about Route 66, the "Mother Road" [March]. It makes me want to fire up my pickup truck and hit that historic highway. I love TH.

BOB CHAUNCEY
Sanger

My wife and I were already planning a trip on Route 66 across Texas, New Mexico, and Arizona, and your March article gave us a kick-start to getting our kicks on Route 66!

Eight days, 2,496 miles, 916 pictures, and six hours of video later, we completed a most amazing [continued on page 68]

Lederhosen? Later, maybe.
First check out our couture.

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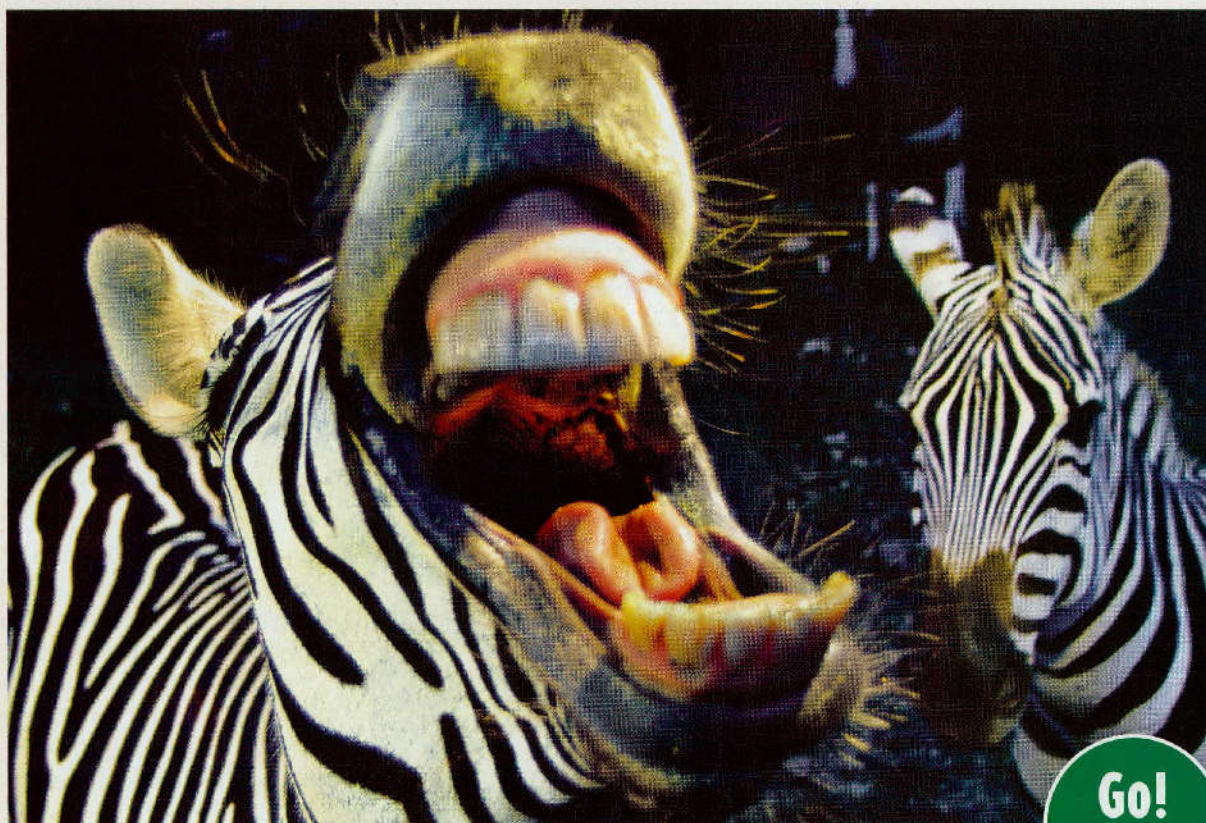
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Postcards

INSIDE: WHERE THE CHEFS EAT IN HOUSTON...12 A MAMMOTH DISCOVERY IN WACO...16



Go!

Stay overnight in the lodge or camp

A Wildlife Rendezvous

At Fossil Rim Wildlife Center near Glen Rose, it's a wild, wild world Text by **PAM LEBLANC**

A GIRAFFE LOWERS ITS HEAD from the treetops, unfurling an 18-inch purple tongue and delicately plucking a pellet of food from my hand. Another slurps a snack from my husband's palm, which is extended through the sunroof of our Volkswagen. Soon, we're surrounded by a bevy of friendly giraffes, all eager to slime us with their wet lips and sticky snouts.

The towering animals, with gently swaying necks and eyelashes so long they

look like they've been brushed with mascara, have no qualms about bellying up to this bar—or car—for a late-afternoon snack. They're star attractions here at Fossil Rim Wildlife Center, a drive-through wild-animal park near Glen Rose, some 60 miles southwest of Fort Worth.

The park, once operated as a private exotic game ranch, opened to the public 25 years ago. Tourism isn't the main mission; the primary purpose here is to help species rebound from the brink of

extinction. Because of the park's size—it encompasses about 1,700 acres—it can nurture intact social groups of animals, rather than just individuals. Groups, when reintroduced to their native habitat, have a better chance for survival.

"Because we have lots of space, we can keep animals by the herd, the flock, or the pack," says Executive Director Patrick Condy.

Fossil Rim's early breeding programs with zebras led to work with cheetahs and other endangered species.

He mentions five species—the addax, an exotic white antelope with ridged, spiraled horns; two types of wolves; the endangered Attwater’s prairie-chicken; and another type of antelope called the scimitar-horned oryx—that have been reintroduced to the wild through breeding programs at Fossil Rim. Some of the park’s addax have been sent to Tunisia to bolster native populations; Mexican gray wolves have been reintroduced in the southwestern United States. The park carefully chooses which animals to work with, focusing on animals that can adapt to the Texas climate.

“If we didn’t have Fossil Rim involved, we wouldn’t have had nearly the success we have today,” says Terry Rossignol, manager of the Attwater Prairie Chicken National Wildlife Refuge near Eagle Lake, which is home to the largest wild Attwater’s population (a mere 50 chickens). Most of them are a result of Fossil Rim’s groundbreaking captive-breeding program. “Not only is Fossil Rim an entertainment center,” says Rossignol,

“but on the conservation side of things, they’re improving the welfare of animals.”

Giraffes, too, are losing habitat in the wild. That’s why park officials are so proud of the two gangly, long-necked reticulat-

ed giraffes born early this spring. Reticulated giraffes are named for the geometric brown spots on their fur, outlined by a network of white lines. The two female calves, which weighed about 150 pounds and stood six feet tall at birth, are getting used to life in the public eye.

“When they were first born, they looked a little like aliens,” says animal-care specialist Cassie Peterson. “Their horns were flattened against their heads, and they had wrinkly, smooshed-up faces. Now they just look like miniature giraffes.”

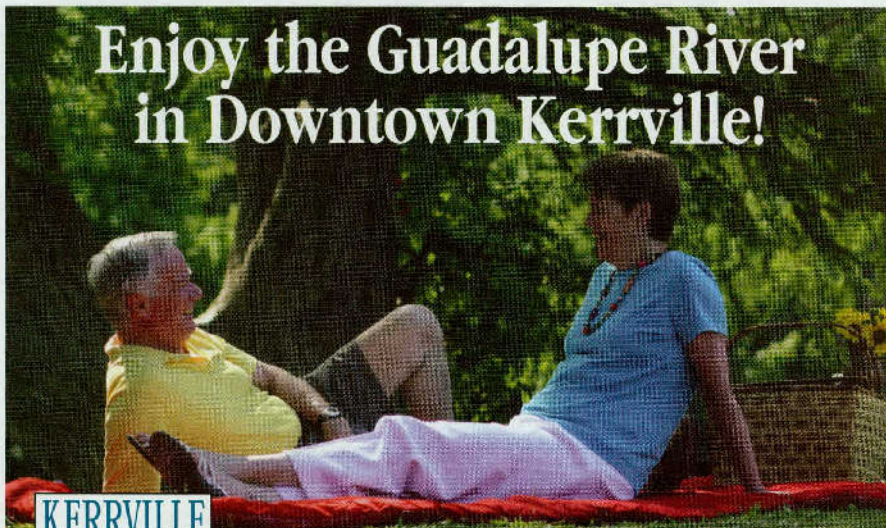
Giraffes, which are ruminants like cows, chew a cud. That means they’re efficient eaters, chewing and swallowing their food several times before eventually digesting it. (Look closely at a giraffe’s neck, and you can often witness a lunch of leafy greens make its way back up for another round of chewing.) Their super-long tongues are purple to prevent sunburn, and their height—17 feet or so for bulls—allows them to strip leaves straight off the treetops.

I wave goodbye to my new giraffe friends, and we motor on. We putter past a small herd of zebra, which press in hoping for some pellets from our bucket, cruise through groups of [continued on page 10]

Purchasing a cup of food pellets guarantees your popularity along the 9.5-mile Scenic Wildlife Drive.



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See!
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Ship Shape

Four historic tall ships dock in **Corpus Christi**

CORPUS CHRISTI'S NAVAL STATION INGLESIDE WILL TAKE on the appearance of an historic port of call as four tall sailing ships hailing from four countries in the Western Hemisphere arrive in early July. The ships range in size from the 205-foot staysail schooner *Capitan Miranda* from Uruguay to the 371-foot, four-masted barquentine *Esmeralda* from Chile. The other two historic ships are the 270-foot barque *Cuahtémoc* from Mexico and the 295-foot barque *USCG Eagle* from New London, Connecticut. Each ship serves in its respective country's navy and is commissioned primarily for training sailors.

Corpus Christi will be the only stop in North America for the four ships, which will highlight an event called Sail South Texas, July 1-5. Sail South Texas celebrates three important milestones: The bicentennial of Latin American independence from Spain, the 234th anniversary of U.S. independence, and the return of the Naval Station Ingleside to the Port of Corpus Christi. This is the last stop for the ships, which represent a larger fleet that sailed around South America to celebrate that continent's sovereignty.

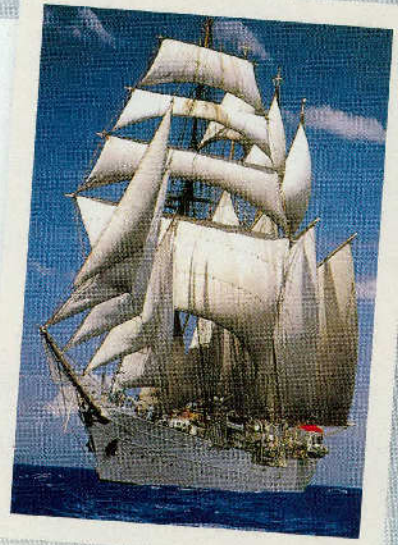
This schooner, 371 feet long with four masts, is named the *Esmeralda*, hails from Chile, and was first commissioned in 1953.

"We are very proud to bring the tall ship experience to the South Texas region in a larger scale than before. Our community will have the opportunity to celebrate and learn not only about tall ships, but also about the countries they represent,"

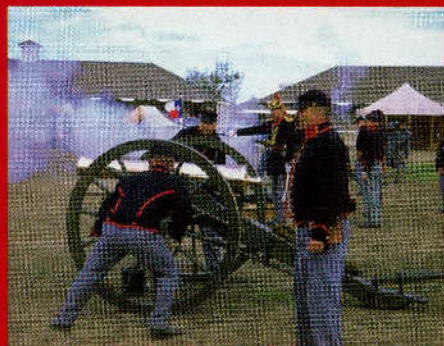
says Mike Carrell, Chairman of the Port Corpus Christi Commission.

The public is invited to take part in tours of the ships, demonstrations of naval traditions, fireworks each evening, food booths, and music by performers from Latin America and the United States. For more information, visit www.sailsouthtexas2010.com.

—Charles Lohrmann



ESCAPE EXPLORE ENJOY



The San Angelo Symphony's July pops is the fourth largest patriotic celebration of its kind in the state of Texas complete with fireworks display, patriotic music, military march-in and the Fort Concho cannons.

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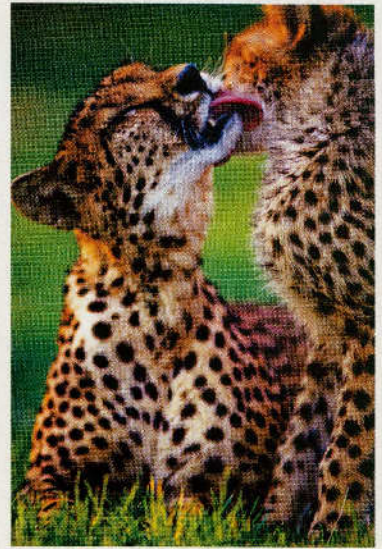
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Photography by Diane Loyd

Rockport Fulton

Charm of the Texas Coast



continued from page 8] sable and blackbuck antelope, and watch a dainty Thomson's gazelle ("the fast food of the savannah," a guide tells us) nibble grass.

Since 1986, more than 100 cheetah cubs have been born as part of Fossil Rim's Cheetah Breeding Program.

Four or five tank-like creatures rumble around the rhino camp. We admire their leathery skin and sturdy legs, then proceed into ostrich territory. We can't roll up the windows fast enough when we spot the powerful birds marching toward us. After all, ostriches can reach speeds of 40 mph, and their legs are so long and muscular they look as if they could kick over a car! We toss a little food out the window and make haste.

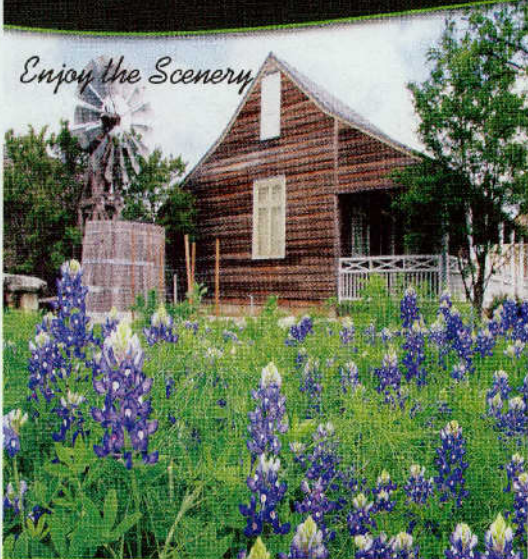
It takes two or three hours to drive the nine-mile paved road that weaves through four separate pastures of the facility. In all, more than 1,000 animals of 50 different species call Fossil Rim home. Among them are cheetahs, wildebeest, bison, and axis deer. The park recently added four Przewalski's horses, a rare breed of Mongolian equines, to its roster of animals.

Also new for 2010, Fossil Rim is busy expanding its Children's Animal Center, an educational facility where you can pet a goat and meet an emu. The larger center will accommodate new species, including

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parrots and a pair or two of the endangered Attwater's prairie-chickens that are raised in a separate facility at the park.

Our self-guided tour complete, we head to our accommodations at Fossil Rim's Foothills Safari Camp, a collection of seven tent cabins situated on a slope above a secluded watering hole. Each is set along a gravel path in a grove of oak trees.

The sun is sinking as we settle into chairs on the back porch of the camp's glassed-in dining room, sipping glasses of wine. Right on cue, the nightly performance begins at the pond on the other side of the fence, just down the hill.

The spindly-looking sandhill cranes, intent on warning noisy intruders away from their nests, flap and squawk from a cluster of trees 100 yards away from us. A trio of sable antelope move in next, cautiously sipping water from the pond. Then come the addax, who bellow out a low-pitched, snorting symphony. Two of them clash horns in an impressive encore in the grassy, cactus-studded field next to the pond.

I'm thankful for the fence that separates us from the wildlife.

When it finally gets too dark to see anymore, we retreat to our cabin. Quarters are cozy—just enough room for two twin beds—but it's not exactly roughing it. Each canvas-covered cabin is heated and air conditioned, and has its own sink, shower, and toilet. I happily unroll the canvas flaps and let the breeze blow through.

It's midweek, and we're the only guests here. Other than the animals, that is.

My husband and I look at each other and grin, soaking up the magical, star-lit ambiance of the place before crawling under the covers. We've always dreamed of watching wildlife while on a safari someplace exotic. Until now, we didn't realize that place was so close to home. **TH**

Fossil Rim Wildlife Center

is 55 miles southwest of Fort Worth at 2299 County Road 2008 in Glen Rose. Call 254/897-2960; www.fossilrim.org.

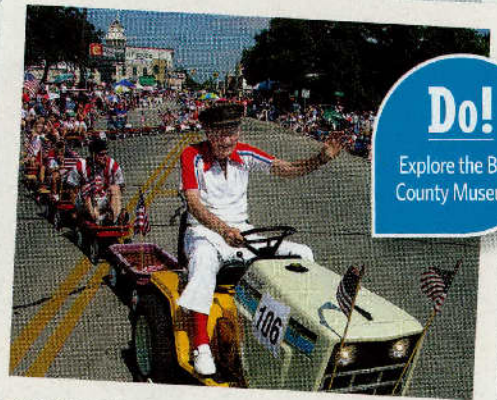


Independence Day in Belton

Fourth of July celebration and PRCA rodeo

BELTON KNOWS HOW TO throw a birthday party for America.

The celebration starts with a barbecue at Yettie Polk Park on Wednesday, June 30, followed by Rodeo Belton at the Bell County Expo Center July 1-3; a carnival runs concurrently at Confederate Park. A patriotic program on the steps of the Bell County Courthouse the morning of July 3 precedes a traditional holiday downtown parade, which dates to 1919 and has been honored by *USA Today* as one of the nation's "Top Ten Places to Fly Your Flag on the 4th." Also, on Saturday at Yettie Polk Park, the Festival on Nolan Creek hosts vendors and live entertainment, including a Texas Old-Time Fiddlers Contest. Festivities conclude Sunday, July 4, with a God & Country concert at First Baptist Church. Call the Belton Area Chamber of Commerce at 254/939-3551; www.beltonchamber.com and www.rodeobelton.com. —Marty Lange



Do!

Explore the Bell County Museum

Belton's Fourth of July parade dates to 1919.

CONCOURS d'ELEGANCE

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CANADIAN, TEXAS

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See!

Interviews with Houston chefs at texashighways.com/taste

Where the Chefs Eat

Who's thrilling the great chefs of Houston?

Text by **LORI MOFFATT**

EVER SINCE I DISCOVERED THE CULINARY ADVENTURES TO BE found on Houston's Bellaire Boulevard, Long Point Road, and other Houston streets where the city's international influences collide, I've made it a point to seek out the city's small, independent, ethnic restaurants. Thanks to Houston's diverse population, it's easy to explore more than 40 world cuisines without leaving the city limits. But how do you know you're finding the best places?

You could follow the lead of some of Houston's most celebrated chefs—players on the national culinary stage who find inspiration from the mom-and-pop eateries of their Gulf Coast melting pot. To learn more about where they go on their days off, I joined a recent pilot tour to inaugurate the new “Where the Chefs Eat” culinary tours program. Led by seven nationally known Houston chefs and one award-winning food writer, our two-day exploration shined a spotlight on the city's multicultural food scene.

Each chef has a different area of interest and expertise, so the tours differ in content and style. For example, on his “Houston BBQ Trail Tour,” longtime food critic Robb Walsh, whose *Tex-Mex Grill and Backyard Barbacoa Cookbook* came out in May, introduced us to the many versions of smoked meat in Texas, all differentiated by spices, wood, sauce, and time spent on (or in) the pit. First up, we visited

A favorite restaurant of several Houston chefs, the London Sizzler serves British-style Indian fare, including many classic curries.

a food trailer parked outside a discount grocery in the 5th Ward, where barbecue maestro Gregory Carter served us classic examples of African-American brisket and sausage. Sopped in sauce and smoked over red oak, both meats provided a dramatic counterpart to the delicately spiced German sausages we sampled later from Guy's Meat Market.

Next, we traveled west to Pierson's to

who pair up to present their favorites.

"We decided we wanted to highlight what the city has to offer food-wise, and to showcase our diverse ethnic community," says Chris Shepherd, the chef at Catalan, a Washington Avenue restaurant that presents an eclectic, locally-based menu. "I think a lot of people are afraid to get out of their comfort zones. When they do, though,

it becomes more than just going out to eat; it becomes an education into another culture."

"As chefs, we didn't want to focus on our restaurants, as we figured that people would find us anyway," says Chef Monica Pope, whose dishes at T'afia and Beaver's rely on seasonal produce. "So we thought we'd share a side of Houston that we know and love." For her "Taste of Asia" tour, Pope

On Sep. 19, Robb Walsh and Chris Shepherd will lead a "Space City World Barbecue Tour" for *Texas Highways* readers. See www.visithoustontexas.com/culinarytours/texashighways.

collectively swoon over mesquite-smoked pork ribs and buttery bread pudding. By the time we got to the peppery spareribs at Pizzitola's, which has been serving barbecue since 1935, Walsh had passed along some of his encyclopedic knowledge of the history and tradition of barbecue—and how it parallels the history and culture of Texas.

Later, we paid a visit to El Hidalguense, an unassuming restaurant on Long Point Road, made especially festive thanks to tequila shots and a mariachi band. Cabrito roasted in a pit inside the open kitchen, and we sampled the tender goat along with other delicacies from the Mexican state of Hidalgo, including a smoky chicken mole, savory pork loin with cactus strips, and a fiery, dark salsa made with a Central Mexican chile called *chile rayado*.

The tours, with themes such as "Southern Comfort," "Taste of Asia," "Grocery Stores and Ethnic Markets," and "Chinatown," usually involve two chefs,

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The Chefs' Current Faves

Recommendations from the chefs

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Beaucoup Bar & Grill, New Orleans-style wings, gumbo, crawfish. 3102 Old Spanish Tr.; 713/747-5100.

Bhojan Vegetarian Restaurant, Indian. 6855 Southwest Frwy.; 713/777-6900.

Burns' B-B-Q, 8307 De Priest St.; 281/445-7574.

HK Dim Sum, 9889 Bellaire Blvd.; 713/777-7029.

Hank's Ice Cream Parlor, 9291 Main St.; 713/665-5103.

El Hidalguense, interior Mexican. 6917 Long Point Rd.; 713/680-1071.

Barbecue Done Right trailer (takeout only), corner of Laura Koppe Rd. and Lanewood Dr.; 832/731-2940.

Guy's Meat Market, 3106 Old Spanish Tr.; 713/747-6800.

Himalaya, Indian-Pakistani fare. 6652 Southwest Frwy.; 713/532-2837.

London Sizzler, British-style Indian. 6690 Southwest Frwy.; 713/783-2754.

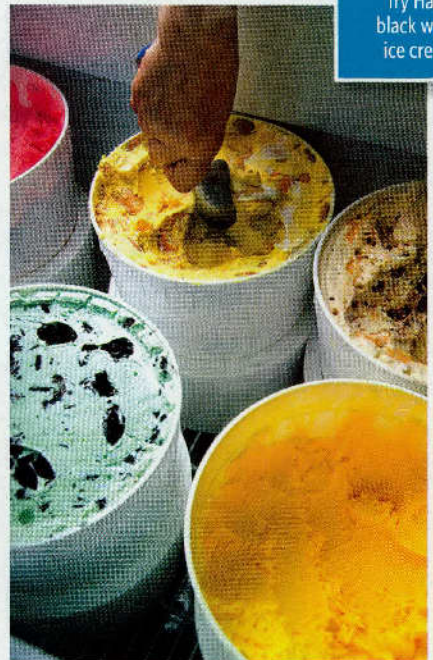
Mikki's Soul Food Cafe, 10500 West Bellfort St.; 281/568-5115.

My Dee Dee's Pie Shoppe, 301 W. Gulf Bank Rd.; 281/448-5309.

Pierson's barbecue, 5510 T.C. Jester Blvd.; 713/683-6997.

Pizzitola's barbecue, 1703 Shepherd Dr.; 713/227-2283.

Vieng Thai, 6929 Long Point Dr.; 713/688-9910.



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teams with Bryan Caswell, executive chef at the restaurant Reef, to explore Persian grills, French-Vietnamese sandwich spots, and Indian vegetarian restaurants.

And sometimes the chefs veer away from restaurants entirely—Pope and Chef Marcus Davis host a tour called “Momma’s House,” during which they visit their actual mothers’ houses for authentic home cooking. “My favorite place to eat is in my mom’s kitchen,” says Davis. “So we’re all going to eat the comfort food I ate on Sunday mornings, growing up.”

My group didn’t get to visit Monica Pope’s or Marcus Davis’ moms’ houses. But we did visit a diverse collection of restaurants across the city. At Vieng Thai, we dined on coconut-milk soup, fragrant with lemongrass, scallions, and ginger; refreshing green-papaya salad, pungent with fish sauce; beef in green curry; and curried chicken with potatoes and peanuts. At Himalaya, an Indian-Pakistani restaurant west of Loop 610, we sampled brilliantly spiced lamb biryani, chicken

tikka masala and hara masala, and amazing naan—golden, bubbly, and yeasty, yet still light in texture and flavor. Nearby, at the London Sizzler, a British-style Indian restaurant, we savored tandoori chicken, a complex fish masala, and a spicy, Indian version of fried okra, prepared with onion, coriander, cumin, and cilantro.

We even visited one of the chefs' favorite supermarkets—a sprawling Asian market west of the city off I-10, where I purchased a bag of Thai red rice, a bag of wasabi peas (in case I ever felt hungry again), and a mystery bag from the vast fungus aisle that turned out to be an herb used to improve liver function.

Perhaps I was foolish to explore the fungus aisle blind. You don't have to: On their "Grocery Stores and Ethnic Markets" tour, chefs Chris Shepherd and Randy Evans accompany groups to markets (Polish! Russian! Mediterranean! Southeast Asian!) across the city, where they'll share their shopping secrets. "When we started serving spring rolls at Haven, I didn't know what brand of wrapper was best," says Evans. "So I asked one of the cooks at a place I used to frequent. She said, 'Get the one with the two flying horses on the front.' I've been using them ever since."

"Embracing new cuisines," observes Chef Hugo Ortega, who brings continental polish to his interior-Mexican dishes at Hugo's, "is what enriches a community, generates energy, and distinguishes one group from another. On these tours, I believe I have this great opportunity to present my country's culture to the world."

And with these tours, you'll see a side of Houston you might not know existed. I can't wait for further exploration. **TH**

Houston Culinary Tours

Tickets cost \$180 per person, which includes tastings at each restaurant, complimentary St. Arnold's beer, limo-bus transportation, and a gift bag. Proceeds benefit the Houston Food Bank. See www.HoustonCulinaryTours.com.





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Mammoth Discovery

A new archeological park in Waco documents the area's prehistoric creatures

Text by **SHERMAKAYE BASS**

I'VE ALWAYS BEEN FASCINATED WITH WACO. IT'S A CONVENIENT midpoint between Dallas and Austin, and I stop whenever possible to take in some of its colorful history. One of my favorite Texas structures is the 1870 Waco Suspension Bridge, the first bridge to span the Brazos River. And I can't resist downtown's Dr Pepper Museum, the birthplace of my hubby's favorite soda pop. But until recently, I didn't realize just *how* historic Waco really is.

This past December, the Central Texas city debuted its own Jurassic Park of sorts: the Waco Mammoth Site, a wooded, 105-acre work-in-progress along the Bosque River northwest of town. Phase I of the archeological attraction exhibits the remains of six prehistoric mammoths—distant cousins of today's elephant.

In 1978, Eddie Bufkin and Paul Barron were looking for arrowheads in ravines along the river when they made a discovery that set the project in motion. "The men came across a large bone sticking out of the ground," says Waco Parks and Recreation Department program administrator Jeff Goodman. "They knew it wasn't a cow bone, so they took it to scientists at Baylor [University] for further investigation."

Paleontologists at Baylor (and later at the University of Utah) determined that the bones were from skeletons of Columbian mammoths that grazed the lush Central Texas woodlands before becoming extinct about 10,000 years ago. Distant relatives of the woolly mammoths, the Columbian mammoths, on

The remains of a bull Columbian mammoth (center) are among those of six mammoths that lie beneath the Dig Shelter at the Waco Mammoth Site.

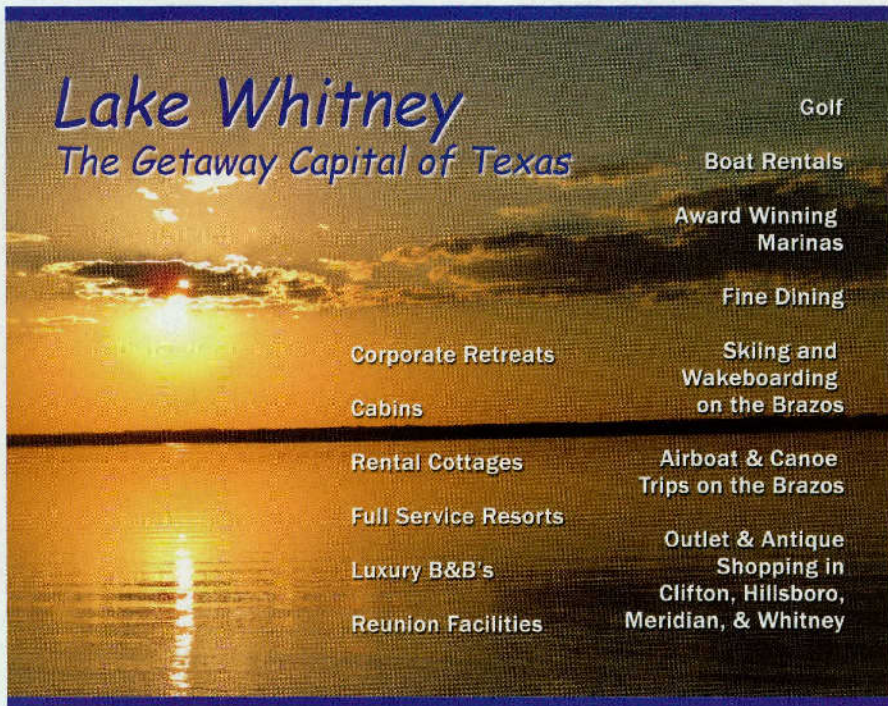
average, stood 14 feet tall, weighed some 20,000 pounds (8,000 pounds more than the typical woolly), and had broad, curved tusks that stretched 15 feet or more.

Scientists later identified most of the remains as those of the largest nursery herd of Columbian mammoths ever found in North America. Even more intriguing, the site was found to be the final resting place of at least two other, subsequent groups of these Pleistocene creatures. More than 25 mammoth specimens were uncovered between 1978 and 2001, as well as the tooth of a juvenile saber-tooth cat and the remains of a prehistoric camel and another still-unidentified mammal. Evidence indicates that the creatures were victims of a series of cataclysmic natural disasters that occurred approximately 68,000 years ago.

The site's just-completed Phase I features a visitors center, an oak-shaded park, and a stunning, 8,350-square-foot Dig Shelter—a steel-glass-and-wood marvel constructed around and over the original dig. The structure preserves the animal remains while removing moisture from the air and ground and sealing the interior. The vaulted interior includes explanatory displays, viewing platforms, and a truss-supported cross-walk that looks directly into the dig.

"There's a reverence here ... you feel it when you walk in," says Jeff Goodman. "We usually allow visitors a few minutes just to take in the scene before we explain precisely what they're seeing."

Entering the shelter, I understand what Goodman means. Flooded with sunlight from large windows, the building feels like sacred ground. I find myself unwittingly holding my breath inside the hushed environs. Pointing to the remains of the six mammoths lying in situ, beneath the Dig Shelter, tour guide Troy Gray says, "The remains you see here are exactly where they've been lying all this time. The bull in the center was found holding a juvenile in his tusks as if he were trying to raise it high above danger.



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Presenting the Presidio

A long-awaited museum-redesign showcases the history of Presidio La Bahía

I T'S A NEW DAY FOR THE PRESIDIO LA BAHÍA, A National Historic Landmark near Goliad. Despite the Presidio's importance—historians consider it the world's finest example of a Spanish frontier fort—the site has lacked the resources to showcase its rich history until recently. Last month marked the completion of a three-and-a-half-year, \$500,000 museum-redesign project—funded by the Presidio La Bahía Foundation—that promises to lure visitors from across the country.

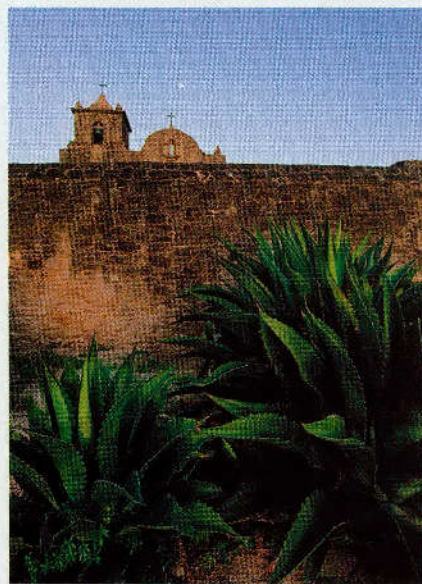
"The Presidio has a big story to tell," says site director Newton Warzecha. "It isn't just about the Goliad Massacre—which took place here three weeks after the Alamo fell—and the Texas Revolution, but also about the Spanish Colonial and Mexican periods and the tumultuous time leading up to the revolution. To give you an idea of the scope we're talking about, the Presidio dates to 1721, and *nine* flags have flown over this area, not six. The fort's Our Lady of Loreto Chapel, which was completed in 1779, is one of the oldest churches in the country; services are still held there today."

Among the improvements: new signage throughout the property and a wheelchair-accessible entrance in front of the former officer's quarters, which houses the museum. Inside,

a viewing room near the gift shop offers a 15-minute video orientation. Visitors can then proceed through the exhibits, which have been reorganized so that each room represents a different chronological period. New display cabinets exhibit selected items from the Presidio's collection of 54,694 artifacts—all found on site—including Spanish Colonial bits and bridles and a rare shako plate from a Mexican military cap.

Presidio La Bahía presents living-history events throughout the year and offers limited overnight lodging in the former officer's quarters. Call 361/645-3752; www.presidiolabahia.org.

—Nola McKey



Return visitors to Presidio La Bahía on the outskirts of Goliad will notice a stunning difference in today's exhibits at the early-1700s fort.

See!

the reconstructed Mission Espíritu Santo, a quarter-mile north

Bull mammoths typically had very little contact with a nursery herd—they only returned during mating season. But he was found with them. Scientists hypothesize that this death event was caused by a flood."

He explains that the other animals, including a female who was also found with a juvenile in her tusks, were found clustered just outside the Dig Shelter; their remains are currently in museum storage facilities.

Gray's revelation makes the mammoths' plight seem eerily human, documented as it is in dirt and bones. The scene tells of the adults' attempts to save their young during a natural disaster. It's an incredibly poignant display that leaves visitors reflecting on how much

we might share with our distant mammalian relatives.

Currently operated by the City of Waco, Baylor University, and the Waco Mammoth Foundation, this impressive site appears on track to become a national monument under the auspices of the National Park Service. (The U.S. House of Representatives green-lighted legislation for such a designation in July 2009. At press time, a similar bill was awaiting floor action in the U.S. Senate.) Already, the park is a star attraction for school groups from first-graders to college students, armchair archeologists, and paleontologists from around the country. "We just opened in December, and we're averaging 4,000 visitors a month," says Program Coordinator Anna Enderli.

"We're anticipating a busy summer."

Enderli says future plans include construction of a playground near the Dig Shelter with playscapes designed after mammals found at the dig, classroom buildings and research facilities, nature trails, and piers overlooking the Bosque River. As funding allows, the site will eventually display more remains from the Central Texas dig, offering visitors an even broader glimpse of prehistory. **TH**

Waco Mammoth Site

is at 6220 Steinbeck Bend Rd. in Waco. Call 254/750-7946; www.wacomammoth.org.





Wild About the Springs

Lampasas honors its many springs with the Spring Ho Festival

WATER, WATER EVERY- where. The Central Texas community of Lampasas boasts Hancock, Hanna, and Cooper springs and hundreds of other smaller springs, not to mention Sulphur Creek, which runs through town. Citizens celebrate the bounty with a week-long festival each July (July 5-11, 2010) that includes fire-

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To the Hanna Springs Sculpture Garden

works, a beauty pageant, a talent contest, a kids' fishing derby, special exhibits at the Keystone Square Museum, a carnival, a dance contest, an arts-

and-crafts fair, a pet parade, a barbecue cookoff, Dance on the Square, 10K & one-mile runs, a Grand Parade, washer- and horseshoe-pitching contests, and live music by local performers in W.M. Brook Park. And oh, yes, the Lampasas County Fair runs concurrently during the week. If you run out of things to do, visit the historic Hostess House, a former bathhouse, where you can sample homemade pies and cakes at the Green Frog Tea Room, and then cool off in the nearby spring-fed Hancock Swimming Pool. Call 512/556-5301; www.springho.com.

—Marty Lange

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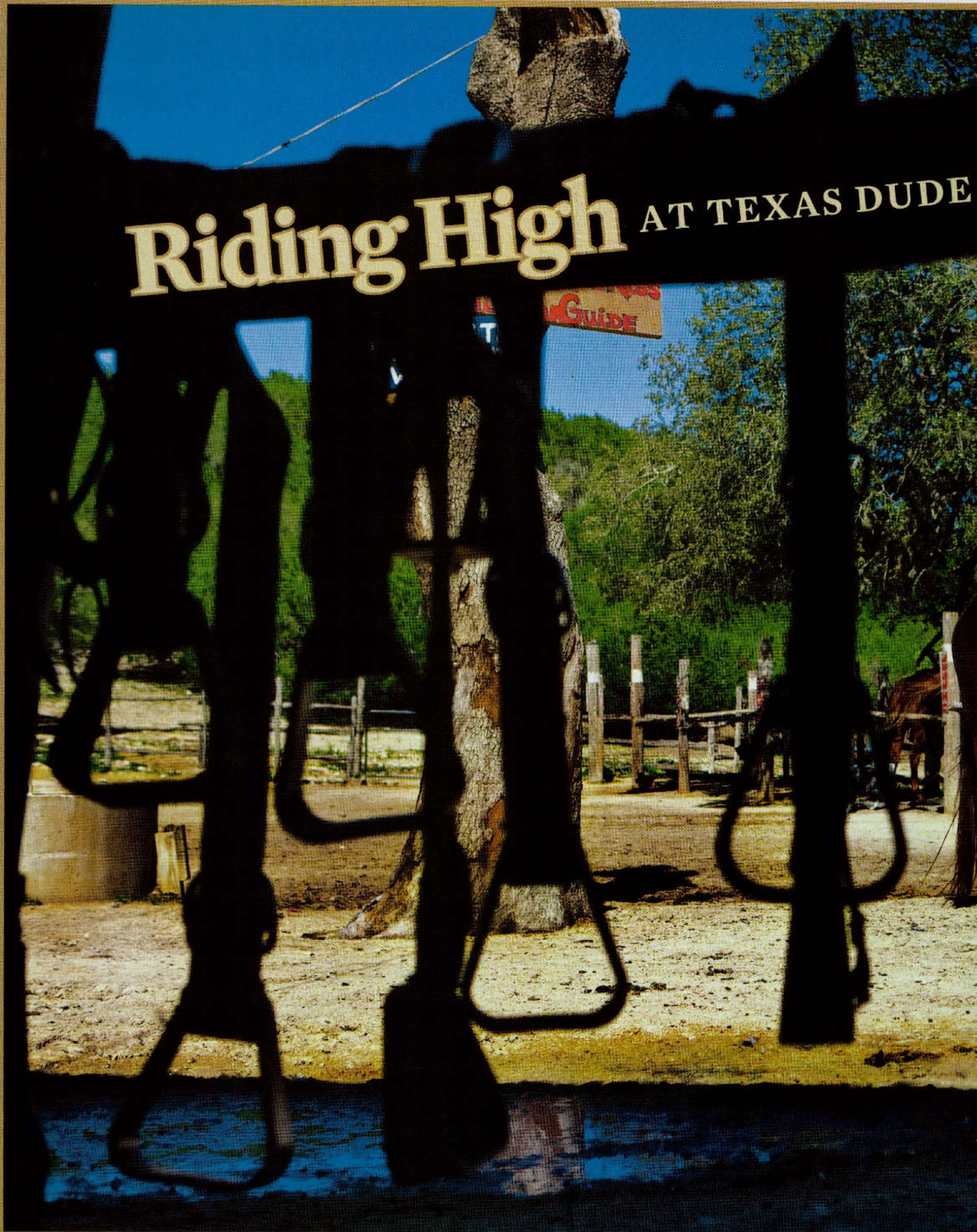
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Riding High AT TEXAS DUDE



RANCHES

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just slow down and take it easy.*

Text by **DALE WEISMAN**



Wrangling a four-footed ride at the Silver Spur Ranch. PHOTO: J. GRIFFIS SMITH

*“I’m back in the saddle again
Out where a friend is a friend ...”*

—Gene Autry



To order a print of this photograph, call 866/962-1191, or visit www.texashighwaysprints.com.

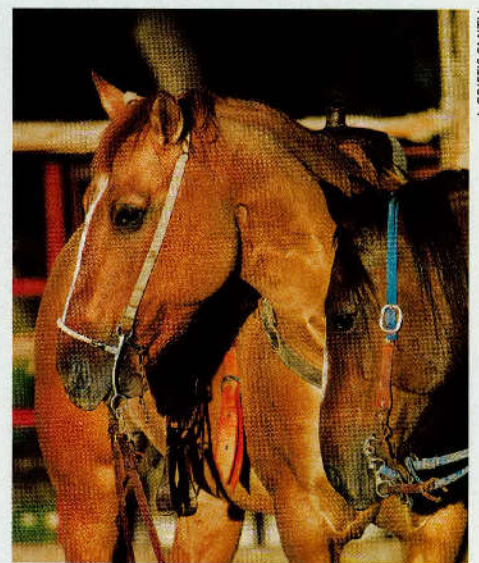


The Prude Ranch, near Fort Davis, is still a cowboyin' kind of place. Just ask Hunter Prude, Adrian "Dutch" Dutchover, or Michael Chavez—here stampeding the photographer.

© E. DAN KLEPPER

I'm back in the saddle again, riding a sure-footed horse along a rocky path that twists and bucks through cedar-strewn hills south of Bandera. My teenage daughter Erica trails along behind me on a feisty mare while a mustachioed wrangler, clad in dusty leather chaps and a weathered cowboy hat, leads the way. Soon my imagination wanders back 130 years to the grueling Longhorn cattle drives up the Great Western Trail to Dodge City. After more than an hour on horseback, thirst sets in under the blazing sun and my aching legs beg for solid ground. Still, I'm loving every minute of my trail ride at the Silver Spur Guest Ranch.

Most folks vacation at Texas dude and guest ranches like the Silver Spur



J. GRIFFIS SMITH

At Bandera's Mayan Dude Ranch, you're not required to ride the horses; you can simply appreciate their beauty and wonder what they're thinking.

for idle pleasure, not *Lonesome Dove* adversity. They come for the food (“three squares a day”—steaks, barbecue, Tex-Mex, and cowboy breakfasts) or fellowship with family and friends, along with rejuvenation of body and soul. Activities abound at guest ranches, but there’s no pressure to participate. Whether you opt to relax on a shady porch, ride horses, hike and swim, or join hayrides and campfire sing-alongs, stress melts like chocolate on a s’more.

A Hollywood-style cowboy culture defines the typical guest ranch experience. Reminders of the cinematic Old West include yodeling troubadours and trick-ropers along with mini-rodeos and two-step dancing lessons. While some guest ranches have added golf courses, tennis courts, and skeet shooting to their landscape, the quintessential activity remains the trail ride. Guests typically ride Western style in the saddle, walking in loose nose-to-tail formation on gentle steeds sporting endearing monikers like Butter Bean, Muffin Man, and Oreo.

Although Texas may be the birthplace of the American cowboy, dude ranches came of age in the Rocky Mountains in the 1880s, popularized by the über-dude Theodore Roosevelt and romanticized by Western artists and writers. Back then, a dude simply meant anyone who came out West and paid for room and board to stay on a ranch. Over time, the word evolved into a pejorative term for a foppish dresser, greenhorn, or tenderfoot. These days, popular culture hijacks “dude” for the inane greeting, “Hey dude.”

Dude ranching reached its early heyday in the Roaring Twenties. Texas’

BOTH PHOTOS BY J. GRIFFIS SMITH



ABOVE: Lishell and Matt Kepler get close to a Silver Spur Ranch Longhorn named Easy Money, the first Longhorn born on the ranch since owner Garry Walsmith and his wife, Kay, took over. Easy Money was named for the last bull Walsmith rode. Ask him how the ride turned out.

LEFT: A rustic hideout on the Mayan Dude Ranch.



Longhorns at the Silver Spur Ranch often mosey along for the hayride.

first dude ranches, such as the Prude (still operating as a guest ranch in the Davis Mountains of West Texas), the Gallagher west of San Antonio (now a venue for corporate retreats and private parties), and the Buck near Bandera, opened to vacationers during that decade. One of the Buck Ranch's neighbors observed wryly, "You can run more dudes to the acre in these hills than you can cattle."

Bandera styles itself as the dude-ranching center of Texas, and it still holds the reins on the state's "horsepitality" industry. A dozen or so dude and guest ranches as well as more sophisticated equestrian centers lie within 15 minutes of the self-proclaimed "Cowboy Capital of the World."

Many more guest ranches operate around the state. A cadre of small-scale ranches near the Metroplex caters

to clients booking corporate events, reunions, and weddings. Others, like the 30,000-acre Cibolo Creek Ranch south of Marfa and the Wildcatter Ranch near Graham, northwest of Fort Worth, pamper guests with luxury lodging, gourmet cuisine, and spa amenities.

A few other spreads, such as the Lazy F Guest Ranch, an hour east of San Antonio in South Texas, and the Bar H Dude Ranch in the Panhandle, remain closer to the cowboy way, providing true-grit, butt-in-saddle trail-riding experiences that transform city slickers like me into Gus McRae wannabes.

Here are four of my favorite guest ranches in Texas. I return to them time and again because the stars seem brighter, the nights quieter, and the days longer when

BOTH PHOTOS BY J. GRIFFIS SMITH



ABOVE: Barbecue fans line up at the Mayan Ranch, where meals are often outdoors, and accompanied by entertainment.

OPPOSITE: The Silver Spur tack room has a look, feel, and smell all its own.

I roll through their gates. Put me on a tall horse, and the world looks bigger and wilder. Happy trails indeed!

MAYAN DUDE RANCH “Home of Horsepitality”

I love the Mayan (locally pronounced MAY-ann) because it embraces the essence of dude ranching: treating guests like family and serving up zany activities all day and into the evening.

Owned and operated by the Hicks family since 1951, the Mayan Ranch nestles in a picturesque valley amid cedar-clad hills six blocks from downtown Bandera. The cypress-lined Medina River, where guests can swim, tube, and fish, draws a lazy horseshoe loop around the 348-acre spread, crisscrossed by riding trails. White-tailed deer and showy peacocks wander among the rustic cabins, originally built on this site in the 1930s for a Girl Scouts camp. Now, a swimming pool, party pavilion, basketball and tennis courts, corrals, Western village (Hicksville), and a welcoming lodge with dining hall round out the amenities.

The Mayan caters to families, reunions, corporate retreats, and the occasional movie star or political celebrity. “Everybody here is just as important to me as anyone else,” says Judy Hicks, who established the ranch with her husband, Don. “If you’re a Mayan guest, you’re my celebrity,” she adds.

Three generations of the Hicks family keep the ranch rolling from dawn to evening campfire. “We have

hayrides, cowboy breakfasts, marshmallow roasts, roping lessons, archery, dance lessons, western bingo, hoedowns, barbecues, and fiestas,” says Judy’s daughter Kelly, the ranch’s vivacious, sweetheart-of-the-rodeo activity director.

And the food? It’s basic, plentiful, and based on the down-home recipes Judy Hicks has compiled over a half-century of feeding guests and hungry cowboys, as well as the couple’s 12 kids.

SILVER SPUR GUEST RANCH

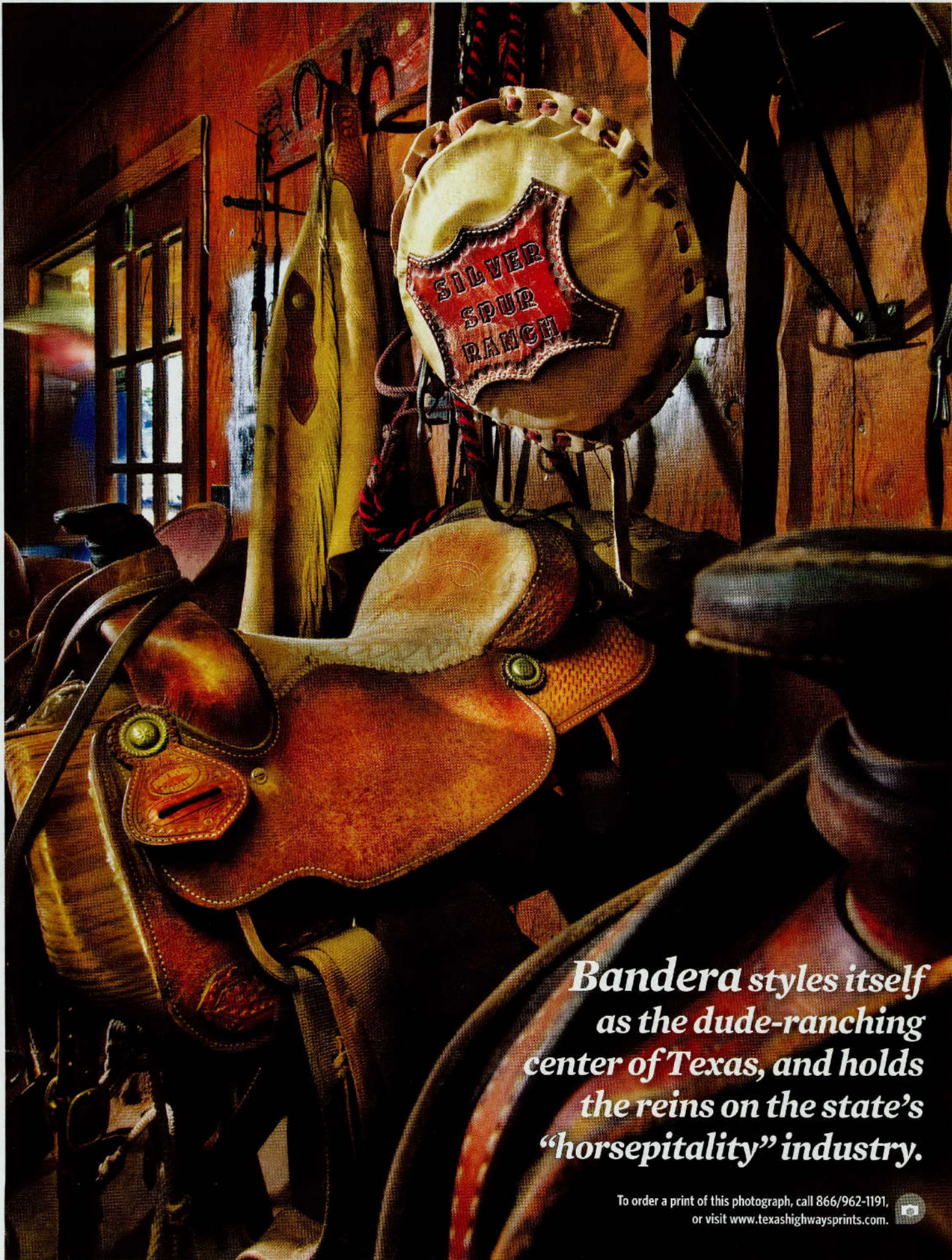
“Where Memories Are Made”

If you like to ride, gallop over to the Silver Spur, a family-friendly guest ranch nine miles south of Bandera and next door to the sprawling Hill Country State Natural Area, a popular equestrian destination. Riding options abound. Enjoy two one-hour rides a day on the 300-acre ranch’s seriously hilly trails, or arrange for longer, more challenging rides through the 5,300-acre natural area, which offers more than 40 miles of multi-use trails.

Garry Walsmith and his wife, Kay, bought and renovated the Silver Spur (originally established in 1980) in 2003 and reopened it on Valentine’s Day 2004. They diligently maintain a hardworking herd of horses and interesting trails on which to ride them.

Not into riding? Then come and kick back in the rambling, three-story lodge, swim in the Junior Olympic pool, hike the trails, birdwatch, collect fossils, and “cowboy up.” The Silver Spur can set you up with campfire sing-alongs, cowboy breakfasts, trick-ropers, Western storytellers, line-dancing lessons, and haywagon rides to the natural area next door. Walsmith often leads the hayrides, feeding his beloved Longhorns along the way and telling tales of the Texas frontier.

“One of the nice things about the ranch,” says Silver Spur wrangler David Mangold, “is that you can park your car and not have to start it again until it’s time to go home.”



***Bandera styles itself
as the dude-ranching
center of Texas, and holds
the reins on the state's
“horsepitality” industry.***

To order a print of this photograph, call 866/962-1191,
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The YO Ranch is home to more than 50 exotic wildlife species.



YO RANCH

“Live the Legend”

Sprawling across 35,000 acres west of Kerrville, the legendary YO Ranch defies easy description. Is it a working Longhorn cattle ranch? An exotic wildlife preserve? A trophy hunter's paradise? An adventure and cowboy camp for kids? A guest ranch with trail riding and gourmet meals? It's all that and more.

The YO's founder, Captain Charles Schreiner, defied labels, too. A German immigrant, Schreiner became a Texas Ranger at age 16 and eventually built a mercantile and banking empire in Kerr-

ville. By 1880, he had amassed 550,000 acres after driving 300,000 Longhorns to market. Keeping faith with its ranching heritage, today's YO maintains one of the nation's largest herds of quality Longhorns. Charlie Schreiner III, the captain's grandson, once observed, “Without the rangy breed, there wouldn't have been a YO.”

The YO hosts Longhorn roundups for trail riders each spring and fall, as well as Longhorn and exotic-wildlife auctions twice a year. The ranch acquired its first exotics in the 1950s and now harbors more than 50 species, including aoudad sheep, axis deer, blackbuck

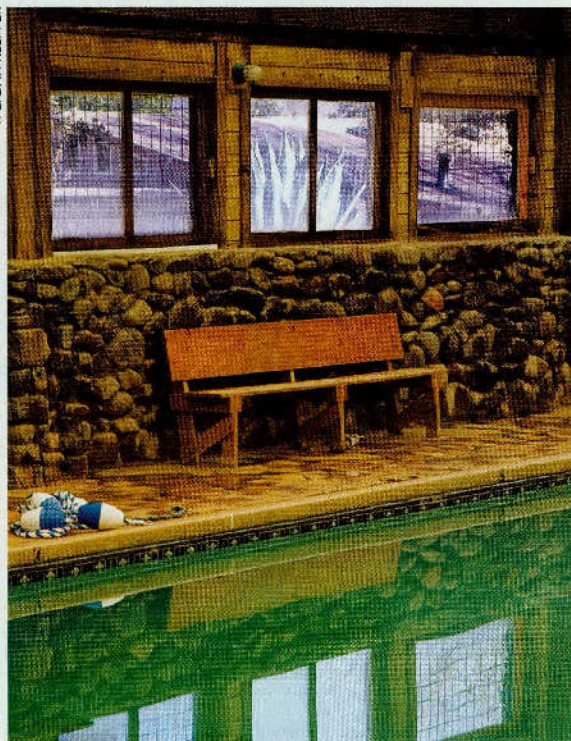
antelope, ibex, oryx, ostrich, red deer, and wildebeest.

The YO's tourism director, Debbie Hagebusch, who leads wildlife tours and photo safaris, explains that game ranches like the YO can contribute to preserving some endangered species like blackbuck antelope from India.

Joining Debbie on a tour, I saw Longhorns galore, cuddled up to a camel, and fed cookies to a giraffe. That night I dined on beef tenderloin at the YO's Chuckwagon and hiked back to my log-cabin room by starlight. Now that's living the legend.



© E. DAN KLEPPER



J. GRIFFIS SMITH

ABOVE LEFT: On the YO Ranch exotic wildlife tours, it's possible to spot more than 50 species that have adapted to this Hill Country landscape over the past half-century.

ABOVE RIGHT: In a departure from the typical life on the trail, the Prude Ranch near Fort Davis offers an indoor heated pool.

PRUDE RANCH

"We'll Keep a Horse Saddled for You"

I've stayed at the Prude so many times over the years, it's like my second home out west. Among my fondest Prude memories: meeting Larry McMurtry at a writer's retreat, going back for seconds at the Prude's hearty Thanksgiving feasts, hiking and collecting rocks in the surrounding Davis Mountains, and watching my young daughter ride a horse for the first time.

Many thousands of Prude fans share similar memories of what may be Texas' oldest continuously operating guest ranch. Established in 1897 along the banks of Limpia Creek near Fort Davis, the Prude cattle ranch first took on paying guests in 1921. They came to the mile-high ranch to escape the summer heat and enjoy rodeos, square dancing, and cowboy singing.

The guest ranch flourished under John G. "Big Spurs" Prude's steady hand. His son John Robert—"Mr. Hospitality"—started the summer camp in 1951 and added more lodges, an RV park, indoor swimming pool, horse corral, and spacious dining hall. John Robert passed away early this year, and I'll miss his welcoming voice asking, "Did y'all get enough to eat?"

The 1,300-acre ranch still runs cattle and keeps Longhorns and bison around as

"pasture ornaments." Prude Ranch manager Bruce Davis adds, "It's still very much a cowboy place, but we do a lot more." Star parties, fitness/sports medicine camps, bicycling events, RV rallies, and fellowship retreats keep Prude guests on the move during every season of the year.

Even though the trails across Texas are not as long and lonesome as they once were, it's good to know you can take advantage of the opportunity to saddle up and get the feel of life on horseback. And still be close to a hot meal and a cozy bed. **TH**

In addition to his dude-ranch escapes, writer **DALE WEISMAN** has joined the Longhorn round-up at Big Bend Ranch State Park.

TH ESSENTIALS



Texas Dude and Guest Ranches

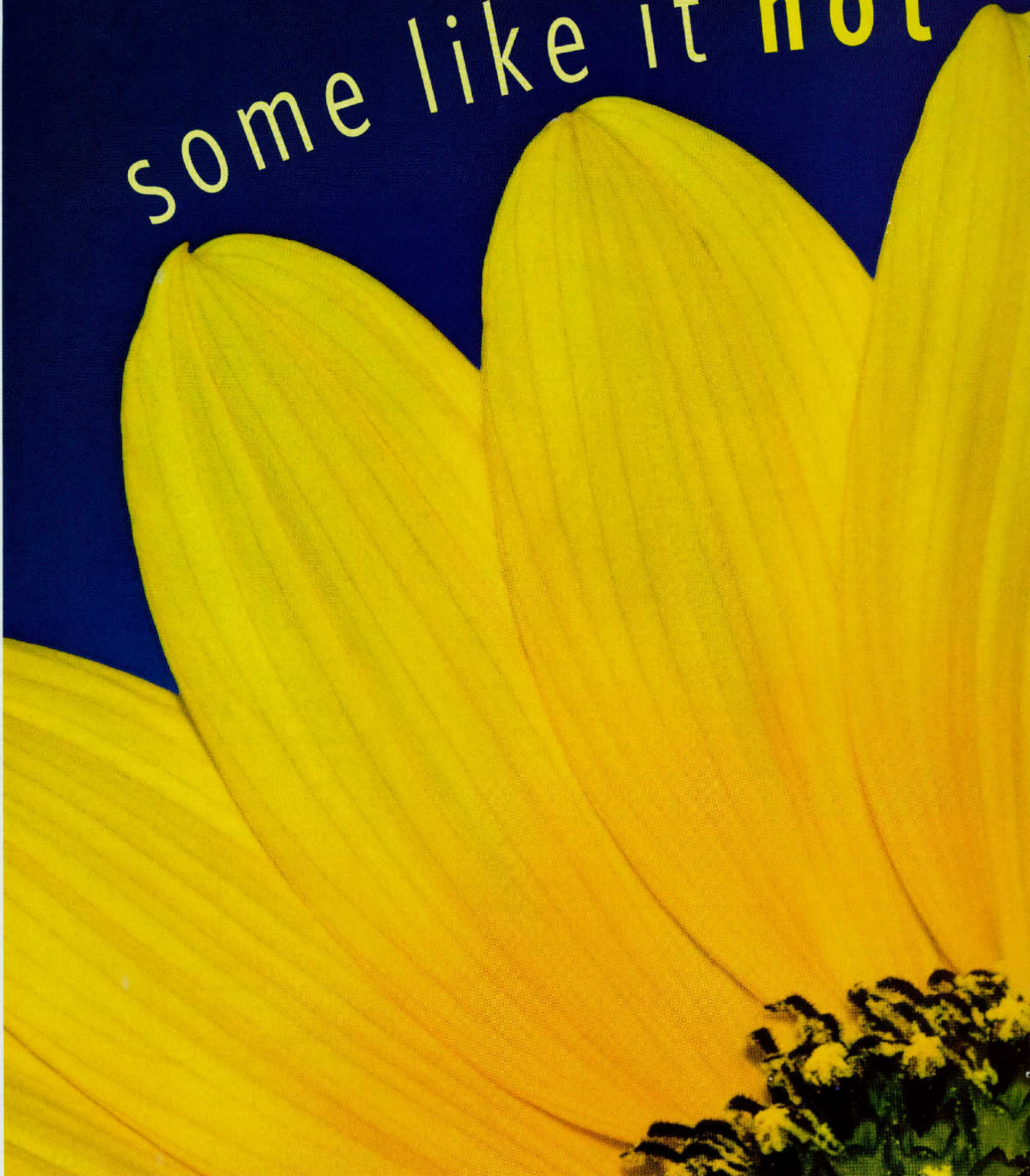
Mayan Dude Ranch is in Bandera, about 46 miles northwest of San Antonio, with 68 rooms (some with fireplaces), available in cottages and lodges. Call 830/796-3312; www.mayanranch.com.

Silver Spur Guest Ranch is one of Bandera's newer guest ranches, offering special events such as the Cowgirl's Weekend each May. Call 830/796-3037; www.silverspur-ranch.com.

At **YO Ranch**, west of Kerrville, you'll find the Chuckwagon dining hall, an open bar at the guest lodge, swimming pool, summer camp, year-round youth programs, plus lodging in 1880s-style cabins. Call 800/967-2624 or 830/640-3222; www.yoranch.com.

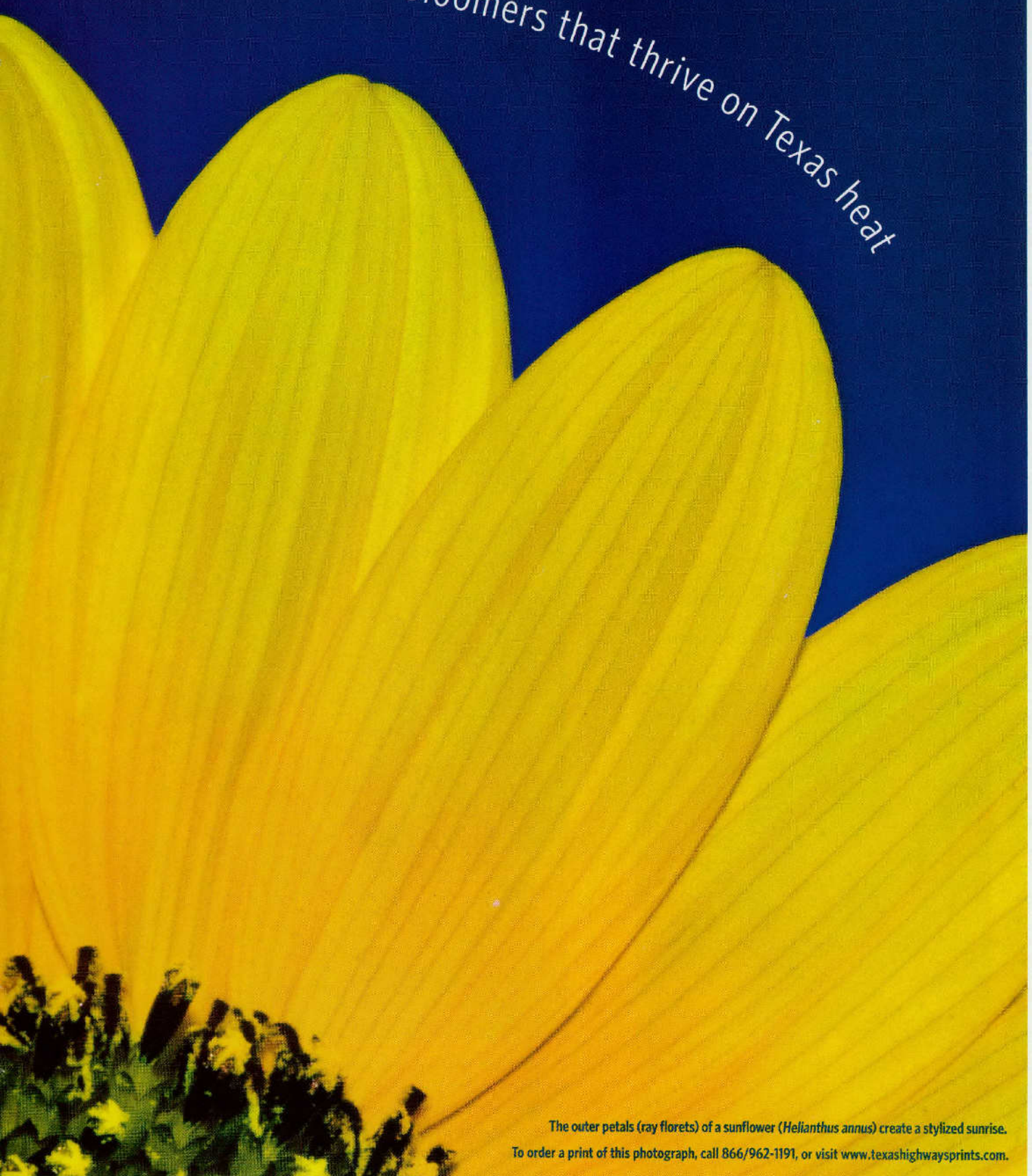
Prude Ranch, near Fort Davis, is the oldest continuously operating, family-run guest ranch in Texas. Dining room with 150-person capacity, bunkhouses, family cabins, guest lodges, and RV spaces. Call 800/458-6232 or 432/426-3202; www.prude-ranch.com.

some like it **hot**



Text and Photographs by
STEVEN SCHWARTZMAN

A bevy of tenacious bloomers that thrive on Texas heat



The outer petals (ray florets) of a sunflower (*Helianthus annuus*) create a stylized sunrise.
To order a print of this photograph, call 866/962-1191, or visit www.texashighwaysprints.com.

WHILE TEXANS USUALLY make a beeline indoors (or to the nearest swimming hole) on sweltering summer days, some of our native wildflowers revel in the heat. Evolution has led those species to thrive during periods of high temperature and little rainfall, thereby giving them an edge over less-resistant species. Thanks to this phenomenon, splashes of yellow, violet, pink, and white adorn roadsides and fields even in the hottest months.

Perhaps best known among the heat lovers is the anything-but-common common sunflower (*Helianthus annuus*).



To order a print of this photograph, call 866/962-1191, or visit www.texashighwaysprints.com.

LEFT: Fuzzy hairs and sticky droplets cover a partially opened camphorweed (*Heterotheca subaxillaris*) bud in Williamson County. ABOVE: The closely packed flowers of mountain pink (*Centaureum beyrichii*) sit atop a scaffold that turns orange as the plant matures.



Mountain pink lives up to its name by appearing to grow right out of the limestone cliffs west of the Balcones Fault.



To order a print of this photograph, call 866/962-1191, or visit www.texashighwaysprints.com.

Old man's beard gets its name from the dense, downy tufts that develop when the fertilized flowers mature.



A close-up of an old man's beard (*Clematis drummondii*), found growing in Cypress Creek Park in Travis County, reveals a swirling tangle of shiny filaments emerging from a cluster of seeds.



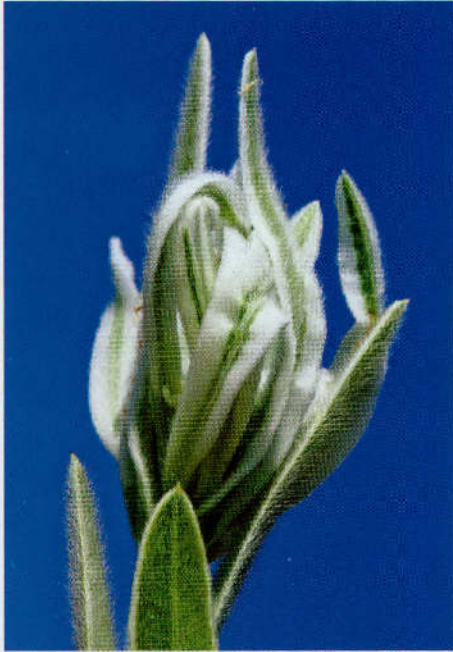
The yellow-tipped stamens of buttonbush (*Cephalanthus occidentalis*) protrude well beyond the petals in its densely packed globe of flowers.

When Europeans came to North America, they found Native Americans in many regions cultivating the showy flowers and grinding the seeds for use in breads and soups. Native sunflowers tend to spring up on disturbed ground, so they're often found around construction sites, along roadsides, or in fallow fields. Their smaller seed heads distinguish them from commercial varieties.

Gardeners rarely cultivate another yellow-flowered member of the sunflower family, camphorweed, but in spite of its "weedy" common name, the native *Heterotheca subaxillaris* produces petite and cheerful flowers from May to October. Many people recognize the aroma of camphor that clings to their fingers after they handle this resinous plant, which springs up readily in many parts of Texas. Its flowers turn into downy "puffballs," with feathery seeds that children delight in blowing away.

A century ago, the primary definition of the word button was "knob" or "small ball," and that explains the origins of the name buttonbush for one of our native shrubs. From June through September, *Cephalanthus occidentalis*, as botanists know it, gives rise to fragrant, spherical flower heads covered profusely by small white flowers with protruding stamens. Though buttonbush normally grows near streams, author and native-plant authority Jill Nokes reports that residents of the Old South planted buttonbush around their homes so that the flowers' pleasant scent could sweeten courtship rituals that took place on the porch swing.

Curiously, the bluebell gentian (*Eustoma exaltatum*) features petals that are violet, not blue. Field guides often describe this wildflower as one of the state's largest and showiest, producing bell-shaped blooms up to three inches across from May until as late as October. Admirers over the decades have picked these flowers so eagerly that the plant

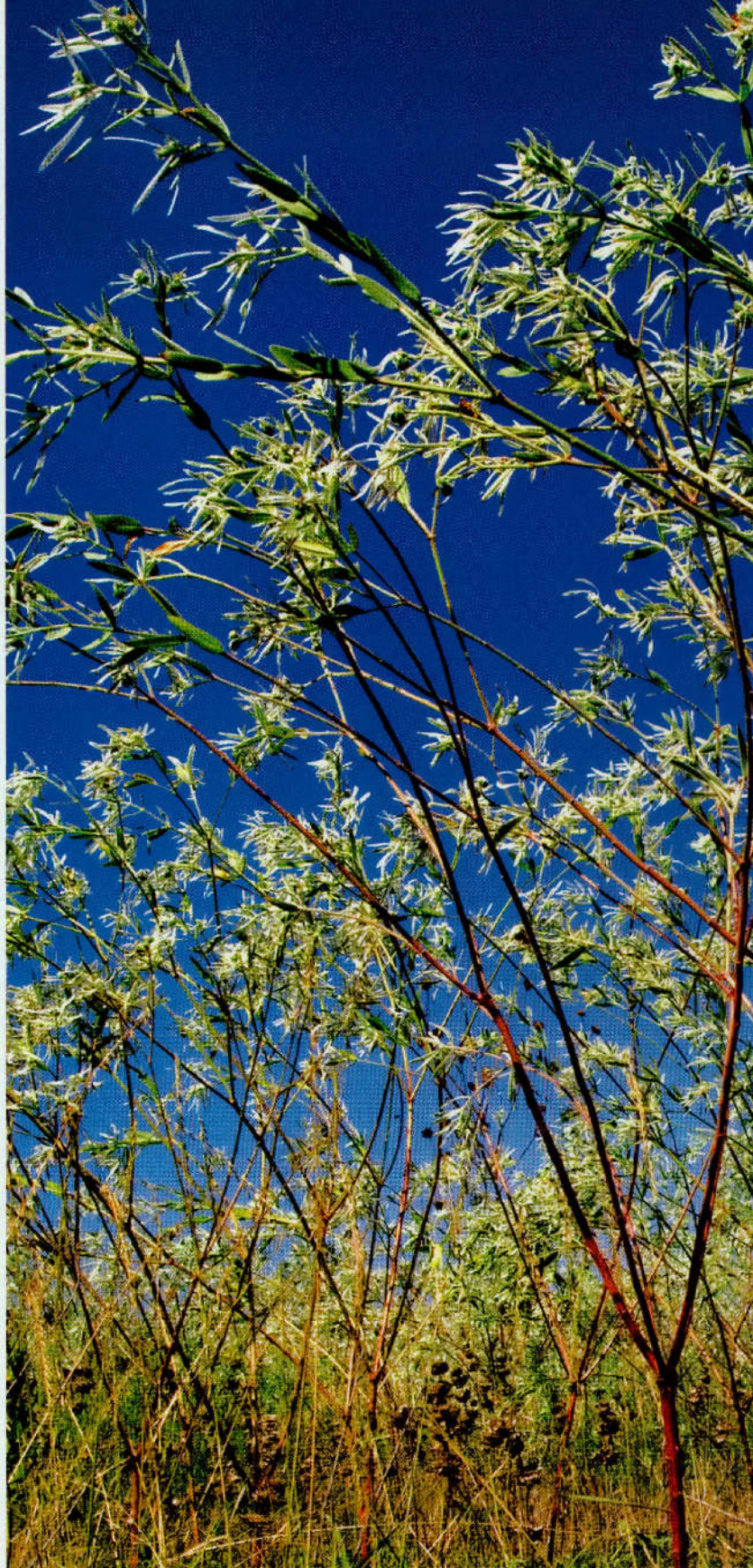


has become scarce along roadsides, but sheltered colonies survive throughout the state.

In contrast to the bluebell, the inconspicuous flowers of snow-on-the-prairie (*Euphorbia bicolor*) grow inside a tiny white “collar” surrounded by attractive, long, white-margined bracts. Those specialized leaves make up the “snow” that settles incongruously on the prairies of the eastern half of Texas in August and September. This shrub’s reddish stems add visual warmth—as if we needed any—to the bright white of the bracts above them.

Mountain pink (*Centaurium beyrichii*) lives up to its name by appearing to grow right out of the limestone in the cliffs west of the Balcones Fault, and it also emerges from summer-baked expanses of barren caliche where it might seem that nothing would grow. Each fully developed plant forms a broad cone with a dome that fills with long, pointy, greenish-white buds. These open in June and July into a surprisingly dense display of “stars” with five narrow, bright-pink petals.

Native to marshes in the eastern third of Texas, the stately *Hibiscus laevis* may grow to six feet in height. Its white or pink flowers, which bloom in July and August and can reach six inches in



TOP LEFT AND ABOVE: The individual bracts of snow-on-the-prairie (*Euphorbia bicolor*) have a soft, fuzzy texture. Its white bracts and reddish stems show up especially well when set off against a deep blue sky.



Snow-on-the-prairie's "snow" settles incongruously on the prairies of the eastern half of Texas in August and September.

diameter, have a ruby-colored throat and a prominently protruding stamen. The plant goes by the common names smooth marsh-mallow and halberdleaf hibiscus. The word halberd refers to a combined spear and battle-ax, but this plant has no prickles that would keep an appreciative observer from taking a close look.

The small, greenish-white flowers of *Clematis drummondii* have their charm, but they aren't the plant's most striking feature. When the fertilized flowers mature, they produce shiny filaments two to three inches long that gleam like copper or silver in the sun. These develop into dense, downy tufts that have prompted people to call the plant old man's beard. Unfortunately for other plants in the western two-thirds of the state, the prolific "beards" can smother and even kill them. The conspicuous tan tufts that linger on roadside fences and posts through the fall and winter remind us that all too soon summer heat will return to Texas. On the bright side, we can look forward to seeing these sprightly, tenacious, heat-loving wildflowers once again. **TH**

Austin photographer **STEVEN SCHWARTZMAN** remembers taking pictures of native plants on the afternoon of September 5, 2000, when the Capital City hit its all-time record high temperature of 112 degrees.



ABOVE: Halberdleaf hibiscus (*Hibiscus laevis*) flowers in July and August in East Texas. RIGHT: A close-up of a bluebell gentian (*Eustoma exaltatum*), found blooming off FM 734 in Williamson County, shows the flower's true color.

Where to See Summer Blooms

THE FOLLOWING SITES offer opportunities to see summer wildflowers. Keep in mind that changes in temperature and rainfall may cause plants to bloom earlier or later than the periods listed. As botanists are fond of saying, "Plants don't read field guides!"

Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center, 4801 La Crosse Ave., Austin, 512/232-0100; www.wildflower.org. In late spring and early summer, buttonbush appears by the Hill Country Stream. From June through August, look for bluebells in the Butterfly Garden and elsewhere. From June through September, spot halberdleaf hibiscus in the Wetland Pond, and sunflowers and camphorweed in areas that have remained in a natural state. The same areas feature snow-on-the-prairie from August through October. Tufts of old man's beard sometimes grace the Savanna Meadow Trail from summer through fall.

Cedar Ridge Preserve, 7171 Mountain Creek Pkwy., Dallas, 972/709-7784; www.audubondallas.org/cedaridge.html. From June through September, you can find bluebells near the Cattail Pond on the west side of the preserve, and sunflowers and camphorweed throughout the property. Snow-on-the prairie joins or supplants them from August through October.

Fort Worth Nature Center, 9601 Fossil Ridge Rd., Fort Worth, 817/392-7410; www.fwnaturecenter.org/index.php. The center features sunflowers, camphorweed, buttonbush, and bluebells from June through September. Mountain pink makes an appearance from late May through July, followed by snow-on-the-prairie in August and September.

Fredericksburg Nature Center, 432 Lady Bird Dr., 830/997-8917; www.fredericksburgnaturecenter.org. From May or June through September or October, look for bluebells, sunflowers, buttonbush, and camphorweed blooming along Live Oak Creek. Mountain pink grows in drier areas along the Live Oak Wilderness Trail from May to July.

Houston Arboretum and Nature Center, 4501 Woodway Dr., 713/681-8433 or 866/510-7219; www.houstonarboretum.org. Look for sunflowers and snow-on-the-prairie blooming in the arboretum's Demonstration Meadow in July and August. Buttonbush and halberdleaf hibiscus flower near the shore of the R.A. Vines Pond from June through September.

Sibley Nature Center, 1307 E. Wadley Ave., Midland, 432/684-6827; www.sibleynaturecenter.org. Check the bottom of the playa along the north edge of the property for sunflowers and camphorweed throughout the summer. Buttonbush thrives on the northeast side of the pond, along the dam. Hope for recently seeded bluebells to flower in the new Wildlife Garden on the east side of the Nature Center building.

San Antonio Botanical Garden, 555 Funston Place, 210/207-3250; www.sabot.org. Look for sunflowers starting in June in the Wildflower Meadow, the Bird Watch area, and at the front of the Carriage House. Buttonbush blossoms by the East Texas Lake from June through September. Snow-on-the-prairie brightens the Wildflower Meadow beginning in late summer, and the tufts of old man's beard hang on the South Texas Fence from July onward.



To order a print of this photograph, call 866/962-1191, or visit www.texashighwaysprints.com.



THE NATIONAL MUSEUM OF THE PACIFIC • WAR

THIS FREDERICKSBURG LANDMARK TELLS THE
STORY OF WORLD WAR II'S PACIFIC THEATER

Text by **JOE SHERFY**
Photographs by **J. GRIFFIS SMITH**



To order a print of this photograph, call 866/962-1191, or visit www.texashighwaysprints.com.



The fairwater/conning tower of the *USS Pintado (SS-387)* reminds museum patrons of the critical strategic role of U.S. submarine forces in the Pacific Theater.

Just as Admiral Nimitz conducted an island-hopping campaign across the Pacific, the museum consists of exhibits that seem like islands you can hop between.



matter how you slice it, you're going to kill a
thousands. But if you don't destroy Japan
le Japan. And how many Americans will be

STRATEGIC BOMBING

Japan's Trial By Fire
The atomic bombings of Hiroshima and Nagasaki in August 1945 were the only nuclear attacks in the history of the United States. The bombings were the result of a long and complex process of development and testing of nuclear weapons. The bombings were a turning point in the war, leading to the end of the war in the Pacific.

Most weekends of the year, crowds flock to Fredericksburg to enjoy the Hill Country ambiance, shop along historic Main Street, or savor impromptu wine tastings. As they wander among the shops and galleries, many visitors may inadvertently miss one of the town's jewels: The National Museum of the Pacific War. Even though the facility opened more than 25 years ago, a recent expansion elevates the museum to a national—and even international—destination. And, with this enhanced and expanded presence, the status of Fredericksburg now compares favorably with two other American small towns with nationally known museums: Gettysburg, Pennsylvania (home of Gettysburg National Military Park Museum), and Cooperstown, New York (home of the National Baseball Hall of Fame).

Twenty years ago, I was one of those tourists who had never visited what was then known as “The Nimitz Museum.” From my home in Austin, I frequently ferry out-of-town guests to Fredericksburg to show them the Hill Country and to eat German food at one of the town's popular restaurants. I've had an interest in World War II history since I was a teenager, but my knowledge of the conflict in the Pacific was limited to events made famous in American cinema: Midway Island, Guadalcanal, and Iwo Jima.

I didn't really discover the museum until Ron Mills, a WWII veteran from England, came to visit. I'd met Ron in France in 1984 when my wife, Robbie, and I traveled to Normandy to commemorate the 40th anniversary of the D-Day invasion. We met Ron at the Café Gondree, at the Pegasus Bridge, an objective of the British Glider troops on the night of June 5, 1944. It had been a busy day of touring, starting with a visit to the often-photographed cemetery at Colleville-sur-Mer above Omaha Beach, followed by an inspection of the decaying German bunkers along the coastline. We were ready to relax, and we enjoyed sharing a beer with Ron, who was at the café visiting with two other grizzled British vets. I told him that I planned to meet him again in Normandy for the 50th anniversary of the invasion.

LEFT: An animated map table complements photo murals and narrative to explain American bombing strategy against Japan.
RIGHT: Marvel at one of four solid bronze screws (propellers)—each 15 feet across and weighing 25,000 pounds—that transmitted power on an Essex class aircraft carrier.

After we returned to Austin and Ron flew back to England, we kept in touch. He had not visited the United States, and I was determined to change that. It took five years of persuading, but



I finally convinced him to visit Austin. It seemed like an obvious plan to take him to tour the Nimitz Museum, so we drove Ron to Fredericksburg for a day trip.

At that time, the museum was entirely housed in the distinctive Nimitz Hotel building. Judging by the picturesque exterior, the museum looked like a quaint local institution that we could see in the course of a 30-minute stroll. That conclusion was wrong.

We entered the museum and soon realized the extent of the museum's collection. Cases filled with maps, combat gear, and other items donated by veterans of WWII helped tell a chronological story of the War in the Pacific. The museum also told the story of Admiral Chester Nimitz, a native son of Fredericksburg who was asked to command the U.S. forces in the Pacific

The story of the war comes vividly to life through expanded interactive displays, which were developed for the museum by a firm that specializes in computer games.



AUSTRALIAN ADVANCE ON BOMA-BOMA

By the end of the day, the 1st Australian Tank Battalion had advanced to the summit of Boma-Boma, a high ridge overlooking the Japanese positions. The tank was the first to reach the summit, and it was followed by the rest of the battalion. The tank was the first to reach the summit, and it was followed by the rest of the battalion. The tank was the first to reach the summit, and it was followed by the rest of the battalion.



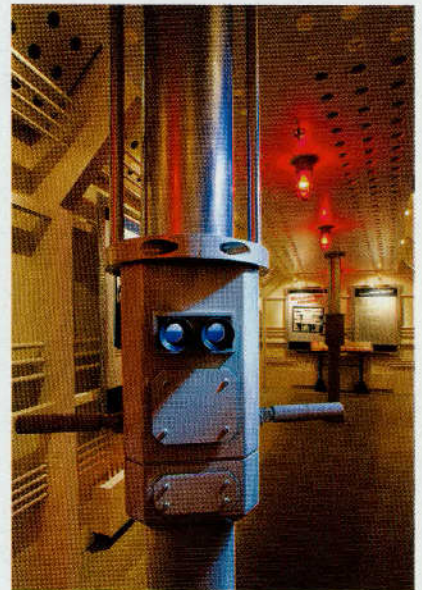


after Pearl Harbor. We lost track of time, immersed in the unexpected bounty of what was then a much smaller museum.

Ron and I got together one more time in Normandy in 1994 to commemorate the 50th anniversary of the D-Day invasion. Ron died later that year, but not before he'd been awarded a well-deserved medal from the French government.

Since that initial visit to the museum with Ron, I have returned many times. The Nimitz Hotel today still houses the Nimitz Museum, with exhibitions installed three years ago focusing on the story of Fleet Admiral Chester W. Nimitz, his family, and their early history in Fredericksburg. Most of the WWII artifacts have been moved from the hotel to the George H.W. Bush Gallery, one block off Main Street, behind the hotel. The Gallery opened on June 11, 1999, with the newly renovated and expanded Gallery dedicated on December 7, 2009, in a ceremony featuring George H.W. and Barbara Bush; Governor Rick Perry; U.S. Congressman Mike Conaway; General James T. Conway, USMC (Commandant of the Marine Corps); General Mike Hagee, USMC retired (president and CEO of the Admiral Nimitz Foundation); and Jon T. Hansen, Chairman of the Texas Historical Commission.

With the museum now doubled in size, I find myself with many options: Do I push on with the Marines on Saipan, or do I head over to see how the Brits are doing in Burma? Tom Vortmann, the museum's director of marketing and public relations, explains that this was intentional. "We want visitors to have the same uncertainty the soldiers, sailors, and pilots had of not knowing what's going to happen next," he says. Just as Admiral Nimitz conducted an island-hopping campaign across the Pacific, the museum consists of exhibits that seem like islands you can hop between. Fortunately, you won't have to deal with hostile forces or endure mosquitoes and Army rations.



LEFT: A shell-damaged tank and a video of the tank's commander describing the battle make for a dramatic display. ABOVE: At a submarine simulation area, periscopes allow you to scan the horizon and see enemy ships.



My most recent visit in December to the newly expanded complex revealed impressive changes. As with the old museum, the story of the Pacific War begins with Japan's rise to power in the late-19th and early-20th centuries. Large photomural and text panels tell the compelling chronological story of the Allied military's advance toward victory over Japan, while a series of "home front" exhibits details the effect of the war on Texas and the nation. In each room, personal letters, newspaper articles, and mementos illustrate the lives of those who served to support the war effort, and of those who fought and died in the conflict. The narrative concludes with Japan's surrender on September 2, 1945, to the Allied powers aboard the Battleship *USS Missouri*. The exhibition concludes with a focus on the prisoners of war, the Japanese war crimes trials, the massive military and civilian casualties on both sides, and the heroes—the recipients of the Medal of Honor in the Pacific Theater of WWII.

The story of the war comes vividly to life through expanded interactive displays, which were developed for the museum by a firm that specializes in computer games. Very few exhibits in the new gallery do not have video and computer interactivity designed to appeal to younger visitors. If you want to learn more about the Battle of Guadalcanal, you can watch the battle unfold on an LCD screen that shows a map of the island. A narrator guides you through the battle as the screen displays the movements of the opposing land and naval forces as they fight to gain control of Guadalcanal and its strategic airfield.

For more on Photo Editor Griff Smith's visit to the museum with his father, a WWII Pacific vet, go to www.texashighways.com/webextra.

The Bush Gallery features one of the museum's most compelling artifacts: a Japanese midget submarine. The diminutive war sub is the focal point of a multimedia presentation describing the Pearl Harbor attack on December 7, 1941. You step into a long room with the submarine before you, along with written information about its role and that of four sister midget subs. The room darkens as you hear and see (on the wall) some explosive depth charges, as if a destroyer is attacking the sub. Next, on the wall above the submarine, a display of photos and videos recount the attack on Pearl Harbor, along with the accompanying sounds of the aerial bombardment.

The Bush Gallery contains many display cases with weapons, uniforms, and personal effects of the men who fought on both sides, and these are accompanied by some items you might not expect, including a B-25 Mitchell bomber (like the one used in the Doolittle Raid on Japan in 1942), a Stuart M-3 tank, and the wreckage of a Japanese Val dive bomber. The Stuart tank took a direct hit to its front armor just below the gun turret. On a video, Sgt. Jack Lattimore recalls his experience of having this very tank

ABOVE: A multimedia theater shows the ceremonial conclusion to the war. RIGHT: The Japanese Garden of Peace was donated to the museum by the people of Japan.



The Japanese Garden of Peace symbolizes the friendship and respect that existed between Admiral Togo and Admiral Nimitz.

With the museum now doubled in size, I find myself with many options: Do I push on with the Marines on Saipan, or do I head over to see how the Brits are doing in Burma?



The museum takes great pride in its extremely rare Japanese Rex float plane (in foreground).

knocked out during an attack on Japanese positions in 1942's Battle of Buna in New Guinea. Just a few feet away, the gun that disabled

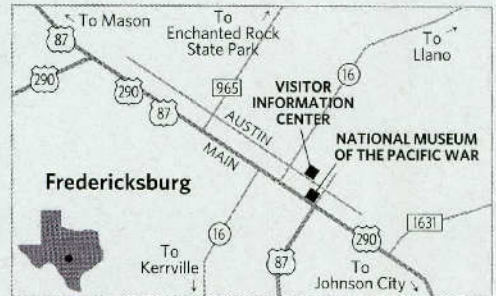
Lattimore's tank is on display.

Once you've seen the artifacts of war in the Bush Gallery, you can walk two blocks to the Pacific Combat Zone for a guided tour of additional World War II equipment in a more life-like setting. Part of the PCZ is outdoors and re-creates a Japanese

defensive position equipped with a tank and artillery. Several weekends a year, the Pacific Combat Zone stages 75-minute reenactments of a U.S. assault on a Japanese-held island. You can witness a dramatic portrayal by reenactors in vintage combat gear representing both American and Japanese troops. Don't get too close to the flamethrower!

Twenty years have passed since my first visit to the Nimitz Museum with my friend Ron Mills. As I walk through the Bush Gallery in December of 2009, I think about Ron. I know he

TH ESSENTIALS



Pacific War Museum

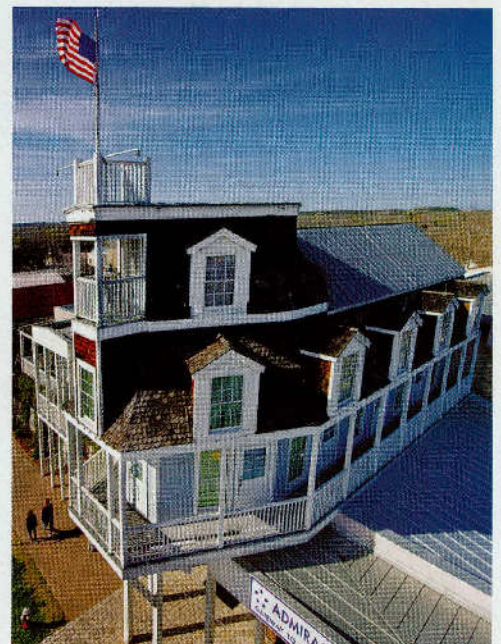
THE NATIONAL MUSEUM OF THE PACIFIC WAR is at 311 E. Austin St. in **Fredericksburg**. Call 830/997-8600; www.PacificWarMuseum.org. Remaining reenactment weekends for 2010: Jul 3-4, Sep 4-5, Oct 2-3, Nov 13-14.

For more information on visiting Fredericksburg and Gillespie County, contact the **Fredericksburg Convention and Visitor Bureau** at 302 E. Austin St., 830/997-6523 or 888/997-3600; www.VisitFredericksburgTX.org.



would enjoy the expanded museum, and would appreciate the effort made by so many people to document the history of the war, honor those who served, and remind visitors—particularly younger generations—of the heavy cost of war. **TH**

Austinite **JOE SHERFY** is a history enthusiast and takes a particular interest in World War II. Photographer **GRIFF SMITH's** Fredericksburg assignment prompted him to take his father, a WWII Pacific veteran, to the museum for a visit.



Fredericksburg's historic Nimitz Hotel, built by Admiral Chester Nimitz' grandfather in the mid-19th Century, houses the Admiral Nimitz Museum, gateway to the National Museum of the Pacific War.

Good Times = Good



Works

Volunteer While Seeing the Sights



Text by **MELISSA GASKILL**

Photographs by **MICHAEL AMADOR**

THE FERRY BUMPED TO A stop at the San José Island dock, and I filed off with 30 or so other passengers.

We followed a line of low dunes to the beach, which stretched as far as I could see—all of it littered with plastic jugs and bottles, aluminum cans, buckets, and just about every other imaginable form of detritus. The vast majority of it travels here on currents that enter the Gulf of Mexico, much of it trash from ships originating in far-flung destinations. Our group of volunteers, including 23 science students from Eastfield College in Dallas, sprang into action and, within a few hours, cleaned about a mile-and-a-half of sand. We dragged, carried, and carted many thousands of pounds of trash, enough to fill the 38-foot boat three times. Total haul for the St. Jo and Port Aransas beaches that day: 12,075 pounds of trash.

Texas Adopt-A-Beach volunteers (like these in Port Aransas) have picked up more than 7,700 tons of trash from Texas beaches since 1986.

The shore looked beautiful, the entire afternoon lay before me, and the sun shone on this now nearly spotless stretch of the Texas coast. Beach clean-up, I realized, offered a perfect way to combine volunteering with travel.

Vacations can present excellent opportunities to do good works—you're likely to have some time on your hands, to be in a place you find worthy of assistance, and the work itself tends to be interesting and unexpected.

According to the Corporation for National and Community Service, more than 3.7 million Americans volunteered more than 120 miles away from home in 2007, and a 2008 MSNBC poll reported that 95 percent of those who volunteered while on vacation indicated they'll do so again.

What's more, people who volunteer may benefit almost as much as the people or cause they serve. According to data from a National Institute on Aging study collected from 1986 through 2006, people who do community service enjoy better physical health and suffer less depression. Other research shows that volunteering triggers release of oxytocin and other feel-good brain chemicals, and can also lower the risk of illness, even decades later.

If cleaning beaches sounds like your cup of tea, several organizations spearhead events perfect for families with children of almost any age. The Texas General Land Office Adopt-A-Beach program holds cleanups all along the coast each fall and spring, including the one I joined on St. Jo. The Ocean Conservancy sponsors an annual international cleanup every fall, with a number of locations in Texas, and local coastal communities often organize trash pick-up days.



Opportunities abound in Texas to do good deeds while traveling. Just about anywhere you go, someone needs volunteers for a worthy cause. These examples can help get you started.

Aransas National Wildlife Refuge

Garled oaks, tall palms, waving grasses, and a riot of wildflowers in season cover this refuge on San Antonio Bay north of Corpus Christi. Home to majestic and endangered whooping cranes mid-October through




March, the refuge also has alligators, deer, bobcats, wild turkeys, and a variety of shorebirds, including roseate spoonbills. A 40-foot-high whooping-crane observation tower, visitor center, 16-mile driving tour, and seven trails lure travelers from around the continent.

The refuge provides volunteers with RV sites and kitchen, bathroom, and laundry facilities in exchange for working three or four days a week for at least three months (or shorter stints in times of need), says volunteer coordinator Bernice Jackson. These volunteers work in the visitors center, mow, and maintain trails. Jackson also

plans day projects for groups (call ahead), and has local volunteers who come in regularly. "Once our volunteers are trained, they can come in one or two days a week," she says. "We have a real need for people in spring, summer, and fall months."

Give Back Getaways, Ritz-Carlton, Dallas

Guests at Ritz-Carlton hotels worldwide can volunteer with local organizations chosen by hotel employees through its Give Back Getaways program. Texas ranks high when



For info on the
Four Seasons Hotel
Austin's "Pay it
Forward" packages,
go to texashighways.com/webextra.

FACING PAGE: Port Aransas' annual Adopt-A-Beach cleanup takes place in September (Sep. 25, 2010). ABOVE: Mike Childers plants a tree at Inks Dam National Fish Hatchery, where volunteer duties might also include office work and building bird blinds.

it comes to hungry families, and The Ritz-Carlton, Dallas, picked as its beneficiary the North Texas Food Bank, which provided food for 37 million meals for Texans in 2009. I spent a morning in its bustling kitchen, mixing ingredients for chicken casseroles, some of the 10,000 hot meals prepared weekly here. Participants age 10 and older also can sort and box food in the food bank's cavernous warehouse, and a full-day experience includes serving after-school meals. Volunteers receive snacks upon arrival at the Ritz-Carlton and a Food Bank T-shirt, but those rewards paled next to the idea that my help meant someone had a meal that day who might not have otherwise.

The swanky Uptown property includes an award-winning spa, a great way to reward yourself for a deed well done.

Grand Hyatt San Antonio offers a volunteer program called Destination Humane. Visit the city's Humane Society, where you can play with dogs and cats, and post your "vacation" photos on the organization's adoption website.

State Parks

Texas state parks rely heavily on volunteers, who provided nearly \$7 million worth of labor in 2008. At Palo Duro Canyon State Park, for example,

Vacationers who volunteer may benefit almost as much as the people or cause they serve. Studies show that those who do community service enjoy better physical health and suffer less depression.

Assistant Park Manager Nathan Londen-berg schedules workdays to help maintain the extensive trail network. Volunteers don't need any specific skills, and there's work appropriate for teens and adults. The park staff posts a schedule for workdays—on signs around the park and on its website.

State park volunteer hosts receive a free campsite in exchange for 24 hours of work each week (36 hours for couples) for at least 30 days. "Their primary task is to maintain the camping loop where they reside," Londen-berg says. "Hosts serve as the eyes and ears of the park in that loop, too." Host spots at many parks are hotly contested, and hosts often return year after year.

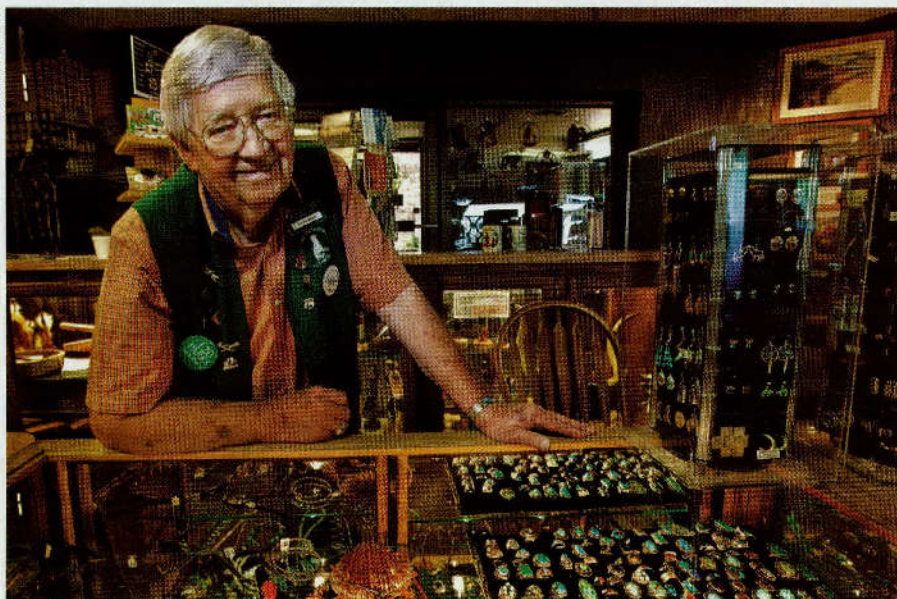
Nearly all state parks offer both short- and long-term volunteer opportunities. Before you go, check with staff to see what kind of help they need. And if your family wants to grab a trash bag and clean

up the campground, park staff always welcomes the assistance. They'll be very appreciative, and you'll know you helped keep a special place special.

Inks Dam National Fish Hatchery

This 160-acre federal facility near Burnet provides striped bass to restore populations in Gulf waters and major tributaries, and raises channel catfish and largemouth bass for freshwater sport fishing. Open daily, it includes a visitor pavilion, fishing site, and areas for observing abundant waterfowl and shorebirds.

Volunteers work on teams. One team builds and maintains trails and installs signs. A building team helps with construction and renovation of an interpretive center and builds bird blinds, and a nature team coordinates events with schools. Some volunteers, members of the Friends of Inks Dam National Fish Hatchery, lead tours on the trails, says hatchery administrative assistant Cindy Fronk. "We'll take anyone who is interested, for the long term, a day, or even just a few hours," says Fronk, who also welcomes families who want to



J. GRIFFIS SMITH

LEFT: Tommy Nisbet has helped out at Palo Duro Canyon State Park for 11 years. FACING PAGE: At Inks Dam National Fish Hatchery, volunteers and staff (George Brugnofi, Paul Dorman, and Jerry Stacy shown here) team up to transfer fish to lakes across the Southwest.



U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service
Inks Dam National Fish Hatchery
Burnet, Texas
Live Fish Transport



help out. Volunteers may landscape, clean, or help with office work, and go home knowing they helped keep the property open for visitors.

National Public Lands Day

This annual late-September event mobilizes folks around the country for a variety of one-day projects benefiting our public lands, which can always use the help. North of Fort Worth, one location, Lewisville Lake Environmental Learning Area, provides habitat for 270 species of birds, and attracts kayakers, birders, and hikers. Lisa Cole, LLELA's education coordinator, organizes

Public Lands Day volunteers, and welcomes helpers year round for a variety of chores, including moving electric fencing for the resident bison herd.

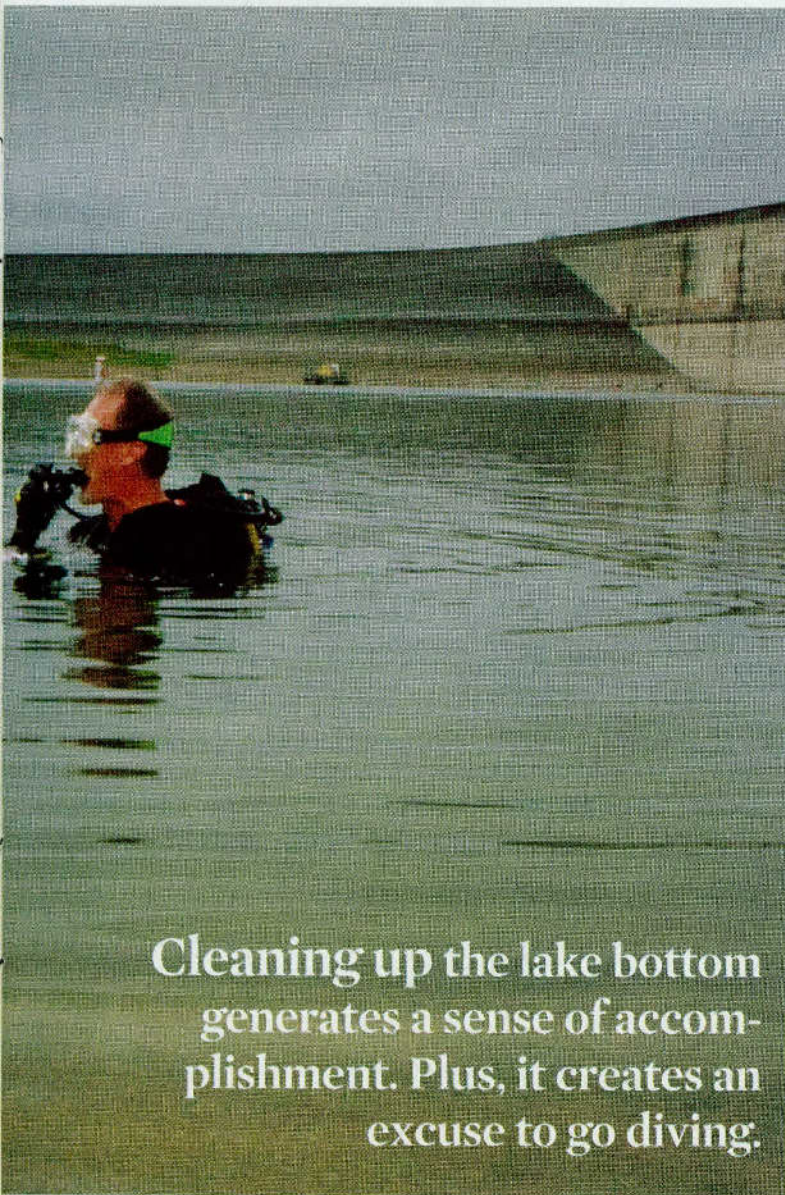
Volunteer Diane Wetherbee plants trees and prairie species, helps build trails, and leads visitors on hikes through the property's 2,000 acres of diverse habitat. "I like seeing prairie restoration in a major urban area," she says. "I feel really good about playing some small part in that. People can see a difference even if they just work a day or two. If you plant something, you might have to come back later to see the results, but what a good excuse to return. It's fun and relaxing to

be outside, and there are rewards that you just can't quantify."

Volunteers have the satisfaction of helping preserve this pocket of accessible nature in the midst of a booming metroplex.

Lake Travis Parks Underwater Cleanup

Sponsored by Keep Austin Beautiful, Travis County Parks, and the Lower Colorado River Authority, this annual September event takes place at nine LCRA parks around Lake Travis. Shoreline volunteers remove and recycle tons of trash from the water's edge, and, at seven locations, several hundred scuba divers



Cleaning up the lake bottom generates a sense of accomplishment. Plus, it creates an excuse to go diving.

collect trash below the water's surface. This year will mark the event's 16th year.

In 2009, more than 1,000 volunteers, including 561 divers, collected 4.5 tons of trash. Cleaning up the lake bottom generates a sense of accomplishment, especially since few people have the skills to do it, says frequent participant Warren Roseberry, owner of Tom's Dive and Swim in Austin. "We've been doing it for so long that every year we can see the lake get noticeably cleaner. Plus, people love an excuse to go diving."

Count my family among them. We snag bits of plastic and floating drink bottles on many a snorkel or dive. [continued on next page]

Divers search for sub-surface detritus at the Lake Travis event, touted as Texas' biggest scuba-diving and shoreline cleanup.



Voluntourism

FOLLOWING is contact information for sites, programs, and events mentioned in the story.

For details on the **Texas Adopt-A-Beach** program, call 877/892-6278; www.texasadoptabeach.org. For more on the **Port A Beach Cleanup**, call 361/749-5919; for the **St. Jo Island Cleanup**, call 361/749-0256.

Aransas National Wildlife Refuge is at 1 Wildlife Circle in Austwell. Call Outdoor Recreation Planner Bernice Jackson at 361/286-3559 (ext. 233); www.fws.gov/southwest/refuges/texas/aransas.

The Ritz-Carlton, Dallas is at 2121 McKinney Ave. in Dallas. Call 214/922-0200; www.ritzcarlton.com. For more information on **A World Without Hunger Give Back Getaways**, call 214/922-4731; visit www.givebackgetaways.com. Click on the program or call the Ritz-Carlton, Dallas to register. Cost is \$75; \$50 age 12 and younger. Cost covers transportation (participants also receive a T-shirt).

The **Grand Hyatt San Antonio** is at 600 E. Market St. in San Antonio. Call 210/224-1234; <http://grandsanantonio.hyatt.com>. For information on the Grand Hyatt San Antonio's **Destination Humane** program, call 210/451-6400, or visit the San Antonio Humane Society website (www.sahumane.org) and click on Volunteer. Cost is \$10 per person (free age 12 and younger); proceeds go to the Humane Society. Kids receive a T-shirt and certificate, along with a photo with their favorite animal.

For volunteer opportunities in **state parks**, call Texas Parks and Wildlife State Park Volunteer Coordinator Lori Reiley at 512/389-4746; www.tpwd.state.tx.us/involved/volunteer/spdest/. **Palo Duro Canyon State Park** is at 11450 Park Rd. 5, near Canyon. Call 806/488-2227; www.palodurocanyon.com or www.tpwd.state.tx.us.

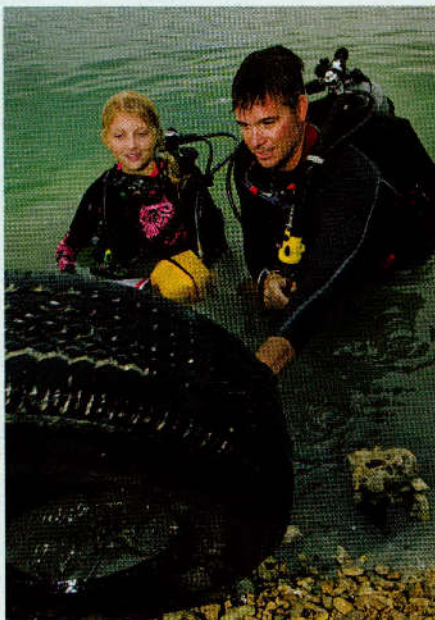
Inks Dam National Fish Hatchery is at 345 Clay Young Rd., Burnet. Call 512/793-2474; www.fws.gov/southwest/fisheries/inksdam.html.

For details about statewide **National Public Lands Day** projects on Sep. 25, 2010, visit www.publiclandsday.org and search for sites by state or zip code. **Lewisville Lake Environmental Learning Area** is at the junction of Jones St. and N. Kealy Ave. in Lewisville. For ongoing volunteer opportunities, call Education Coordinator Lisa Cole at 972/219-3930; www.ias.unt.edu/llela.

Lake Travis Parks Cleanup and Underwater Cleanup is on Sep. 12, 2010. Call Community Programs Manager Jessica Wilson at 512/391-0622, or visit www.keepaustinbeautiful.org/underwater for volunteer information.

Leaving places that we enjoy a bit cleaner than we found them makes us feel good. It also perpetuates the memory of one of our favorite vacation volunteer experiences—the time we patrolled for sea turtle nests on a wide, steep Mexican beach. After several hours of walking, we spotted an unmistakable V leading from the water to the dunes and back, with a circle of disturbed sand at the apex. We reported the nest, and a local conservation group moved the 87 eggs it contained to a protected area. Since detritus in the ocean can kill sea turtles, perhaps the trash we pick up these days spares our 87 baby turtles, too. **TR**

MELISSA GASKILL and her family combine volunteering and traveling whenever possible. **MICHAEL AMADOR** returned from this shoot impressed by the many different opportunities for vacationers to volunteer.



Jeb Foster and his daughter, Aiden, make a big find at the 2009 Lake Travis Underwater Cleanup.

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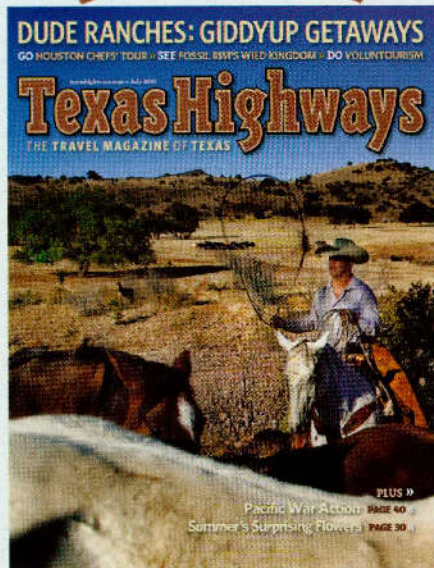
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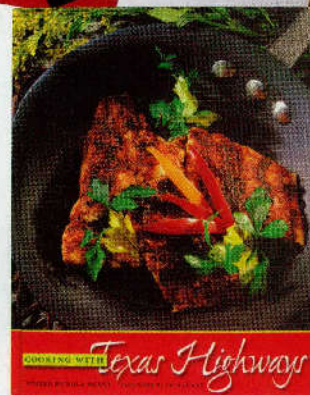
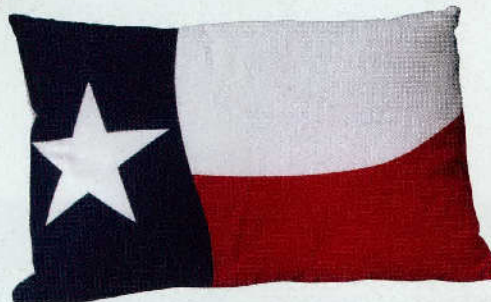
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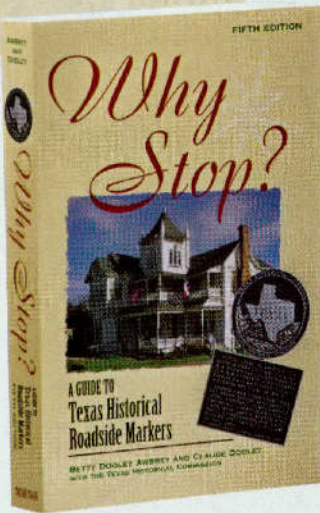
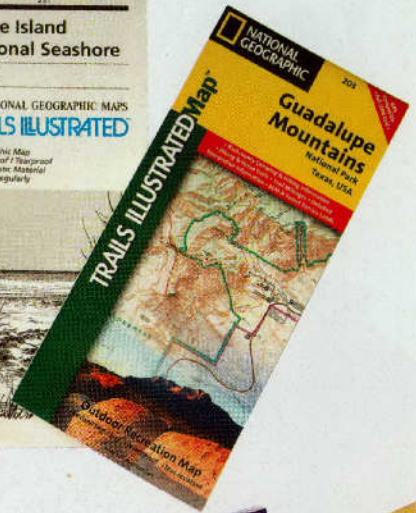
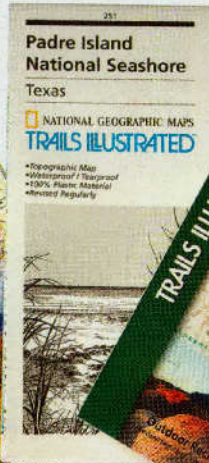
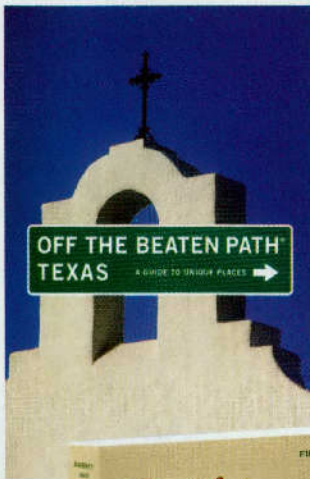
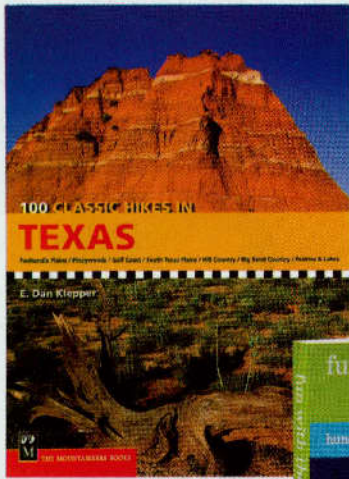
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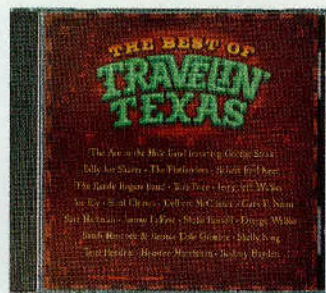
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Forest Gumption

W. Goodrich Jones, the Father of Texas Forestry

Text by **CLAY COPPEDGE**

WHEN THE 34TH TEXAS LEGISLATURE ESTABLISHED the Texas Forest Service in 1915, there were few guidelines in place to direct the management of Texas forests. The legislation mandated that the new agency “assume direction of all forest interests and all matters pertaining to forestry within the jurisdiction of the state.” This was an important step in sustainably managing Texas natural resources, and one of the key proponents was W. Goodrich Jones (1860-1950).

Born in New York to a prominent family with business interests in Galveston and abroad, Jones came to Texas as an energetic Princeton graduate in 1883. With business degree in hand, Jones served internships at Galveston and Houston banks. In 1888, Jones moved to the prairie town of Temple to

serve as president of the new Temple National Bank, and he took an immediate interest in planting trees.

In 1898, the chief of the United States Bureau of Forestry, B.E. Fernow, asked Jones to survey the forests of Texas and write a report on what he found. “I went by train, carriage, and horse-back,” wrote Jones.

Visitors to Angelina National Forest, which encompasses more than 153,000 acres in East Texas, can camp in Boykin Springs Recreation Area, shown here.



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Jones' suggestions drew heavily from what he had observed in the Black Forest.

"It was a scene of terrible waste of virgin timber by the lumber mills. To cut down and drag out one tree, 100 younger trees were knocked down and killed." He concluded that the state was "killing the goose that laid the golden egg."

As a child, Jones had taken a walking tour of the fabled Black Forest in Germany, which illustrated how the German system of continuous planting, cultivating, and cutting could manage and conserve the forest. Jones' suggestions for correcting the situation in Texas drew heavily from what he had observed in Germany.

In 1908, Jones attended the White House Conference on Conservation with President Theodore Roosevelt and Gifford Pinchot, chief of the United States Forest Service. Inspired, Jones determined to establish an organization that would lobby to manage and conserve Texas forests. Seven years later, the Texas Forestry Association became a reality, and Jones served



W. Goodrich Jones (1860-1950) espoused sustainable management of Texas forests.

as the organization's first president.

Ron Hufford, current executive vice-president of the Texas Forestry Association, says that the state's management and conservation of its forests began with Jones.

"Goodrich Jones was the first to not only recognize what was happening to the state's trees, but he also lobbied hard to get the legislature to establish a Forest Service," Hufford said. "If you

look around the country at that time, the timber-cutting programs didn't include replanting. All that started with Goodrich Jones. He was ahead of his time, and we benefited from that."

The 1915 legislation that created the Texas Forest Service also authorized a system of state forests. State Forest Number Two, in Montgomery County south of Conroe, was renamed the W. Goodrich Jones State Forest in 1944. Jones continued to lobby on behalf of the state's forests and other conservation issues until his death in 1950. **TH**

See the Forest for the Trees

TO LEARN MORE ABOUT TEXAS FORESTS, AS WELL AS THE HISTORY of forestry in the Lone Star State, visit the **Texas Forestry Museum** in Lufkin.


Along with temporary exhibits that shed light on such tree-related topics as papermaking and recycling, the museum presents displays of logging wagons, steam engines, different types of saws, and plentiful vintage photos illustrating life in and around the paper mills. Outside, a train depot (relocated from the nearby logging town of Camden), a 1908 Baldwin locomotive that once pulled logging trains, and a 100-foot-tall fire-lookout cabin (imagine a lighthouse in the woods) captivate adults and kids alike.

Behind the museum, several urban trails (each less than half a mile) wend through a five-acre tract of forest, where squirrels, birds, and other wildlife abound. Call 936/632-9535; www.treetexas.com. —Lori Molfatt





PHOTO: TEXAS FORESTRY MUSEUM

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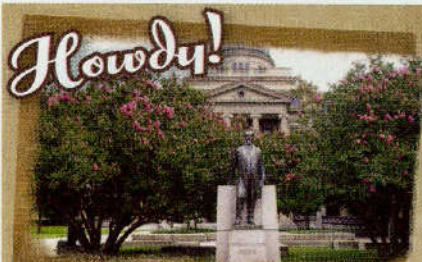
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July Events

BIG BEND COUNTRY

EL PASO: Viva! El Paso June 4-August 14. Outdoor musical at McKelligon Canyon Amphitheater. www.viva-ep.org 915/231-1100

FORT DAVIS: Desert After Dark Discovery Hikes July 10, 17, 24, 31. Chihuahuan Desert Nature Center. www.cdri.org 432/364-2499

FORT STOCKTON: Water Carnival July 15-17. Comanche Springs Swimming Pool. 432/336-2264

MARATHON: Barbecue & Dance July 3. Post Park. www.marathontexas.com 432/386-4516

MIDLAND: Summer Sunday Lawn Concert July 11, 18, 25. Museum of the Southwest. www.museumsw.org 432/683-2882

MONAHANS: Butterfield Festival July 31. Ward County Coliseum/Arena. www.monahans.org 432/943-2187

ODESSA: Firecracker Fandango July 3. 432/335-4682

VAN HORN: Fourth of July Celebration July 3. City Park. www.vanhorn-texas.org 432/283-2682

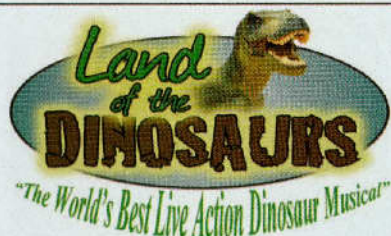
GULF COAST

BAYTOWN: July 4th Celebration July 3-4. Bicentennial Park. www.baytown.org 281/420-6597

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

CLEAR LAKE AREA: American Spirit Boat Parade July 3. www.wecareevents.com 713/805-2022

CLUTE: Great Texas Mosquito Festival July 29-31. Municipal Park. www.mosquitofestival.com 979/265-8392



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DEER PARK: Fourth Fest July 4. www.deerparktx.gov/recreation 281/478-2050

GALVESTON: Parade & Fireworks July 4. www.galveston.com 888/GAL-ISLE

GALVESTON: Sailboat Racing July 22-24. www.galveston.com 888/425-4753

HOUSTON: Freedom Over Texas July 4. Eleanor Tinsley Park. www.freedomovertexas.org 832/393-0868

HOUSTON: 2010 MLS All-Star Game July 27. Reliant Park. www.reliantpark.com 832/667-1743

KEMAH: Fireworks July 4. www.kemahboardwalk.com 281/334-9880

LAKE JACKSON: Fourth of July Fireworks July 4. 979/297-4533

ORANGE: Wild West Family Day July 10. Stark Museum of Art. www.starkmuseum.org 409/886-2787

PEARLAND: Celebration of Freedom July 4. www.pearlandparks.com 281/652-1673

PORT ARANSAS: 75th Annual Deep Sea Roundup July 8-11. Roberts Point Park. www.paboatmen.org 361/749-6600

PORT ARTHUR: Independence Day Celebration July 4. Lamar State College—Port Arthur. www.lamarpa.edu 409/984-6101

ROCKPORT: Rockport Art Festival July 3-4. www.rockportartcenter.com 361/729-5519

ROSENBERG: Family Fourth Celebration July 4. www.rosenbergevents.com 832/595-3520

SAN BENITO: Resaca Fest July 4. W.H. Heavin Amphitheater. www.cityofsanbenito.com 956/361-3804

SOUTH PADRE ISLAND: Fourth of July Fireworks July 4. www.sopadre.com 956/761-6433

TEXAS CITY: Independence Day Celebrations July 3-4. www.texas-city-tx.org 409/643-5990

VICTORIA: July 4 Concert/Fireworks July 4. Community Center. www.victoriatx.org 361/485-3200

WEBSTER: 4th of July Parade & Fireworks July 4. 281/316-4108

HILL COUNTRY

AUSTIN: Fourth of July Fireworks & Symphony July 4. Auditorium Shores. www.austinsymphony.org 512/476-6064

BANDERA: Cowboys on Main July 3, 10, 17, 24, 31. www.frontiertimesmuseum.org 800/364-3833

BEE CAVE: Willie Nelson's 4th of July Picnic July 4. The Backyard at Bee Cave. www.thebackyard.net 512/263-4146

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

BURNET: Happy Birthday USA July 3. Inks Lake State Park. 512/793-2223

CASTROVILLE: Fourth of July Parade July 4. Houston Square. www.castroville.com 830/538-3142

COMFORT: July 4 Celebration & Parade July 3. Downtown and Comfort Park. www.comfortchamberofcommerce.com 830/995-3131

FREDERICKSBURG: Night in Old Fredericksburg July 16-17. Marktplatz. www.tex-fest.com 866/839-3378

FREDERICKSBURG: Gourmet Chili Pepper & Salsa Festival July 23-24. Wildseed Farms. www.tex-fest.com 866/839-3378

JOHNSON CITY: Fourth of July Celebration July 4. Johnson City/Blanco County Fairgrounds. www.johnsoncitytexaschamber.com 830/868-7684

KERRVILLE: Fourth of July Celebration July 4. Louise Hays Park. www.kerrvilletx.gov 830/257-7300

KINGSLAND: Aqua Boom July 3-4. www.kingslandchamber.org 325/388-6211

LAKEHILLS: Fourth of July Parade & Barbecue July 3. 830/612-2244

LAMPASAS: Spring Ho Festival July 5-11. www.springho.com 512/556-5301

LEAKEY: July Jubilee July 2-3. www.friocanyonchamber.com 830/232-5222

MARBLE FALLS: Independence Day Celebration July 4. Lakeside Park. 800/759-8178

MASON: Roundup Rodeo Weekend July 9-10. Mason Historic Square & Rodeo Arena. www.masonrxcc.com

NEW BRAUNFELS: Fourth of July Parade July 3. Main Plaza. 830/629-1572

OZONA: July 4 Parade & Fireworks July 4. 325/392-3737

SAN MARCOS: Summerfest July 4. San Marcos Plaza Park. www.summerfest.com 512/393-8400

WIMBERLEY: 65th Annual Fourth of July Rodeo July 2-4. www.visitwimberley.com/rodeo 512/847-2174

PANHANDLE PLAINS

ABILENE: A Ride with Bob July 24-25. Musical drama, starring Ray Benson and Asleep at the Wheel, about the life and music of Bob Wills. Abilene Civic Center. 325/677-1161

AMARILLO: Amarillo Globe-News Fireworks July 4. Southwest Park. www.visitamarillotx.com 806/374-1497

ANDREWS: Centennial Celebration July 23-25. www.andrewscentennial.com 432/523-2695

BIG SPRING: Funtastic Fourth Festival July 4. Heart of the City Park. www.visitbigspring.com 432/267-6278

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

CLYDE: Festival by the Lake July 2-3. Lake Clyde. www.clyde.govoffice2.com 325/893-4221

COLORADO CITY: Parade/Fireworks July 3. Ruddick Park. www.coloradocitychamberofcommerce.com 325/728-3403

DALHART: Independence Day Fireworks July 4. Rita Blanca Lake. www.dalhart.org 806/244-5646

FRIONA: Cheeseburger Festival & Cookoff July 17. City Park. www.friona.chamber.com 806/250-3491

GRAHAM: Fourth of July Parade July 3. Downtown. www.grahamtxchamber.com 940/549-3355

KNOX CITY: Watermelon Festival July 30-31. City Park. 940/658-3442

LUBBOCK: Fourth on Broadway July 2-4. www.broadwayfestivals.com 806/749-2929 or 800/692-4035

NAZARETH: German Festival July 10. 806/945-2285

ROSCOE: Independence Day Celebration July 3. www.roscoetx.com 325/766-3871

SAN ANGELO: Holiday Artillery Salute July 4. Fort Concho. www.fortconcho.com 325/657-4443

SNYDER: July 4 Celebration July 2-3. Towle Park. www.snyderchamber.org 325/573-3558



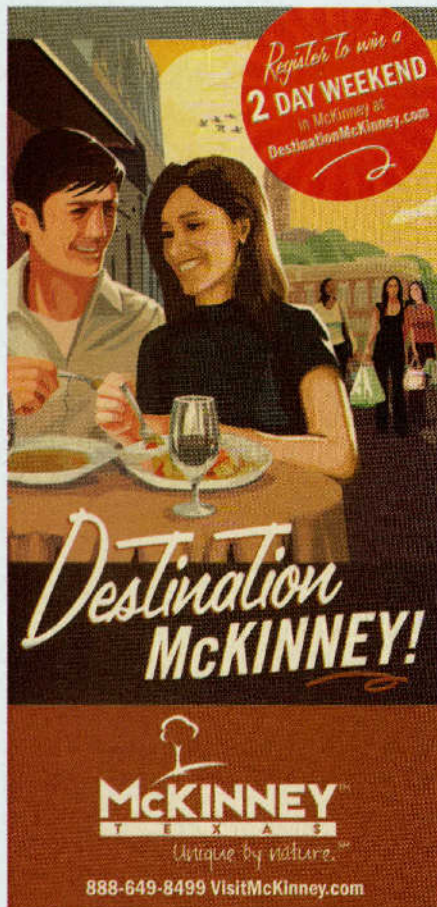
HOTELS OF TEXAS

Abilene (2)
Alice
Alpine
Alvin
Amarillo (2)
Angleton
Anthony
Arlington
Atlanta
Austin
Bastrap
Bay City
Baytown
Beaumont
Beeville
Benbrook
Big Spring
Borger
Bowie
Brady
Brenham
Bridgeport
Brownfield
Brownsville
Buda
Buffalo
Burleson
Burnet
Canadian
Canton
Canyon
Carthage
Cedar Park
Center
Ceuro
Childress
Clarendon
Cleburne
Cleveland
Clifton
Clute
Coleman
College Station Area (Bryan)
Columbus
Comanche
Copperas Cove
Corpus Christi (5)
Corsicana
Cotulla
Cresson
Dalhart
Dallas (4)
Dallas Area (Duncanville)
Dayton
De Soto
Decatur
Deer Park
Del Rio
Denison
Denton (2)
Donna
Dumas
Eagle Pass
Edinburg
Edna
El Campo
El Paso (2)
Falfurrias
Floresville
Forney
Fort Stockton
Fort Worth (3)
Franklin
Fredericksburg
Freer
Fullton
Galveston
Garland
Gatesville
George West
Glen Rose
Gonzales
Graham
Granbury
Greenville
Groesbeck
Gun Barrel City
Hallettsville
Harlingen
Hebbronville
Henderson
Henrietta
Hereford
Hidalgo
Hillsboro
Hondo
Houston (9)
Humble (2)
Ingleside
Irving (2)
Jacksorville
Jasper
Johnson City
Junction
Katy
Kaufman
Kerrville
Kilgore
Killeen
Kingsville
La Grange
La Porte
Lake Dallas
Lake Worth
Lamesa
Laredo
Levelland
Lewisville
Lindale
Littlefield
Livingston
Llano
Lockhart
Longview (2)
Lubbock (2)
Lufkin
Madisonville
Mansfield
Manvel
Marble Falls
Marshall
Mathis
Mc Allen
McKinney
Mexico
Midland
Mineola
Mineral Wells
Mission
Monahans
Montgomery
Mount Pleasant
Nacogdoches (2)
Navasota
New Braunfels
New Caney
North Richland Hills
Odessa
Ozona
Palestine
Pampa
Paris
Pearland
Pearsall
Pecos (2)
Perryton
Plainview
Plano
Port Aransas
Port Lavaca
Portland
Post
Quanah
Raymondville
Refugio
Rio Grande City
Roanoke
Robstown
Rockdale
Round Rock
Salado
San Angelo
San Antonio (13)
San Benito
San Marcos
Schulenburg
Seagoville
Sealy
Shamrock
Sinton
Snyder
Sonora
South Padre Island
Stephenville
Sugar Land
Sulphur Springs
Sweetwater
Taylor
Temple
Terrell
Texas City
The Woodlands
Three Rivers
Tyler
Vega
Vernon
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TH SPOTLIGHT

Here's the Pitch

TH TRAVELER SAYS HEAD FOR A sparkling diamond this summer. Major League Baseball's Texas Rangers offer a busy schedule at the Rangers Ballpark in **Arlington** with postgame fireworks July 2, 4, 9, and 23, while the Astros feature fireworks July 9, 23, and 30 at **Houston's** Minute Maid Park. Visit www.mlb.com. Go early to watch batting practice or get an autograph. Enjoy a beer, hot dog, or Lemon Chill. Bring your glove and snag a home run or foul ball. Box seats or bleachers, rocket's red glare—fireworks bursting in air, it's a blast.

PINEY WOODS

CENTER: What-A-Melon Festival July 8-10. Downtown Center Square. www.shelbycountychamber.com 936/598-5688

CONROE: Independence Day Music Festival July 3. Heritage Place Park. www.conroecvb.net 936/827-0651

CROCKETT: Fireworks July 3. Civic Center's Bowling Green. www.crockettareachamber.org

GILMER: Yamboree Fireworks July 3. www.yamboree.com 903/843-2413

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

HUGHES SPRINGS: Hometown Fourth of July July 2-3. Spring Park. 903/639-2351

HUNTSVILLE: Fourth of July Celebration July 4. Kate Barr Ross Park. 936/291-5420

JEFFERSON: Jefferson Salutes America Fourth of July Celebration July 4. www.visitjefferson.com 903/665-3733

KILGORE: Texas Shakespeare Festival July 1-August 1. Van Cliburn Auditorium, Kilgore College. www.texasshakespeare.com 903/983-8601 or 903/983-8117

LONGVIEW: Great Texas Balloon Race July 30-August 1. 903/237-4040

MINEOLA: Fourth of July Fireworks July 4. Civic Center. 903/569-2087

MOUNT PLEASANT: Daily Tribune Turtle Races July 3. www.dailytribune.net 903/572-1705

NACOGDOCHES: Freedom Fest July 4. Festival Plaza. www.visitnacogdoches.org 888/653-3788

NAPLES: Watermelon Festival July 23-24. Front Street. 903/897-2037

TENAHA: Independence Day Celebration July 4. Tiger Stadium. www.shelbycountychamber.com 936/248-5200

THE WOODLANDS: Red, Hot & Blue Festival July 4. Town Green Park and Waterway Square. www.thewoodlands.com 281/363-2447

PRAIRIES AND LAKES

ADDISON: Kaboom Town! July 3. www.addisontexas.net 800/233-4766

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

BASTROP: Patriotic Festival July 3. Fisherman's Park. www.bastropchamber.com 512/321-2419

BEDFORD: 4th FEST Independence Day Celebration July 4. www.ci.bedford.tx.us 817/952-2128

BELTON: Fourth of July Celebration & PRCA Rodeo July 1-3. Downtown Belton and Bell County Expo. www.beltonchamber.com 254/939-3551

BONHAM: Kueckelhan Ranch Rodeo July 29-31. Kueckelhan Ranch. www.kueckelhanrodeo.com 903/583-5337

CANTON: Independence Day Parade & Fireworks July 4. 877/462-7467

CLEBURNE: Fourth of July Celebration July 4. Lake Pat Cleburne. www.cleburnechamber.com 817/645-2455

COMANCHE: Family on the Fourth Musical Celebration & Fireworks July 4. www.comanchechamber.org 325/356-3233

DALLAS: Star-Spangled Spectacular July 4. Dallas Wind Symphony with The Arts District Chorale. Meyerson Symphony Center. www.dws.org 214/880-0202

DENISON: Fireworks Extravaganza July 4. Munson Stadium. 903/465-1551

DENTON: Fourth of July Jubilee July 4. Quakertown Park. www.dentonparks.com 940/349-8733

DUBLIN: A Night on the Town July 3. Downtown. www.dublinfoxchamber.com 254/445-3422

FARMERS BRANCH: Independence Day Celebration July 3. Farmers Branch Historical Park. www.farmersbranch.info 972/919-2620

FORT WORTH: Concerts in the Garden July 1-4. Fort Worth Botanic Garden. www.fwsymphony.org 817/665-6000

FRISCO: Freedom Fest July 4. George A. Purefoy Municipal Center. www.friscofreedomfest.org 972/292-5080

GATESVILLE: Independence Day Fireworks Celebration July 3. www.gatesvilletx.info

GRANBURY: Fourth of July Celebration July 2-4. www.granburychamber.com 817/573-1622

GRAND PRAIRIE: Fireworks July 4. Lynn Creek Park, Joe Pool Lake. www.lakeparks.net 817/467-2104

GRAPEVINE: Fireworks Over Lake Grapevine July 4. Oak Grove Park. www.grapevintexasusa.com 800/457-6338

GUN BARREL CITY: July Fest July 3. City Park. www.gunbarrelcityfestivals.net 903/687-1087

HEMPSTEAD: Watermelon Festival July 16-17. Downtown. www.hempsteadtxchamber.com 979/826-8217

LADONIA: Rodeo July 8-10. Eastman Arena. www.ladonia.rodeo.com 903/886-8232

LANCASTER: Fourth of July Celebration July 4. Community Park. www.lancaster-tx.com 972/218-3701

LOCKHART: Fourth of July Family Picnic & Fireworks July 4. City Park. www.lockhartchamber.com 512/398-2818

McDADE: Watermelon Festival July 10. 512/273-0018

McKINNEY: Red, White & BOOM July 4. www.mckinney.texas.org 972/547-7500

MELISSA: Celebration of Freedom July 3. Zadow Park. www.melissatx.org 972/837-4277

MIDLOTHIAN: BAM—Bike Around Midlothian July 24. www.midlothianchamber.org 972/723-8600

MOUNT VERNON: Fireworks Extravaganza over the Lake July 3. Lake Cypress Springs. www.visitmtnvernon.tx.com 903/537-4495

NAVASOTA: Independence Daze July 4. Navasota Center. www.navasotatx.gov 936/825-2241

PLANO: All-American Fourth July 4. Oak Point Park. www.plano.gov 972/941-7250

RICHARDSON: Family Fourth Celebration July 4. Breckenridge Park. www.cor.net 972/744-4580

ROANOKE: Independence Day Celebration July 3. www.roanoketexas.com 817/491-2411

ROUND TOP: Fourth of July Parade & Celebration July 4. www.roundtop.org 979/249-4042

ROWLETT: QueFest July 2-4. Elgin Robertson Park, Lake Ray Hubbard. www.rowlettexchangeclub.org

SEALY: Sealybration July 9-11. B&PW Park. www.sealycommunityfoundation.org 979/885-3222

SEGUIN: Freedom Fiesta July 2-3. Central Park. www.freedomfiesta.com 830/379-6382 or 830/580-7322

SHERMAN: Independence Day Celebration July 3. Pecan Grove Park & Amphitheater. www.shermantx.org 903/957-0310

SHINER: Shiner Half-Moon Holidays July 2-3. Green-Dickson Park. www.shinertx.com 361/594-4180

STEPHENVILLE: DairyFest: Red, White & Moo July 3. City Park. www.tricityyag.com 254/965-2406

SWEET HOME: Polka & Chicken Fest July 11. www.sweethomehall.com 361/293-9034

TEMPLE: July 4 Family Fun Fest July 4. Miller Park. www.discovertemple.com 254/298-5597

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

WAXAHACHIE: Crape Myrtle Parade, Concert & Fireworks July 3. Lumpkins Stadium. 972/937-2390

WEATHERFORD: Parker County Peach Festival July 10. Downtown Weatherford. www.peachfestivaltx.com 817/596-3801

SOUTH TEXAS PLAINS

BEEVILLE: Independence Day Celebration July 3. Bee County Expo Center. www.beecountyexpo.com 361/362-3290

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

McALLEN: Amador Montes: Reencuentro July 1-August 8. International Museum of Art and Science. www.imasonline.org 956/682-1564

SAN ANTONIO: July 4th Celebration & H-E-B Fireworks July 4. Woodlawn Lake Park. www.saparksfoundation.org 210/212-8423

WESLACO: Fourth of July Fest July 4. Estero Llano Grande State Park, World Birding Center. 956/565-3919

Want more? Go to the Events Calendar at www.texashighways.com.

For a free printed copy of an even more detailed, quarterly schedule of events, write to Texas Events Calendar, Box 149249, Austin 78714-9249. Or, call 800/452-9292 from anywhere in the U.S. or Canada, between 8-6 Central.

For Texas travel questions, call 800/452-9292 to reach a TxDOT Travel Information Center, where a professional travel counselor will provide routing assistance, advise you of any emergency road conditions, and send brochures (including the official Texas State Travel Guide and map, accommodations guide, and quarterly Texas Events Calendar).

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. 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.



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 **TH READER RECOMMENDATION**

At Home at the Armadillo

CHECK OUT the **Armadillo Hall** in **Taylor**. It's the coolest new place to go in Texas. Great music and great people. Got the feel of the old-time places (like where Willie, Johnny Cash, and Elvis played in the beginning) that artists and fans alike love. See for yourself!

SANDRA KASTER, Houston

Armadillo Hall is at 308 Porter St.; www.armadillohall.com.

journey. The friendly folks and great food make the MidPoint Café in Adrian a must-stop. The restored as well as abandoned treasures of Shamrock, McLean, Vega, and Glenrio made for a photographer's dream. The staff at the Texas Travel Information Center in Amarillo were informative and provided us with maps, brochures, and even some "Don't Mess With Texas" decals for our car. Good times awaited across the New Mexico border, as well.

Traveling Route 66 transported us to a simpler time when people weren't in a hurry, no one was a stranger, car windows were your DVD player, and billboards for souvenir stands beckoned a chorus from the backseat of "Can we stop? Can we stop?!"

Thanks for the wonderfully informative article and the beautiful photography that we have come to expect every month from *TH*!

DOUG AND LUANN BERGMAN
Dallas

Guit It

I went to Irving's 26th Annual Steel Guitar Jamboree [in February Postcards] and it was wonderful. I heard blues, jazz, swing, gospel, pop, and, of course, country. Not only were both the pedal and non-pedal performers excellent, but the backup musicians were outstanding. Something for everyone!

MARK MOSELEY
Helotes

Venerable Vessels

I was a member of the first Naval ROTC unit at Rice Institute (now University), and served in the Navy in World War II aboard the USS *Barber* (AD-57). Coincidentally, in the period of August 7-9, 1945, the *Barber* served as an escort vessel for the battleships USS *Texas* and USS *Mississippi* during anti-aircraft gunnery exercises in the western Pacific.

Some years later, our family visited the *Texas* at the San Jacinto Battleground, where we toured the venerable ship and I recalled some old Navy experiences. My son highlighted the visit by manning one of the small deck guns, and nearly hitting his mother.

L.R. KLEIN JR.
CDR, USNR-Ret.
Richland Hills

EDITOR'S NOTE: Thanks, Commander Klein, for sharing your USS *Texas* connection. We hope you enjoy Joe Sherfy's story on Fredericksburg's National Museum of the Pacific War, which begins on page 40.

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Window on Texas

Photograph by **PETER PARKER**

PAINTER'S PALETTE IN PORT A This resplendent male painted bunting perches on a tree snag in the Port Aransas Nature Preserve at Charlie's Pasture. Neotropical migrants, such as buntings, make their way to this part of Texas from Mexico and Central America every year to nest. For more information, go to www.portaransas.org or www.gcbo.org.



To order a print of this photograph, call 866/962-1191, or visit www.texashighwaysprints.com.

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