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**UP! ARANSAS WILDLIFE REFUGE • SMALL-TOWN FINDS**

THE TRAVEL MAGAZINE OF TEXAS

# TEXAS


## HIGHWAYS

OCTOBER 2007

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One of former Photography Editor Mike Murphy's most memorable and widely published images, *Ladies at Louie Mueller's, Taylor*, was included in a portfolio of his work in our May 1999 issue. Mike's last day at *TH* was August 31.

I WAS REMINDED of this fabulous Mike Murphy photograph a few weeks ago by gallery owner Steve Clark as we waited in line for coffee at Austin's Sweetish Hill Bakery. We agreed it's a wonderful Texas photograph, and I resolved that I would acquire a print for myself. Then, a few days later, I picked up a copy of Robb Walsh's *Legends of Texas Barbecue Cookbook* and it fell open to Mike's photograph. Another omen?

You see, Mike Murphy is also the Photography Editor, or he has been the Photography Editor, of *Texas Highways* magazine for many years. But he's not the kind of guy who wants to see a photograph of himself in the magazine. So, now that he's leaving the magazine (I don't use the "R" word) to rev up a nature-tourism operation and B&B on his ranch, we can remember him by one of his most-revered and widely collected images.

Mike probably will not miss tracking hundreds of prospective images each month and then maintaining diplomatic relationships with dozens of cranky photographers (of course I mean "cranky" in a good way), but we'll miss *him*. By the way, Mike also served as the magazine's designated Web guy and all-around techno-dude. More importantly, we'll miss Mike's wry humor and mildly sarcastic observations—after all, he's a cranky photographer himself.

Of course there's no way to replace Mike, but we've managed to rope in another cranky photographer, Kevin Vandivier, to serve as photo editor, so he'll bring his own talents to the table. You can see some of Kevin's work in this issue's football story, which starts on page 26. And if you want to remember Mike by buying one of his prints, give Steve Clark a call at his eponymous gallery in Austin. I think Mike might like that. After all, he probably spent his allowance on shotgun shells for the opening weekend of dove season.

*Charles J. Lohrmann*

Charles J. Lohrmann, Editor

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IN MEMORIAM: JACK LOWRY (1951-2006)

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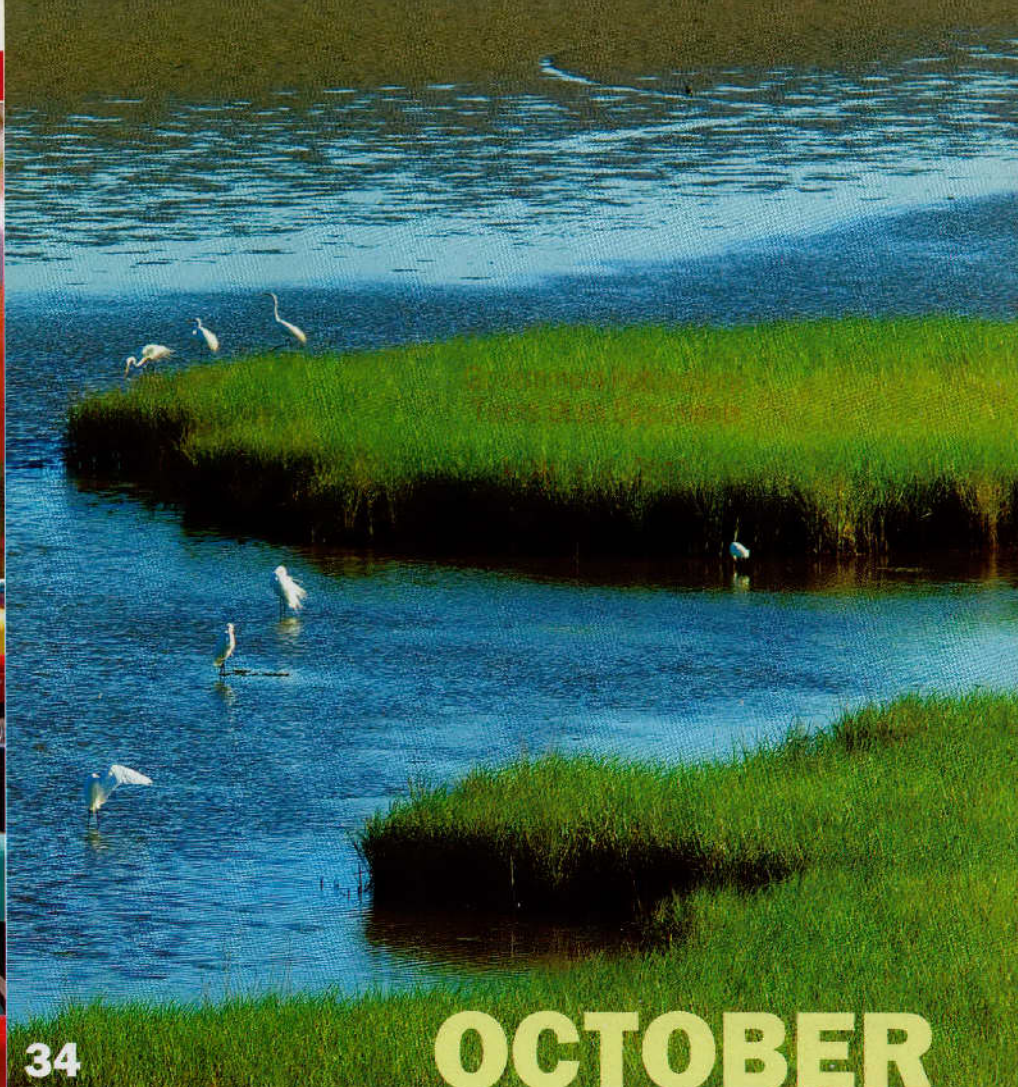
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**ABOUT OUR COVERS** FRONT: Ratcliff Lake mirrors the season's splendor at Davy Crockett National Forest (story on page 18). Photo © Joe Lowery. BACK: Pro football is only one part of the state's pigskin picture (see story on page 26). Here, Dallas Cowboys linebacker Demarcus Ware and Houston Texans offensive tackle Ephraim Salaam grapple in a 2006 game. Photo © Kevin Vandivier.

PHOTOS TOP AND BOTTOM LEFT: ©JOEL SALCIDO; RIGHT: © MITCH VILLAREAL

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■ **PHOTOGRAPHIC PRINTS AVAILABLE** The images on the front cover, pages 21 and 24, and the inside back cover are available as prints in two distinctive formats. To order, call 866/962-1191, or visit [www.texashighwaysprints.com](http://www.texashighwaysprints.com).

## Hot Blog!

I WANTED to let you know how much I love your blog [at [www.texashighways.com](http://www.texashighways.com)]. Can't wait to read the next one. Keep up the good work!

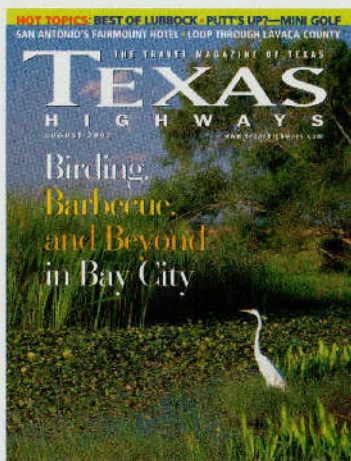
JEAN McKNIGHT

## Hub City Hubbub

THANK you for Marty Lange's article about Lubbock [August]. What a treat to read about my hometown and all the great places to visit in the Hub City. In 2009, Lubbock will be celebrating its 100th birthday (festivities begin in March 2008). Lubbock is indeed a growing, great place to live and visit.

DENA TAYLOR

WHAT A great article on Lubbock. We recently stopped there for the night on our way back from Colorado to show our daughter where she was born. We were afraid we had romanticized



shake, the Day Break Shake. That shake alone is worth the trip to Lubbock.

DAVID COOKSEY  
San Antonio

I'VE BEEN in Lubbock since 1941, when I entered Texas Tech University as a freshman. One other place of interest is the Silent Wings Museum, dedicated to the memory of the glider pilots who were trained and served during WWII. In fact, Lubbock had two air bases during that war: one for twin-engine planes, and one for the gliders. The majority of WWII

the place, but we hadn't. Lubbock is a diner's paradise, with great food on almost every corner. And, if you're into coffee, you have to stop at Day Break Coffee Roasters [[www.dbcr.com](http://www.dbcr.com)]. It's a true college-town coffeehouse, open late with games on the shelf and the absolute best espresso

glider pilots trained in Lubbock. I used to sit in class and watch the big tow planes pull the gliders (they flew close enough that we could see the tow chains). The museum tells a very interesting story about the fliers, their machines, and more.

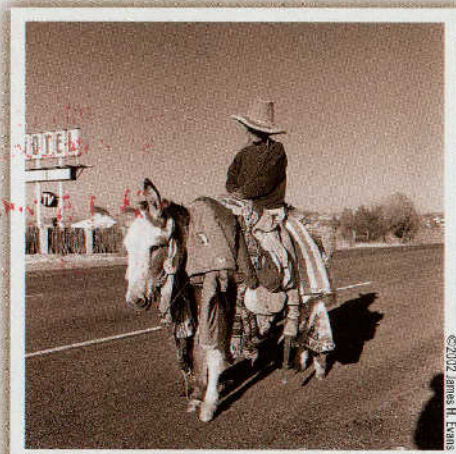
HELEN HELMSTETLER  
Lubbock

ED. NOTE: Good to hear from you, Helen. Readers, for more on the museum, check out Diamond Benningfield's story "Gliding Into History," in our May 2004 issue.

## Talking in Circles

I ENJOYED Nola McKey's "Lavaca County Loop-de-Loop" [August]. I was born in Hallettsville in 1926, and both of my parents were born in the nearby Wied community, so my Czech roots are deeply imbedded there. Many of my relatives, as well as those of my wife, still live in Lavaca County. My uncle operated a general store in Witting back in the '30s, and Joe Strauss of Shiner (featured in the story) is my cousin. Our families hold annual reunions there, and yes, the sausage is great!

JOHN J. NETARDUS  
Slidell, Louisiana



## ARTWALK 2007

Alpine's Gallery Night  
November 16 & 17



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## FALL CALENDAR OF EVENTS

### October 2007

October 3-6 ROAD RUNNER OPEN ROAD RACE – Fort Stockton to Marathon  
[www.marathontexas.com](http://www.marathontexas.com), [www.bbrr.com](http://www.bbrr.com)

October 4-6 NATIONAL INTERCOLLEGIATE RODEO – Alpine  
(432) 837-8191 [www.collegerodeo.com](http://www.collegerodeo.com) [www.sulross.edu](http://www.sulross.edu)

October 5-6 HOLLAND HOTEL OKTOBERFEST – Alpine [www.hollandhotel.net](http://www.hollandhotel.net)

October 5-7 CHINATI OPEN HOUSE – Marfa [www.chinati.org](http://www.chinati.org)

October 13 MARATHON 2 MARATHON – Marathon [www.marathontexas.com](http://www.marathontexas.com)

### November 2007

October 31– November 3 CHILI COOK-OFF – Terlingua  
(210) 887-8827 [www.chili.org](http://www.chili.org)

November 11 VETERAN'S DAY – Celebrations Area-Wide  
[www.alpinetexas.com](http://www.alpinetexas.com), [www.fortdavis.com](http://www.fortdavis.com),  
[www.marathontexas.com](http://www.marathontexas.com), [www.marfacc.com](http://www.marfacc.com)

November 16-17 GALLERY NIGHT – Alpine  
(432) 837-3067 [www.alpinegallerynight.com](http://www.alpinegallerynight.com)

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THANK you so much for the article on Lavaca County. I was born and raised in Witting. The photo on the opening spread shows the Evangelical Lutheran Church there. It is more than 100 years old and continues to hold worship services. The map of the area is great. Your magazine is always most interesting.

WALTER HILDEBRANDT  
Schulenburg

## Railroad Ties

I ENJOYED "Historic Railroad Hotels: A Trio By the Tracks," by Liz Carmack [August]. Growing up in Flatonia, I remember passing by the abandoned (at the time) Olle Hotel on my way back and forth to school. It's nice to see it in business again. I also hung out at the old Tower No. 3 from time to time and knew at least two of the towermen. Nice to see how it has been moved and restored, as well.

JOHN T. PATTERSON  
Mansfield

THE OTT Hotel in Liberty is the last operating train hotel in Texas. The hotel, built for \$50,000 as an actual drummer hotel, has been in business for 80 years and is still doing the same thing it was built for. We stay full 90 percent of the time.

A "flop house" is not a bad thing. It's slang for just a place to sleep and go. Our rates are \$30 a night and, just as in 1928, the bathroom is down the hall.

KELLY McCAIN, OWNER  
OTT HOTEL  
Liberty

ED. NOTE: For more on the Ott Hotel, including some good ghost stories just in time for Halloween, go to [www.hauntedotthotel.com](http://www.hauntedotthotel.com).

## Gwynne at A&M

OH MY gosh, Jennifer Lee's article about Anne Gwynne [Speaking of Texas, August] omitted the most important movie she ever made: *We've Never Been Licked*. Why was it so important? Well, it's because I was in it as one of a thousand extras—the Cadet Corps at Texas A&M in 1942. We marched and yell-practiced and ate in Sbisa Hall, and were filmed doing it all with Anne, Noah Beery, and soon-to-be-famous Robert Mitchum.

JIM MATHIS

EVERETT COLLECTION



B-movie queen and popular pin-up model Anne Gwynne and other stars filmed *We've Never Been Licked* at Texas A&M University in 1942.

## Putt Putt Plus

AUGUST'S articles on Lubbock and mini golf really drove home how much TH means to a transported Texan. Years ago, my daddy owned the Putt Putt golf courses in Wichita Falls and Lubbock, and my sister and brother-in-law

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## 2007 Fall Events

### Ongoing Events

- Second Saturday of the month - Second Saturdays on the Square in Historic Downtown
- First Wednesday of the month - Art History Series at the Heard-Craig Center for the Arts
- Second Sunday, March through October - Living History at Chestnut Square Historic Village
- Friday, Saturday & Sunday BEFORE the third Monday of each month - Third Monday Trade Days

### October

- Dinosaurs Alive! at the Heard Natural Science Museum (Oct.-Jan.)
- Heard Natural Science Museum Native Plant Sale
- Roundup on the Range
- Scare on the Square in Historic Downtown

### November

- Dickens of a Christmas in Historic Downtown

### December

- Holiday Tour of Homes at Chestnut Square Historic Village

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owned the Lubbock one until just a few years ago. Ken and Brian Smith, who run the Dallas/Fort Worth courses and were quoted in your article, are old friends whom I've wondered about over the years. *TH* really knows how to get to the core of being a Texan, and believe me, living in New York City, there's nothing like seeing photographs of that wide-open sky and recalling the many nights at the Putt Putt to make me long to come home.

SHANNON MALONE  
New York, New York

MY AUGUST issue came today and, as usual, everything stopped until I finished it. Sheryl Smith-Rodgers' story about Barry Corbin was a great connector to some of my favorite movies. The mini-golf story [by Rick Kelsey] brought back great memories, too. When I was about seven years old, my family lived in Eastland. I remember someone built a mini-golf course right across the street from our home. The fairways were framed and filled with cottonseeds that needed constant rolling and compressing.



Thanks to Barbara Owens of Houston, who wrote in to let us know that this beautiful bloomer was misidentified in our August story on Bay City. According to Donna Younger, director of the Matagorda County Birding Nature Center, it's a dwarf poinciana (*Caesalpinia pulcherrima*). She adds, "It has also been called other names, including Pride of Barbados, Red Bird of Paradise, Peacock Flower, and flamboyan-de-jardin."

The course designer failed to take into consideration that some duffer and/or child, such as I, would be taking divots out of the cottonseed fairways, or that the scarce rainfall would wreak havoc on them. My mother would take us three

boys across the street and give the operator a couple of nickels to allow us to unintentionally mutilate the course, making it necessary to re-roll it. Thanks for helping me keep in touch with my home state and the people and beauty of it.

ROBERT G. WILSON  
Trenton, Michigan

YOUR MINI-golf article was great, but you forgot one of the oldest continuously running courses in Texas: Play Faire Park in Abilene [www.playfairepark.com]. It recently celebrated its 60th anniversary, and it offers more than just mini golf, including live music on the weekends and special events, tournaments, and art festivals throughout the year. It's one of my favorite hangouts!

KAREN O'BRIANT  
Sweetwater

## Beloved Lady Bird

TEARS spilled out of my eyes as I viewed the Window on Texas photo of Pedemales Falls [July], with the water spilling over rocks. It just so happens that I saw it on the day of our beloved Lady Bird Johnson's funeral. How appropriate that this should be the last photo, of a place so near and dear to her heart. The beauty in your magazine and the beauty Lady Bird established are gifts beyond any words I could express. Thank you for keeping us connected to our great state.

SHEILA B. KELLY  
Elgin

I FOUND my April 2004 issue of *TH* this summer and remembered why I kept it after seeing the front cover and looking at the photographs of our beautiful Texas wildflowers. I thought how appropriate to have found it as we mourned the passing of our gracious Lady Bird.

Looking at those flowers reminds me once again of the time and effort she took to ensure the continuing beauty of the Texas landscape and [sites] throughout this great nation. I wonder if she realized at the time she undertook this project the impact it would have on all of us. Texas will miss her, but her legacy will be seen by generations to come.

CAROL STELL  
Houston

**WRITE OR E-MAIL:** Talk to *TH*, *Texas Highways*, Box 141009, Austin 78714-1009; fax 512/486-5879; e-mail: letters05@texashighways.com. Web site: www.texashighways.com. Though we are unable to print every letter, we just might select yours to appear in the magazine—whether you send us kudos or criticism. We reserve the right to edit letters.



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Rose Parade



Rose Show

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# For THE ROAD

THIS MONTH'S TOP PICKS AND PLACES

Compiled by Lori Moffatt

## Made in America

THE VIVID COLORS AND INTRICATE PATTERNS OF PLAINS BEADWORK come to life through the hands of Vanessa Paukeigope Jennings, an award-winning artist and member of the Kiowa tribe of Oklahoma. Jennings, a recipient of the National Heritage Fellowship that designates her as a Living National Treasure, will discuss her internationally coveted work at the **Bob Bullock Texas State History Museum** in **Austin** on October 13 from 1-4 p.m.

Jennings' appearance at the museum coincides with the exhibit *In Citizen's Garb: Southern Plains Native Americans 1889-1891*. The exhibit, which runs through January 6, 2008, includes 53 photographs, along with artifacts such as fringed leggings and decorated shirts, as well as a traditional Kiowa beaded cradleboard.

The exhibit documents the 1880s and 1890s, decades of tremendous upheaval for Native

Americans in Texas. Once imprisoned on reservations, native people were encouraged, if not forced, to adopt Euro-American ways. *In Citizen's Garb* focuses on members of the Kiowa and Comanche tribes as they gradually adjusted to the new way of life required by the United States government. Call 512/936-8746; [www.TheStoryofTexas.com](http://www.TheStoryofTexas.com).



WILLIAM J. LENNY AND WILLIAM L. SAWYERS, C. 1889-1891; COURTESY/ JOE SWALKWELL

Three of these Comanche men have been identified as Pah-do-pony (top left), To-pooh (bottom right), and Big Kiowa (bottom left). This photograph is part of the *In Citizen's Garb* exhibit at the Bob Bullock Texas State History Museum.

## GO NATIVE, YOU

LADY BIRD JOHNSON, WHO DIED IN JULY after a long career as an environmentalist and First Lady, was accompanied in public by Secret Service agents—even when she visited Austin's Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center, the native-plant preserve she founded in 1982. But during a visit a few years ago, Lady Bird became so enthralled with the flower-studded landscape that she commandeered a golf cart and took off into the fields with a botanist, leaving her bodyguards behind in a state of (temporary) panic.

Visit the center this fall, when the abundance of flowers may surprise you, and you'll understand how even Lady Bird could forget about proper protocol. Spring isn't the only time for flowers, as the center's blooming blue and white mistflower and dozens of other plants prove. On October 13-14, the center holds its annual **Fall Plant Sale and Gardening Festival**, which features guided walking tours, gardening tips from the pros, and more than 270 plant species for sale, along with seeds from Junction's Native American Seed. (Plant seeds for spring's garden now.)

Other October events include an exploration of spiders on October 19 as part of the center's **Nature Nights** series; and the 3rd annual **Goblins in the Garden** festival on October 28, where kids can pose for pix in a pumpkin patch and make Halloween crafts. Sign up for classes, too,

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IN HUTTO, THE HIPPO RULES. BUT WHILE this herbivorous mammal may be the town mascot, a visit might tell you the town has gone to the dogs instead. Hutto boasts one of the largest dog training and behavior centers in the world, the 360-acre **Triple Crown Dog Academy**, where thousands of young, panicky, compulsive, or just troublesome pooches have learned to be good canine citizens.

But Triple Crown is more than a training facility: Think of it as a theme park for dogs. Almost every weekend, the center hosts events such as canine agility matches, flyball tournaments, and obedience rallies, most of which are free for visitors to attend. There's even a Dog Adventure Trail, a two-mile trail equipped with canine-friendly jumps, tunnels, and bridges (a day pass costs \$5).

On October 28 from noon-5 p.m., Triple Crown hosts its annual **Petfest and Expo**, a benefit for the Austin Humane Society. Bring your best friend (on a leash, please) and enjoy a canine carnival with games for people and pooches; an all-day "yappy hour" with live music, beer, and wine; a Dashin' Dachshund Weenie Dog Dash; a "Fastest Dog in Hutto" contest; free lectures and tips on common behavior issues; doggie spa services such as canine massages and baths; and a pumpkin patch for photos (plan your holiday cards now!). Admission: \$10; \$5 ages 4-12. Call 512/759-2275; [www.triplecrownpetfest.com](http://www.triplecrownpetfest.com).

#### NUTTY BUDDIES

DID YOU MISS THE GORMAN PEANUT Festival (second Saturday in September)? Not to worry: Texas has four more longstanding **peanut parties** in October. **Aubrey**, **Floresville**, **Grapeland**, and **Whitesboro** want you to come on down and praise the plant made famous by George Washington Carver. Because darn it, sometimes you just feel like a nut.

The tiny North Texas town of Aubrey hosts its 22nd annual Peanut Festival (940/365-9162; [www.aubreytx.net/city/peanut.htm](http://www.aubreytx.net/city/peanut.htm)) on October 6. Floresville, just southeast of San Antonio, celebrates its 63rd annual Peanut Festival downtown, on the Wilson County Courthouse square, October 9-13 (830/393-0074; [www.floresvillepeanutfestival.org](http://www.floresvillepeanutfestival.org)).

Officially promoting this potent source of protein for six decades, the East Texas community of Grapeland holds its 61st Peanut Festival on Octo-



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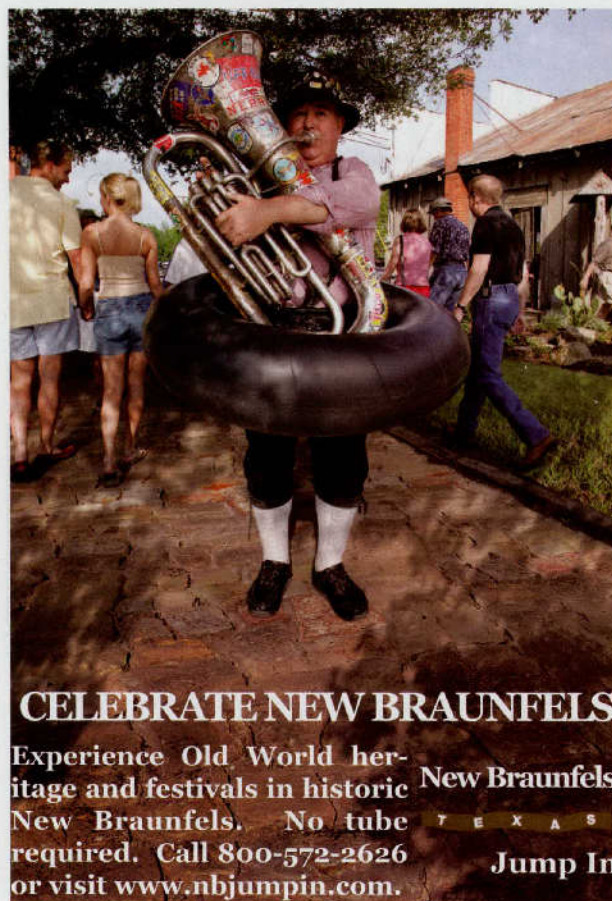
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## FOR THE ROAD

ber 20 with a parade, crafts and food vendors, a carnival, and the coronation of the peanut queen (936/687-2419; [www.grapelandchamber.com](http://www.grapelandchamber.com)). Also on October 20, Whitesboro hosts its 42nd annual Peanut Festival (903/564-3331; [www.whitesborotx.com](http://www.whitesborotx.com)). Each Texas peanut fest offers classic small-town fun that's as easy to access as opening a jar of Skippy, Jif, or Peter Pan. C'mon, it's time to get your peanut on!

© LARRY DITTO



Queen butterflies accumulate foul-tasting chemicals in their bodies to deter predators.

### ALL AFLUTTER

SITUATED AT THE CONFLUENCE OF THE TWO main migratory flyways between North and South America, the Rio Grande Valley teems this time of year with birds, butterflies, and awed onlookers. If you haven't witnessed it yourself, what are you waiting for?

From October 18-21, Mission hosts the 12th annual Texas Butterfly Festival, which celebrates butterflies, moths, dragonflies, and other winged wonders with an exhaustive schedule of speakers, field trips, classes, and garden tours throughout the region. But if you miss the festival, be sure to put these sites on your go-to list: Weslaco's Valley Nature Center (where the abundant and beautiful butterflies will astound you), the North American Butterfly Association's International Butterfly Park in Mission (where you'll likely spy hundreds of species), and the Edinburg Wetlands World Birding Center (designed to attract butterflies).

For general information, click on "Rio Grande Valley Guide" at [www.valleychamber.com](http://www.valleychamber.com). For specifics about the Texas Butterfly Festival, call 956/585-2727; [www.texasbutterfly.com](http://www.texasbutterfly.com).

### THE GREAT PUMPKIN

IN THE COUNTRYSIDE, IT'S EASY TO TELL that fall has arrived: The grasses shimmer in golden waves, leaves change colors and float away on brisk breezes, and migratory birds make their

## The Beats Go On

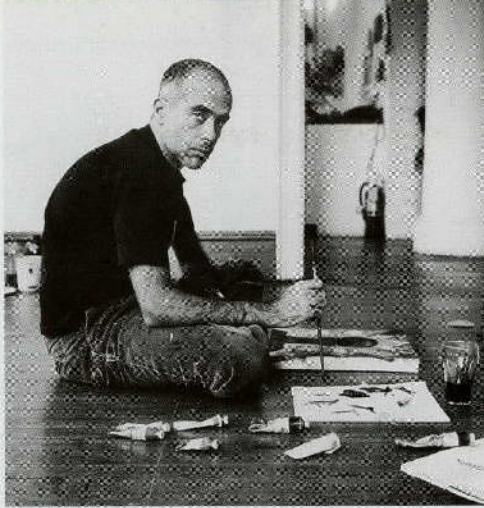
IN THE 1950S, WRITERS JACK Kerouac, William S. Burroughs, Gregory Corso, and Allen Ginsberg formed the nucleus of the era's new Beat Generation, experimenting with words to the delight (and shock) of literary audiences from New York to San Francisco.

Allen Ginsberg (1926-1997) may be best known for his controversial, epic poem *Howl*, but he was also a prolific photographer.

Through October 14, the **San Antonio Museum of Art** presents **Allen**

**Ginsberg: Beat Generation Photographer**, a collection of black-and-white images taken in the 1950s and early 1960s as the Beats reshaped American literary tradition.

Among the scenes, all of them elucidated by Ginsberg's hand-written descriptions: Gregory Corso eating grapes in Paris, Jack Kerouac on a fire escape in Manhattan, Neal Cassady with girlfriend Natalie Jackson outside a theater, Larry Ferlinghetti in front of City Lights Bookstore in San Francisco, and William S. Burroughs "slightly zonked" in 1961. The museum also highlights photographs Ginsberg took in the 1980s, as well as copies of *Howl*, *On the Road*, and *Naked Lunch*; film posters for *The Beat Generation* and *The Subterraneans*; a collection of Beat trading cards; and other ephemera. Call 210/978-8100; [www.samuseum.org](http://www.samuseum.org).



Allen Ginsberg captioned this photo as "Francesco Clemente taking a break from painting my portrait in oil."

presence known as they fly south for the winter. But in the city? Sometimes all the concrete and construction obscures the changing seasons.

In Big D, though, the **Dallas Arboretum** heralds fall with its annual **Autumn at the Arboretum: The Great Pumpkin Festival**, which opens September 22 and runs through Halloween. Visitors can take photographs in fields of decorative pumpkins and gourds, admire the arboretum's 66 acres of fall plantings, explore a hay-bale maze, and enjoy live music, hayrides, pumpkin-carving demonstrations, crafts, and live music.

Also at the arboretum this fall, a traveling botanical exhibit called **The Amazing Chocolate Tree** (Oct. 6-Jan. 6) explores the process of chocolate-making from the cacao plant to candy factory. Visitors can enjoy chocolate tastings, candy-making demonstrations, chocolate-themed teas, and a chef's chocolate-tree competition, during which 20 chefs create their vision of a perfect tree made of chocolate. (The trees will be on display in November.) Call 214/515-6500; [www.dallasarboretum.org](http://www.dallasarboretum.org).

### JUNK IN THEIR TRUNKS

COLORADO CITY, A TOWN OF SOME 4,000 residents about midway between Abilene and

Odessa on I-20, hosts one of the state's newest and most fanciful festivals October 6-7: the second annual **Frontier Junktique Jamboree**. Organizer Cecilia Scott calls the jamboree "an over-the-top kind of thing, a Western-themed festival that celebrates creativity and reinvention." It's not your typical antiques show, in other words.

The event kicks off with a "junk-finder contest," in which 30 teams adopt treasures that have seen better days—broken chairs or smashed birdcages, for example—and reinvent them. The "new" pieces (birdcage chandeliers, for example) go to the highest bidder. More than 40 booths downtown offer other items for sale, ranging from jewelry and handmade textiles to homemade ice cream. Non-shopping attractions include classic and contemporary Western movies at the refurbished 1927 Three M Palace, camel rides, a fortune-teller, a Western-themed photography booth, train rides, faux shootouts, and evening ghost tours. "We load about 30 people in the back of a wagon and take you around town," says Cecilia. "You'll learn about the town's history and get a few shivers, too." Call 325/728-9018; [www.junktiquejamboree.com](http://www.junktiquejamboree.com).

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CITY OF SAN ANTONIO  
OFFICE OF CULTURAL AFFAIRS

# Spotlight on WICHITA FALLS

## North Texas Surprises

ONE SUNDAY IN JULY, EN ROUTE FROM AUSTIN to visit family north of the Red River, I took a detour north of Fort Worth and headed west to explore Wichita Falls.

I rolled into town around five and proceeded to downtown, where the wide streets, flanked with brick buildings erected during the North Texas oil boom of the 1920s, were virtually deserted

and mildly surreal. I had borrowed a fancy digital camera, and I walked down the middle of the streets snapping photos of the old City National Bank, the Hamilton Building, and other architectural remnants from a time of frenzied commercial and industrial expansion.

Eighth Street, I'd learn later, was known as "skyscraper row" in 1919, when proceeds from the oil wells in nearby Burkburnett began pour-

ing into Wichita Falls coffers. Six trains a day brought workers back and forth between the two towns, 19 hotels opened to accommodate travelers, and a bustling stock exchange operated on Ohio Street. And, like in most boomtowns, prostitution and bootlegging kept the Texas Rangers on their toes.

The tangle of railroad tracks northeast of downtown, along with silos and switching sta-

tions, reveal clues to the city's even earlier identity. After the railroad's arrival in 1882, I learned, Wichita Falls grew from a struggling prairie town into a major North Texas commercial center. Dozens of rail lines soon connected Wichita Falls with towns from Fort Worth to Denver. Mercantiles, banks, drugstores, and other businesses sprang up, particularly along Seventh Street. Downtown even had a streetcar system! And here's a fact I found particularly amusing: For many years, the city had so many saloons that its nickname was "Whiskeytown Falls."

As I made my way to dinner, I wondered if that reputation might *still* be based in reality. Past Krank it Karaoke, the It'll Do Bar, and a popular watering hole called It's 5 O'clock Somewhere, I found the highly-recommended Pioneer #3, known by locals as the P-3 since it opened in 1949. The parking lot was packed.

I felt a rush of déjà vu as I stepped inside the lobby. When I would visit my grandparents in Cushing, Oklahoma—the self-proclaimed Oil Pipeline Crossroads of the World—in the 1970s, restaurants felt like this: Dark paneling and country music, red meat and cigarettes, hungry roughnecks and farmers still in their work clothes. The unremarkable lobby, which doubles as a small non-smoking section, paled in comparison with the back dining room, where diners puffed away and then put away plates of enchiladas, chicken-fried steak, fried ham, and the Sunday Night Special—beef tips over rice with green beans and mashed potatoes.

The booths on the edge of the dining room had tabletop jukeboxes, and as I waited for my Special to arrive, I selected Merle Haggard's "Tonight the Bottle Let Me Down" and settled



BOTH PHOTOS BY LORI MOFFATT

David Bindel shows off Wichita Falls' newest attraction, the Ruby N. Priddy Butterfly Conservatory.

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**We pedaled through the Morningside Historic District, an eclectic neighborhood constructed between 1900 and 1949. It's in the National Register of Historic Places.**

back for a listen. In a few seconds, a pair of powerful speakers subjected the entire P-3 smoking section to Merle's up-tempo breakup song. I dressed my salad with a dollop of house dressing from a mustard squirter, and felt like I was in a movie set. All I needed to complete the odd little scene in my head was a Benson & Hedges Ultra Light 100.



The preserved 1919 "Littlest Skyscraper" now houses The Antique Wood (940/851-7800).

When I checked into the Harrison House B&B later and told owner Suzanne Staha about my experience at the P-3, she laughed. "Next time, come back and try some of the restaurants out by the base." Sheppard Air Force Base, she told me, opened in 1941, and its international community of pilots means that you'll find all kinds of restaurants nearby, including places that specialize in Greek, Thai, and South American cuisine. Who would have thought?

Suzanne returned to Wichita Falls, her hometown, to help her parents clean up after the 1979 tornado, a storm that cut a mile-and-a-half-wide path through the city. She eventually bought and restored a spacious 1919 Prairie-style home and opened it as a bed and breakfast. I had the whole place to myself.

Suzanne normally prepares a lavish breakfast

for guests, but I was atoning for those P-3 beef tips. So, over a meal of fruit and banana bread the next morning, we visited about the city. Suzanne learned that I liked to ride bikes, and we made plans to check out the new butterfly conservatory at the River Bend Nature Center, on the edge of popular Lucy Park.

Lucky for me, Suzanne keeps a few bicycles in the storm cellar beside the house, and we set off. We rode through neighborhoods filled with beautiful Craftsman homes in various stages of restoration and disrepair. We pedaled through the Morningside Historic District, an eclectic neighborhood constructed between 1900 and 1949. It's in the National Register of Historic Places, and some of the homes here—bungalows, futuristic spaces, and fabulous pillared mansions—rival dwellings I've seen in swanky lifestyle magazines.

At Lucy Park, an expansive tract of land on the northwest part of town with ball fields, a swimming pool, picnic areas, and some 10 miles of paved trails, we rode along the Wichita River to a replica of the famous waterfall that gave the city its name in 1876. (The real waterfall washed away years ago.) A few anglers cast lines into the reddish-brown water, which, thanks to the recent heavy rains, flowed northeast toward the Red River like an angry version of Willie Wonka's river of chocolate.

When we arrived at River Bend Nature Center, director David Bindel met us at the center's pavilion. Beside it, the new glass butterfly conservatory, similar to the Cockrell Butterfly Center in Houston and the conservatories at Moody Gardens in Galveston, soars to 50 feet on the northern end. With a few years' growth, the conservatory should be lush and wild, but already it contains some 20 different butterfly species, along with 105 kinds of plants, trees, and grasses native to the Rolling Plains. Behind the conservatory, a switchback trail leads to 15 acres of nature pathways and a wetlands area, which attracts birdwatchers in the spring and fall.

After returning my bicycle and packing my things, I made a final stop downtown to do a little shopping, see some art, and have lunch.

Downtown Wichita Falls has more than a dozen antique shops, though most are closed on Sundays and Mondays. But on Indiana



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## Spotlight on WICHITA FALLS

Street, across from the old Wichita Theater, a shop called the Mansion II was open for business, with more than 63 booths offering everything from antique fishing gear to collectible coins.

There, I met book dealer Willie Bremer, a former "shoe man" who told me his person-

### FOR WICHITA FALLS

information, call  
800/799-6732;  
[www.wichita-falls.org](http://www.wichita-falls.org)



al library numbers more than 5,000 volumes. Among the thousands of titles he had for sale, John Dos Passos' trilogy *U.S.A.* called my name, and Willie and I made plans to talk about his favorite "Lost Generation" authors after I had finished it.

A few blocks away, I stopped at the restored 1926 Marchman Hotel building, which still has its yellow-and-brown linoleum floor, art deco light fixtures, and other details from the Twenties. In the lobby, a lunch counter called Gidget's Sandwich Shop, which has since moved to larger quarters nearby, catered to downtown workers and the occasional lucky tourist. The Marchman houses state offices these days, and as I enjoyed a topnotch chicken-salad panini and crisp mixed-greens salad, I watched folks come and go, taking care of business.

Next time I visit, I'll spend time at downtown's Museum of North Texas History, as well as other sites that close on Mondays. The Kell House Museum, housed in the home of city founding father Frank Kell; the Littlest Skyscraper, which now contains an antique store; and the Kemp-Kell Depot were all closed during my visit, but I managed a look-see at the city's art museum, the regal Kemp Center for the Arts. Built by influential resident Joseph Kemp for his wife, Flora, in 1917 as the city's first public library, the center now hosts art exhibitions and classes, a film series, and performances of dance, theater, and music. An outdoor sculpture garden features some 20 unusual works from Texas artists—pieces like a metal agave, a folk-art depiction of a buffalo soldier, and towering mixed-media flowers. Definitely not staid stuff.

So color me surprised. Wichita Falls may not be your typical tourist destination, but it offers uncommon discoveries at nearly every turn. I'll definitely return to see how it reinvents itself for the future, once again.

—LORI MOFFATT

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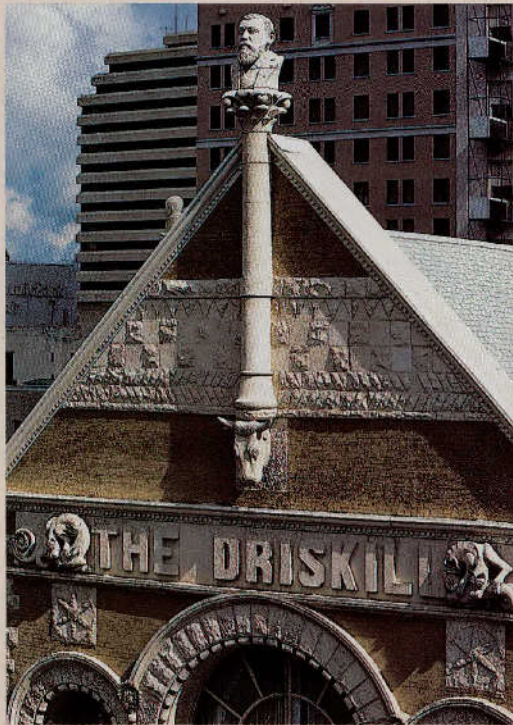
## THE (HAUNTED) DRISKILL

**L**ocated in the heart of downtown Austin, the Driskill Hotel is probably best recognized for its rich history (it was around long before the State Capitol and the first building at the University of Texas at Austin even existed) and its proximity to the Sixth Street entertainment district. But that's not all it's known for.

According to the folks at Austin Ghost Tours, an organization that offers nighttime explorations of downtown's spooky past, the more than 120-year-old building is haunted. Over the years, several resident ghosts have been spotted throughout the hotel's grand hallways and rooms, including that of original owner and cattle baron Jesse Driskill, a jilted bride, and a young girl. However, Jeanine Plumer, founder of Austin Ghost Tours, explains that most hauntings are not visual, and that it's rare for someone to see an actual ghost. "Most hauntings are feelings, smells, or movements of objects," she says.

Folklore suggests that Jesse Driskill haunts the hotel because he never got to enjoy its success during his lifetime. Shortly after the Driskill opened in 1886, Jesse had to forfeit ownership for financial reasons. Today, his spirit is said to make its presence known through the smell of cigar smoke and the flickering of lights.

A bolder ghost is that of a bride who, in the 1990s, checked into Room 329 after her fiancé called off their wedding. To recoup, the woman went on a shopping spree racking up a \$40,000 credit-card bill. After her excursion, she calmly walked back to her room and shot herself, muffling the sound with a pillow. Past guests claim they have seen her ghost walking down the halls with shopping bags in tow. Another ghost, that of a child who died after falling down a flight of stairs, can



To learn more about the Driskill Hotel and other haunted buildings in Austin, book a guided tour with Austin Ghost Tours. Call 512/853-9826; [www.hauntedtexas.com](http://www.hauntedtexas.com).

be heard giggling and bouncing a ball.

The Driskill Hotel, with all its paranormal folklore, has been in business for more than a century. It has played host to several inaugural balls, and it was where Lady Bird and President Lyndon B. Johnson had their first date. Whether or not the hotel houses paranormal guests is debatable, but it certainly offers visitors historical ambiance. And who knows, you might even have a haunting experience.

—Arianna Ramos, Austin

## EILEEN'S PASSIONS

**T**he practice of archeology was still a relatively young science in Texas when Eileen Windsor Alves (1873-1935) took to the field

from her El Paso home in the 1920s. Driving her non-motorist husband, Burrow Alves, around the Southwest selling restaurant supplies, Eileen made a point to visit archeologists and conduct archeological work along the way.

Though Eileen never trained formally in archeology, these trips resulted in her publishing papers and presenting talks with titles such as "Shelter Caves of the El Paso District," "Perishable Artifacts of the Hueco Caves," and "Fetish Stones from Near El Paso."

Eileen was an early campaigner against the destruction of archeological sites by looters. As Carolyn O'Bagy Davis wrote in a 2000 issue of *The Artifact*, an El Paso Archaeological Society publication, Eileen purchased the collection of a hunter who had carried off items from the site named Ceremonial Cave, near El Paso. The objects included "darts with wood foreshafts, staffs, pendants, strings of beads, bits of basketry, a coiled basketry armband studded with [a] turquoise mosaic, ceremonial staffs, and hair ornaments." She donated the collection to an Arizona archive; today, many of the artifacts reside at the University of Texas Archeological Research Library in Austin. (Some of the artifacts can be viewed at [www.texasbeyondhistory.net](http://www.texasbeyondhistory.net).)

Creatures of the desert also became one of Eileen's passions. She often gathered the critters when camping out on her husband's sales trips. At one point, the couple's household included scorpions, a kangaroo rat, a desert tortoise, snakes, several alligators, and six Gila monsters. "There was a cage of owls in the office and three skunks," wrote Carolyn, "one of which got loose and lived afterwards in the space under the house, venturing out at night to dig up her flowers and shrubs."

—Gene Fowler, Austin

# TOP Tables

NOTEWORTHY CULINARY JOURNEYS

BY DOTTY GRIFFITH

## FOUR WINDS STEAKHOUSE Rumoré Has It

THERE ARE many reasons to visit East Texas: dogwoods blooming in the spring; you-pick-'em blueberries in the summer; Marshall's drive-through holiday-light show; and pine trees and the Big Thicket year round.

Fine dining wasn't prominent on the list until chef Frank Rumoré (Roo-MOR-ay) left the big-city glitz of Del Frisco's Double Eagle Steak House in Dallas in November 2005 and placed his 25 years of professional experience on the line in Wills Point, a small town best known for farmers-market staples like homegrown 'maters, okra, and black-eyed peas.

Four Winds Steakhouse, just off I-20 in the northwest corner of Van Zandt County (a.k.a. the Free State of Van Zandt; see sidebar, page 61), feels like a ranch house. Originally, it was. Retired Dallas Cowboys legend Lee Roy Jordan created the two-story lodge and 15-acre fishing lake for his family on 1,100 acres of rolling green.

Longtime customers and friends Larry and Darlene Freeman bought the property and romanced Frank for eight months before he agreed to



Four Winds' elegant, yet relaxed main dining room features a stone fireplace and views of the lake and surrounding countryside.

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BIRD & BUTTERFLY PHOTOS BY JOHN DYER

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Relax at one of our river cabins, rustic retreats, motels, guest homes or B&Bs!

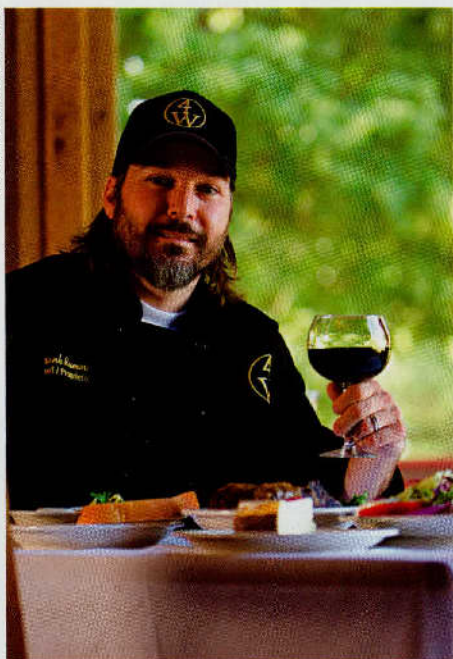
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WWW.THCR.COM or (800) 210-0380

Chef Frank Rumoré, formerly of Del Frisco's Steak House in Dallas, has brought 25 years of culinary expertise to Four Winds.



Cheers to chef Frank Rumoré (left), whose specialties include bone-in rib eye with brandy-peppercorn sauce, house-made mozzarella, tomato, and onion salad, and cheesecake with strawberry coulis.

Overall, Four Winds feels casual, yet mannerly. The setting proves stylish but not overdone so that the place is as comfortable and accessible as a ranch house should be.

Not surprisingly, steak ranks high on Four Winds' menu (Frank uses grain-fed beef finished in the Midwest). Biggest is the 26-ounce, bone-in rib eye with brandy-peppercorn sauce. This leviathan is enough for two to share. Other cuts include filet mignon (6- or 10-ounce), New York strip (12- or 14-ounce), as well as smaller (12- and 14-ounce) rib eyes.

Frank learned the steakhouse craft on his first job at the original Del Frisco's in Gretna, Louisiana. All of his steaks come with char on the outside and are cooked to rosy medium rare (or any degree of doneness you like).

The appetizer offerings also reflect Frank's Cajun and Creole cooking roots. Shrimp remoulade is a New Orleans classic with piquant sauce. Shell-on crustaceans are the subject of the Big Easy-style barbecue shrimp. These mammoth peel-and-eats come to the table in a hot ramekin of bubbling butter jazzed with a touch of spice. Crab cakes barely hold together because they are so short on filler and way long on succulent lump crab meat. A spicy orange-mustard cream adds zest.

Seafood gets almost as much attention here as beef. Sesame- (continued on page 61)

help them transform the ranch house into a cow palace. During the remodel, the home's large, open kitchen was converted into the bar area, the family living space to the main dining room, an enclosed sun porch to a glassed-in dining area, and the upstairs to private dining rooms. Frank's customized professional kitchen fills what was once a carport.

Steak and seafood specials are part of the culinary draw.


So is the bar, a rarity in a part of Texas that is, for the most part, drier—at least in terms of alcohol—than the Chihuahuan Desert. The bar's dark antique woodwork and plush barstools make this corner of Four Winds a genuine watering hole. The front porch, furnished with easy chairs, provides an inviting spot to enjoy cocktails or after-dinner drinks.

Beyond the bar, cedar paneling adds to the restaurant's relaxed atmosphere. Expansive windows overlook gently rolling hills and the rippling lake. A massive stone fireplace promises a roaring fire in the winter.

Comfy upholstered wooden chairs ring tables draped with starched white cloths.


**FOUR WINDS STEAKHOUSE** is at 21191 FM 47 (north of I-20), Wills Point; 903/873-2225; [www.fourwindssteakhouse.com](http://www.fourwindssteakhouse.com). Steak prices range from \$20.75 to \$33.95. Hours: Tue-Sat 5 p.m. to 10 p.m. Reservations recommended.






# 2007 TEXAS BOOK FESTIVAL

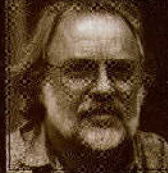
NOVEMBER 3RD & 4TH, 2007  
TEXAS STATE CAPITOL, AUSTIN, TEXAS  
BENEFITTING TEXAS PUBLIC LIBRARIES




*The Art of Simple Food: Notes and Recipes from a Delicious Revolution*  
(top left)




*The Lazy Environmentalist: Your Guide to Easy, Stylish, Green Living*  
(top right)



*Cowgirl Cuisine*  
(bottom right)



*Photos from Lonesome Dove*  
(bottom left)



## FEATURED VENUES


**TEXAS CAPITOL**  
Alice Waters, *The Art of Simple Food: Notes and Recipes from a Delicious Revolution*  
(top left)

**LIFESTYLE TENT**  
Josh Dorfman, *The Lazy Environmentalist: Your Guide to Easy, Stylish, Green Living*  
(top right)


**COOKING TENT**  
Paula Disbrowe, *Cowgirl Cuisine*  
(bottom right)


**AUSTIN MUSEUM OF ART**  
Bill Wittliff, *Photos from Lonesome Dove*  
(bottom left)


Events and book signings are free to the public. Books available for purchase from Barnes & Noble. For complete info and updated schedules, visit [www.texasbookfestival.org](http://www.texasbookfestival.org)





FESTIVAL UNDERWRITER


















































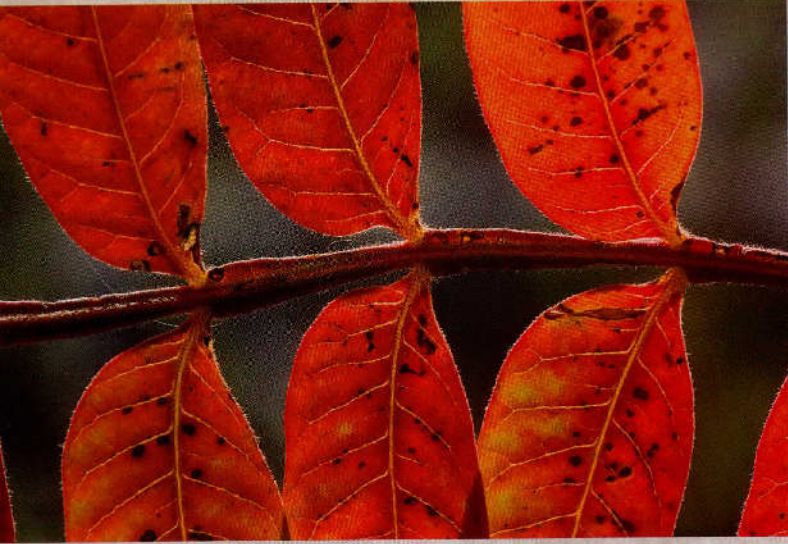
October 2007 TEXAS HIGHWAYS 17



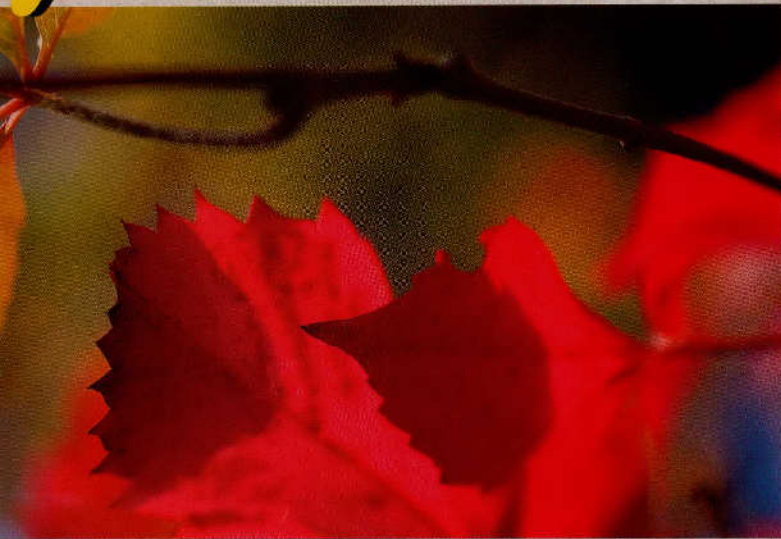
# THE THIRD

POSSUMHAW

FLAMELEAF SUMAC



TICKLE-TONGUE



FIVE-LEAF CREEPER

STORY AND PHOTOGRAPHS  
BY STEVEN SCHWARTZMAN

## LONG AFTER

the fabled wildflowers of spring have disappeared, and not too long after autumn flowers have faded, nature in parts of Texas puts on a third show of color that deserves acclaim. This time the color comes not from flowers, but from leaves, berries, and even stems. A willing observer just needs to know where to look, and what to look for. In some cases, this means being uncharacteristically Texan and thinking on a small scale, because some of the richest and most dependable color at the end of the year comes from plants more modest in stature or reputation.

Plants worthy of attention include vines like dewberry and greenbrier that so often scratch us as we try to make our way through the woods, but whose leaves turn lovely colors in the fall. Another vine to look for is the dreaded poison ivy that all

# THE THIRD ACT

too often “leaves” reddish rashes on our skin. (We can also expect bright foliage from two of its benign and aptly named relatives, flameleaf sumac and aromatic sumac.) Another harmless and reliably colorful vine is five-leaf creeper, which some mistake for poison ivy, even though the two belong to different families.

As for fruit, possumhaw is famous for its persistent red berries, and pigeonberry has colorful red berries as well as leaves.

In the realm of trees and shrubs, the leaves of Texas or Spanish oak turn a bright red, while those of the black willow, cedar elm, bald cypress, and tickle-tongue turn yellow and orange. And while many people don't think of white as a color, the gleaming bark of the sycamore is striking in the winter forest when the foliage that obscures the view most of the year is no longer in the way.

A number of plants shown here were photographed in Central Texas. See box on page 23 for where to catch the best glimpses of “the third act” in that area.

BALD CYPRESS



PIGEONBERRY



DENBERRY



**FLAMELEAF SUMAC**



*BLACK WILLOW*



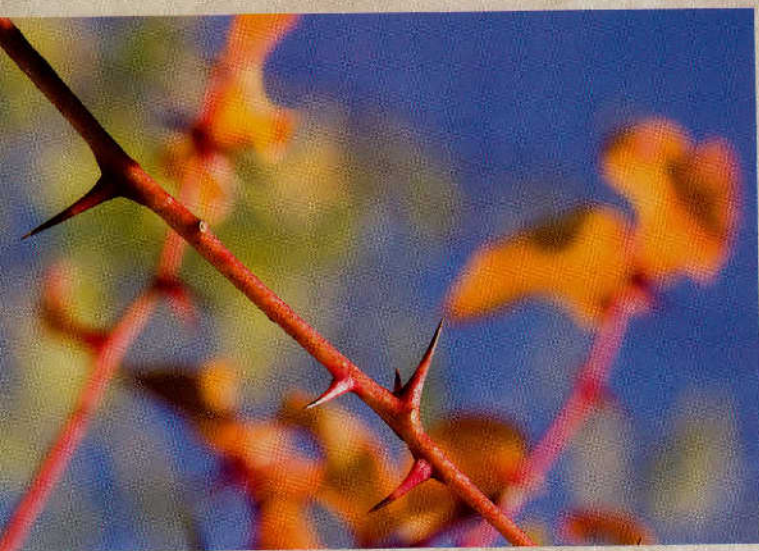
POSSUMHAW



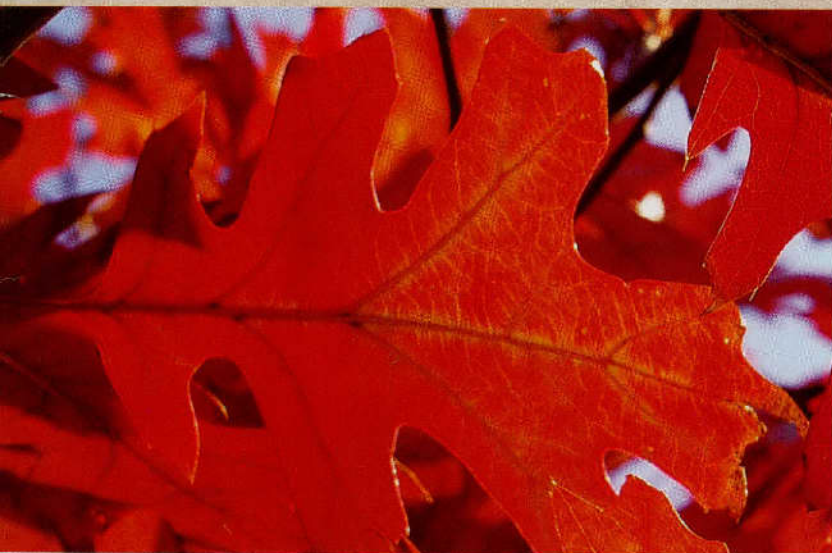
# THE THIRD ACT

All of these plants grow widely across Texas, so nature-seekers throughout the state will be rewarded with the fleeting, but immensely fulfilling, blaze of fall color. ★

STEVEN SCHWARTZMAN is an avid nature photographer who admits knowing more etymology than entomology.



TICKLE-TONGUE



TEXAS OAK

## SCHWARTZMAN'S SHORT LIST

### ALLEN PARK

#### Austin

The parking area on Westside Dr. gives access to the 10-acre park's upper level, but colorful plants, especially poison ivy, also grow on the lower level near Balcones Dr. [www.co.travis.tx.us/tnr/parks/allen.asp](http://www.co.travis.tx.us/tnr/parks/allen.asp).

### GREAT HILLS PARK

#### Austin

The official address, which coincides with the most accessible trailhead, is 10700 Floral Park Dr., west of Jollyville Rd. Parking is available near the entrance at 10801 Sierra Oaks, as well. Trails go through several canyons in this easternmost edge of the Hill Country. [www.greathillspark.org/](http://www.greathillspark.org/).

### LOOP 360

#### Austin

From its juncture with Mopac in the south, to the Arboretum area in the north, this semicircular route, a favorite of cyclists, offers many opportunities to see fall color. Of particular note is the trail through the Lower Bull Creek Greenbelt from Spicewood Springs Rd. to Lakewood Dr. [www.austinparks.org/](http://www.austinparks.org/).

### COMANCHE BLUFF TRAIL IN TAYLOR PARK

#### Williamson County

From TX 95 north of Granger, go east on FM 1331. Turn left on CR 496, and drive about half a mile to the western parking area. Alternatively, go a little farther east on FM 1331 and turn left at the park's main entrance. Comanche Bluff Trail connects the two trailheads. Call 512/859-2668.



*BALD CYPRESS*

# THE THIRD ACT



CEDAR ELM



GREENBRIER

## COLOR IN THE PARKS

THE FOLLOWING Texas state parks all offer potentially good fall color. Go to the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department Web site, [www.tpwd.state.tx.us](http://www.tpwd.state.tx.us), to get specific park information, or call 512/389-4800 or 800/792-1112.

### BIG BEND

Big Bend Ranch State Park, Presidio  
Davis Mountains State Park, Fort Davis

### GULF COAST

Brazos Bend State Park, Needville

### HILL COUNTRY

Garner State Park, Concan  
Hill Country State Natural Area, Bandera  
Lost Maples State Natural Area, Vanderpool

### PINEYWOODS

Caddo Lake State Park, Kamack  
Daingerfield State Park, Daingerfield  
Huntsville State Park, Huntsville  
Martin Dies Jr. State Park, Jasper

### PANHANDLE PLAINS

Caprock Canyons State Park, Quitaque  
Palo Duro Canyon State Park, Canyon

### PRAIRIES & LAKES

Fort Boggy State Park, Centerville  
Palmetto State Park, Gonzales

Big Bend National Park and Guadalupe Mountains National Park have spectacular fall foliage. See [www.nps.gov/bibe/](http://www.nps.gov/bibe/) and [www.nps.gov/gumo/](http://www.nps.gov/gumo/) for more details. Better yet, head directly to the parks.

The East Texas Tourism Association offers information about fall foliage on its Web site, [www.easttexasguide.com](http://www.easttexasguide.com), or call 903/757-4444.

For more information on the national forests in Texas, go to [www.fs.fed.us/r8/texas](http://www.fs.fed.us/r8/texas). (Our front cover photo was taken at Ratcliff Lake, in the Davy Crockett National Forest, about 20 miles east of Crockett.)

FRIDAY+SATURDAY+SUNDAY

FALL WEEKENDS IN TEXAS = FOOTBALL

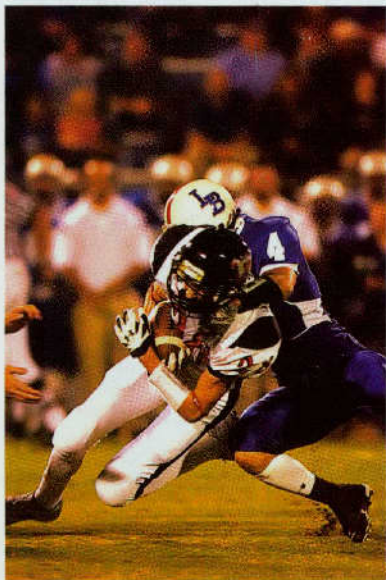
**F**ROM FRIDAY NIGHT LIGHTS (the milieu, the best-selling book, the Hollywood movie, and the critically acclaimed TV show) to college football Saturdays to NFL Sundays, *millions* of Texans participate in the ongoing statewide pigskin party every fall weekend. Players, coaches, and fans are all invested. Cheerleaders, marching bands, mascots, baton twirlers, referees, concessionaires, alumni, turnstile ticket takers, tailgaters, townsfolk, sports bars, and media add to the drama. The pulse of an entire community responds rhythmically to the home team's fortunes—favorable or falling. Crazy? Cultural calling? Compulsive obsession? Religious fervor? All of the above—each and every facet a colorful, fun, exciting, and essential part of life in the Lone Star State. Sure, other states take great pride in their football, but there's no question that Texans long ago perfected the gridiron paradigm. The game's skill, art, science, time, effort, passion, and creative imagination run deeper than a subterranean gas well or oil field. Every aspect is so much a part of our fabric, you couldn't take it away, any more than you could part with your favorite pair of jeans, that burnt orange Longhorns jersey, or comfortably timeworn maroon Aggies ball cap.

PHOTOGRAPHS BY KEVIN VANDIVIER



FRIDAY: LAMPASAS HIGH VS LAKE TRAVIS HIGH  
AT BADGER FIELD, LAMPASAS

LAKE TRAVIS 44, LAMPASAS 13



**A**DMIT IT, many times the road trips to and from the stadium are as memorable as the games themselves, and that, my friends, is where *Texas Highways* has always been happy to oblige with decades of countless travel tips. From Jacksonville's Tomato Bowl in East Texas to UTEP's Sun Bowl in El Paso; San Antonio's Alamo-dome to Kimbrough Memorial in Canyon—Texas football rules with an abundance of jewels. Overtime or blowout—Piney Woods, Panhandle Plains, Gulf Coast, Metroplex, or Rio Grande Valley—the games are live, real, and unscripted. Unless you're talking about a bravura stage performance, theater rarely gets better than this. Photo editor Kevin Vandivier went looking for the essence of our popular pastime one weekend last autumn at a Lampasas-Lake Travis high school game; a Texas A&M-Missouri Big 12 Conference showdown in College Station; and a Dallas Cowboys-Houston Texans matchup at Texas Stadium in Irving. His mission: to capture a slice of the Friday-Saturday-Sunday holy trinity of Texas prep, collegiate, and NFL *mise en scène*. You'll enjoy Kevin's insightful journey and long touchdown drive into the heart and soul of our state's most beloved preoccupation. Don't risk a penalty flag. Pack up the thermos and RayBans, put on those team colors, and join the crowd. Win or lose, you gotta love it. It's a Texas thang. MARTY LANGE





SATURDAY: TEXAS A&M VS MISSOURI  
AT KYLE FIELD, COLLEGE STATION  
TEXAS A&M 25, MISSOURI 19



© SHANNON VANDWIJER

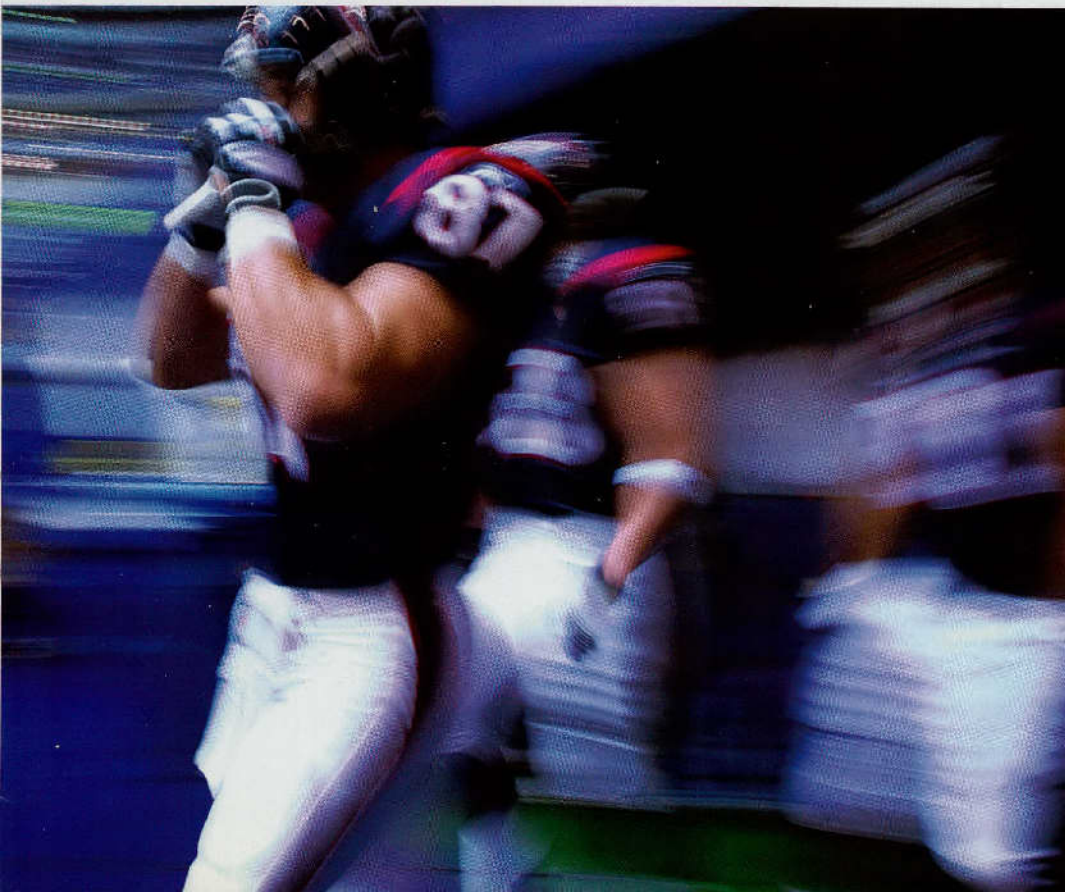
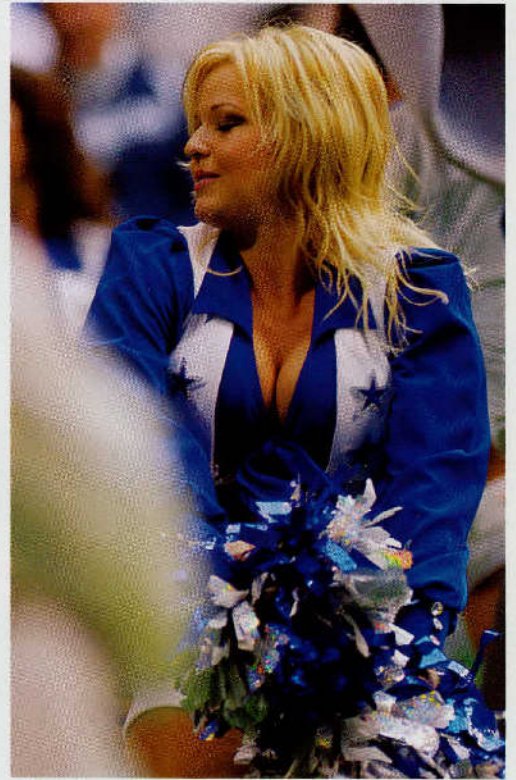







SUNDAY: DALLAS COWBOYS VS HOUSTON TEXANS  
AT TEXAS STADIUM, IRVING  
COWBOYS 34, TEXANS 6





Images from photography editor KEVIN VANDIVIER's latest book, *Smokin' Hot—A Texas High School Football Story*, and other examples of his work can be found at [www.kevinv.com](http://www.kevinv.com).



# WHOOOP-DE



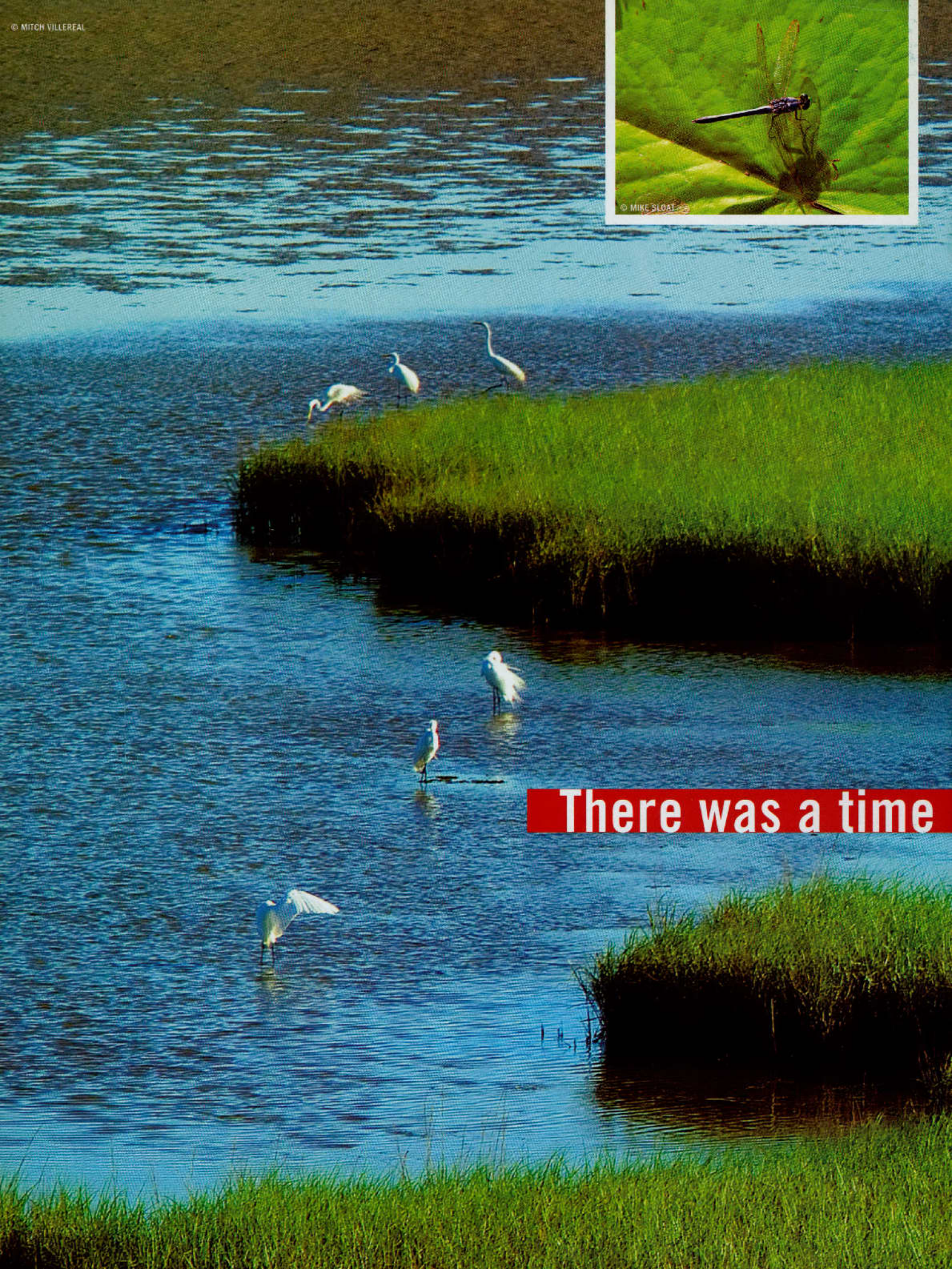
# -DO!

By Kathleen Kaska

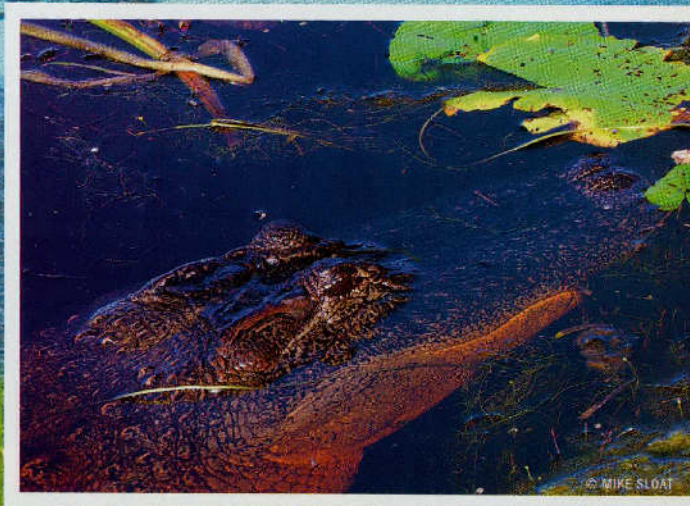
## Aransas National Wildlife Refuge TURNS 70



Whooping cranes begin arriving in mid-October at Aransas National Wildlife Refuge, where they'll stay until April. Here, an adult crane (marked by its red crown and face) lands with a juvenile.



**There was a time**



**when exploring the Texas coast meant having to**

dodge a few mammoths, as well as species of bears, lions, or even camels. Although those Ice Age mammals have long been extinct, you can still share the land with one diehard critter who survived the Pleistocene Epoch.



The 115,915-acre refuge includes salt marshes, ponds, and sloughs, all teeming with food for shorebirds and other wildlife, from dragonflies to alligators. [LEFT] An American bittern takes its bearings before returning to its marine smorgasbord.



© GREG LASLEY

Each time I visit the refuge,



© GREG LASLEY



© MIKE SLOAT





**I feel as if I have stepped back thousands of years.**

Virtually unchanged, the American alligator has managed to hang on to its ever-changing habitat—the 115,915-acre Aransas National Wildlife Refuge (ANWR) near Austwell. That short, squatty, meaner-than-heck javelina has been here almost as long. One of the greatest surprises is that the whooping crane also shares this habitat.

Each time I visit the refuge, I feel as if I have stepped back thousands of years. Hiking on Heron Flats Trail, surrounded by the melodious sounds of birds greeting the morning and tall grasses ruffling in the breeze, I get an eerie, but serene, feeling. Seeing the beauty of this untouched coastal area, I am reminded there is no place on earth I'd rather be.

The five-foot-tall endangered whooping cranes must feel that same attraction. Their ancestors began migrating here more than 10,000 years ago from what is now designated Wood Buffalo National Park in Canada. The cranes still call this stretch

of Texas coast their winter home, thanks in part to Franklin D. Roosevelt, who in 1937 proclaimed more than 47,261 acres of coastline between Copano and San Antonio bays—otherwise known as the Blackjack Peninsula—as protected land for migratory birds. Originally called the Aransas Migratory Waterfowl Refuge, and renamed in 1939, the refuge has been expanded several times; the ANWR complex now includes five units: the original Aransas unit, Tatton (1968), Matagorda Island (1971), Myrtle Foester-Whitmire (1993), and Lamar (1993).

It may seem as if not much happens on this quiet, brackish tidal marsh. Live oak, bushy bluestem, and Indian blanket grow in abundance, and more than 400 bird species flourish here. Behind the scenes, however, biologists conduct a great deal of work to secure the future of this fragile environment. Don't take my word for it; see for yourself on October 13, when ANWR celebrates

National Wildlife Refuge Week (October 7-13). Outdoor recreation planner Bernice Jackson invites folks to celebrate by participating in several free programs planned for that Saturday. Staff and volunteers specializing in the refuge's natural history will lead a nature walk and interpretive van tours; they'll also assist visitors with bird identification at the observation tower. And the Texas Master Naturalist Group will present the first of seven monthly lectures in its annual Aransas Lecture Series.

### **The Legacy of Robert Porter Allen**

**E**stablishing the refuge seven decades ago was only the beginning. Soon after, Robert Porter Allen (see *Speaking of Texas*, May 2006), ornithologist and director of Audubon Sanctuaries for the National Audubon Society, moved to Texas to study the whooping crane,

[FACING PAGE] A boardwalk near the observation tower shows the tracks of raccoons and a fisherman pulling an ice chest. By day, this is also a good place to see brown pelicans. A bit farther inland, you may spot an armadillo or javelina. [ABOVE] Keep an eye out for whoopers like this hungry fellow.



## More than 400 bird species flourish here.

A family group of whoopers takes off. Whooping cranes mate for life, though they will accept a new mate if the original one dies. [RIGHT] The owners of the 40-foot-long *Skimmer* bill their craft as “the serious birders’ tour boat” and offer special whooping crane tours.

whose numbers had dwindled to 15 by 1941. His observations of the crane’s feeding habits, territorial establishments, and family bonds gave direction to future recovery efforts. When crane numbers dipped again in the early 1950s, Allen conducted the first-ever whooping crane breeding program. He placed a captive crane, Josephine, and a wild crane with an injured wing, Crip, together in a large enclosure on Heron Flats. After a short courtship, the new couple was discovered incubating an egg, and on May 23, 1950, much to the delight of Allen and his team of biologists, a young whooper hatched. His rust-colored plumage earned him the name Rusty. Hope and joy over the success proved short-lived. Three days later, the new parents abandoned the nest. Rusty had vanished; raccoon tracks were discovered near the nest.

Since then, several other programs designed to increase crane numbers in the wild, including substituting sandhill cranes

as foster parents, have proven unsuccessful. Allen wrote in one of his books, *On the Trail of Vanishing Birds* (1957), “In their continuing ability to return [to Aransas] each fall with young lies the whooping crane’s only real hope of survival.”

### The Work Continues

Today biologists working at the refuge have reason to celebrate. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service’s national whooping crane coordinator, Tom Stehn, has worked at ANWR since 1982, overseeing the welfare of the cranes while they winter in Texas. Once the flock begins arriving from Canada in mid-October, Tom conducts weekly flights over the refuge to determine the size and condition of the current population. He documents arrival times, counts the number of mated pairs and juveniles, maps their territory, and

notes their distribution and mortality rates.

In 2004, the population reached 200 for the first time, having doubled since 1987. Last winter, 45 juvenile cranes arrived on the refuge, bringing the Wood Buffalo/Aransas flock numbers to 237. Thanks to the reintroduction of nonmigratory whooping cranes in Florida, as well as a migratory flock between Wisconsin and Florida, the total number of wild cranes in the world has climbed to 335. (One aspect of the migratory reintroduction program—Operation Migration—involves cranes raised in captivity learning to migrate by following an ultralight aircraft. The group’s initial work with Canada geese inspired the 1996 movie *Fly Away Home*.)



© GREG LASLEY

## A Helping Hand

**M**onitoring the cranes and protecting their habitat is only part of ensuring the birds' survival. Being at the top of the food chain is a precarious place to be if that chain is broken. The Estuary Project, run by Texas A&M University's Doug Slack and his team of professors and graduate students, is studying the effects of freshwater inflows on blue crab, the main food of the whooping crane. "There's a negative correlation between blue crab availability and adult whooping crane mortality," explains Tom Stehn. "When blue crabs are scarce, more cranes disappear [die] during the winter." Since the project began in 2003, researchers have found that new challenges have arisen. Rising sea levels will make much of the existing salt marsh too deep for the cranes to use, forcing the birds to seek shallower areas.

## The Education Factor

**A**s with any effort to save the ecosystem, education is foremost. Tonya Stinson, an environmental education specialist at ANWR, is proud of the myriad classes offered to schoolchildren and adults throughout the year. "We offer 14 programs, seven at Aransas and seven at



The searchers. A tourist on the ANWR observation tower watches for wildlife, while a great blue heron nearby scans the horizon (sans telescope), looking for its next meal.

## essentials ARANSAS NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE

**THE ARANSAS National Wildlife Refuge (ANWR) complex** lies southeast of Tivoli and northeast of Rockport along Texas 35 and includes 5 units: Aransas, Tatton, Matagorda Island, Myrtle Foester-Whitmire, and Lamar.

On Sat., Oct. 13, ANWR marks National Wildlife Refuge Week (Oct. 7-13) with several free programs, including a nature walk, interpretive van tours, and help with bird identification.

To reach the visitor center (in the Aransas unit) from Tivoli, go south on Texas 35 for 1 mile, and take FM 239 to Austwell, where FM 239 turns into FM 774. Continue on FM 774, and take a right at the stop sign. Go to the end of the street, take a right, and go to the FM 2040 intersection. Go left on FM 2040 for 6 miles to the refuge.

The visitor center opens daily 8:30-4:30 except Thanksgiving and Christmas Day. The refuge tour loop opens daily 1/2 hour before sunrise and closes 1/2 hour after sunset. Entrance fee: \$3-\$5. Call 361/286-3559; [www.fsw.gov/southwest/REFUGES/texas/aransas](http://www.fsw.gov/southwest/REFUGES/texas/aransas).

### ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION

The ANWR offers a number of environmental education courses for both kids and adults, ranging from identifying native birds to making plaster casts of animal tracks. To register and receive a complete list of classes, call or visit the Web site.

### WHOOPING CRANE BOAT TOURS

**The Wharf Cat** offers tours (\$20-\$35 per person) from Rockport Wed-Sun at 10 a.m. (320 Navigation Circle, Rockport; 800/782-2473), and from Port Aransas Tue at 10 a.m. (900 N. Tarpon, Port Aransas; 800/605-5448). Visit [www.texaswhoopers.com](http://www.texaswhoopers.com) for details.

**The Skimmer** offers tours (\$40-\$45 per person) daily at 7:30 a.m. and 1 p.m. 202 N. Fulton Beach Rd., Fulton; 877/892-4737; [www.rockportadventures.com](http://www.rockportadventures.com).

**Aransas Bay Birding Charters** provides tours from Sea Gun Marina. Half-day \$300, full day \$400. Maximum 6 per boat. 5810 Texas 35 North, Rockport; 361/790-3746; [www.texasbirdingcentral.com](http://www.texasbirdingcentral.com). Call ahead to schedule a trip.

### OTHER ACTIVITIES

**Picnicking:** Tables and grills overlooking San Antonio Bay are located 1 mile from the visitor center.

**Fishing:** Apr. 15-Oct. 15 (when the cranes are not in residence).

**Alligator viewing:** Near the picnic area at Thomas Slough.

**Hiking:** Trails ranging from one-tenth of a mile to about one-and-a-half miles.

**Biking:** Bring your own bike, and try the 16-mile paved tour loop.



the Matagorda site. We've just added a new environmental education class called Stewards of the Bay, which will give students the opportunity to be biologists for a day," explains Tonya. "Groups will collect water samples, test the water quality, and conduct minnow-trap counts of the estuary." The curricula also includes lessons on biodiversity, fish and wildlife management, reading of range maps, and use of field guides. All the classes are free, but they fill up fast, so register three to five weeks in advance.

If a class isn't possible, consider the self-guided 16-mile auto tour or one of the many walking tours. Stop by the Claude F. Lard Visitor Center, and pick up a map.

Knowledgeable volunteers are eager to talk birds. From the 40-foot observation tower, near Hog Lake, you can view the Mustang Lake family of whoopers through a telescope. Keep your eyes peeled also for roseate spoonbills, blue herons, snowy egrets, and a plethora of shore birds.

Make a date to see the cranes, and spend a day at the refuge. Take a whiff of wild verbena, and tune your ears to the sound of bugling birds. See if the experience doesn't touch the very depths of your soul. ★

Longtime birder KATHLEEN KASKA visits Aransas National Wildlife Refuge often to see the whooping cranes, an experience that never fails to leave her breathless.

*Where the buffalo*

*Snyder* CELEBRATES ITS STORIED PAST OF

BY HELEN BRYANT

PHOTOGRAPHS BY JOEL SALCIDO

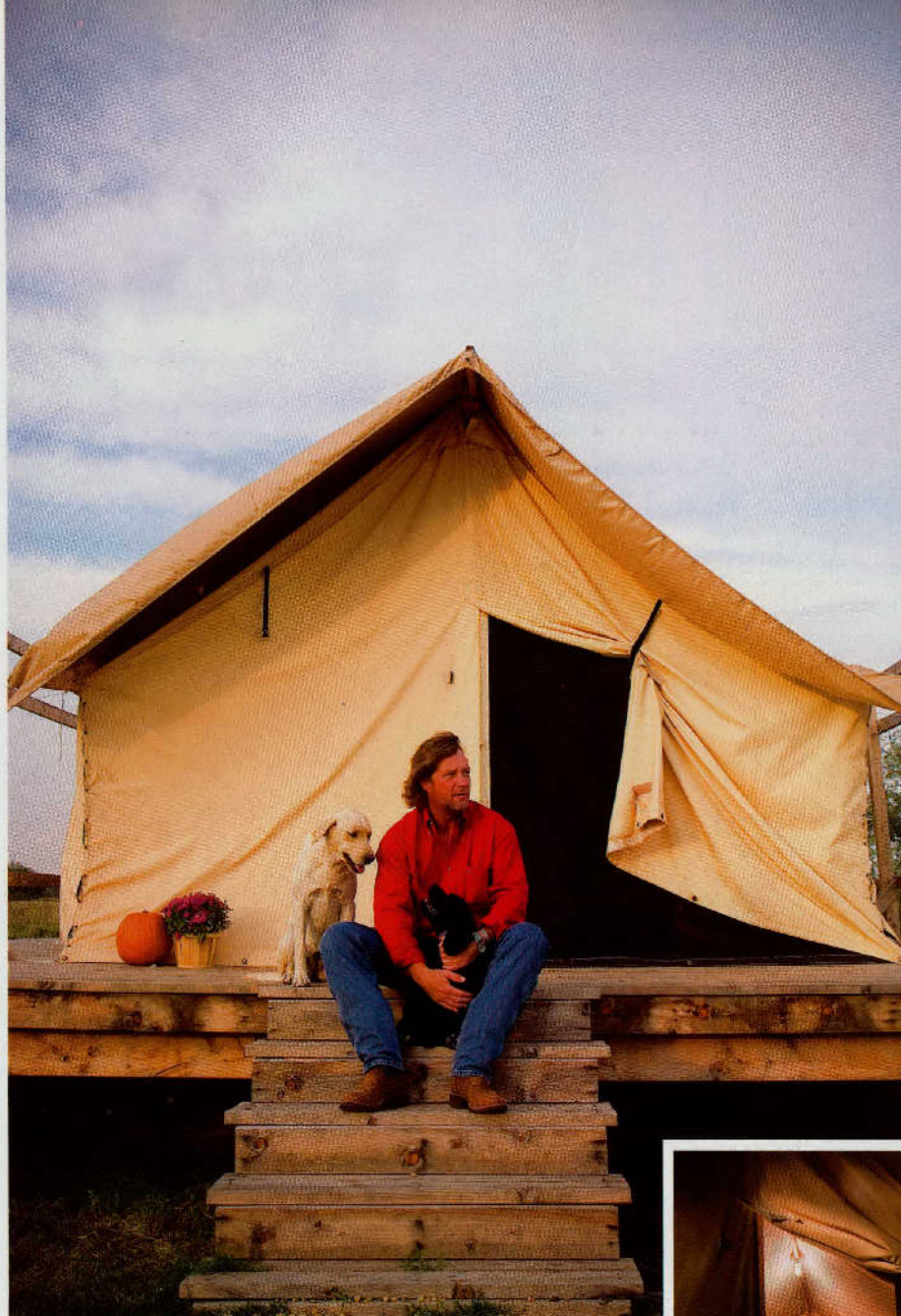
# roamed



## **BUFFALO ONCE THUNDERED ACROSS THESE**

grassy plains northwest of Abilene—vast herds, sometimes a mile wide. It was a natural place for Pete Snyder, a Pennsylvania-born gold miner who'd taken up with Texas buffalo hunters, to set up a trading post in 1878. He sold equipment to the hunters and helped them ship their hides. Everyone called it Hide Town. A village sprang up around the post, and when the town incorporated in 1907, it took Snyder's name. Since that time, Snyder has been—with the exception of a few frantic oil boom years in the late 1940s—a farming and ranching town, quiet and peaceful.

**HIDES, COWBOYS, AND OIL**



**"IT TAKES THREE OR FOUR NIGHTS TO KNOCK** the city off you," Bill Robertson said on one warm afternoon, gazing at the sun settling low in the sky. It was with the idea of knocking the city off people that Bill and his mother, Marianne Randals, opened a collection of cabins and tents called Windmill Ranch Preserve on Snyder's outskirts last year. Snyder has a number of motels for visitors, but Bill and Marianne's place is Snyder's first foray into nature tourism. It's step one in the family's plan to help revitalize Snyder. Bill and Marianne are on the verge of opening a cafe and hotel in the town square,

[PREVIOUS SPREAD] A cozy glow beckons from the tents of Windmill Ranch Preserve, where adventurous guests enjoy a luxe rustic lodging experience. [ABOVE] Today's visitors can enjoy the open skies and prairie vistas from the tent's porch. Here, Bill Robertson takes in the view with a little help from his dogs Lola and Curly. [INSET] When the evening settles in, it's time to retreat into a walled tent's snug comfort.



and they eventually want to help restore other downtown buildings and fill them with shops, restaurants, and galleries.

They have a long way to go. Right now, the courthouse square consists of mostly vacant storefronts and a probation office ringing a courthouse that was encased in somber granite during the oil boom.

There are signs of life, though. Furniture is being placed inside one of the storefronts, where Marianne and Bill will soon open a cafe. Next to it, they're renovating the Manhattan Hotel. And down the street, an art-deco theater called the Ritz occasionally houses live local productions.

To see what the town looked like at the turn of the 20th Century, visit the Scurry County Museum on the campus of Western Texas College. It offers first-rate dioramas and installations such as an early 1900s post office, a pre-1931 bank office, and a circa-1890 board-and-strip house. (So called because strips were placed over gaps in boards in a losing battle to keep dust out.) Another exhibit tells the story of Snyder's oil boom, which ran from 1948 to 1951 and drew attention from investors across the nation.

Another display tells of a Snyder man





who in 1907 invented the first inter-city public transport—a wagon with a motor that presaged the first bus. He wrote to the U.S. government, which responded with a letter calling his idea “the idle dream of the feeble-minded.”

For more history, park downtown (it's free) and read the city's historical markers. One next to the courthouse tells how Hide Town's first sheriff, Billy Nelson, elected in 1884, authorized the first jail, then resigned after six months because the cowboys were out of hand. His successor, T.J. Faught, took office

## *Signs* of revitalized life in Snyder include the luxe yet rustic Windmill Ranch Preserve and the art-deco Ritz Theater.

in 1885 and famously used a pool cue for enforcement. It must've worked; he stayed sheriff until 1892.

At the northwestern edge of the courthouse square stands another marker next to a statue of a white buffalo. The buffalo, killed near Snyder in 1876 by local buffalo hunter J. Wright Mooar, has to this point been the focal point of Snyder's identity and its annual celebration known as White Buffalo Days.

White Buffalo Days, a festival on the courthouse square, and the related White Buffalo Bikefest at the nearby Scurry County Coliseum, brought in about 10,000 people last year. This year, the 26th White Buffalo Days—a week of food, crafts, a 5K run, and

music—will take place October 1-7, with the bike fest running on the last two days, complete with a Grand Funk Railroad and Lee Roy Parnell concert on Saturday night.

The hide from which the fest takes its name, though yellowed, still hangs behind glass on the wall of Mooar's granddaughter Judy Hayes' home in Snyder. Judy remembers the days when she was a child and her grandfather would tell a room full of rapt visitors how he'd shot the rare albino not far from where Judy's house now sits.

“He was camped out about where my

[ABOVE CENTER] The iconic image of the windmill against a blue Texas sky defines the Windmill Ranch Preserve's prairie setting. [ABOVE] An art-deco reminder of the last century, Snyder's revitalized Ritz Theater now presents occasional community theater performances.

# Jessie Jane's, in nearby Justiceburg, is a family-style saloon in a former 1902 post office.



barn is. Somebody came down and said there was a white buffalo, and he went and got his gun and he killed him," Judy recalled. "Of course, you weren't supposed to kill a white buffalo."

According to tribal lore, white buffalo were sacred. But Mooar was a buffalo hunter by trade, so he didn't understand the cultural significance of his actions.

"I feel bad about it, really; I feel bad about the Indians," Judy said, referring to the destruction of the nomadic plains tribes' way of life when the buffalo were slaughtered.

Judy's home isn't far from Bill and Marianne's Windmill Ranch Preserve, built on 1,000 acres the family has long owned west of town. At the Windmill, you can overnight in one of two cabins—Big House or Lil House—or opt for one of three tents. But forget the idea of primitive tent camping; this isn't roughing it. Both the cabins and tents have full bathrooms and cushy beds with top-of-the-line linens.

They're cooled in the summer with either air conditioners or evaporative coolers, and in winter they're heated by pot-bellied stoves. The stove pipes rattle in the stiff winds of the plains, and the tents flap. Rain falls loudly on both the tents and on the cottages' tin roofs. These sounds lulled me into a nice nap one afternoon in Lil House.

Windmill Ranch is a "preserve" in the sense that it tries to preserve, albeit with modern amenities, the look and feel of early ranch and farm life in Snyder. Marianne and Bill are doing a little farming themselves, planting lavender and grapes.

They also imported prairie dogs and had a village custom-built by a prairie dog expert to contain them—just because they like prairie dogs and thought their guests might enjoy watching them.

Next to a windmill, a huge water tank at Windmill Ranch serves as a swimming pool. The big ranch house has a kitchen, a spacious porch that's ideal for watching the sunset,

[ABOVE LEFT] The night life is the right life at Jessie Jane's. Owners Frank Castro and Jessica Hamilton, along with bartender J.R. Richardson and chef Murray Adams, offer roadhouse food and good times to a family-friendly crowd. [LEFT] You'll see a range of carefully crafted dance outfits, like the one worn by Jeffrey Barker of the Alibates Creek Dancers Group, at the Native American plains-style dances performed during White Buffalo Days.





[ABOVE] Lake Alan Henry, about 30 miles Northwest of Snyder, punctuates the harsh West Texas landscape with cool water—and hides a proven population of lunker bass. [RIGHT] This rare horned creature, aka Harold Green of Big Spring, proves that people-watching is the order of the day at Snyder's White Buffalo Bikefest.



and lots of room for weddings and class reunions, several of which the ranch hosted this summer.

“Our aim was to create something fun,” Bill says. “We want to get some music out here on weekends.”

Bill and Marianne leave hot coffee on your doorstep in the mornings and follow up with a full ranch breakfast. But for other meals, you'll be heading out to local spots such as Mo-Malees Steakhouse for beef, the Ritz Diner for home cooking, and Casa Olivarez for Mexican food.

And then there's Jessie Jane's, 30 minutes north in Justiceburg, near Lake Alan Henry, a reservoir operated by the city of

Lubbock where you can get in some good fishing. (It's one of two local lakes that make good side trips from Snyder. The other, J.B. Thomas Reservoir, is about 20 minutes southwest of the town.)

Jessica “Jessie” Hamilton and Frank Castro opened Jessie Jane's in a 1902 post office, and the small roadhouse—they call it a “family-style saloon”—is usually packed with cooler-bearing locals on Saturday nights, when bands play. It sells no alcohol but plenty of burgers, tacos, and homemade pies.

On our Saturday night visit, we enjoyed juicy burgers and listened to a pickup band of musicians from Lubbock and Austin. During the breaks, locals plopped down at our table to chat until the music started again.

The next morning, over breakfast, Bill and Marianne told us more about their big plans for Snyder. This fall, the two expect to open their Internet cafe on 26th Street, across from the courthouse, selling coffee, beer, and wine.

Next door is the Manhattan Hotel, which Marianne hopes to open next

year. After that, she's hoping to redevelop an old train depot. Then, she hopes to turn her attention to other turn-of-the-century downtown bank and office buildings.

“Snyder's an interesting place, and we have a lot to offer,” Bill muses, adding wishfully, “Why can't we be the next Marfa?” ★

HELEN BRYANT's Gulf Coast Hidden Treasures feature appeared in the September issue.

See photographer JOEL SALCIDO's images of the town of Comfort on the next page.

## essentials SNYDER

**SNYDER** is on U.S. 180, about 70 miles northwest of Abilene. Take US 84 north from Interstate 20, then go west on 180.

**Windmill Ranch Preserve** is at 9180 W. US 180, west of downtown, but the main entrance is off a dirt road, and you'll need to call for directions because it's easy to get lost. 325/573-1200. Call for rates. Includes morning coffee, breakfast, and afternoon wine or beer. Open year round.

**Historical markers**—all around the courthouse square.

**Scurry County Museum** is at 6200 College Ave., on the campus of Western Texas College, 325/573-6107. Admission is free, but donations are accepted.

**Ritz Community Theater** is at 1810 26th St. Check the marquee for productions.

**FOOD Mo-Malees Steakhouse & Grill** is at 1600 25th St., 325/573-1515.

**Ritz Diner** is at 1715 26th St., 325/573-6028

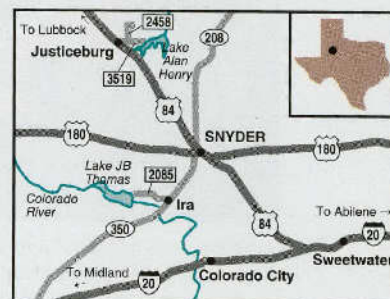
**Casa Olivarez** is at 1510 College Ave., 325/573-3925.

**Jessie Jane's** is on US 84 about 30 miles north of Snyder, near Lake Alan Henry. Hours: Tue-Wed 11 a.m.-2 p.m., Thu-Sat 11 a.m.-midnight. Bring your own beer or wine. Music on Saturday nights and occasional other nights.

**The white buffalo** hide is on private property, but you can learn about its legend at the white buffalo statue on the courthouse square.

**Lake Alan Henry** is on FM 2458, about 30 miles northwest of Snyder. The lake is known for its lunker bass, so take some time to go fishing.

**J.B. Thomas Reservoir** is about 20 miles southwest of Snyder on FM 2085 off Texas 350 South.





[CLOCKWISE FROM TOP] Settled by German Freethinkers in the mid-1850s, Comfort retains much of its original architecture. The 1907 Comfort State Bank Building, one of almost a hundred structures sporting historical markers, now houses the archives of the Comfort Heritage Foundation. At a shop called Sweet Comfort, Nancy Mallow sells her luscious chocolate-dipped strawberries year round. Visit during the Comfort Village Antique Show, held each May and October, and you might discover hidden treasures.



BY MAXINE MAYES  
PHOTOGRAPHS BY JOEL SALCIDO

**S**INCE moving to the Sisterdale area in the Hill Country, I often drive over to Comfort, a town known for its rich history, restored historic district, and antique shops. My route takes me west on FM 473, a scenic road marked with low-water crossings and curves. As I drive, I find myself imagining Comfort's earliest settlers following the same course on horseback or in wagons when they migrated from Sisterdale in 1852. When they first glimpsed this expansive green valley, ringed by distant hills and crisscrossed by the clear waters of Cypress Creek and the Guadalupe River, they must have been

euphoric. Massive cypress trees lining the banks promised ample lumber for building, and the fertile bottomland stretching beyond meant good crops.

These pioneers were German Free-thinkers, intellectual, classically educated people who had left their native land to escape the religious and political ideologies forced upon them by the state. The Freethinkers placed strong emphasis on education, reason, and self-reliance.

Legend has it that these founding fathers considered naming their new settlement *Gemütlichkeit*. Hard to pronounce and harder still to translate into English, the word encompasses qualities of tran-

**LEGEND HAS IT**  
that these founding fathers considered naming their new settlement *Gemütlichkeit*. Hard to pronounce and harder still to translate into English.



**COMFORT'S FIRST** families built residences and businesses ranging from small cypress cabins to ornate two-story structures of limestone. The vibrant community life included singing societies, literature clubs, coffee klatsches, and dances.

quility, coziness, comfort, a sense of belonging, and an atmosphere in which community is celebrated. Ernst Altgelt and his survey crew had similar feelings when they arrived on the scene to plat the town in the summer of 1854. Hot, tired, and dusty after traveling by wagon from San Antonio, they camped on the bank of Cypress Creek, dubbing the place Camp Comfort. In the end, the town, which has never been incorporated, became known simply as Comfort.

From the mid-1800s through the early 20th Century, those pioneering families built residences and businesses ranging from small cypress cabins to ornate two-story structures of limestone. And they established a vibrant community life that included singing societies, literature clubs, coffee klatsches, and dances.

A desire to preserve and honor the Free-thinkers' architectural and cultural legacy gave birth to the Comfort Heritage Foundation in 1980, inspiring a surge of restoration efforts. Now, the Comfort Historic District, listed in the National Registry of Historic Places, comprises more than 100 19th-Century structures. Among them



Jan Warren specializes in hand-carved Santas and Halloween figures at The Heart Cottage. In October, scarecrows draw extra attention to the Comfort Chamber of Commerce building, where you can pick up a map and information.

is the Treue Der Union (Loyalty to the Union) Monument, which honors the memory of 68 Union sympathizers who were killed by Confederate soldiers in 1862.





**T**ODAY, visitors come to Comfort seeking their own version of *Gemütlichkeit*, be it a weekend of leisurely shopping and dining, an escape to a welcoming bed and breakfast, partying with the locals, or participating in one of the town's many festivals.

Last October, I joined the crowds checking out the goods at the Comfort Village Antique Show, where more than 50 dealers sell everything from butter molds and handmade mousetraps to a 12-foot French harvest table made of poplar. Vendor Linda Wilder showcased an array of wire kitchen utensils, including Flemish *Vla* (pie) racks, and told me how they originated with gypsy tinkers in Europe in the 1800s. I questioned vendor Gary Bruce about a pincushion wearing a \$795 price tag. "It's a Civil War-era bread-and-butter bank," he explained. "Underneath the cushioned fabric top is storage for thread. But, if you turn the box over, you'll find a secret compartment for hiding money or jewelry." At Mason and Yvonne Romans' space, plump quilted pumpkins piled in an old goat cart caught my eye. "They're made from vintage quilts," said Yvonne. "Just in time for Halloween," I thought, picturing a pair on my mantle.

Great finds are routine for those who



browse Comfort's antique and specialty shops. Hand-carved Santas and Halloween figures, bottle stoppers from vintage doorknobs, gourmet condiments, and exquisite pottery capture the eclectic flavor of The Heart Cottage. The heavenly aromas of baking brownies and simmering toffee permeate a shop called Sweet Comfort, where see-through bins show off treats like gummies and chocolate malt balls, and glass cases display truf-

fles and chocolate-dipped strawberries. Trendy fashions and traditional root beer floats room together at The Closet at the Soda Shoppe, housed in a 1854 building that was Comfort's first drugstore. A legacy of vintage materials led Cherri Broyles to begin sewing purses, pillows, and other accessories, which she now sells at Finders Keepers. "My mom had closets full of fabric, threads, trims, and buttons," says Cherri. "I put it all to good use." The shop also caters to canines with hand-sewn bandanas and outfits to fit all breeds, from a two-pound Chihuahua to an 80-pound Boxer.

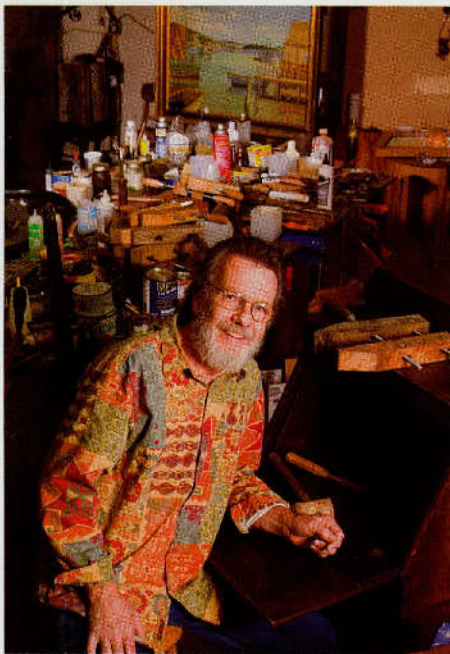
Speaking of dogs, pugs Molly and Hudson are the official greeters at Karen Frias' Blackbird Antiques. When not fulfilling their duties, the dogs "go to



[FROM FACING PAGE, TOP] You'll find everything from antique quilts and hutches to wrought-iron trellises and vintage signs at the Comfort Village Antique Show, held twice annually. At the May show, members of the San Antonio Classic Thunderbird club showed off their cars at the chamber of commerce. It's not all about antiques; homemade jams, jellies, pickles, and salsas await happy homes, too.

DURING OCTOBER'S Scarecrow Invasion, scarecrow scenes enliven businesses and homes throughout town.





Ted Morris offers antique furniture, artwork, and collectibles at the Downright Texas Shop (830/995-4550). [FACING PAGE] "Scarecrow Hayride," a display designed by shopkeepers at neighboring stores Highbrow & Hicks (995-4192) and Bygone Days (995-3003), won first prize during the 2006 Scarecrow Invasion.

their room," a space behind the check-out counter where they sleep on a pint-size iron bed, once an antique salesman's sample. Karen's shop specializes in oak furniture from 1890-1910, and features pieces like a zinc-topped painted baker's cabinet, or a stepstool made of wooden thread spools.

Next door, High's serves fresh soups, salads, and sandwiches at street-side patio tables. (The meatloaf sandwich is fabulous!) Or try the juicy burger on a Kaiser roll at 814, A Texas Bistro, across the street. The bistro, with its red brick and limestone exterior, occupies the former post office, which was designed by renowned English architect Alfred Giles.

Giles also designed a number of other prominent Comfort properties, including the Ingenhuett-Faust Hotel (now The Comfort Common, a historic inn), and the 1880 Ingenhuett Store, which was destroyed by fire in March of 2005.

Though only a shell of the Ingenhuett Store remains, domino enthusiasts still congregate in front of it on Friday evenings as they've done for eleven years. A few worn-out tables and a sign reading "No parking in the domino parlor...

by order of the Law West of the Guadalupe" mark the spot for this laid-back scenario.

Comfort's many accommodations include Fred and April Langston's charming Cozy Cottage, originally the smokehouse and laundry of their home, which dates to 1897. Western artifacts, including a framed page from a pre-Civil War edition of *Harper's Weekly*, complement the cedar and cypress interior of the cabin.

Across town, John and Mary Straley offer lodging at their Holekamp House Bed and Breakfast, a 1910 Arts and Crafts home with gleaming wood floors and many interesting architectural details. (Note the wide front door flanked by pairs of smaller doors; the latter were probably used for ventilation.) Guests rave about Mary's cooking, especially her popular "Pears On A Pillow" (pears baked with walnuts, brown sugar, Craisins, and butter, drizzled with brandy and served warm atop a dollop of whipped cream).

"John and Mary make you feel like you're visiting old friends," says regular guest Diana Logan. "My husband and I come to Comfort the weekend after Thanksgiving to escape the traffic and craziness of the busiest shopping day of the year." They shop at the street fair and "bundle up and sip hot chocolate" during the lighted night parade that welcomes the Christmas season.

Visit in the fall or winter, and chances are good you'll encounter one of Comfort's many cool-weather festivals. During October's Scarecrow Invasion, businesses and residences display scarecrow scenes in a friendly competition. (I liked the yard full of scarecrow children, one balancing a hula-hoop, one on a tricycle, and one standing

## essentials COMFORT

**COMFORT** is in Kendall County, about 40 miles northwest of San Antonio. For general information about lodging, dining, attractions, and events, visit or call the **Comfort Chamber of Commerce**, 630 TX 27; 830/995-3131; [www.comfortchamberofcommerce.com](http://www.comfortchamberofcommerce.com). The area code is 830.

### LODGING

**Cozy Cottage Bed & Breakfast**, 413 Seventh St., 866/427-8374.

**Holekamp House Bed and Breakfast**, 610 Second St., 877/859-9946; [www.holekamphouse.com](http://www.holekamphouse.com).

**Comfort Common**, 717 High St., 830/995-3030.

### DINING

**High's**, 726 High St., 995-4995. Closed Wed.

**814, A Texas Bistro**, 713 High St., 995-4990. Closed Mon-Tue.

### SHOPPING

**The Heart Cottage**, 510-A Seventh St., 995-5660; [www.theheartcottage.com](http://www.theheartcottage.com). Closed Mon.

**Sweet Comfort**, 704-B High St., 995-3559. Closed Mon.

**Finders Keepers**, 409 Seventh St., 995-5111. Closed Sun-Mon.

**Blackbird Antiques**, 728 High St., 995-2550. Closed Mon.

**The Closet at the Soda Shoppe**, 705 High St., 995-5022.

### EVENTS

Contact the Chamber of Commerce for specifics about the 21st annual **Comfort Village Antique Show** (Oct. 20-21 and again in May), **Scarecrow Invasion** (Oct. 15-31), **Fall Market Day & Gospel Fest** (Oct. 27), **Girls Night Out** (Nov. 13), and **Christmas In Comfort** (Nov. 24).



on his head.) At Fall Market Day & Gospel Fest in October, folks peruse the jumble of arts and crafts while spirited harmonies fill the air. And in November, merchants host Girls Night Out, an extravaganza of shopping, entertainment, good eats, and door prizes in a town already aglow with Christmas lighting.

So, come to Comfort and choose your own euphoria. When you do, consider my interpretation of *Gemütlichkeit*: Check your worries at the city limits, chill out, and kick back. ★

Photographer JOEL SAI-CIDO has shot images throughout Texas, Mexico, and Spain. See more of his work at [www.joelsalcido.com](http://www.joelsalcido.com).

Writer MAXINE MAYES says that visitors to Comfort can "shop until they drop...right into a backyard hammock or a front-porch swing."



Story and photographs by  
Randy Mallory

“**K**aum zu glauben” (hard to believe), the old German-Texans who grew up in Round Top must say each fall and spring. That’s when thousands of buyers and sellers of antiques, decorative arts, and collectibles visit these bucolic prairies for a spending spree known as Antiques Week.

The quaint burg of Round Top is the epicenter of this “Holy Grail” of Texas antiques shows. Yet six surrounding communities (Warrenton, Carmine, Shelby, Oldenburg, Fayetteville, and Burton...plus roadways in between) also attract folks both nationally and internationally. Last fall, I “oohed” and “aahed” along with savvy shoppers who prospected the area like gold miners digging for the mother lode.

English hutches, French linens, and Oriental rugs. Hand-stitched quilts and painted porcelain, wagon-wheel couches and pine-top tables.

Folk art, pop art, lamplights, and daguerreotypes. Postcards, bread boxes, buttons. Rare toys, duck decoys, carousel horses, cowhorn chairs. Depression glass, stained glass, art glass, mirrors. Transferware, wireware, enamelware, vintage clothes to wear.

Antiques dealer Scott Filar summed up the scene: “These objects were saved by someone and have withstood the test of time. They embody an honest purity that soulful people find compelling.”

This year the soulful celebration turns 40. So I began my homage by meeting the person who started the Round Top phenomenon, Emma Lee Turney. I found Emma busily helping artisans at her Round Top Folk Art Fair and Creative Market, located on Texas 237 across from Festival Hill (home of art, literature, and music events), where talented woodcarvers, tinsmiths, furniture makers, and painters showed one-of-a-kind works.

“I love working, and I love beautiful things, so this is the perfect life for me,” says Emma, who started the fair in 1968. She was then among a growing group of Houstonians restoring local mid-19th-Century farmhouses as weekend retreats.

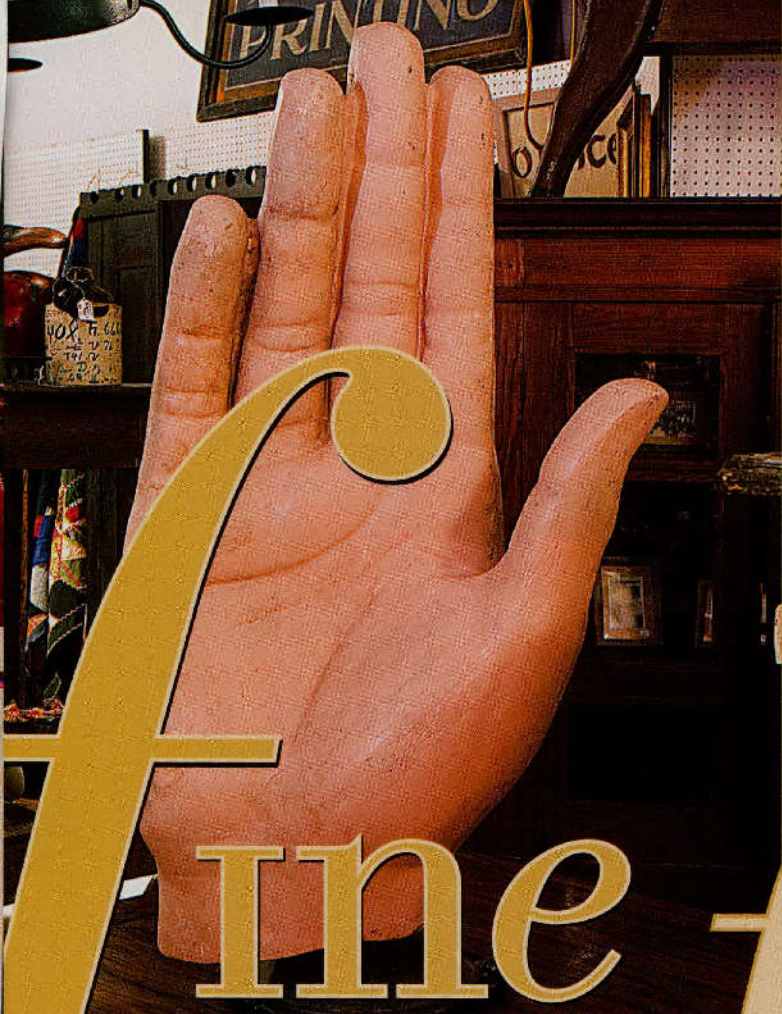
Leading the restoration wave were Houston socialites and collectors Ima Hogg, Faith Bybee, and Hazel Ledbetter. “Wherever these women went, the collecting public wanted to be,” Emma recalls. “Hazel Ledbetter asked me to start an antiques show, and the rest, as they say, is history.”

Emma’s first fair filled Round Top’s Rifle Hall with 22 dealers, and it drew rave



[FROM TOP] During Antiques Week, treasures abound in Round Top and surrounds, from DeVilbiss perfume bottles and Steuben glass at Richard Bell’s booth at Carmine Dance Hall, to broom-head folk art by S.D. Meadows at the Round Top Folk Art Fair. [FACING PAGE] You’ve gotta “hand” it to the dealers here, whose eclectic offerings include quirky art, colorful glassware, medical items, and even an old carnival game wheel.

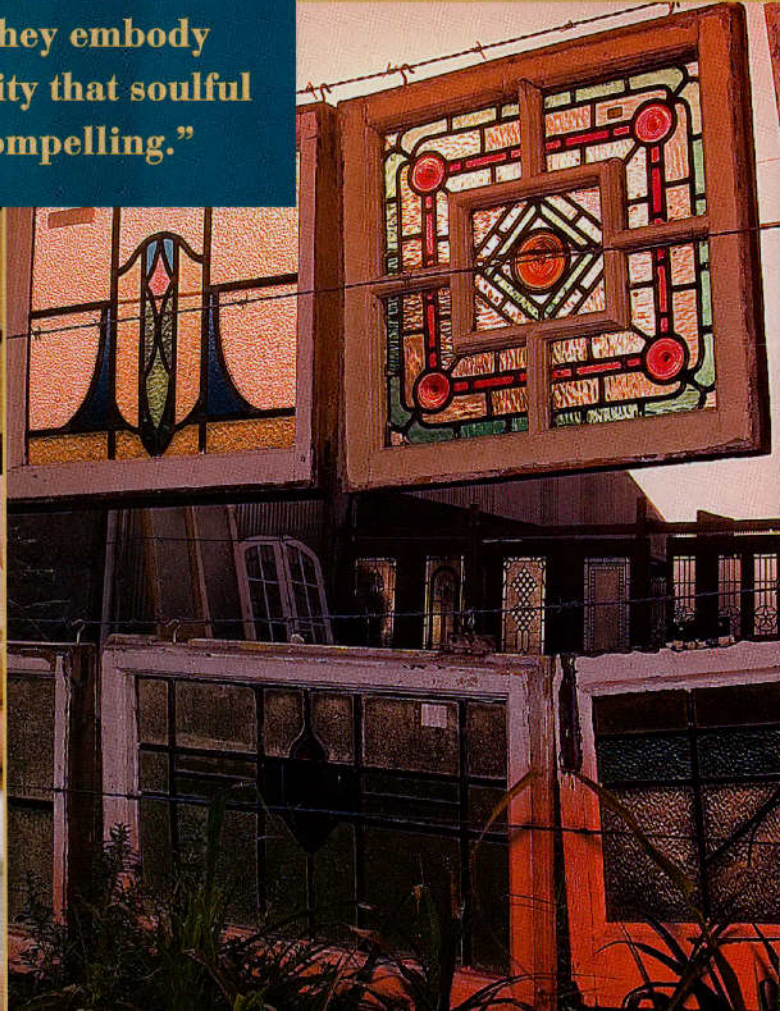




# Fine finds



*“These objects were saved by someone and have withstood the test of time. They embody an honest purity that soulful people find compelling.”*



## ANTIQUES WEEK PRIMER: GOOD BUYS



Brenda Hengst displays a Fifties-era Hopalong Cassidy costume mounted on posterboard with a photo of its original owner wearing it.

Getting the big picture can help with the planning of a trip to Antiques Week. Generally held the first full weekend of October and April, the event runs typically eight to 12 days. It's comprised of hundreds of individually owned sales venues scattered within a 20-mile radius of Round Top. Some shows run three or four days, while others are daily.

Sixty or so large shows (with 100 to 400 dealers each) offer antiques and collectibles in historic structures, circus-size tents, and large climate-controlled buildings. Dozens of smaller shows feature collectibles displayed in permanent structures or outdoor markets. Many flea-market style "fields" cover cow pastures with everything from antiques to handmade crafts to chic junk. Dealers typically accept credit cards, personal checks, and cash.

ATMs are available. Most venues have restrooms, food and beverages, and parking.

Buyers with moxie arrive with a game plan. Reserve lodging early. Local and area motels and bed and breakfasts often book up weeks or months in advance. The chamber Web site ([www.roundtop.org](http://www.roundtop.org)) matches lodging requests with availabilities. The site also links to member sites with helpful information about shows and dealers.

Arrive early on opening day. Good buys go quickly, though bargains can be had on

closing day as well. Ask for the "best price" because many dealers offer discounts. Buy fearlessly. If you must have something, regardless of price, take it on the spot; it may not be there when you return. Don't hesitate to ask questions. Dealers are walking encyclopedias about what they sell.

Plan on lots of walking, so wear comfy shoes and clothing, plus a hat for shade.

reviews along with some 2,000 buyers. To accommodate the influx, she erected a tent behind the hall; she later added another show eight miles away in the old Carmine dance hall, as well as one on Texas 237 in a climate-controlled "big red barn."

As the fair's reputation grew, other promoters opened their own shows, morphing a weekend sale into a county-wide extravaganza.

Two years ago, promoters Bo and Susan Franks of Smithville bought most of Emma's holdings and now operate them collectively as the Original Round Top Antiques Fair. I caught up with Susan on opening day at the Big Red Barn. Inside, sellers made rapid-fire deals during a first-day frenzy, when many of the best pieces change hands. Susan said sophisticated buyers might spend \$100,000 in an hour, but Round Top is also perfect for novice collectors, because dealers are "walking encyclopedias in their areas of expertise."

At his Country Treasures booth, George Meekins educated me on trends. "Thirty years ago, people wanted refinished antiques. Now they want pieces with original character," he says, pointing to a 1780 Pennsylvania cupboard with a blue butter-milk finish. "Look at the cupboard's door. Generations of hands have opened and

closed it, wearing a spot on the corner. People love evidence of the human touch."

Antiques with stories—that's what brings Glenda Beyer of San Antonio and Connie Shockley of Houston to Antiques Week twice annually. I bumped into the duo under the vaulted canvas cover of the Great White Tent Show. "One year I bought a quilt made by a Hispanic woman in Texas in the early 1900s," Glenda says.



Outside the historic La Bahia Dance Hall, Donna Stolpman, of College Station, and Ann Calloway and Patty Peacock, both of Galveston, go quilt crazy. A sign on Patty's van says "Jolly Junker."

Keep an umbrella or poncho handy in case of a sudden shower. Layered attire helps handle changeable weather and makes it easier to try on clothes at dealers' "curtain closets."

Shop like "the players." Go with co-shopping "pickers," others in your group who watch for your "buys" as well as their own. Jot down locations of dealers you like. They often reserve the same spot each show. In six months, there's another Antiques Week, and they may have just what you're looking for.

—RANDY MALLORY

[FACING PAGE, CLOCKWISE FROM TOP LEFT]: Vintage kitchen kitsch awaits a new incarnation. Elizabeth Fagan of Sinton inspects an old Victrola at Nick Dimaio's Deep South Phonographs shop. Angie Corder (with baby Laina) and Leah Martin, all from Tomball, discuss their latest find. Stained-glass windows adorn a wire fence at a shop along Texas 237, a well-traveled stretch during Antiques Week's semiannual shows.



**S**ophisticated buyers might spend \$100,000 in an hour, but Round Top is also perfect for novice collectors, because dealers are “walking encyclopedias in their areas of expertise.”

drew me to the booth of Louisiana phonograph dealer Nick Dimaio, who was demonstrating a vintage Victor Victrola. “The circular part that holds the needle is the reproducer, which vibrates like a human voice-box. The cabinet then acts as a sounding board to project the music. One full winding of the crank lets you play three records,” Nick told customers gathered around a dozen or so phonographs dating from 1895 to 1921 (\$125 to \$7,500).

Next door at Rifle Hall, a century-old African American doll (\$725) caught my eye. Beneath black hair of Karakul fleece, the doll’s hand-painted face seemed wizened by time. I also admired the geometric pattern of a “pine burr” quilt (\$1,600). “This pattern was very popular among African American crafters in the 1920s,” Wim-



berley dealer Jean Compton explained. At the County Line Antiques Show north of Round Top (Texas 237 at Spur

458), I ran across the work of Tony Bell of nearby Washington, who had turned an old bed frame into a hutch, and later discarded it. His wife, Katrina, rescued the piece, and Tony hauled it to his flea-market shop. A woman saw him unloading it and bought it on the spot. Encouraged, Tony began making hand-painted folk-art furniture—such as pie safes and sideboards (\$99 to \$700)—selling them at his shop and at Antiques Week. Katrina sells her own paintings on wood (\$25 to \$300) and painted birdhouses (\$25 to \$75).

Also at County Line, I visited Frenchy’s Café. Joel “Frenchy” Hargus of Austin serves up crepes, panini sandwiches, chicken pesto, and fresh salads from a small trailer. My Greek crepe and fresh-squeezed lemonade exceeded expectations. “I know antiques show clients,” Joel

[AT TOP] Vicki Kreger of Houston sells framed tin ceiling squares on Round Top’s town square. [ABOVE] You can go for the old at the Great White Tent Show at Rifle Hall, where Jean Compton of Wimberley displays antique hats, quilts, and dolls.



[ABOVE] The Hillcrest Inn & Gin Show in Warrenton features 80-plus dealers and a restaurant. [LEFT] While in Round Top, stop by Royer's Round Top Cafe for "contemporary comfort food" and scrumptious pies ([www.royersroundtopcafe.com](http://www.royersroundtopcafe.com)).



says, "and they don't want corny dogs."

A few miles north on Texas 237 at La Bahia Antiques Show, I got another Touch of Europe at a booth of the same name. Inside, Peter Kriele was neck deep in linens and lace. The Dutch-born dealer and his wife, Mimi, sell handmade antique European linens. "These were items made by family members for a bride's trousseau. We buy directly from their descendants," says Peter, surveying a 1930s French bedspread (\$79), a 1920s German tablecloth (\$50), and a 1900 French christening coat (\$125).

Back in Round Top, I met Brenda Hengst, who for the past 35 years has bought and sold Fifties-era kids' costumes (\$150 to \$475) branded by Western stars such as Roy Rogers, Dale Evans, Gene Autry, Annie Oakley, and Hopalong Cassidy. She mounts them on posterboard, along with an associated item—such as a replica of the original box top or a vintage photo of the movie star.

Turns out, the fun capitol of Antiques Week is Warrenton, a wheeling-dealing antiques hot spot on Texas 237, four miles south of Round Top.

The Twilight Tuesday party was well underway as I approached the red-and-white Campbell Building. On the porch, co-owner and dealer Steve Porterfield

and party central. Out on the tree-shaded beer garden, shoppers were tappin' their toes and chompin' on barbecue ribs, smoked sausage, and local restaurateur Bud Royer's famous buttermilk pie. Overlooking the stage, a quieter group reclined on couches, sipping champagne in the Bubble Lounge.

Poised on picnic tables nearby, a particularly pumped clique of six women dressed in identical T-shirts bearing the words "The Roadies" kept the party going. "We're here each show and always dress alike," says Tracy Heller of The Woodlands. "We come for shopping and partying and never bring our husbands. What goes on in Warrenton, stays in Warrenton!"

And what was going on later that night was the Junk-O-Rama Prom at Zapp Hall's Junk Gypsy, an eclectic emporium operated by a livewire trio from College Station—Janie Sikes and her daughters, Amie Sikes and Jolie Sikes-Smith. The Junk Gypsies showcase country kitsch—furniture, clothing, and decor—that's "a little bit cowgirl, a little bit hippie, a little bit rebel, and a little bit Elizabethan poet." During prom night, they mix sangrias and mingle with customers dressed in their gaudiest, funkier finery.

By far Antiques Week's largest venue

of Midland wailed away on an up-right piano, as customers joined in the sing-along. "We stay open late one night each show for free food, \$1 beer and wine, and shopping fun," chimed in Steve's colleague Robin Lindberg.

The antiques antics were even wilder at nearby Zapp Hall, where owners Bud and Carolyn Evans turned an early-20th-Century home, dance hall, and out-buildings into a popular show

## essentials

### ANTIQUES WEEK

**ROUND TOP** is halfway between Austin and Houston. Take US 290 to Texas 237 and drive south eight miles. During Antiques Week (Sep. 28-Oct. 6, 2007), sales venues are scattered around Round Top and surrounding communities. Some major shows require admission fees. *Local and area lodging fills up fast, so reserve early.* Antiques promoters also host summer and winter shows. For fees, lodging, and show dates, including spring 2008 Antiques Week, contact the Round Top Area Chamber of Commerce, 888/368-4783; [www.roundtop.org](http://www.roundtop.org). The chamber also has information on local attractions. An Antiques Week guide, the *Show Daily*, is available free at the chamber, restaurants, businesses, and online at [www.showdaily.us](http://www.showdaily.us).



is Marburger Farm Antique Show, set on a 43-acre pasture. The show hosts 400 dealers in eight giant tents and 10 restored 19th-Century buildings relocated from the nearby Plum community. It even boasts a helipad.

Marburger founder and Tyler dealer John Sauls insisted I check out folk-art dealer Jimmy Allen's latest coup: a rare theorem-painted table that bears witness to the tragedy of the Civil War. Found at an estate sale, the "Flags of the Lost Cause" table was made in the 1890s by a Marlin woman named Octavia Jones, the widow of a Confederate soldier. "After the war, the widows of fallen soldiers created memorial works such as this," Jimmy explained, pointing out the intricately carved and painted fruits, flowers, and flags covering the table's top and legs. "It was their way of remembering their men and coping with their sadness."

I found more revelatory folk art in the Plum bingo hall at Waxahachie dealer Bruce Webb's fraternal-lodge display.



Refinished antique boxes from Country House Antiques & Crafts number among the many gems at Marburger Farm Show.

Secret society relics—such as paintings, costumes, masks, banners, and initiation items—have long fascinated Bruce as art objects and cultural icons...so much so that he joined the Masons, Odd Fellows, and Knights of Pythias. “Many fraternal artifacts were destroyed to protect lodge secrecy,” he says. “But as lodges decline, these relics may be all that’s left of that important part of American history.”

At heart, he said, antiques dealers are collectors who sell to finance their habits.

“I bought a 19th-Century wax head with porcelain eyes from a West Coast dealer. Three hours later, I sold it to a different dealer who was headed back to the West Coast,” Bruce says. “But my personal treasure this show is an 1844 Masonic apron that’s going on my wall at home.”

Passion for the past is the name of the game for antiquers, concludes Marburger’s John Sauls. “There’s always something that’s bigger or better than the last one, or something you’ve never owned before. It’s the thrill of the hunt that brings people in.

“This ‘happening’ has become not only a wonderful shopping experience, but also a class reunion, a multi-day field trip, and a place to see and be seen. It’s a place where a real deal still can be found, but also a place where a deal is not the issue. The issue is quality and quantity. Shoppers come in in jalopies, stretch limos, buses, helicopters, and private jets. That’s the world of antiques in Round Top, Texas, population 77.”★

RANDY MALLORY, a Tyler-based writer-photographer and lover of old stuff, acted like a kid in a candy store while surrounded by the fascinating collectibles and dealers at Antiques Week.



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# TEXAS HIGHWAYS

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# TOP Tables

(continued from page 17)

crusted ahi tuna was the seafood special the day I visited, and it was textbook rare on the inside, beautifully seared on the surface. Other seafood entrées include pecan-crusted catfish and fried jumbo shrimp.

Do not miss the creamed spinach, head and shoulders above that found in many steakhouses where the ubiquitous side is too



Four Winds' inviting front porch provides a prime spot to enjoy the former ranch house's pastoral setting.

often more gooey sauce than toothsome green vegetable. Other sides include potatoes au gratin, mushrooms and onions, velvety creamed corn, and steamed asparagus.

Desserts again reflect the chef's beginnings. Bread pudding comes New Orleans-style with a toasted pecan-and-rum sauce. Cheesecake, another steakhouse tradition, is fine-grained and deceptively light in texture and taste.

In the summer, when East Texas tomatoes are at their best, Frank uses locally grown produce with house-made mozzarella for a Caprese-style salad. His version gets a drizzle of basil balsamic vinaigrette and sprigs of mesclun. Frank intends to draw on local growers even more now that Four Winds has an established dining clientele.

"I just love it out here," says Frank, whose daily drive from Pilot Point north of Dallas to his dream restaurant takes about 90 minutes. It's a dream because he gets to run the show. He has persuaded some of Dallas' veteran steakhouse-and-white-tablecloth wait staff to make the trip, as well.

## The Free State of Van Zandt

CHEF FRANK RUMORÉ'S escape from the urban hassle fits right in with the history of Van Zandt County, also known with pride by many locals as the "Free State of Van Zandt." As with many Texas phrases, there's more than one version of its origin.

According to *The Handbook of Texas Online*, one story goes that when Van Zandt County was carved out of neighboring Henderson County, debts for the area were retained by Henderson County. Resentful Henderson County residents began referring to the Free State as a slur against those considered freeloaders.

Still another report goes this way: In 1861, a reported 350 or so residents attended a meeting to protest secession. They argued that "if Texas could leave the Union, then Van Zandt County could leave the state of Texas." Threatened with military intervention, the anti-secessionists left the Union along with the rest of the state.

The account that sounds more like the part of Texas I grew up in: During Reconstruction, local rebels declared Van Zandt County independent of state AND national authority. General Philip H. Sheridan sent U.S. troops, who, so the story goes, were routed by the unrepentant rebels. In celebration, the Van Zandt Free Staters over-imbibed, neglected to post a guard, and were easily captured by the soldiers, who had quickly regrouped. Jailed in nearby Canton, all the locals eventually escaped, and life went on. —DOTTY GRIFFITH

Four Winds has become a popular destination for weddings as well as steak dinners. A private dining area accommodates 160, and the staff will put up a tent for really big to-do's.

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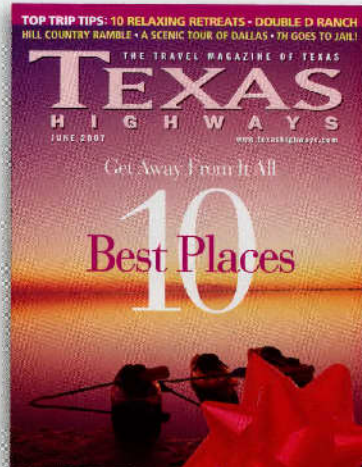
Dallas writer DOTTY GRIFFITH's story on Southlake's GermanDeli.com appeared in the August issue.

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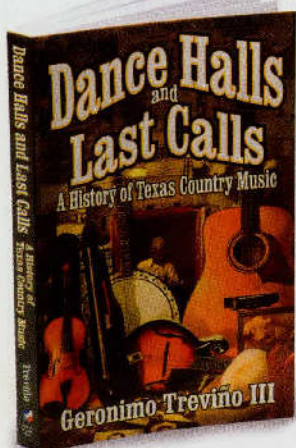


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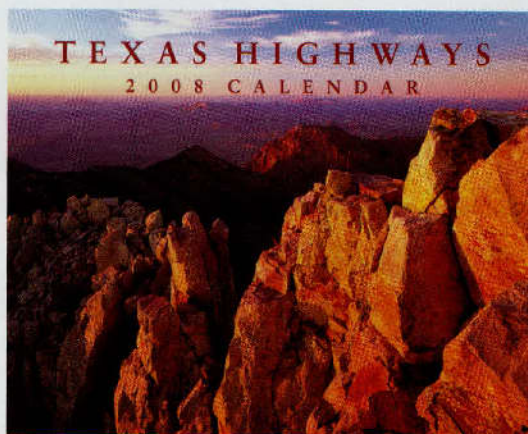
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# Just PASSING Through

FUN FINDS ALONG THE ROAD

BY MAXINE MAYES

## Small Town, Big Art

AT THE Kerr Arts & Cultural Center in Kerrville, dozens of eclectic exhibits—often four running concurrently—come and go throughout the year. Handmade quilts might share the spotlight one month with handsome photographs; the next month, paintings, ceramics, collages, and sculptures might bask in the limelight. Only one objet d'art remains constant amid KACC's revolving door of artworks: a miniature mesquite Ferris wheel displayed on a pedestal in one of the galleries.



ALL PHOTOS © JOEL SALCIDO

Kerrville's former post office now houses the Kerr Arts & Cultural Center. The remodeled space hosts dozens of exhibits annually, including the Texas Furniture Makers Show, which opens this month.

The unusual, three-and-a-half-foot-tall model, complete with 12 circling gondola baskets, was fashioned by 21 members of the Hill Country Turners for a 1999 competition sponsored by the American Association of Woodturners. Designed with a motion sensor, the wheel rotates to the accompaniment of Mitch Miller tunes when anyone comes near. Each spoke, basket, and tiny wooden rider reflects the skill and creative whimsy of the artisans, whose signatures are inscribed on the base.

Like the Ferris wheel, KACC's facility is a work of art, a thing of beauty built by a group of talented and dedicated volunteers. The concept of a center originated in 1996 with a handful of Kerrville artists who were looking for a place to show and sell their work. Along the way, other arts and cultural groups joined in, and the common vision of establishing a regional art center was born.

For several years, the fledgling organization was nomadic, occupying various storefronts and other temporary quarters, but in 2000, KACC purchased the 1935 art deco building that had housed the town's post office for more than six decades. The 16,000-square-foot, WPA-built structure was perfectly suited for galleries—the main floor had 14-foot

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A shining example of small-town public-art venues, the Kerr Arts & Cultural Center is suffused with the creative energy of artists and the enthusiasm of volunteers.

ceilings and large spaces with good traffic flow. The building was also centrally located, and preserving the landmark appealed to KACC members.

Over the next six years, volunteers transformed the old post office into a dazzling arts arena with galleries and a gift shop on the upper floor and classrooms and studios below. It was a monumental challenge that initially involved shoveling out debris and much cleaning.



This 1935 art deco structure provides space for art classes and cultural activities, as well as topnotch exhibits.

One of the most important aspects of the renovation was the addition of a sophisticated lighting system. “There was enough fluorescent light to read names on envelopes,” says KACC president Jim Derby, “but it wasn’t very conducive to displaying art.” Now the galleries boast halogen track lighting, considered the benchmark for this type of setting. Thanks to improvements like this, KACC is admired by art-lovers nationwide and suffused with the creative energy of artists and the enthusiasm of volunteers.

“This facility is first-class,” says executive director DeDe Albus. “That a group of volunteers brought all of this to fruition is amazing.”



Kerville artist James R. Johnson created *Canyon Ghosts*, a turned piece that features a miniature cliff dwelling carved into the wood.

The center in turn gives back to the community. Local artists can rent the two studios, and three classrooms host classes ranging from Sacred Geometry of the Human Face to Pine-Needle Weaving. The studios and classrooms also provide meeting space for cultural groups and other organizations. In addition, the lower level houses the center’s summer art program for children, which offers more than 60 classes,

from *sumi-e* (a style of Japanese painting) to constructing marionettes.

The three galleries—named in honor of benefactors James Avery, Aline Cornels, and Jim and S.J. Derby—host more than 36 exhibits a year. Three annual juried shows draw the largest crowds: the Texas Furniture Makers Show, which opens this month; the Southwest Gourd Fine Art Show, and *Images*, an exhibit that spotlights the work of KACC members.

At the **Texas Furniture Makers Show** (October 25–December 1, 2007), more than 50 artisans from across the state compete in various categories, including studio, contemporary, traditional, whimsical, and classic reproduction. Occasionally, a special award is created for entries that defy categorization, like last year’s pentagonal cabinet with secret compartments, the work of Richard Thomas of Houston.

Each year, entries cover the spectrum of styles and range from rustic to ornate. Mesquite is a prevalent wood, but cherry and mahogany are common, too. A reproduction of a child’s Windsor rocker in curly maple may pose beside a computer center made of cocobola.

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# Just PASSING Through

In 2005, Alton Bowman, a professional antique restorer from Flower Mound, won the President's Choice Award for his *Throne Chair of Queen Hetepheres*, an ebony interpretation of the world's oldest surviving chair form. Last year's entries included a king-size canopy bed made from "elk-chewed" aspen logs harvested from dead trees, a floor lamp containing 3,071 tiny blocks of Texas mesquite, an oak guitar stool, complete with a footrest, an African-mahogany trestle table, and Alan Carr's *Racing Zebra*, a rocking horse that won the whimsical category. Alan, a retired U.S. Navy captain from Fredericksburg, considers the KACC show "the leading fine furniture show in the Southwest." Indeed, at this event, buyers have found true one-of-a-kind treasures not available at furniture-company showrooms.

The *Images* exhibit includes artworks

in all mediums. Three black bear cubs romp on a gilt-edged porcelain plate not far from a magnificent 18-inch-tall buffalo carved from limestone. On the walls, petite, floral still lifes hang amid abstracts bursting with riotous color. A rustic road-runner carved from driftwood found in the Hill Country stands just a few paces from a sleek, elegant Egyptian king fashioned from pine found in Haiti. That sculpture—*The King*—won Best of Show for Marika Bordes this year. Marika sees her sculptures as "poets celebrating life's passion and nobility." After a childhood in Haiti and long periods in Canada and New York, Marika now lives in Seguin.

If you equate gourd art with quaint, rustic birdhouses, the **Southwest Gourd Fine Art Show** will astound you. Artists from several states descend upon the KACC with gourds that have been painted, glazed, bronzed, or etched, and embellished with basketry, stones, jewels, feathers, ropes, pine-needle weaving, and more. This year, a turtle shell inspired the design for Marsha Mefferd's *Lil's Turtle*, which won Best of Show. After applying a black

**THE KERR ARTS & Cultural Center** is at 228 Earl Garrett St. (across from the Kerr County Courthouse) in downtown Kerrville. Call 830/895-2911; [www.kacc Kerrville.com](http://www.kacc Kerrville.com). Hours: Tue-Sat, 10-4; Sun 1-4. (During the Texas Furniture Makers Show, which begins this month, the center will also open Mon 10-4.) Admission is free for all exhibits and shows (some fees for special events, including the Chocolate Fantasy).

## UPCOMING EVENTS

**Art Quilts and Fiber Arts**, Sep. 27-Oct. 21, 2007.

**8th annual Texas Furniture Makers Show**, Oct. 25-Dec. 1, 2007.

**Wild Mustangs, Mountains, and Musings** (photography by Kathy Weigand and paintings by Allen Turk), Dec. 6-Dec. 30, 2007.

**PhotoQuest 2007** (9th annual Hill Country Camera Club Show and Sale), Dec. 6, 2007-Jan. 6, 2008.

**4th annual Chocolate Fantasy**, Feb. 10, 2008.

The **Southwest Gourd Fine Art Show** and the KACC members' exhibition, *Images*, will take place next summer (May 22-July 6 and June 5-July 27, 2008, respectively).

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[www.SealyCVB.org](http://www.SealyCVB.org) Toll Free: 877-558-7245 Just 48 minutes west of Houston off I-10, Exit #720.

leather dye, she inlaid pieces of turtle shell on the surface of the gourd and carved the remainder of it to mimic an actual shell.

Marsha also makes it a point to go to the **Chocolate Fantasy**, a fundraiser held each February. "Your ticket allows you to simply graze your way into a chocolate coma," she says. Judges give awards to area cooks in four categories: cookies, brownies, candies, and cakes/pies/tortes.

Speaking of awards, the Ferris wheel that the Hill Country Turners entered in the 1999 national competition took home a second-place ribbon, and the group was commended for "raising the bar" for future contests. In similar fashion, KACC has become a shining example among small-town public-art venues. Last year it was one of only seven sites across the country, and the only one in Texas, selected to host the traveling exhibition of the prestigious American Watercolor Society. From historic post office to contemporary creative space, KACC has achieved blue-ribbon status of its own.

MAXINE MAYES also wrote the story about Comfort, which begins on page 48.

**The Best of the Border**

**DEL RIO** and Sister City  
**Cd. Acuna, Coahuila**

**Fiesta de Amistad**  
International Parade & Arts and Crafts  
October 20-21, 2007

Del Rio Chamber of Commerce  
1-800-889-8149 • [www.drchamber.com](http://www.drchamber.com)

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- ✓ Dining & Shopping
- ✓ Main Street City
- ✓ Ciudad Acuna 10 Minutes Away
- ✓ Amistad National Recreation Area
- ✓ Serviced by Continental Airlines

Contact us today for more information!

## October



WELCOME TO THIS MONTH'S sampling of events from throughout the Lone Star State.

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

BECAUSE OF SPACE LIMITATIONS, we can't list every event we receive. Please note that dates sometimes change after we go to press. You may want to confirm a particular event by calling the number listed with the festivity or by contacting the local chamber of commerce or convention and visitors bureau.

FOR INFORMATION ON ANY DESTINATION IN TEXAS: Call 800/452-9292 toll-free from anywhere in the U.S. or Canada, between 8 a.m. and 6 p.m. Central Time. A professional travel counselor at one of the Texas Department of Transportation's Travel Information Centers will answer your Texas travel questions, provide routing assistance, send brochures (including the official *Texas State Travel Guide* and map), and advise you of any emergency road conditions.

FOR A QUARTERLY, MORE DETAILED SCHEDULE OF events, write for a free copy of the *Texas Events Calendar*, Box 149249, Austin 78714-9249. For an online listing of events, go to [www.texashighways.com](http://www.texashighways.com).



### BIG BEND COUNTRY

3-6

**FORT STOCKTON**  
Roadrunner Open Road Race  
432/336-8525  
[www.rorrr.net](http://www.rorrr.net)

PECOS

Art Off the Wall  
432/445-2406  
[www.pecos.tx](http://www.pecos.tx)

4-6

**PRESIDIO**  
Longhorn Cattle Drive  
432/229-3416

5-6

**PECOS**  
Reeves County Sheriff's Posse  
Championship  
Barbecue Cookoff  
432/445-2406  
[www.pecos.tx](http://www.pecos.tx)

Reeves-Loving County  
Fall Fair & Livestock Show  
432/445-2406  
[www.pecos.tx](http://www.pecos.tx)

5-7

**MARFA**  
Chinati Foundation  
Open House  
[www.chinati.org](http://www.chinati.org)

WICKETT

Bluegrass Festival  
432/943-6765

6

**ODESSA**  
Art Tour  
432/337-1492

6-7

**EL PASO**  
Elephant Festival  
915/532-8156  
[www.elpasozoo.org](http://www.elpasozoo.org)

Native American Festival  
915/422-1700

6, 20

**EL PASO**  
Chopin Music Festival  
915/584-1595  
[www.elpaso-chopin.com](http://www.elpaso-chopin.com)

9-14

**EL PASO**  
Disney on Ice  
915/544-8444

12-14

**STUDY BUTTE**  
Ride for Trails  
Motorcycle Rally  
432/477-2553  
[www.ridefortrails.com](http://www.ridefortrails.com)

13

**DEL RIO**  
Val Verde County  
Archeological Fair  
830/775-7491

MARATHON

Marathon 2 Marathon  
432/386-4500  
[www.marathon2marathon.net](http://www.marathon2marathon.net)

14

**EL PASO**  
Tokyo String Quartet  
915/833-9400  
[www.eppm.org](http://www.eppm.org)

19-20

**EL PASO**  
El Paso Symphony Orchestra  
915/532-3776  
[www.epso.org](http://www.epso.org)

Pecan Festival  
915/533-6819

20

**FORT STOCKTON**  
Old Timers Day  
432/336-2167

20-21

**EL PASO**  
Huaco Tanks  
Interpretive Fair  
915/857-1135

Salsa Festival  
915/351-1191  
[www.elpasofestivals.com](http://www.elpasofestivals.com)

MONAHANS

Arts & Crafts Show  
432/943-2187  
[www.monahans.org](http://www.monahans.org)

27-28

**EL PASO**  
Boo at the Zoo  
915/532-8156  
[www.elpasozoo.org](http://www.elpasozoo.org)

29-Nov 2

**EL PASO**  
Día de los Muertos  
Festival  
915/541-4481

7

**GALVESTON**

Evita  
409/765-1894 or  
800/821-1894  
[www.thegrand.com](http://www.thegrand.com)

HOUSTON

Art Car Show  
281/890-5500  
[www.tradersvillage.com](http://www.tradersvillage.com)

SANTA FE

Haaktoberfest  
409/925-1401  
[www.haakwine.com](http://www.haakwine.com)

9-21

**HOUSTON**

*Dreamgirls*  
713/558-TUTS or  
888/558-3882  
[www.tuts.com](http://www.tuts.com)

11-14

**BROWNSVILLE**

Brownsville Latin Jazz Festival  
956/882-7945  
[www.utbsc.edu/jacobbrown](http://www.utbsc.edu/jacobbrown)

**SOUTH PADRE ISLAND**

Bikefest  
956/668-7484  
[www.spibikefest.com](http://www.spibikefest.com)

11-21

**BEAUMONT**

YMBL South Texas  
State Fair  
409/832-9991  
[www.ymbll.org](http://www.ymbll.org)

### GULF COAST

1-31

**KEMAH**

Boo on the Boardwalk  
281/334-9880  
[www.kemahboardwalk.com](http://www.kemahboardwalk.com)

3-7

**WINNIE**

Texas Rice Festival  
409/296-4404  
[www.texasricefestival.org](http://www.texasricefestival.org)

4-6

**HOUSTON**

Festival Chicano  
281/373-3386  
[www.milleroutdoortheatre.com](http://www.milleroutdoortheatre.com)

5-6

**BROWNSVILLE**

ZooFari  
956/546-7187  
[www.gpz.org](http://www.gpz.org)

5-7

**ROCKPORT**

Seafair  
361/729-6445 or  
800/242-0071  
[www.rockportseafair.com](http://www.rockportseafair.com)

6-7

**HOUSTON**

Wings Over Houston  
Airshow  
713/266-4492 or  
888/435-9746  
[www.wingsoverhouston.com](http://www.wingsoverhouston.com)

6-8

**SOUTH PADRE ISLAND**

Triathlon  
210/695-6430  
[www.rogersoler.com](http://www.rogersoler.com)

## Visit the White House in College Station

On Exhibit thru  
January 20, 2008



for more information  
[www.visitaggisland.com](http://www.visitaggisland.com)  
1-800-777-5292

## Visit Greenville

Visit the  
Greenville Railroad  
Museum  
in the historic  
Katy Depot



Audie Murphy/American Cotton Museum  
★ Historic Downtown ★ Antique Shops  
★ Mary of Puddin Hill ★ 800 Motel Rooms

Greenville Chamber of Commerce/CVB  
903.455.1510  
[tourism@greenvillechamber.com](mailto:tourism@greenvillechamber.com)

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

# TEXAS Events | October

**12-20**  
**ANGLETON**  
 Brazoria County Fair  
 979/849-6416

**13-14**  
**HOUSTON**  
 Bayou City  
 Art Festival  
 713/521-0133  
[www.bayoucityartfestival.com](http://www.bayoucityartfestival.com)

Festa Italiana  
 713/524-4222  
[www.houstonitalianfestival.com](http://www.houstonitalianfestival.com)

**13, 27**  
**PASADENA**  
 Guided Canoe Tour  
 281/474-2551  
[www.abnc.org](http://www.abnc.org)

**14**  
**HOUSTON**  
 Volks in the Village  
 Volkswagen Show  
 281/890-5500  
[www.nhwclub.org](http://www.nhwclub.org)

**18-21**  
**SOUTH PADRE ISLAND**  
 Sand Castle Days  
 800/767-2373  
[www.sandcastledays.com](http://www.sandcastledays.com)

**19, 21, 27, 30**  
**HOUSTON**  
 A Masked Ball  
 713/228-6737  
[www.houstongrandopera.org](http://www.houstongrandopera.org)

**20**  
**HOUSTON**  
 British Motor Expo  
 281/346-2417  
 or 890-5500  
[www.houstonmgcarclub.org](http://www.houstonmgcarclub.org)

**KEMAH**  
 Pan Jam Festival  
 281/334-4165  
[www.kemah.net](http://www.kemah.net)

**LEAGUE CITY**  
 South Shore Dockside  
 Food & Wine Festival  
 281/334-4900  
[www.southshorefestival.com](http://www.southshorefestival.com)

**PORT ARANSAS**  
 Sand & Surf Beach Run  
 361/749-4450

**PORT ARTHUR**  
 Coastal Fisheries  
 Bay Team  
 Fishing Tournament  
 361/939-8745

**20-21**  
**GALVESTON**  
 Artoberfest  
 409/762-3617  
[www.artoberfest.com](http://www.artoberfest.com)

**HOUSTON**  
 The Eastwood  
 Historic Homes Tour  
 713/412-8861

**SEABROOK**  
 Dragon Boat Regatta  
 832/687-7208  
[www.texasdragonboat.com](http://www.texasdragonboat.com)

**20-21, 27-28**  
**HOUSTON**  
 Zoo Boo  
[www.houstonzoo.org](http://www.houstonzoo.org)

**24-25**  
**VICTORIA**  
 South Texas  
 Farm & Ranch Show  
 361/550-1826

**25-27**  
**PORT ARANSAS**  
 Harvest Moon  
 Regatta  
 281/474-2511  
[www.harvestmoonregatta.com](http://www.harvestmoonregatta.com)

**26**  
**ROCKPORT**  
 Halloween on the Harbor  
 361/729-1271

**26-27**  
**BEAUMONT**  
 Rockin' Blues Fest  
 409/896-5555  
[www.beaumontcvb.com](http://www.beaumontcvb.com)

**GALVESTON**  
 Island Oktoberfest  
 409/762-8477  
[www.1st.lutheran.com/oktoberfest](http://www.1st.lutheran.com/oktoberfest)

**INGLESIDE**  
 Round Up Days  
 888/899-2906  
[www.inglesidechamber.org](http://www.inglesidechamber.org)

**26-28**  
**ANGLETON**  
 Austin Town Festival  
 979/864-1208

**27**  
**BAYTOWN**  
 Heritage Scaritage Festival  
 281/421-2099

**BEAUMONT**  
 Halloween Frolic  
 409/832-2134  
[www.mcfaddin-ward.org](http://www.mcfaddin-ward.org)

Nightmare on Crockett Street  
 Halloween Celebration  
 409/832-2944  
[www.crockettstreet.com](http://www.crockettstreet.com)

**HOUSTON**  
 Fire Fest  
 713/524-2526  
[www.houstonfiremuseum.org](http://www.houstonfiremuseum.org)

**PORT ISABEL**  
 Los Colores del Muerto  
 Day of the Dead Celebration  
 956/943-4602  
[www.portisabelmuseums.com](http://www.portisabelmuseums.com)

**ROSENBERG**  
 Boo-Berg Fall Festival  
[www.rosenbergmuseum.org](http://www.rosenbergmuseum.org)

**SEABROOK**  
 Shriporee Festival  
 281/480-1211

**30-31**  
**BROWNSVILLE**  
 Boo at the Zoo  
 956/546-7187  
[www.gpz.org](http://www.gpz.org)

**HILL COUNTRY**

**5-7**  
**BUDA**  
 Fine Arts Festival  
 512/295-2022

**FREDERICKSBURG**  
 Oktoberfest  
 830/997-4810 or  
 866/839-3378  
[www.oktoberfestinfbg.com](http://www.oktoberfestinfbg.com)

**GRUENE**  
 Gruene Music & Wine Fest  
 830/629-5077  
[www.gruenehall.com](http://www.gruenehall.com)

**6**  
**BANDERA**  
 Johnny Nix Memorial  
 Bull Riding  
 830/866-3632 or  
 800/364-3833  
[www.jdnixrodeo.com](http://www.jdnixrodeo.com)

**MASON**  
 Gem of the Hill Country 10-K/  
 Arts & Crafts Fair  
 325/347-1518  
 or 347-5758

Old Yeller Days Festival  
 325/347-5758

**6-7**  
**AUSTIN**  
 Texas Parks & Wildlife  
 Expo  
 512/389-4472  
[www.tpwd.state.tx.us/expo](http://www.tpwd.state.tx.us/expo)

**6-9, 11-16, 18-23, 25-31**  
**MEDINA**  
 Great Hill Country  
 Pumpkin Patch  
 800/449-0882  
[www.lovecreekorshards.com](http://www.lovecreekorshards.com)

**11-18**  
**AUSTIN**  
 Austin Film Festival  
[www.austinfilmfestival.com](http://www.austinfilmfestival.com)

**12-13**  
**BURNET**  
 Cultural Arts Festival  
 512/756-8514  
[www.bcafburnet.org](http://www.bcafburnet.org)

**13-14**  
**CONCAN**  
 Texas Hill Country  
 River Region Bike Classic  
 830/232-6132 or  
 800/210-0380  
[www.thcrr.com](http://www.thcrr.com)

**14-31**  
**CASTROVILLE**  
 Pumpkin Patch  
 830/931-3533

**15-31**  
**COMFORT**  
 Scarecrow Invasion  
 830/995-3131  
[www.comfortchamberofcommerce.com](http://www.comfortchamberofcommerce.com)

**18-28**  
**KERRVILLE**  
 The Legend of Sleepy Hollow  
 830/896-9393  
[www.caillotheater.com](http://www.caillotheater.com)

**19-20**  
**BUDA**  
 FireFest  
 512/295-2232  
[www.budafire.org](http://www.budafire.org)

**19-20**  
**KYLE**  
 Fair on the Square  
 512/262-3939  
[www.cityofkyle.com](http://www.cityofkyle.com)

**19-21**  
**BOERNE**  
 Festival of  
 Arts & Music  
 210/507-5053  
[www.ciboloarts.org](http://www.ciboloarts.org)

**LLANO**  
 Heritage Festival &  
 Llano River  
 Chuck Wagon Cookoff  
 325/247-5354  
 or 247-4158

**20**  
**AUSTIN**  
 Anthony Bourdain  
 512/472-5470  
[www.austinthatre.org](http://www.austinthatre.org)

**FREDERICKSBURG**  
 Granite Gripper  
 Rock Climbing  
 325/247-3903  
[www.granitegripper.com](http://www.granitegripper.com)

**20-21**  
**CANYON LAKE**  
 Moving Waters  
 Powwow  
 830/964-3613  
[www.nioraft.com](http://www.nioraft.com)

**COMFORT**  
 Comfort Village  
 Antique Show  
 830/995-3131  
[www.texasantiqueshows.com](http://www.texasantiqueshows.com)

**23-28**  
**AUSTIN**  
 Tuna Does Vegas  
 512/472-5470  
[www.austinthatre.org](http://www.austinthatre.org)

**25-28**  
**BRACKETTVILLE**  
 Fall Trail Ride  
 830/563-2580  
[www.alamovillage.com](http://www.alamovillage.com)

**26-28**  
**BANDERA**  
 Ranch Heritage  
 Weekend  
 800/364-3833  
[www.hcsnap.org](http://www.hcsnap.org)

**KERRVILLE**  
 Kerr County Fair  
 830/257-6833  
[www.kerrcountyfair.com](http://www.kerrcountyfair.com)

**26-31**  
**UVALDE**  
 Fall Fly Fishing Fest  
 800/210-0380

**26-31**  
**CANYON LAKE**  
 Haunted Hayride  
 830/964-3629  
[www.riversideresort.net](http://www.riversideresort.net)

**27**  
**FREDERICKSBURG**  
 Food & Wine Fest  
 830/997-8515 or  
 866/839-3378  
[www.fbgfoodandwinefest.com](http://www.fbgfoodandwinefest.com)

**27-28**  
**GRUENE**  
 Texas Clay Festival  
 830/629-7975  
[www.texasclayfestival.com](http://www.texasclayfestival.com)

Take In The Local Color! Artist Studio Tour November 10th & 11th

for more information Visit [Lubbock.org](http://Lubbock.org)

**LUBBOCK**

**HOUSTON FIRE MUSEUM PRESENTS**

**FIRE FEST 2007**

• Live Fire & Rescue Demonstrations  
 • Fire Trucks  
 • Firefighters  
 • Kid's Zone  
 • Live Music  
 • 3rd Annual Firefighter's BBQ Cookoff

**SATURDAY, OCTOBER 27**  
 10 a.m. - 5 p.m.

8330 Braniff, Houston, Texas 77061  
**HFD Val Jahnke Training Academy**  
 Off Telephone Road in back of Hobby Airport

**FREE ADMISSION!**

713 • 524 • 2526 [www.houstonfiremuseum.org](http://www.houstonfiremuseum.org)



Floydada celebrates the fall harvest with Punkin Day, a Panhandle Plains tradition, October 13.

**PANHANDLE PLAINS**

- 4-6**  
**LORAINÉ**  
Centennial Celebration  
325/242-1800
- 6**  
**ABILENE**  
Spirit of the Frontier Festival  
325/437-2800
- CANYON**  
Folklife Festival  
806/651-2244  
[www.panhandleplains.org](http://www.panhandleplains.org)
- COLEMAN**  
Fiesta de la Paloma  
325/625-2163  
[www.colemantexas.org](http://www.colemantexas.org)
- TYE**  
Wheel Fest  
325/695-8253  
[www.cityoftyeedc.org](http://www.cityoftyeedc.org)
- WICHITA FALLS**  
Steak of the Town Cookoff  
940/322-1110  
[www.steakofthetown.com](http://www.steakofthetown.com)
- 6-7**  
**PAMPA**  
Woody Guthrie Tribute  
806/669-3241
- SCOTLAND**  
Centennial & Oktoberfest  
940/541-2285
- 7**  
**SAINT LAWRENCE**  
Fall Festival  
432/397-2268
- 12-13**  
**ALBANY**  
140th Anniversary & Living History Days  
325/762-3592
- 12-14**  
**ANDREWS**  
Heath Hamilton Team Roping  
432/523-2695  
[www.andrewstx.com](http://www.andrewstx.com)
- 13**  
**ANDREWS**  
Fall Fiesta  
432/523-2695  
[www.andrewstx.com](http://www.andrewstx.com)

- 13**  
**FLOYDADA**  
Punkin Day  
806/983-3434  
[www.floydadachamber.com/punkin.htm](http://www.floydadachamber.com/punkin.htm)
- MINERAL WELLS**  
Crazy Water Festival  
940/682-9598
- 20**  
**PAMPA**  
Country Fair  
806/669-3241
- 20-21**  
**CANADIAN**  
Fall Foliage Festival  
806/323-6234  
[www.canadiantx.com](http://www.canadiantx.com)
- 26**  
**LUBBOCK**  
Big 12 Men's & Women's Cross Country Championships  
806/742-TECH or 888/462-4412  
[www.big12sports.com](http://www.big12sports.com)
- 26-28**  
**SAN ANGELO**  
Roping Fiesta  
325/653-5622
- 27**  
**ABILENE**  
Philharmonic Concert  
325/677-6710 or 800/460-0610
- SAN ANGELO**  
Chaparral Challenge Mountain Bike Race  
325/949-4757  
  
Wiener Dog Races  
325/942-8096

**PINEY WOODS**

- 1-31**  
**HUGHES SPRINGS**  
(began Sep 22)  
Scarecrow Row  
903/639-2351  
[www.hughesspringstx.net](http://www.hughesspringstx.net)
- 1-Nov 30**  
**TYLER**  
East Texas Fall Foliage Drive  
800/235-5712  
[www.visittyler.com](http://www.visittyler.com)

- 4-6**  
**CENTER**  
East Texas Poultry Festival  
936/598-3682  
[www.shelbycounty.chamber.com](http://www.shelbycounty.chamber.com)
- WOODVILLE**  
Tyler County Fair  
409/283-2424
- 4-7**  
**LINDEN**  
Piney Woods Cowboy Gathering  
903/756-7774  
[www.pineywoods.cowboygathering.com](http://www.pineywoods.cowboygathering.com)
- 5**  
**THE WOODLANDS**  
Houston Ballet: Carnival of Dance  
281/363-3300  
[www.woodlandscenter.org](http://www.woodlandscenter.org)
- 6**  
**HUNTSVILLE**  
Fair on the Square  
936/295-8113 or 800/289-0389  
[www.chamber.huntsville.tx.us](http://www.chamber.huntsville.tx.us)
- JASPER**  
Fall Festival  
409/384-2762  
[www.jaspercoc.org](http://www.jaspercoc.org)
- LUFKIN**  
Pineywoods Purgatory  
936/634-6305  
[www.pineywoods.purgatory.com](http://www.pineywoods.purgatory.com)
- 6-28**  
**WINNSBORO**  
Autumn Trails  
903/342-1958
- 10-14**  
**NACOGDOCHES**  
Pineywoods Fair  
936/564-0849  
[www.nacexpo.net](http://www.nacexpo.net)
- 12-14**  
**CONROE**  
Cajun Catfish Festival  
713/863-9993  
[www.conroe.cajuncatfishfestival.com](http://www.conroe.cajuncatfishfestival.com)
- 12-14, 19-21, 26-28**  
**JEFFERSON**  
Terror on the Bayou Runaway Fright Train  
866/398-2038  
[www.jeffersonrailway.com](http://www.jeffersonrailway.com)
- 13**  
**LIVINGSTON**  
Indian Springs VFD CASI Chili Cookoff  
936/327-3544
- TEXARKANA**  
Barbecue & Blues Festival  
870/774-2120  
[www.mainstreettexarkana.org](http://www.mainstreettexarkana.org)
- TRINITY**  
Fall Festival  
936/594-6664
- 13-14**  
**MARSHALL**  
Fireant Festival  
903/935-7868  
[www.marshalltxchamber.com](http://www.marshalltxchamber.com)
- 18-20**  
**GILMER**  
East Texas Yamboree  
903/843-2413  
[www.yamboree.com](http://www.yamboree.com)

- 18-21**  
**TYLER**  
Texas Rose Festival  
903/597-3130  
[www.texasrosefestival.com](http://www.texasrosefestival.com)
- 19-21**  
**WOODVILLE**  
Harvest Festival  
409/283-2272  
[www.heritage-village.org](http://www.heritage-village.org)
- 20**  
**GRAPELAND**  
Peanut Festival  
936/687-2956  
[www.grapelandchamber.com](http://www.grapelandchamber.com)
- HUGHES SPRINGS**  
Lumberjack Festival  
903/639-2351  
[www.hughesspringstx.net](http://www.hughesspringstx.net)
- LINDALE**  
Crossroads Classic Car Show  
903/881-0370
- LINDEN**  
The Bellamy Brothers  
903/756-9934  
[www.musiccitytexas.org](http://www.musiccitytexas.org)
- 25-27**  
**LONGVIEW**  
Harvest Festival  
903/236-8428
- 26-27**  
**GOLDEN**  
Golden Sweet Potato Festival  
903/765-2444 or 768-2267  
[www.goldensweetpotato.festival.com](http://www.goldensweetpotato.festival.com)
- SAN AUGUSTINE**  
Sassafras Festival  
936/275-3610  
[www.sanaugustinetx.com](http://www.sanaugustinetx.com)
- 26-28**  
**KOUNTZE**  
Hardin County Cajun Country Music Festival  
409/673-9803  
[www.hccmusicfest.com](http://www.hccmusicfest.com)
- 27**  
**HUGHES SPRINGS**  
Pumpkin Glow  
903/639-2351  
[www.hughesspringstx.net](http://www.hughesspringstx.net)
- JASPER**  
Dam to Dam Bike Ride  
409/384-2762  
[www.jaspercoc.org](http://www.jaspercoc.org)
- NACOGDOCHES**  
Scare on the Square  
936/559-2573
- OMAHA**  
Fall Festival  
903/884-2260
- TEXARKANA**  
Archaeology & Heritage Fair  
903/793-4831  
[www.texarkanamuseums.org](http://www.texarkanamuseums.org)
- TYLER**  
East Texas Symphony Orchestra  
903/526-ETSO  
[www.etsoc.org](http://www.etsoc.org)
- 28**  
**JEFFERSON**  
Taste of Jefferson  
903/665-2672  
[www.jefferson-texas.com](http://www.jefferson-texas.com)
- 31**  
**HUNTSVILLE**  
Scare on the Square  
936/295-2150

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1-866-822-0245  
[www.beaumontcvb.com](http://www.beaumontcvb.com)

# TEXAS Events | October

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## PRAIRIES AND LAKES

1-21

**DALLAS**  
 (began Sep 28)  
 State Fair of Texas  
 214/565-9931  
[www.bigtex.com](http://www.bigtex.com)

4-13

**WACO**  
 Heart o' Texas Fair & Rodeo  
 254/776-1660  
[www.hotfair.com](http://www.hotfair.com)

4, 11, 18, 25

**DALLAS**  
 Cool Thursdays  
 214/515-6519  
[www.dallasarboretum.org](http://www.dallasarboretum.org)

5-6

**ENNIS**  
 Cowboy Classic Ranch Rodeo  
 972/878-4748

5-7

**GONZALES**  
 Come & Take It Festival  
 830/672-6532 or  
 888/672-1095

**SOUTHLAKE**  
 Oktoberfest  
 817/481-8200  
[www.southlakechamber.com](http://www.southlakechamber.com)

5-6, 12-13, 19-20, 26-28

**WAXAHACHIE**  
 Screams  
 Haunted Theme Park  
 972/938-3247  
[www.screamspark.com](http://www.screamspark.com)

6

**AUBREY**  
 Peanut Festival  
 940/365-9162

**BENBROOK**  
 Heritage Fest  
 817/249-4451  
[www.benbrookchamber.org](http://www.benbrookchamber.org)

BOWIE

Chicken & Bread Day  
 Heritage Festival  
 940/872-6246

DENISON

Main Street Fall Festival  
 903/485-1551  
[www.denisontexas.us](http://www.denisontexas.us)

IRVING

Asleep at the Wheel  
 972/252-ARTS  
[www.irvingartscenter.com](http://www.irvingartscenter.com)

RICHARDSON

Richardson Symphony  
 Orchestra  
 972/744-4650  
[www.richardsonsymphony.org](http://www.richardsonsymphony.org)

SHINER

Pumpkin Patch  
 361/594-3999  
[www.shiner-oldtown.org](http://www.shiner-oldtown.org)

SULPHUR SPRINGS

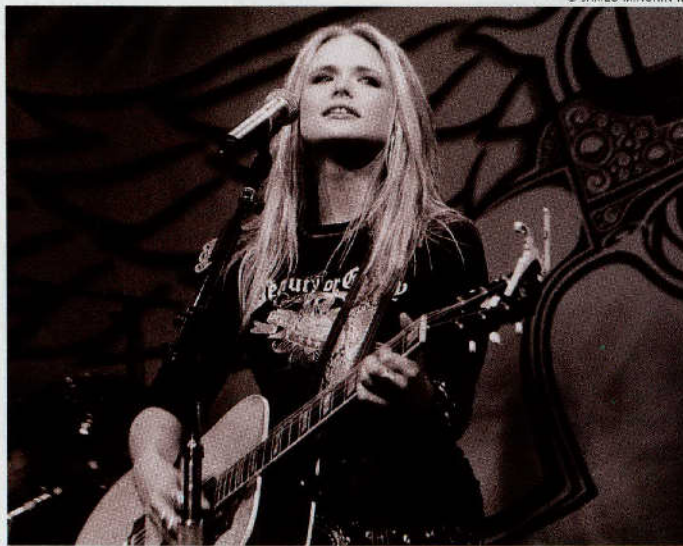
Indian Summer Festival  
 903/885-2387 or  
 888/300-6623

WALLIS

Autofest  
 979/478-6712

WHITNEY

Pioneer Day Festival  
 254/694-2540  
[www.lakewhitneychamber.com](http://www.lakewhitneychamber.com)



Rising country music star and Lindale native, Miranda Lambert, rocks the Big State Festival, which takes place October 13-14 in Bryan/College Station.

6-7

**RICHARDSON**  
 Cottonwood Art Festival  
 972/744-4580  
[www.cottonwoodartfestival.com](http://www.cottonwoodartfestival.com)

6, 13, 20

**SALADO**  
 Fall Shakespeare Festival  
 254/247-0220  
[www.tablerock.org](http://www.tablerock.org)

6-Nov 25

**PLANTERSVILLE**  
 Texas Renaissance Festival  
 936/825-6600 or  
 800/458-3435  
[www.texrenfest.com](http://www.texrenfest.com)

7

**BENBROOK**  
 Women's Sprint Triathlon  
 817/249-0500  
[www.ironheadrp.com](http://www.ironheadrp.com)

FLATONIA

Sacred Heart Fall Festival  
 361/865-3568  
[www.flatoniachamber.com](http://www.flatoniachamber.com)

FRISCO

Frisco Bluegrass Festival  
 888/323-4625

8-Nov 18

**ATHENS**  
 Scarecrow Trail  
 903/675-5630

10-11

**FORT WORTH**  
 Lyle Lovett and  
 His Large Band  
 817/212-4280 or  
 877/212-4280  
[www.basshall.com](http://www.basshall.com)

10-13

**BONHAM**  
 Fannin County Fair  
 903/583-4811  
[www.bonhamchamber.com](http://www.bonhamchamber.com)

10-14

**BELLVILLE**  
 80th Austin County Fair  
 979/865-3407  
 or 865-5995

10-14, 17-20

**DALLAS**  
 Macbeth  
 214/559-2778  
[www.shakespearedallas.org](http://www.shakespearedallas.org)

11-14

**SEGUIN**  
 Guadalupe County Fair  
 830/379-6477 or  
 800/580-7322

12-14

**CUERO**  
 Turkeyfest  
 Celebration  
 361/275-2112  
[www.turkeyfest.org](http://www.turkeyfest.org)

13

**ATHENS**  
 Fall Festival &  
 Black-Eyed Pea Cookoff  
 903/675-5630

BURLESON

Founders Day  
 817/447-3522  
[www.burlesonheritage.org](http://www.burlesonheritage.org)

CALVERT

Victorian Street Fair  
 979/364-2559  
[www.calverttx.com](http://www.calverttx.com)

CARROLLTON

Nature Fest  
 972/466-9813  
[www.cityofcarrollton.com/naturepreserve](http://www.cityofcarrollton.com/naturepreserve)

GAINESVILLE

Depot Day  
 940/668-4530

**GLEN ROSE**  
 Paluxy Pedal  
 254/897-3295 or  
 817/573-5033  
[www.paluxypedal.com](http://www.paluxypedal.com)

JEWETT

Fall Frolic  
 903/626-4202  
[www.jewetttexas.com](http://www.jewetttexas.com)

MOUNT VERNON

Countryfest  
 903/537-4365  
[www.visitntvermontx.com](http://www.visitntvermontx.com)

13

**ROANOKE**  
 Celebrate Roanoke  
 817/491-2411  
[www.roanoketexas.com](http://www.roanoketexas.com)

SACHSE

Fallfest Country Fair  
 972/496-1212

SHINER

Bocktoberfest  
 361/594-4180  
[www.shinertx.com](http://www.shinertx.com)

13-14

**BEDFORD**  
 Celtic Heritage Festival  
 817/514-2018  
[www.celticheritagefestival.org](http://www.celticheritagefestival.org)

BRYAN/COLLEGE STATION

Big State Festival  
 888/512-SHOW  
[www.bigstatefestival.com](http://www.bigstatefestival.com)

CHAPPELL HILL

Scarecrow Festival  
 979/836-6033 or  
 800/225-3695  
[www.chappellhillmuseum.org](http://www.chappellhillmuseum.org)

14

**DENISON**  
 Eisenhower Birthday  
 Celebration  
 903/465-8908

McKINNEY

Living History Days  
 at Chestnut Square  
 972/562-8790  
[www.chestnutsquare.org](http://www.chestnutsquare.org)

18-20

**ROCKDALE**  
 Rockdale Fair  
 & Livestock Show  
 512/446-2030  
[www.rockdalechamber.com](http://www.rockdalechamber.com)

19-21

**COPPERAS COVE**  
 Ogletree Gap Heritage Festival  
 254/547-7571  
[www.ogletreegap.net](http://www.ogletreegap.net)

YORKTOWN

Western Days Festival  
 361/564-2661  
[www.yorktowntx.com](http://www.yorktowntx.com)

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### Oktober Fest

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 Saturday 11:30 AM - 9:30 PM

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 Root Beer on Tap



[www.VisitLancaster.org](http://www.VisitLancaster.org)  
 972-227-2579



20

**GRAPEVINE**

Butterfly Flutterby  
817/410-3185

**LXINGTON**

Chocolate Lovers Festival  
979/773-9100  
www.chocolateloversfestival.com

**LULING**

Zedler Mill Catfish Cookoff  
830/875-3214  
www.zedlermill.com

**MADISONVILLE**

Texas Mushroom Festival  
936/348-3591  
www.madisonvillechamber.com

**MIDLOTHIAN**

Fall Festival  
972/723-8600  
www.midlothianchamber.org

**PLANO**

Plano International Festival  
214/495-7838  
www.planointernationalfestival.org

**TEAGUE**

Parkfest  
254/739-2061

**WEIMAR**

Oktoberfest  
979/725-9511  
www.weimartx.org

**WHITESBORO**

Peanut Festival  
903/564-3331  
www.whitesborotx.com

**20-21**

**EDOM**

Festival of the Arts  
903/852-3897  
or 852-3294  
www.edomartfest.com

**GRANBURY**

Harvest Moon Festival  
817/573-5548  
www.granburytx.com

**21**

**IRVING**

Celebrate with Music  
972/252-ARTS  
www.irvingartscenter.com

**24-28**

**ADDISON**

Shakespeare Festival  
of Dallas  
800/233-4766  
www.addisontexas.net

**26-28**

**FLATONIA**

Czhillispiel XXXV  
361/865-3920  
www.czhillispielfestival.com

**26-28**

**FORT WORTH**

Red Steagall  
Cowboy Gathering &  
Western Swing Festival  
888/269-8696  
www.redsteagall  
cowboygathering.com

**GLEN ROSE**

Fossilmania  
210/492-9163 or  
888/346-6282

**27**

**ELGIN**

Hogeye Festival  
512/281-5724  
www.elginbx.com

**FORT WORTH**

Classic Car Show  
817/244-2972  
or 797-1197  
www.drockinrods.com

**27**

**GAINESVILLE**

Zoo Boo  
940/727-9097  
www.frankbuckzoo.com

**PALESTINE**

Oktoberfest  
800/659-3484  
www.visitpalestine.com

**PARIS**

Festival of Pumpkins  
903/784-9293  
www.festivalofpumpkins.com

**SEGUIN**

Hats Off to Juan Seguin  
800/580-7322

**SOMERVILLE**

Somerfest at the Lake  
979/272-1835  
www.geocities.com/somerfest

**SULPHUR SPRINGS**

Heritage Square  
Antique Car Show  
903/885-1236 or  
888/300-6623

**WAXAHACHIE**

Texas Country Reporter  
Festival  
972/937-2390  
www.waxahachiechamber.com

**27-28**

**KAUFMAN**

Kit & Caboodle Fall Festival  
972/932-2216  
www.caboodlefest.com

**27-Nov 5**

**ARLINGTON**

Peter Pan  
817/861-2287  
www.creativearts.org

**28**

**GIDDINGS**

St. Margaret's Catholic Church  
Fall Festival  
979/542-0217  
www.stmargaretscatholic  
church.com

**HALLETTVILLE**

Falling Leaves Polka Fest  
361/798-2311  
www.kchall.com

**31**

**CUERO**

Halloween Party  
& Haunted House  
361/275-3476  
www.cityofcuero.com

**HALLETTVILLE**

Community Fall Carnival  
361/798-2808

**LAKE DALLAS**

Halloween Celebration  
940/497-2226

**McKINNEY**

Scare on the Square  
972/547-2660  
www.downtownmckinney.com

**MOUNT VERNON**

Trick or Treat on the Square  
903/537-4365  
www.visitmtvernontx.com

**WACO**

Zoo Boo  
254/750-8400  
www.cameronparkzoo.com

**SOUTH TEXAS PLAINS**

**1-31**

**EAGLE PASS**

Monarch Butterfly Month  
830/773-1836 or  
888/355-3224

**4**

**SAN ANTONIO**

Gala in the Garden  
210/224-1848  
www.swschool.org

**4-7**

**CONVERSE**

Night in Ole Converse  
210/658-5356  
www.conversebx.net

**SAN ANTONIO**

Valero Texas Open  
210/573-4533  
www.golfsanantonio.org

**5-6, 12-13**

**SAN ANTONIO**

Oktoberfest San Antonio  
210/222-1521

**6**

**LAREDO**

AutMus Fest  
956/326-2171  
www.autmusfest.org

**6-7**

**McALLEN**

Art & Film Festival  
956/687-2787  
or 682-2871

**PalmFest**

International Folklife  
Celebration  
956/668-3049  
www.palmfest.org

**9-13**

**FLORESVILLE**

Peanut Festival  
830/393-6664  
www.floresville  
peanutfestival.org

**12-13**

**CARRIZO SPRINGS**

Brush Country Days  
830/876-5205

**12-14**

**FALFURRIAS**

Fiesta del Campo  
361/325-3333

**SAN ANTONIO**

International Accordion  
Festival  
210/573-6984  
www.international  
accordionfestival.org

**13**

**GOLIAD**

Market Day  
361/645-3563  
www.goliadcc.org

**WESLACO**

Breakfast  
with the Birds  
956/565-3919  
www.worldbirdingcenter.org

**18-21**

**BEEVILLE**

Western Week  
361/358-3267  
www.westernweek.org

**24-27**

**ALICE**

Jim Wells County Fair  
361/664-7595  
www.alicetx.org

**27**

**WESLACO**

Halloween Fest  
956/565-3919  
www.worldbirdingcenter.org

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# Readers RECOMMEND...

TIPS FROM OUR READERS

WHEN you're in the Van Horn area, tour **Red Rock Ranch** for a glimpse of the beauty that West Texas has to offer. Darice McVay, an excellent guide with a concern for conservation, includes an interesting history lesson with her tours. Hiking on the ranch can be arranged, as can tours of a nearby ranch that has many Native American petroglyphs. A visit to Red Rock Ranch is fun and a time well spent.

PHIL BYERS, *Kerville*

For more information on Red Rock Ranch, or to set up a tour, call 800/735-6911.

IN THE historic area of **Burleson** is **Odom's Old Town Smokehouse BBQ**, the best true pit-barbecue restaurant around. It is housed in one of the town's historic buildings, and its menu features finger-lickin' foods such as brisket, ribs, turkey, and ham topped with homemade sauce; traditional sides; and homemade desserts like buttermilk pie and peach cobbler. It's also known to be haunted. Both staff and guests have had many haunting experiences, which lean toward [ghosts playing] pranks like hiding and moving objects and making noise. It's a great place to enjoy the true taste of Texas with a twist of the supernatural.

ELLEN RUBENKOENIG, *Burleson*

*Odom's Old Town Smokehouse BBQ* is at 114 S. Main St.; 817/447-6366.

I PASSED through **Comfort** recently and asked around about what the nightlife was like. I was told to head over to **Guenther's Biergarten Grill** and **Creekside Liquors**. You can go into the adjacent liquor store and buy a drink, and then

ON YOUR next Panhandle Plains road trip, be sure to stop in **Slaton** at the **Slaton Bakery**. They have the best road-trip goodies, especially the vanilla wafers and chocolate donuts.

PAM WHITE, *Houston*

*Slaton Bakery* is at 109 S. Ninth St.; 806/828-3253; [www.slatonbakery.com](http://www.slatonbakery.com). Other deliciously sweet offerings include peanut brittle, fudge studded with pecans, English toffee, and glazed donuts (shown here). Wedding and groom cakes can be ordered.



COURTESY SLATON BAKERY

take it next door and listen to live music. Both are family owned, the food was spectacular, and I had a blast.

VICTORIA JONES

*Guenther's Biergarten Grill* and *Creekside Liquors* are at 220 Texas 473; 830/995-5370; [www.shopcomfort.com/guenthers](http://www.shopcomfort.com/guenthers).

I HAVE eaten at the **Waterfront Restaurant** at the harbor in **Matagorda** many times, and the food has always been excellent and the staff friendly. Also, a really good steakhouse in **Bay City** is **K-2 Steakhouse and Saloon**. I've enjoyed your magazine for many years—keep it up!

STELLA CORLISS, *Garwood*

*Waterfront Restaurant* is at 190 CR 255; 979/863-2520. *K-2 Steakhouse and Saloon* is at 1701 Eighth St.; 979/245-6936.

SOME FRIENDS and I had heard that **Ciao Lavanderia** in **San Antonio** offers divine Italian food, so we decided to check it out. There was a bit of a wait, but once seated, we

began running through the delicious-sounding menu. We started with spinach and Gorgonzola salad, and were on our way to heaven. We followed with pappardelle with sausage and spinach, eggplant Parmesan, and trout al pesto. Everything was delicious, especially the trout, which was perfectly cooked with a crunchy outside and a nice, red center. Though we barely left room for dessert, we couldn't leave without sampling the gelato and chocolate mascarpone cheesecake with raspberry sauce [a special]. Both were simply scrumptious. The ambiance was intriguing, the service attentive, and we had a thoroughly enchanting evening. We'll have to go back again soon.

LORRAINE BARNES

*Ciao Lavanderia* is at 226 E. Olmos Dr.; 210/822-3990. Housed in a former laundromat, *Ciao Lavanderia* means "goodbye washateria" in Italian.

**IF YOU KNOW OF A NOTEWORTHY LONE STAR ATTRACTION, RESTAURANT, EVENT, OR PRODUCT, WRITE OR E-MAIL:** Readers Recommend, *Texas Highways*, Box 141009, Austin 78714-1009. E-mail: [letters05@texashighways.com](mailto:letters05@texashighways.com). Space constraints prevent us from publishing every suggestion we receive. We reserve the right to edit items. Because we're unable to check out every item, and because hours vary and details can change, please call ahead for more information.

**Texas Highways**

## Travel Blog

**FOLLOW** noted travel writer **June Naylor** on her treks across Texas.

**SHARE** your comments on June's travels, or chime in with your own favorite haunts and jaunts.

Join us at [www.texashighways.com](http://www.texashighways.com)

**Next month...** We're headed to **Lonesome Dove**, with a selection of stunning images by **Bill Wittliff** from a new book on the miniseries. We'll also explore a little-known Hill Country route along **Old Highway 9**, pop into the **Panhandle Plains Historical Museum**, and wing on down to the **Rio Grande Valley Birding Festival**. Stay tuned!



© NATHAN McCREERY

window on  
**TEXAS**

**PHOTOGRAPHER** Nathan McCreery captured this photo just off Smith Spring Trail in Guadalupe Mountains National Park, where you can see beautiful fall colors and watch for birds, mule deer, and elk. The trail is a 2.3-mile loop and usually takes less than two hours to hike.

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

