

SPECIAL STATE PARKS ISSUE

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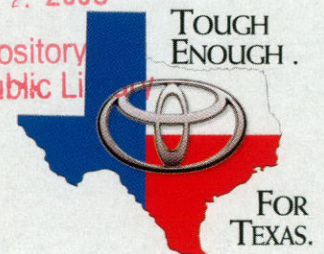
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The OUTDOOR MAGAZINE of TEXAS

MAY 2003, VOL. 61, NO. 5

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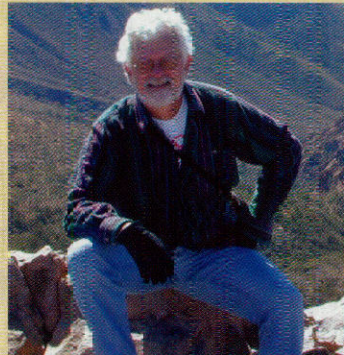
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In the Field

ROB McCORKLE, who writes in this issue about parks close to Texas' three largest cities, left the concrete-and-glass environs of his native Houston to earn a journalism degree at Louisiana State University. Since then, his 30-year career in journalism, publishing and public information has taken him from Louisiana river towns to the mountains of West Texas. As part of his job with the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department's news and information branch, McCorkle does editorial research at a different state park every month. The resulting park write-ups have appeared in most major Texas dailies, several magazines and numerous weeklies. His wife and 4-year-old Jack Russell terrier sometimes join him on camping and hiking trips.

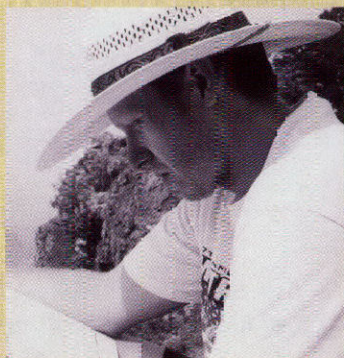


SHERYL SMITH-RODGERS of Blanco is a freelance writer and editor of the *Blanco County News*. She has written two books, *Texas Old-Time Restaurants and Cafes* and *Weekends Away: Camping and Cooking in Texas State Parks*. An award-winning journalist and photographer, she started writing for her high school

newspaper when she was 16. After serving as editor in her senior year, she went on to earn a journalism degree from Trinity University. She is the mother of two children, Patrick and Lindsey. In this issue she writes about some of the interpretive programs in state parks.



BRANDON WEAVER is no stranger to the world of extreme sports. He started snowboarding when it was still outlawed at most ski resorts, raced motocross while other kids were playing Little League baseball and raced go-carts at speeds exceeding 100 mph. Weaver says his knack for pushing the limits finds its way into everything he does. While in college he sprained his ankle while studying for an English exam, and while vacationing in Hawaii he bruised his eyeballs while snorkeling. With these credentials, there's no better person to write "Extreme Finds," about the best state parks for extreme sports. His picks begin on page 46.



AT ISSUE

FROM THE PEN OF ROBERT L. COOK

It had been a long time since I'd been on an old fashioned Texas campout, you know, where you go out into the woods and stay a night or two, just for the heck of it. Don't get me wrong, I've been in lots of good camps, camps like the one on Turkey Creek just above Beaver Canyon when it snowed us in. That was a good camp, one you never forget. Or like the camp on Blue Ridge where Donnie, Fox and I drew straws to see which of us would go in for the 41-inch mule deer that we had located. Now I'm glad that Donnie won. That was a great camp, but that is another story, for another day.

I'm not talking about camps that are occupied by a bunch of grown-ups who have all the right gear, like heavy duty wall tents, water-proof compasses and camouflage pillow cases. I'm talking about a campout where the essential ingredients are at least two kids, maybe more. I'm talking about a camp from which a Texas snipe hunt can originate.

The necessities for a Texas campout are wieners and "S'mores"; no black coffee, no steaks to grill, no tobacco and, for heaven's sake, none of this "We're-going-to-eat-what-we-catch" malarkey. The primary drink on a campout is soda pop, or as we used to say, bellywash. If you're going on a campout, you've got to use campout terminology.

About a year ago, I decided it was time for a campout. My fellow campers, Morgan, age 7, and Emilee, age 4, had their sleep-over bags, and their mom (my daughter) had recently acquired a new summer tent with lots of flaps and windows. It only took about two pick-up loads of gear for the planned one-nighter, and I'm proud to report that four adults had that tent up in only about 3½ hours. Meanwhile, the girls had discovered that there was no plumbing, indoor or outdoor. That raised lots of questions. We built the fire inside the ring of rocks, and broke out the grub as night approached.

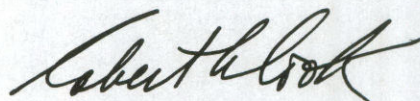
We roasted those wieners on green sticks until they were crispy black, and they still tasted great. We agreed that "S'mores" were best when you let the marshmallows flame up just a little. We called the "hoot-owls" and one sailed silently past our flickering fire into the dark. We spotted the Big Dipper and located the North Star. When the coyotes howled, the two little campers scooted closer to my side. After the fire died down, we took a turn telling scary stories; then we were off to our sleeping bags for a full night of "What's that noise, Peepaw?" and "Mom, did you hear that?" and "This ground is hard."

The girls made the night almost without incident, not counting the ants that got in their dad's pants, and without much sleep. Just before daybreak, the last norther of the year blew in, tore down the tent, spat a little rain, and sent us scurrying with laughter to the old pick-up. It was great; one of the best campouts I've ever been on.

Some believe that the best way to learn about conservation and the outdoors is to go hunting, or fishing, or mountain climbing or birding. I think that maybe going on a campout with kids, is the best of all. Kids ask lots of questions. They make you really think about "Why?"

It's springtime in Texas; time for a campout with the kids. Our state parks, to which our May issue is dedicated, are perfect for a campout. It is a wonderful way for them, and you, to learn to love and appreciate the great outdoors of Texas, and each other.

Some people believe the best way to learn about the outdoors is to go hunting, or fishing or birding. I think camping with children is perhaps the best of all.


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PICKS, PANS AND PROBES FROM PREVIOUS ISSUES

FOREWORD

Water, without doubt, is the key issue Texas will face in the decades ahead. With a population expected to double in the next 30 years, the conservation and management of water for people — as well as for fish and wildlife — will become increasingly critical.

Last year, the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department began an ambitious water communications effort, one that will be ongoing to keep you informed on these issues. The first of these efforts was the July 2002 issue of *Texas Parks & Wildlife* magazine, titled "Texas: The State of Water." This issue is the top-selling newsstand issue in this magazine's 60-year history. Also, as we go to press, we've just learned that the "Texas: The State of Water" issue has been nominated for seven national awards from the Western Publications Association in the following categories: Best Sports & Recreation, Best Special Theme Issue, Best Overall Design/Consumer, Best Feature Article/Consumer, Best Regional & State, Best Cover/Consumer and Best Black & White Layout/Consumer. An eighth nomination, in Best Color Layout/Consumer went to another water article, "Flood," in the March 2002 issue. Back issues of the July 2002 issue can still be ordered for \$5 each through the magazine's editorial offices listed on the masthead.


The second thrust of this communication effort was the August 2002 publication of the book *Texas Rivers*, written by John Graves, who was recently honored with Texas Cultural Trust's Lifetime Achievement award, with photography by Wyman Meinzer, named Texas State Photographer by the Texas Legislature. This collaboration by two of Texas' most eloquent naturalists was recognized as one of the three best Texas nonfiction books of 2002 by the *San Antonio Express-News* and was a finalist in Texas Christian University's Texas Book Awards. *Texas Rivers* was also the top-selling book at the 2002 Texas Book Festival. Now in its third printing, *Texas Rivers* is available in bookstores or through the University of Texas Press at (800) 252-3206.

On May 29, the PBS documentary "Texas: The State of Water," produced as a partnership effort by TPWD and KERA-TV, and underwritten by Brazos Mutual Funds, will air on KERA and 12 other PBS affiliates, reaching 32 Texas cities. From the parched Chihuahuan Desert to the Chenier Plain of southeast Texas, this one-hour program explains, in depth, how these seemingly separate elements converge to create one vast, interconnected ecosystem that determines the ecological and economic health of our state. For additional air dates in cities across the state and further program details, please turn to page 28 and to "Sights and Sounds" on page 59.

Other sources of water information can easily be found by visiting www.tpwd.state.tx.us and clicking on "Texas Water" in the top bar.

Texas Parks & Wildlife magazine will again focus on water in the July 2003 issue, with major features on Texas bays.

Water is not just important; it's essential.



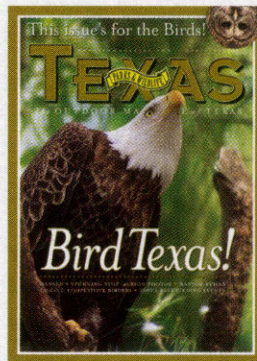
LETTERS

THANKS, WARDEN!

I wish to commend our game warden, David Mobley, for his help in rescuing a badly injured bald eagle. Thanks in great part to his diligence and prompt response, the eagle was released

back into the wild with him in attendance. Mobley serves Palo Pinto County, where our ranch is located. He was truly concerned for the eagle's well-being and we're glad to have an agent like him.

PAME EVANS
Dallas



The gang at Audubon congratulates you on the outstanding April issue. Russ Hansen's wonderful photos remind us why we come to work each day.

Terry W. Austin,
Executive Director,
Audubon Texas
Vice President, National
Audubon Society

FLOAT YOUR BOAT

The April 2003 issue of *Texas Parks & Wildlife* magazine contains a very good Skill-builder, "How to Back a Boat." The article is one of the best and most concise explanations for an activity that many boaters find difficult. However, I was concerned with the way item No. 2 of the "Five Tips for Boat Ramp Etiquette" was worded. The item reads "As you

are backing down the ramp, the boat operator should start the engine and as soon as the boat is floating, back it away from the ramp." If boaters were to follow these instructions literally and start the engine and run it for more than a very few seconds before the cooling water intake on the engine was sufficiently below the water, there is a high probability that damage to the impeller in the raw-water cooling system would occur.

I would suggest that the sentence be reworded to read: "After backing down

MAIL CALL

the ramp and just as the boat begins to float, have the driver pause so that the boat operator can start the engine and then back away from the ramp."

The concept of starting the engine before the boat is completely clear of the trailer is important so that boat operators do not find themselves adrift with no power. However, we find that boaters are often causing damage to, or aging of, the cooling system by running their engines out of the water on the ramp for extended periods of time during the launch process.

ROD MALONE

President, Boating Trades Association of Texas

STEVE HALL, TPWD EDUCATION AND OUTREACH DIRECTOR

RESPONDS: *We appreciate Malone's clarification. Boating Trades Association of Texas has been a partner with TPWD in many statewide boating safety efforts for the past 15 years.*

MORE FENCING DISCUSSIONS

I am writing in response to the flood of letters concerning wildlife lease fees and high game fences.

Whenever a problem like this particular one starts, it is due to a departure from tradition. Tradition holds that private property owners lease out hunting rights at a reasonable price to hunters who come and go peacefully. Hunting prices have skyrocketed due to the inflation of costs to the private property owner. Landowners do not want to pick up trash and beer cans, or listen to loud stereos during hunting season. I want people to come and go on my land without leaving trash.

The other side of that coin says I cannot afford to market to well-behaved, non-wealthy hunters without some other source of income to support my family. When economic strains come to the livestock market, ranchers have to make changes that will continue to support their families. One solution is for a spouse to have a job or to have a business in town to support an agricultural operation.

High game fences restrict migration. Using them for retention of stocked, perhaps exotic, wildlife works well. Otherwise, trying to corral native wildlife for exorbitant prices draws the same conclusions as shooting fish in a barrel (not to mention the lessons lost

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GENE SHIPP
Fort Worth

Every landowner has the right to do what he/she pleases with their land so long as the laws and regulations of the state and country are not breached. This includes the right to erect a fence as high as desired.

However, if I were to go out on my land and trap a deer I would be in violation of the law. So, when a landowner erects a fence of such height that a deer cannot leap over it, then the landowner has trapped a wildlife resource that belongs to all the people of Texas.

If a landowner wants to erect a high fence to set up a game-hunting encampment, then before the fence is completely closed, all of the wildlife that cannot jump the proposed fence should be herded off the premises before making the final fence closing. Then the landowner could purchase deer, elk or whatever and restock his land. Or when the fence is closed the TPWD could go in and do an extensive survey of the wildlife and present the landowner with a bill to cover the value of the wildlife contained therein. The above two options would therefore be fair to everyone.

What landowners charge to hunt on their land is certainly their business; they could charge whatever the market would support. That is part of the American free enterprise system.

I enjoy your magazine and thank you for the opportunity to present my thoughts on the subject of high fences.

GARY M. TRAMMELL
Fort Worth

GET A LINE ON LITTER

Larry D. Hodge's point about environmentally conscious anglers using lead-free sinkers and jigs ("Get the Lead Out," Scout, April 2003) should be a no-brainer. Still, commonly used lead sinkers and jigs, while extremely harmful to fish and wildlife in the long term, may not be the most harmful (and easiest to resolve issue) confronting the environment.

Anyone who visits a beach, pier, jetty, marina or public boat ramp will observe the trash and litter left behind by the fishers and sportsmen of Texas.

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We regularly see discarded tires and batteries, beer and soda bottles and cans, plastic six-pack straps, empty outboard oil containers, plastic and Styrofoam... the list is endless.

That said, the most harmful (and easiest to eliminate) is the countless handfuls of discarded monofilament fishing line piled up on shore or floating in the water. A better use for that discarded plastic ice bag is to put it in your pocket and fill it with trash while you are enjoying nature and the great Texas outdoors. Recycle what you can (cans, plastic, glass, etc.) and let the rest go to a proper municipal landfill.

Hunt, fish, wildlife-watch, photograph or just enjoy our Texas outdoors, but *please* leave our world cleaner than you found it. Removing these hazards before they harm or kill fish and wildlife gives you a feeling much more satisfying than the guilt that should be felt by those who selfishly discarded their trash in and near our waterways.

STEVE & CLAUDIA ZILIOX
Houston

EDITOR'S NOTE: For space considerations, last issue's "Mail Call" omitted a few winners of the 2003 Texas Outdoor Writers Association "Excellence in Craft" awards competition. Please join us in recognizing other first place winners: Web Page: T.J. Greaney, <www.theoutdoorzone.com>; Outdoor Book, Pat Murray, "Pat Murray's Guide to Coastal Fishing"; Corporate Member Award, Kevin Howard, "Introduction Campaign for Winchester 270 WSM"; and Special Projects: Texas Outdoor News by Harold Gunn and Bill Olson, "Skin Cancer Awareness."

Sound off for "Mail Call!"

Texas Parks & Wildlife magazine welcomes letters from our readers. Please include your name, address and daytime telephone number.

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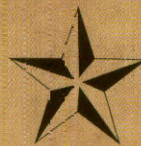
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SCOUT

NEWS AND VIEWS IN THE TEXAS OUTDOORS

Blossoming Forth

Well into May, state parks abound with fragrant displays of native flowers.

From the Gulf Coast to the Big Bend each spring, wildflowers brighten the Texas landscape. State parks offer some of the best places to enjoy spectacular displays of bluebonnets, Indian paintbrushes and other native flowering plants.

Here's a sampling of parks to visit

Big Bend Country

Three-foot-tall Big Bend bluebonnets and colorful cactus blooms can be seen at the Big Bend Ranch State Park.

At Franklin Mountains State Park in El Paso, golden California poppies spread color across the slopes in March and April. For great views of the flowers, visitors can ride the Wyler Aerial Tramway.

Gulf Coast

Bluebonnets and other wildflowers bloom in abundance at Lake Corpus Christi State Park.

Bluebonnets and Indian paintbrushes surround the stately plantation house at Varner-Hogg Plantation State Historic Site.

Hill Country

March and April are the best times to see fields ablaze with color at the Lyndon B. Johnson State Historic Site. Wildflowers include bluebonnets, Indian paintbrushes, firewheels and Mexican hats.

Highways lined with wild-

flowers lead to Enchanted Rock State Natural Area and Inks Lake State Park.

Panhandle Plains

A variety of flowers bloom from March through October along Palo Duro Canyon State Park's 16 miles of roads. May and June are the best times to visit, when plants such as spiderwort, Texas thistle, yucca, Indian blanket and Mexican hat are in full flower.

Pineywoods

Flowering dogwood, red-buds and fragrant wisteria blossoms make springtime at Daingerfield State Park a beautiful time to visit.

Passengers on the antique Texas State Railroad see the region's beautiful displays of flowering dogwoods in late March and early April.

Prairies & Lakes

Fort Parker State Park near Mexia boasts a wonderful wildflower season that runs from early March through June. Among the blooming



Big Bend bluebonnets and yuccas grace the slopes of Big Bend Ranch State Park in the spring.

plants are Indian blanket, standing cypress, phlox, ladies'-tresses, evening primrose and wine cups.

Bluebonnets and other spring flowers abound in Washington-on-the-Brazos State Historic Site.

South Texas Plains

Goliad State Park has wonderful displays of bluebonnets and Indian paintbrushes that bloom through April, as well as phlox, lantana and wine cups. Visitors can see concentrations of flowers along Highway 59.

Springtime visitors to Bentsen-Rio Grande Valley State Park will see dense

growths of flowering shrubs such as blackbrush and cenizo. Wildflowers include sand verbena, sleepy daisy, wild phlox and huisache daisy.

Information about these and other state parks is available at <www.tpwd.state.tx.us/park/>. Or call (800) 792-1112. For information about wildflowers at state parks, go to <www.tpwd.state.tx.us/park/wildflower/index.htm>.

During peak wildflower season, motorists can listen to recorded reports by calling the Texas Travel Information Hotline at (800) 452-9292.

—Sheryl Smith-Rodgers

PHOTO © LAURENCE PARENT

Three Fine Floats

A veteran canoeist shares his favorite day paddles on Texas waterways.

She came to me through barter. My end involved four magnesium wheels, a Sears guitar and \$65 in cash, hard-earned by pumping gas. In return I got 14 feet of scalding-hot, ear-rattling, teeth-gnashing, ill-disposed scrap aluminum lacking rivets at several structural intersections. In the great tradition of Eastern riverboat captains, I named her the *Julia Belle Plemsole*. My, she was a fine canoe.

When I took my true love out, I slept almost any place — on a blanket tossed upon a dry riverbed or under a clattering cottonwood tree. Now older, more brittle and less ambitious, I plan the day's paddle to conclude at one of many Texas state parks that provide excellent river access.

Here are three of my favorite Texas paddling day trips. If you plan to stay overnight at any of these state parks, be sure to make reservations through the TPWD Central Reservations System, (512) 389-8900 or <www.tpwd.state.tx.us/park/admin/res/>.

THE BIG CYPRESS BAYOU: Jefferson to Caddo Lake State Park

Paddling this stretch of Big Cypress Bayou is like being eased back to the days when settlers departed Jefferson on steamboats bound for Louisiana. Ancient cypress trees and other hardwoods line the banks, making this one of the most

beautiful bayous in Texas. Put your canoe in at FM 134 in Jefferson and head downstream for 25 miles of seclusion and natural beauty. The stream is navigable year-round, although fallen trees sometimes form obstructions. This is a long paddle for one day, so start early, take lots of water and keep a steady pace. Take out at Caddo Lake State Park and enjoy one of the park system's best facilities.

THE SAN MARCOS RIVER: Luling City Park to Palmetto State Park

This 14-mile stretch of the San Marcos River is a fun day paddle. Before you start, grab some barbecue in Luling and then head to the launch area at the Luling City Park. The river runs smoothly along this course, with no rapids and a steady current. As you head downstream, keep a sharp eye out for a dam around which you will have to portage. Palmetto State Park is one of Texas' best birding spots, so plan to stay overnight and be sure to take your binoculars.

THE GUADALUPE RIVER: FM 3351 (Kendall County) crossing to Guadalupe River State Park

When I close my eyes and think of sunny days on a stream, I come back to this 7.5-mile stretch of the Guadalupe River. Sometimes I paddle it twice in one day, just to fish and float. The cool, clear water runs over limestone bottoms, with sunfish and bass waiting to be taken on a fly rod. Like many Texas Hill Country streams, the Guadalupe has rapids, so sharpen your paddling skills and wear a life jacket. Guadalupe River State Park is ruggedly beautiful, with excellent wildlife-viewing opportunities. Its camping area offers a welcome respite for creaking knees and aching shoulders.

The Guadalupe River always takes me back to my early days with the *Julia Belle*. And although I can't swear by it, I am pretty sure I saw her float by once with some other young fellow at the stern.
— Bill Harvey

Canoeists on the Guadalupe River can extend their outing by camping at Guadalupe River State Park near Spring Branch.



Room to Spare

Beat the crowds at state parks with a weekday excursion.

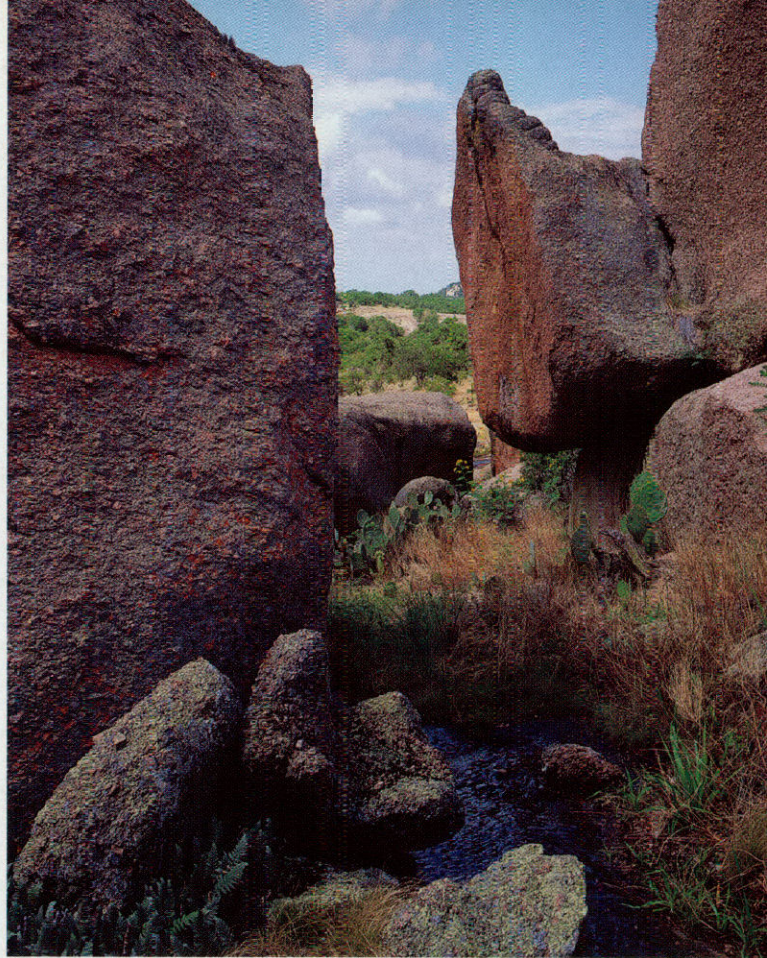
So you're beginning to believe that all of Texas has discovered your favorite state park? Here's a secret: If you have the time between Monday and Thursday, most state parks have the space.

Enchanted Rock in the Hill Country is crawling with visitors every weekend. The same can be said of many state parks — from Cedar Hill outside Dallas to Bastrop State Park near Austin. What many folks don't realize is that during the middle of the week, at some parks, you can hike, canoe, fish and picnic and rarely see anyone else but an occasional retiree or the park staff.

At Fort Richardson State Historic Site, just outside of Jacksboro and only 60 miles west of Fort Worth, attendance drops from mostly full on the weekends to about 25 percent of capacity on weekdays. Choice spots are available among the park's 41 RV sites, and almost no one can be found in the primitive camping area. You often can have your pick of screened shelters if you show up between Monday and Thursday. Many Texans and out-of-staters know Fort Richardson as a historic site, with the ruins of the old 19th-century fort to explore. Few know that the park's trails are multi-use — horseback riding and biking as well as hiking are allowed. And the nine-mile trail connects with the city of Jacksboro's Lost Creek trail. So, if you want a new experience that combines history and a quiet outdoor experience, try Fort Richardson.

Palmetto State Park is only 20 minutes from San Marcos; close enough for a long lunch hour. It is only 45 minutes from Austin and less than an hour from San Antonio. Created by the Civilian Conservation Corps in the 1930s, Palmetto still has CCC structures that can be used for family reunions and overnight group functions. Located a few miles from historic Gonzales, Palmetto offers campsites with water and electricity, some with water only, and 19 RV sites. Park staffers say that during the week only about 30 percent of the sites are in use. In addition to the usual amenities such as showers and clean restrooms, Palmetto offers canoe and paddleboat rentals on its oxbow lake. The secret to this lake is that the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department stocks it with bass and catfish. But you don't have to rent a boat to fish; you can use the fishing pier.

With more than 4 million people living in the Houston area, its nearby parks receive a lot of visitors. Historic parks such as the Battleship *Texas* and San Jacinto Battleground draw hundreds of thousands of visitors annually. If you're looking to get sand between your toes, try Galveston Island or Sea Rim state parks. Or for a quiet park experience drive north on I-45 about 70 miles to Huntsville State Park, with 2,100 acres of rolling East Texas pineywoods to explore. Though busy on weekends from May through September, the park is usually more than half empty during the week. The accommodations include more than 100 tent camping sites,



Tired of weekend crowds at Enchanted Rock State Natural Area? Try a mid-week visit.

63 RV sites and 30 screen shelters. The central attraction is Lake Raven. Fish from one of two piers or rent a canoe and try out that rod and reel on bass, catfish and crappie. In addition, there is horseback riding, a 15-mile-long hike-and-bike trail and a nature center. —Phil Hewitt

FIELD NOTES

A unique exhibit, "Playas...Gems of the Plains," will be traveling to Panhandle-area museums over the next three years, educating visitors about the importance of playa lakes to the High Plains ecosystem. Playa lakes are small, round depressions that periodically fill with water, mostly from precipitation. Their wet/dry cycles result in an extremely diverse plant community and some of the most important wetland habitat in the region. This exhibit features 20 floor-to-ceiling, full-color panels with interactive displays, presenting the function, history and ecology of playa lakes. Initial funding for the project came from the Playa Lakes Joint Venture, which hopes the exhibit will encourage people to help in protection of playa lakes. The exhibit will be at the Childress County Heritage Museum until May 28, and Old Mobeetie Jail Museum from June 1 to July 30. For more information call (806) 537-5040.



Call of the Wild

For primitive camping and beautiful habitat, the state's wildlife management areas are hard to beat.

More than 50 wildlife management areas dot the state, most within an hour's drive of a state park — some are even adjacent to a park. WMAs offer many of the same activities as state parks, such as wildlife viewing, hiking and biking, but in a less-developed setting. A number of WMAs have primitive campgrounds, driving tours, wildlife observation blinds or nature trails. A few provide opportunities for horseback riding, canoeing or kayaking. Most are open for general visitation every day of the year except when closed for research, maintenance or public hunting. All that is required for admission is a \$10 Limited Public Use Permit or a \$40 Annual Public Hunting Permit.

I visited each of the WMAs in the course of writing the *Official Guide to Texas Wildlife Management Areas* (\$29.95, order from the University of Texas Press at (800) 252-3206). Here are some of my favorites, grouped by categories of activity.

Driving Tours. The Kerr WMA near Hunt offers a driving tour with a double treat. Information kiosks explain how the habitat is managed for wildlife, and in the spring, golden-

Wildlife management areas offer opportunities for hiking and wildlife viewing in an undeveloped setting.

cheeked warblers and black-capped vireos nest on the area. The driving tour of the Gus Engeling WMA near Palestine also is designed to explain the principles of habitat management. In May, visitors have a good chance of spotting Kentucky and Swainson's warblers. When fall and spring rains cooperate, wildflowers put on a spectacular show along the tour route through the Chaparral WMA near Artesia Wells.

Camping. I love the tranquility and simplicity of primitive camping in remote areas, and Black Gap WMA south of Marathon is my favorite place to do it. Some sites have shade shelters and picnic tables, but I choose campsites for the isolation and the view, and Black Gap has both in abundance. Campsites along the Rio Grande double as fishing camps.

While the desert is my favorite place to camp, sometimes I like to retreat to the forests. WMAs located in East Texas national forests allow camping in both developed campgrounds, where available, and anywhere in the general forest (except during hunting season). Alabama Creek WMA (near Lufkin), Moore Plantation (near Jasper) and Sam Houston National Forest WMA (near Livingston) have many potential campsites surrounded by towering pines. A bonus is the chance to see endangered red-cockaded woodpeckers on all three areas.

Wildlife Viewing. Every WMA offers the chance to see a variety of birds that live in or migrate through the area. Candy Abshier WMA (south of Anahuac) is one of the best birding sites in Texas, since it is located on a major migration path for both neotropicals and hawks. Birding following a spring cold front can be spectacular as exhausted birds returning from Central America "fall out" into trees on the area. Las Palomas (near Harlingen) has more than 20 separate units where you can see tropical species found only in this part of the United States. For other animals, visit Elephant Mountain (near Alpine), home to desert bighorn sheep and mule deer; Old Tunnel (near Fredericksburg), a spring-till-fall roost for Mexican free-tailed bats; Gene Howe (near Canadian), with both a prairie dog town and lesser prairie chickens; and Chaparral, with a healthy population of both Texas horned lizards and Texas tortoises.

Hiking and Biking. Pick your pleasure. Kerr, Chaparral, Bannister, Moore Plantation, Alabama Creek and Sam Houston National Forest WMAs have hard-surfaced, level roads suitable for easy walking or biking. Bicycle riders will also enjoy riding the roads at Black Gap, Gene Howe and Matador (near Paducah). Matagorda Island WMA (near Port O'Connor) encourages the use of bikes on the island; the TPWD ferry will transport your bike for free.

Canoeing and Kayaking. Matagorda Island WMA can be reached by kayak via the Port O'Connor Paddling Trail (call (512) 389-4642 for information), or you can take your kayak on the TPWD ferry (fee charged; reservation suggested). Tony Houseman WMA contains numerous old logging canals running off the Sabine River into the swamp. Caddo Lake is laced with "boat roads," all mapped and signed, and canoe and kayak rentals are available locally. One of the premiere paddling experiences in Texas is canoeing the Angelina and Neches rivers and associated sloughs on Angelina-Neches/Dam B WMA near Jasper. Scheduled guided trips are available through Martin Dies, Jr., State Park.

For more information on visiting WMAs, call (800) 792-1112, menu options 5, 1, or visit <www.tpwd.state.tx.us/wma/wmalist.htm>.

—Larry D. Hodge



Biography of a State

Bill Harvey fell in love with history as a teenager tending Mount Olivet Cemetery in Fort Worth. As he watered and mowed the grounds, he lingered over the headstones, pondered the passage of time and discovered, in his words, "the richness of humanity." Harvey went on to become an outdoorsman, a photographer and a fisheries biologist for the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department.

In his spare time he continued visiting some of the most interesting of the estimated 35,000 Texas cemeteries, photographing headstones and, more importantly, discovering stories about the people buried in them. Working intensely for six years, he has produced a book with the deceptively simple title, *Texas Cemeteries* (University of Texas Press, \$22.95, paper). But Harvey reveals his real achievement in his subtitle: "The Resting Places of Famous, Infamous and Just Plain Interesting Texans."

If history is essentially biography, as Ralph Waldo Emerson proposed, then Bill Harvey has addressed the central task. For while his advice on how to explore cemeteries and photograph headstones may well be used by those who want to follow in his footsteps, his sprightly, tight biographies of Texans carry the day.

The famous politicians are here: Sam Houston, Sam Rayburn, Barbara Jordan and LBJ, along with legendary athletes such as Rogers Hornsby, Tris Speaker and Mildred "Babe" Zaharias. Harvey has a knack for picking the perfect detail. Babe Zaharias was nicknamed by the neighborhood boys for hitting like Babe Ruth. When Barbara Jordan taught at the LBJ School of Public Affairs, her class in political ethics was so popular that for fairness,

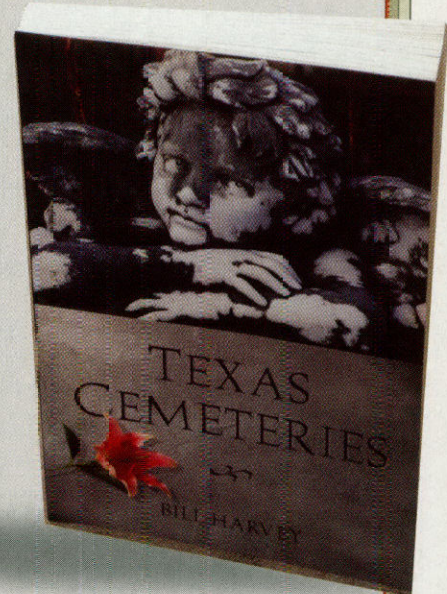
students had to be selected by lottery.

Most of us have heard of the endangered Attwater's prairie chicken, but don't know Henry Philemon Attwater (buried in Houston's Hollywood Cemetery), a naturalist and a director of the National Audubon Society in the first decade of the 20th century who helped create the first game laws in Texas.

Harvey has made a point of singling out Congressional Medal of Honor winners. Three of them are buried in the Seminole-Negro Indian Scout Cemetery near Brackettville. These scouts were descendants of slaves who had escaped their owners and lived with the Seminole Indians in Florida. They were honored for rescuing their officer in a battle with Comanches in 1875.

As for the infamous, Harvey includes them too: Bonnie and Clyde are here, and so is Philip Coe, probably the last man to be killed by Wild Bill Hickok. Gunfighters, politicians, gangsters, athletes, cowboys, teachers, soldiers, philanthropists, lawmen: they're all here, mingled together by the great leveler, death, and briefly brought to life by a conscientious and thoughtful writer.

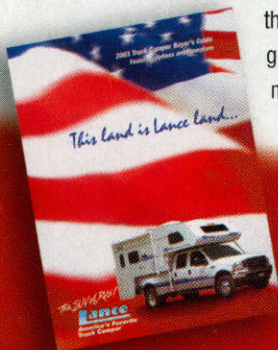
— Michael Berryhill



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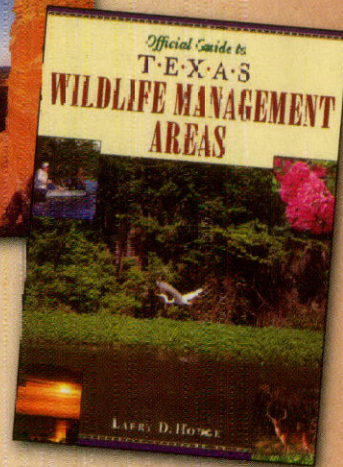
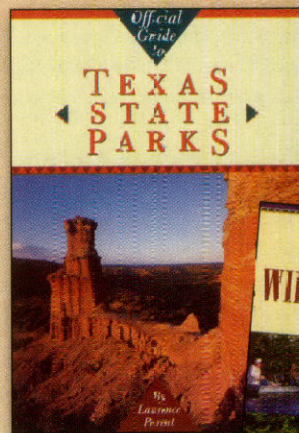
TREASURE HUNT

100 LUCKY WINNERS!

Dig up the answers to these 25 questions, — all found between the covers of this issue — and mail them to us at: *Texas Parks & Wildlife* magazine TREASURE HUNT, 3000 S. IH35, Ste. 120 Austin, TX 78704. We'll sort the correct answers by postmark date. The first 50 readers with correct answers will receive the two-book set, the *Official Guide to Texas State Parks* and the *Official Guide to Texas Wildlife Management Areas* (retail value, \$49.90). The next 50 readers with correct answers will receive a spanking-new Texas state map highlighting all the Texas state parks. Hurry — and good luck!

Please include your name, mailing address and phone contact here:

NAME _____ ADDRESS _____
 CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____ PHONE _____



1 A colony of southeastern myotis bats inhabits what kind of tree near Water Oak Trail?
 ANSWER: _____ PAGE _____

2 How tall is Dolan Falls?
 ANSWER: _____ PAGE _____

3 What is the term for the natural rock basins that collect rain-water in West Texas?
 ANSWER: _____ PAGE _____

4 Who owned the first house in Texas with indoor plumbing?
 ANSWER: _____ PAGE _____

5 Who was known as "Mr. El Paso"?
 ANSWER: _____ PAGE _____

6 How many original lighthouses are on the Texas Coast?
 ANSWER: _____ PAGE _____

7 How many days did it take to write Texas' declaration of independence?
 ANSWER: _____ PAGE _____

8 General Israel B. Richardson died in what Civil War battle?
 ANSWER: _____ PAGE _____

9 On what date were the "black bean incident" victims executed?
 ANSWER: _____ PAGE _____

10 What year did Anglo settlers discover Devil's Sinkhole?
 ANSWER: _____ PAGE _____

11 The Wyler Aerial Tramway is located in which state park?
 ANSWER: _____ PAGE _____

12 Lake Raven is located within which state park?
 ANSWER: _____ PAGE _____

13 Which state park has a gymnasium, Olympic-size swimming pool, shuffleboard and tennis court?
 ANSWER: _____ PAGE _____

14 Who was the last president of the Republic of Texas?
 ANSWER: _____ PAGE _____

15 In which state park might you see a green kingfisher?
 ANSWER: _____ PAGE _____

16 Which Texas governor's mother was born in Roanoke, Virginia, in 1830?
 ANSWER: _____ PAGE _____

17 Which state park is within the city limits of El Paso?
 ANSWER: _____ PAGE _____

18 Which state park was once a sugar plantation?
 ANSWER: _____ PAGE _____

19 Penn Farm is part of what state park?
 ANSWER: _____ PAGE _____


20 Which state park was built by an African-American company of the Civilian Conservation Corps?
 ANSWER: _____ PAGE _____

21 What did General William T. Sherman call "the prettiest post in Texas"?
 ANSWER: _____ PAGE _____

22 Who married Davy Crockett in 1815?
 ANSWER: _____ PAGE _____

24 Where can you see a prairie dog town and lesser prairie chickens?
 ANSWER: _____ PAGE _____

25 Who was the first Tejano to write about Texas history?
 ANSWER: _____ PAGE _____



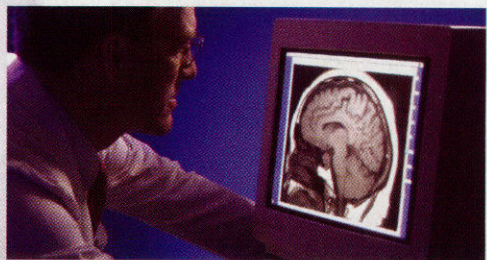
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*Kyle H. Smith, M.D.
Neuro-Ophthalmology, The Scott & White Eye Institute*

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WE REVEAL THE
43 NATURAL WONDERS
JUST OUTSIDE THE
THREE MAJOR CITIES OF TEXAS.

BY ROB MCGORKLE

N

o doubt about it, Texans are urban. Of the roughly 20 million people who live here, the majority live in three urban regions: Houston, San Antonio and Dallas-Fort Worth. City dwellers need respite from city hassles: the long work weeks, the traffic jams, the noise and the visual clutter. To make matters worse many Texas cities are starved for green space.

But where to go? According to TPWD research, a 90-minute drive is the limit for most day-trippers. So we drew a circle around each of these metropolitan areas and identified the state parks within 75 miles of each city. Whether you want birds or bicycling, canoes or horseback riding, a simple picnic or even an easy overnight camping trip, we've got the spots for you.

So get out of town. See the rest of Texas.



FORT WORTH ✕ DALLAS

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AUSTIN ✕

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HOUSTON ✕

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SAN ANTONIO ✕

LAREDO ✕



ILLUSTRATION BY CHET JEZERSKI

HOUSTON AREA

WASHINGTON-ON-THE-BRAZOS STATE HISTORIC SITE

1 In early March 1836, while Santa Anna's army was besieging the Alamo, 59 Texians met in a drafty, unfinished, wood-frame building at Washington-on-the-Brazos to declare independence from Mexico. Shortly after issuing the Texas Declaration of Independence they fled east, pursued by the Mexican army. The town they left behind was never more than a rough collection of a dozen or so buildings situated on a bluff above the Brazos River, but it is now hailed as the Philadelphia of Texas.

The unfinished building where the signers met, called Independence Hall, has been recreated at its original site. A handsome limestone visitors center presents memorabilia of the Texas revolution, along with state-of-the-art interactive exhibits.

The galleried home of Anson Jones, the Republic's last president, has been moved to the site. Reenactors attired in period dress assemble at the Barrington Living History Farm — a cluster of handcrafted log buildings, a garden and cropland — to perform spinning, blacksmithing, farming and other chores typical of rural life in an 1850s Brazos Valley cotton farm.

The park's picturesque setting on a pecan tree-shaded bluff makes it a natural spot for picnics. The winding trails through the magnolias and meadows of wildflowers create an idyllic setting, perfect for relaxing and enjoying the outdoors. Situated near Brenham, this 240-acre park is convenient for Houstonians who frequently travel to the area for its antiques and country inns.

VILLAGE CREEK STATE PARK

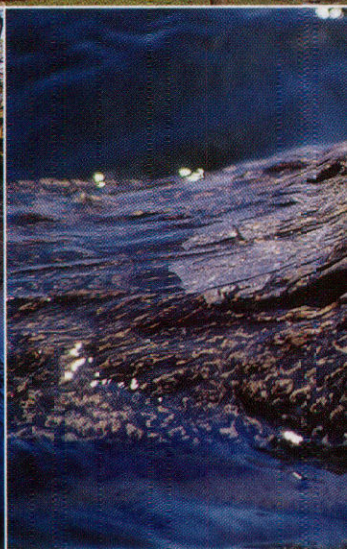
2 Perhaps the best way to get a taste of the Big Thicket is by paddling the wide and slow-moving bayou that gives its name to Village Creek State Park. Enter a primeval world of backwater bayous, carnivorous plants, alligators and water snakes, colorful birds and hundreds of species of flowering plants thriving in a pine-and-hardwood forest so dense that the early pioneers barely attempted to settle it. This may be one of the most pristine wildernesses in Texas, yet it is only 10 miles north of Beaumont near the Neches River.

Opened to the public in 1994, Village Creek State Park offers an entry to the ecological splendor found within the nearby Big Thicket, a 97,000-acre national preserve of what once comprised more than 3 million acres of dense forests and bottomland. Crisscrossed by sloughs and creeks and watered by vast tupelo-cypress swamps, this state park encompasses only 1,200 acres of the so-called "biological crossroads of North America," but it's rich in natural treasures. About 1¼ miles from park headquarters grows the largest river birch in Texas, measuring 90 feet high, 108 inches in girth and 59.5 feet in canopy spread. A colony of rare southeastern myotis bats has been known to inhabit the hollow of a large tupelo tree near Water Oak Trail.

Village Creek State Park has introduced just enough amenities to this untamed, primordial environment to make visitors comfortable. Eight miles of marked trails, interpretive programs on such subjects as raptors and wildflowers, and ample camping facilities cater to the weekend camper hungry for a taste of the heart and soul of the Big Thicket.

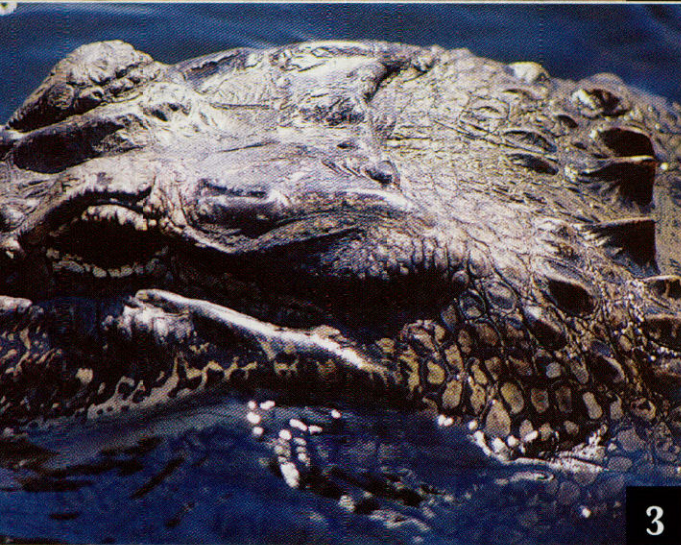
BRAZOS BEND STATE PARK

3 By driving half an hour from southwest Houston, city slickers are almost certain to see alligators in the sloughs and wetlands of this 5,000-acre park. Nearly 30 species of mammals live in this nature wonderland on the Brazos River floodplain, including bobcats, river otters, deer and gray foxes, as well as 270 species of birds. The paved, ADA-approved, handicapped-accessible Creek-





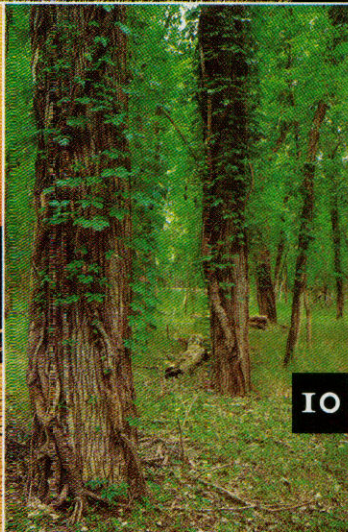
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field Nature Trail is the first of its kind built in a Texas state park. The trail loops around a natural wetland area and features tactile information stations, two observation decks for wildlife viewing and guided hikes on weekends.

FANTHORP INN STATE HISTORIC SITE

4 Fanthorp Inn in Anderson served as a stagecoach stop and post office during the Republic of Texas era, serving such historical figures as Sam Houston, Ulysses S. Grant and the republic's last president, Anson Jones. The 18-room structure was built in 1834 for English immigrant Herry Fanthorp and his wife Rachel. Fanthorp became the area's postmaster and, over time, the home became an inn. The building has been carefully restored with period furnishings, artifacts and exhibits, and offers visitors an opportunity once a month to ride in a replica of an 1850 Concord stagecoach.

GALVESTON ISLAND STATE PARK

5 Tens of thousands of people visit this 2,000-acre park to enjoy the sun and surf while staying at its extensive series of campsites, many with partial hookups and showers. The bay side of the island has its attractions, too. A \$2.1 million wetland restoration project completed in 2000 has brought a new growth of seagrass and improved water quality, attracting more birds and markedly improving fishing in the park.

HUNTSVILLE STATE PARK

6 For 65 years, Houstonians have headed north to this heavily wooded park, built by an African-American company of the Civilian Conservation Corps during the Depression. The park is particularly busy during warm weather, when park patrons gather at the 210-acre Lake Raven to fish, swim and use rental canoes, kayaks and flat-bottom fishing boats. They also hike and bike the extensive trail system that runs through 2,000 acres of loblolly and shortleaf pines.

LAKE HOUSTON STATE PARK

7 Situated on the northern tip of Lake Houston only half an hour from the city, this 5,000-acre park is one of the last large tracts of wilderness accessible to the public on foot, on bike, on horseback or by canoe. Its piney woods teem with wildlife, much of it living in and around a maze of copper-colored creeks and bottomlands. A former Girl Scout camp attracts overnight guests who can rough it in one of 24 primitive campsites or sleep more comfortably in one of three timber lodges.

LAKE LIVINGSTON STATE PARK

8 The park is small — only 635 acres — but Lake Livingston, created by the damming of the Trinity River, is huge. With 84,000 acres there's room for both water-skiing and fishing. The spring white bass run is legendary, and fishing for striped bass and catfish is exceptional. Boat ramps and fishing piers provide easy access to the lake. The park also has a swimming pool with a bathhouse and an observation tower for viewing the park and the lake. Lake Livingston Stables rents horses for a leisurely ride through the woods.

SAN JACINTO BATTLEGROUND STATE HISTORIC SITE

9 All Texans owe themselves a visit to the battleground on Buffalo Bayou where Gen. Sam Houston's troops defeated Gen. Santa Anna's Mexican army in 1836 to win Texas' independence. Take an elevator to the top of the restored 570-foot San Jacinto Monument for a bird's-eye view of the battleground, adjacent marshlands and Battleship *Texas* moored nearby and open for touring. The museum is rich with historical artifacts, and the library chronicles 400 years of Texas history through manuscripts and books. A new, 510-foot boardwalk leads visitors to a restored marshland to glimpse alligators and waterfowl.

FROM TOP: PHOTO © LANCE WAINNELL; PHOTO © MICHAEL MORTON; PHOTO © KATHY ADAMS CLARK/KAC PRODUCTIONS; PHOTO © LANCE WAINNELL

STEPHEN F. AUSTIN STATE PARK/ SAN FELIPE HISTORIC SITE

10 On a bluff overlooking the Brazos River, Stephen F. Austin established his first settlement in 1828. But the early Texans burned the settlement in their retreat from Santa Anna's army in 1836. A bronze statue of the "Father of Texas" keeps watch over the abandoned town site. A dogtrot cabin and a restored general store add to the historical interest. The 600-acre state park serves as a companion to the historic sites, offering campsites, hiking paths and an 18-hole golf course.

SHELDON LAKE STATE PARK

11 Only 13 miles from downtown Houston, this 1,200-acre, shallow lake and marsh is a biological island nestled in urban sprawl. Sheldon Lake welcomes thousands of students annually to its outdoor classroom, the 35-acre Environmental Education Center. The freshwater marshes attract more than 200 species of waterfowl, and several small islands serve as nesting rookeries for herons and egrets.

VARNER-HOGG PLANTATION STATE HISTORIC SITE

12 In 1958 Miss Ima Hogg, daughter of former governor James S. Hogg, donated her father's two-story Classical Revival manor to the state. Situated in Brazoria County on a sugar plantation owned by one of Austin's original 300 settlers, today the 66-acre park offers guided tours and activities interpreting the site's diverse heritage, as well as nature trails and landscaped picnic areas.

SAN ANTONIO AREA

CHOKO CANYON STATE PARK

13 Torrential rains that sent floodwaters surging down the Frio and Nueces rivers and into the 26,000-acre Choke Canyon Reservoir in 2002 have broken a drought that drastically dropped water levels during the last several years. That spells good news for the several hundred thousand boaters, anglers, campers, birders and others who flock annually to this recreational refuge midway between San Antonio and Corpus Christi.

The park's Calliham and South Shore units abut the reservoir, providing more than 3,000 acres of classic South Texas brush country. This mix of thick thorn scrub, chaparral and riparian woodland provides habitat for javelinas, Rio Grande turkeys, coyotes and white-tailed deer. Both units provide exemplary birding. Using marked birding trails and blinds, visitors are likely to see species such as the crested caracara, black-bellied whistling duck and pyrrhuloxia. A 14-passenger golf cart at the Calliham Unit takes visitors for wildlife and birdwatching tours.

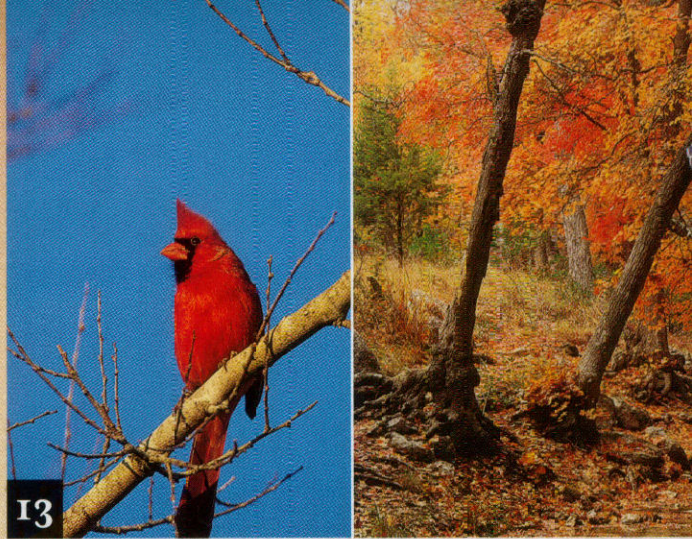
Both units cater to anglers with boat ramps, fish-cleaning stations and shade shelters. Primitive campsites, RV sites with 50-amp service and screened shelters are available. The mostly undeveloped North Shore unit draws equestrians who can ride their horses over 18 miles of trails crisscrossing 1,700 acres.

The sports complex at the Calliham unit is without peer in the state park system. Built in the 1980s by the Federal Bureau of Reclamation, it includes a spacious gymnasium, an Olympic-size swimming pool (open summers only), shuffleboard and tennis courts.

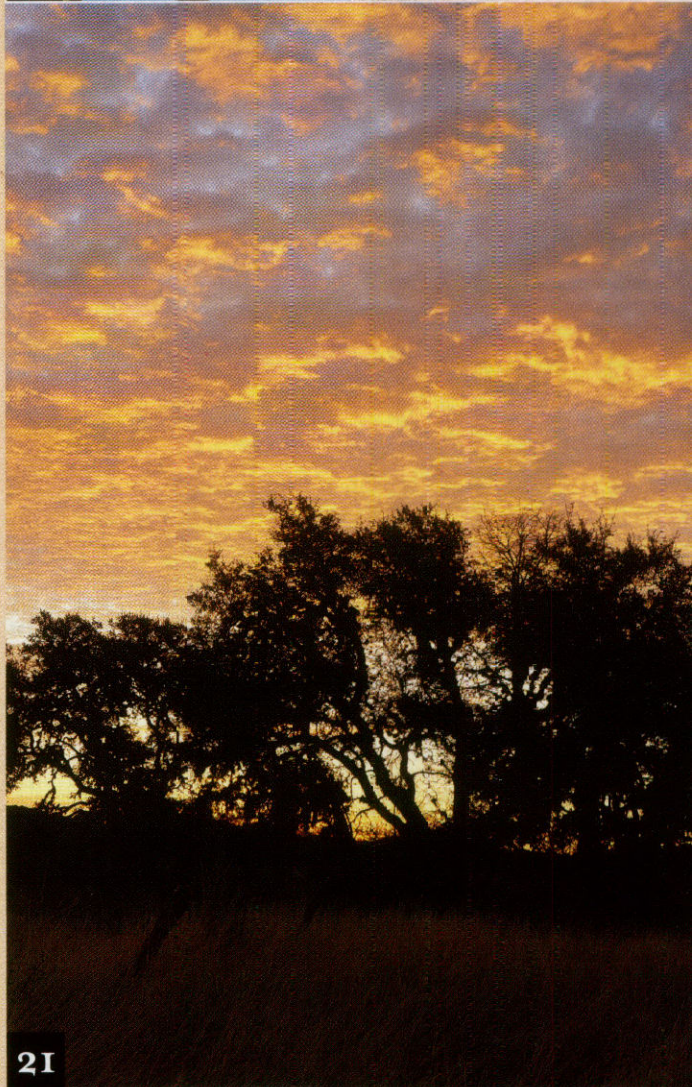
GARNER STATE PARK

14 Opened in 1941, Garner State Park still reigns as the most popular state park for overnight camping. Half a million people visit the park annually, including generations of families from Houston and San Antonio, who make a visit to Garner and the Uvalde area a summer ritual.

After a day of swimming and tubing the cypress-lined banks of the



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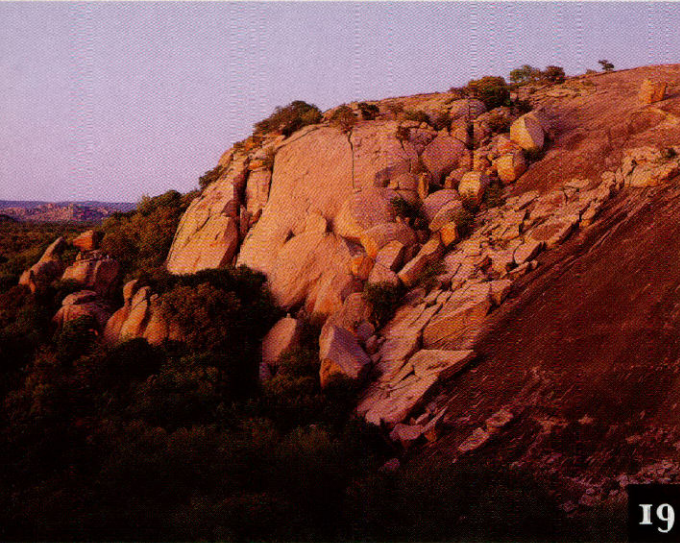
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Frio River, scores of campers head to the venerable concession building to dance to jukebox classics, spilling onto the patio under starlit skies. Each May, top musicians such as Ray Price perform at the annual Homecoming Concert and Dance to raise funds for the park. Music is so associated with this park that it was once the subject of a pop song. There is even a “Cowboy Sunset Serenade” performed by a singing park ranger.

The rustic limestone cabins stay booked months in advance, as do most of the 40 screened shelters and more than 300 campsites. During holiday weekends the park is often filled to capacity, forcing park staff to turn away day users until parking spots open up. To enjoy a more peaceful park experience, visitors should try going to the park during off-season or in the middle of the week.

Colorful wildflowers splash the riverside, canyons, mesas and cliffs in the spring. Recreational pursuits encompass everything from miniature golf to hiking and nature study.

LANDMARK INN STATE HISTORIC SITE AND BED AND BREAKFAST

15 Built in 1849 as a frontier store atop a bluff overlooking the Medina River in Castroville, Landmark Inn is one of two state-operated bed-and-breakfast establishments. Less than half an hour from San Antonio, the inn is a place to get away not only from the city, but from modern life. The 10 rooms are furnished in 19th century antiques and have no telephones or televisions, making the inn a favorite of romantic couples, who have left intimate, poetic and sometimes humorous entries in the room journals.

A one-night package includes dinner at the nearby Alsatian Restaurant for less than \$100. The next morning, guests help themselves to a breakfast of Alsatian pastries, yogurt and fruit in the detached Vance House. The pace is leisurely. There's history to absorb.

Castroville was settled by Swiss, French and German immigrants who gave the town its Alsatian flavor in food, architecture and customs. Throughout its many reincarnations, the inn has served as a frontier mercantile, a mail stop, residence, boarding house and hotel. Forty-nine headed for California stopped here, as did Robert E. Lee, then a U.S. cavalry officer who helped improve the Medina River crossing. Other visitors have included Abner Doubleday, the father of baseball, and William “Bigfoot” Wallace, a legendary Texas scout. Crushed granite paths lead guests to the banks of the Medina River, where visitors can view crumbling remains of the mill, hydroelectric power plant and an underground canal dug by hand in 1854 to divert the river to the mill.

The four-acre grounds, planted with a variety of Texas natives and a collection of heirloom plants, attract an impressive array of butterflies and birds. Landmark Inn is a popular setting for weddings and family reunions.

ADMIRAL NIMITZ MUSEUM STATE HISTORIC SITE – NATIONAL MUSEUM OF THE PACIFIC WAR

16 The Nimitz Steamboat Hotel in the heart of Fredericksburg was the boyhood home of Chester W. Nimitz, the fleet admiral who led the navy to victory in the Pacific during World War II. The hotel is part of a nine-acre museum complex that commemorates the Pacific War with displays of Allied and Japanese war artifacts, art and archives. A Garden of Peace behind the hotel commemorates Pacific veterans. The 23,000-square-foot George Bush Gallery showcases 700 historical items, including a midget Japanese sub, that put visitors in the middle of a Pacific War environment.

BLANCO STATE PARK

17 Located four blocks from Blanco's charming town square, this Hill Country gem contains one mile of the spring-fed Blanco River that draws sun-baked legions from nearby Austin

PALMETTO LEAF © DAVIDSANS.COM; TREE TRUNK © MICHAEL MORTON; OTHER PHOTOS © LANCE VARNELL

and San Antonio to swim, tube, fish and camp. Bring your own volleyball and net, horseshoes and floats to make the most of the facilities. Blanco State Park was the seventh of 56 New Deal parks Civilian Conservation Corps workers built in Texas.

CASA NAVARRO STATE HISTORIC SITE

18 Sadly overlooked by Alamo City tourists and locals alike, Casa Navarro State Historic Site preserves the homesite of 19th-century Tejano statesman and civic leader José Antonio Navarro. The self-educated Navarro, who communicated exclusively in Spanish, is best known as one of two native Tejanos who signed the Texas Declaration of Independence in 1835. The park, near El Mercado, celebrates Mexican culture through rare historical documents and folkways demonstrations.

ENCHANTED ROCK STATE NATURAL AREA

19 Tonkawa Indians named the huge, pink granite rock, believing ghost fires flickered at the top and that a Spanish conquistador had cast a spell on it. The rock is actually a batholith, an underground rock formation uncovered by erosion. Rock climbers, campers and others keep the 1,600-acre park busy year-round. Situated near Fredericksburg, Enchanted Rock entered the state park system in 1984, and is registered as a national historic site and landmark.

GUADALUPE RIVER STATE PARK

20 This Hill Country park offers four miles of river frontage along rocky bluffs of the Guadalupe River. On weekends a bluff overlooking the river teems with picnickers who claim the picnic tables and grills, or spread blankets beneath giant cypress and pecan trees. On Saturdays, parkgoers can take a guided morning hike into the otherworldly Honey Creek State Natural Area, where a spring-fed creek flows through exotic ferns, palmettos and waist-high grasses.

HILL COUNTRY STATE NATURAL AREA

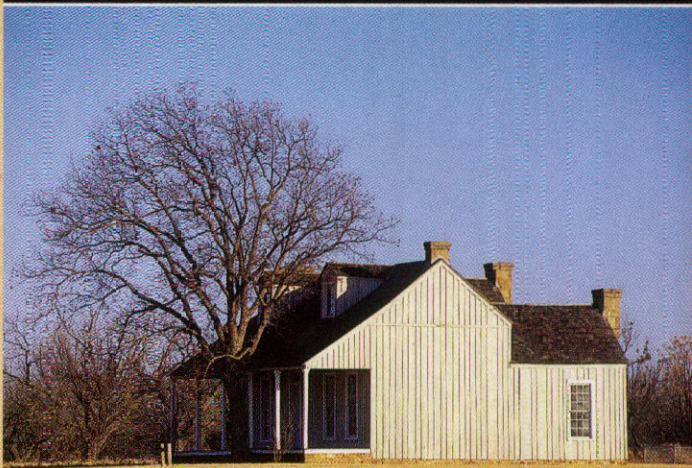
21 Covering 5,000 acres of the former Merrick Bar-O Ranch near cowboy-centric Bandera, the Hill Country State Natural Area is one of the few state parks offering overnight equestrian campsites. These include corrals, picket lines, water troughs, tables and fire rings. The draw is 36 miles of trails through mostly undeveloped nature. For those seeking more creature comforts, try the group lodge, a rustic ranch house that sleeps up to 12 people.

LYNDON B. JOHNSON STATE PARK AND HISTORIC SITE

22 Operated in conjunction with the National Park Service, the park honors the 36th president of the United States and his beloved Hill Country ranch, dubbed the Texas White House. Bus tours leave the visitors center for the LBJ Ranch, the one-room schoolhouse he attended, his reconstructed birthplace and the family cemetery. Family and presidential memorabilia are popular with visitors. The Sauer-Beckmann Living History Farm recreates farm life in 1917. A new exhibit, "A Hill Country Heritage: The Land and People That Inspired a President and First Lady," opened on August 27, 2002, on what would have been LBJ's 94th birthday.

LOCKHART STATE PARK

23 This 263-acre park, built by the Civilian Conservation Corps in the 1930s, offers creekside camping, a nine-hole golf course, a large swimming pool, shaded picnic area and handsome hilltop recreation hall with a commanding view. The manager of the park, Mike Masur, has a special connection to the place. The land on which it sits was once owned by his grandfather.





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LOST MAPLES STATE NATURAL AREA

24 A relict stand of uncommon Uvalde bigtooth maples is the star of this 2,000-acre park along the spring-fed Sabinal River. When these trees turn a vivid red in late October and early November, the 250 parking spaces are filled on the weekends. So think about a mid-week excursion. Lost Maples comes alive during the spring with back-to-nature campers and birders intent on capturing a glimpse of endangered golden-cheeked warblers and black-capped vireos.

MCKINNEY FALLS STATE PARK

25 This former homestead of racehorse breeder Thomas McKinney — one of Stephen F. Austin's Old 300 — is only 13 miles from the State Capitol in Austin. It offers mountain biking, hiking, fishing and camping beneath towering pecans on the banks of Onion Creek. Spring brings a profusion of bluebonnets and other wildflowers and an influx of people leaving urban pressures behind to commune with the white-tailed deer that roam the grounds.

PALMETTO STATE PARK

26 Named for the dwarf palmetto found in its swamps, this 270-acre riparian refuge near Gonzales resembles the tropics more than the surrounding brush country. This botanical wonderland attracts more than 200 bird species. An old-fashioned ram pump forces artesian water into a 1930s-era cistern and water tower for release into a swampy woodlands along a nature trail, replicating historical wet conditions in the face of increasing aridity. The San Marcos River flows through the park, making it a favorite for canoeists.

PEDERNALES FALLS STATE PARK

27 In the heart of LBJ country, the spring-fed Pedernales River flows over 300-million-year-old limestone riverbeds and cascades 500 feet down a series of stair-stepped falls. Normally, the river is a gentle place for swimming, tubing, fishing and sightseeing, but rains can turn the river into a dangerous torrent suddenly, so visitors must stay alert. Bird watchers can seclude themselves in four blinds erected near feeders and drip baths that attract more than 100 species, including the endangered golden-cheeked warbler.

SEBASTOPOL HOUSE STATE HISTORIC SITE

28 When landscape architect Frederick Law Olmsted toured Texas in the mid-19th century, he declared Seguin “the prettiest town in Texas.” At the heart of the city is Sebastopol House, a charming, boxy Greek Revival structure made of limecrete, the 19th century precursor to concrete. Only 20 of more than 90 buildings made with this technology survive in Seguin. The Sebastopol House, presumably named for the Russian naval base on the Crimea, was rescued from the wrecking ball by local citizens in the 1960s and eventually restored to its 1880s appearance by the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department.

DALLAS/FORT WORTH AREA

LAKE MINERAL WELLS STATE PARK & TRAILWAY

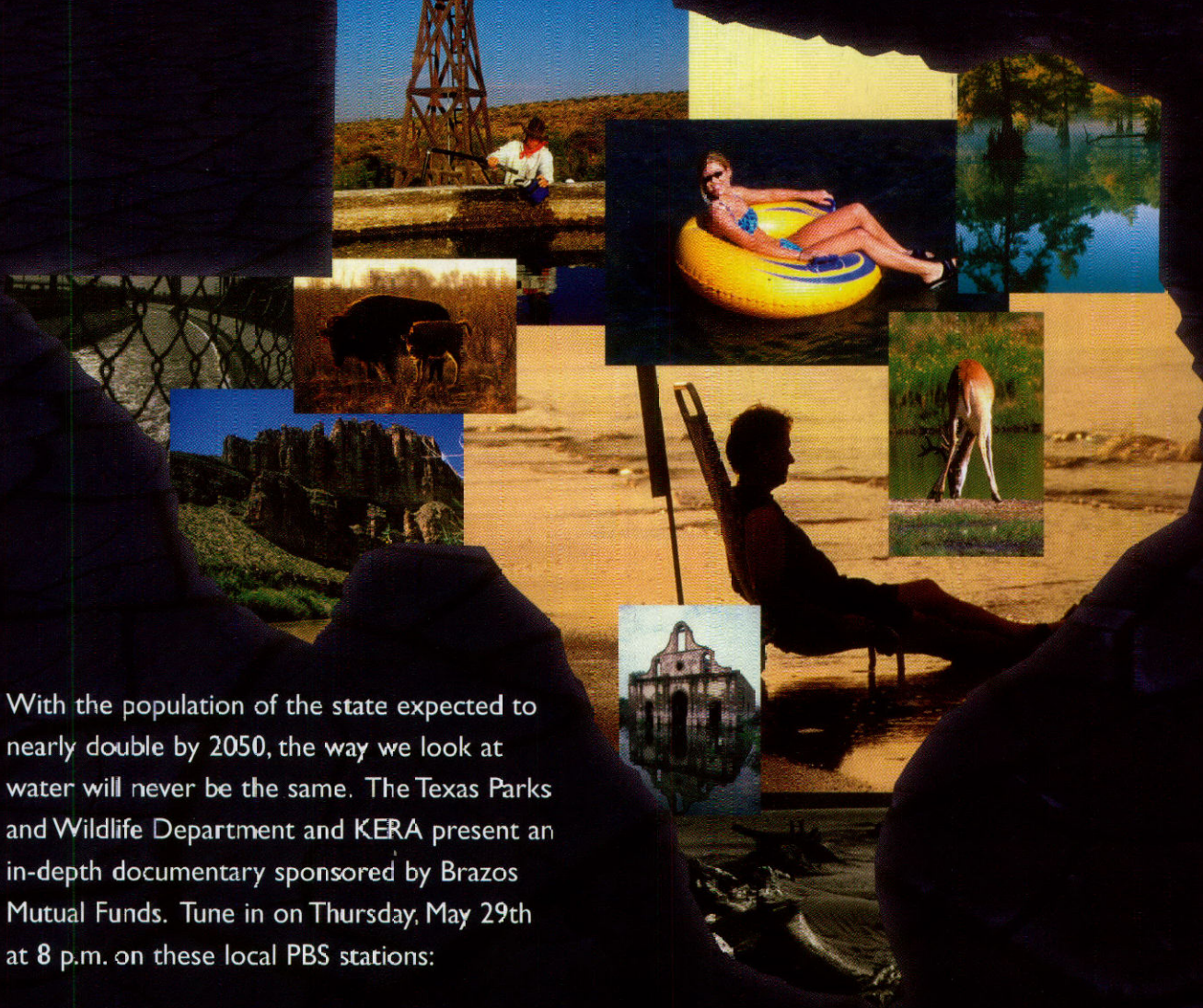
29 To get a sense of just how insignificant Mother Nature can make you feel, head for Lake Mineral Wells State Park's Penitentiary Hollow. Stone steps laid more than 50 years ago lead to the hollow's floor. Trails wind through a lakeside labyrinth of giant boulders, 60-foot-tall trees, soaring rock walls and narrow canyons that dwarf visitors. Both trails on the hollow's floor and an overlook on a nearby bluff afford stunning views of the 646-acre lake.

Here bathers cool off at the swimming beach, while anglers and others rent paddleboats, canoes and trolling boats to cruise the usually tranquil lake. The lake's south side also offers 100 picnic sites for

Continued on page 57

Will Texas Run Dry?

TEXAS
THE STATE OF WATER



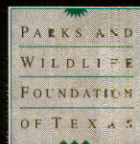
With the population of the state expected to nearly double by 2050, the way we look at water will never be the same. The Texas Parks and Wildlife Department and KERA present an in-depth documentary sponsored by Brazos Mutual Funds. Tune in on Thursday, May 29th at 8 p.m. on these local PBS stations:

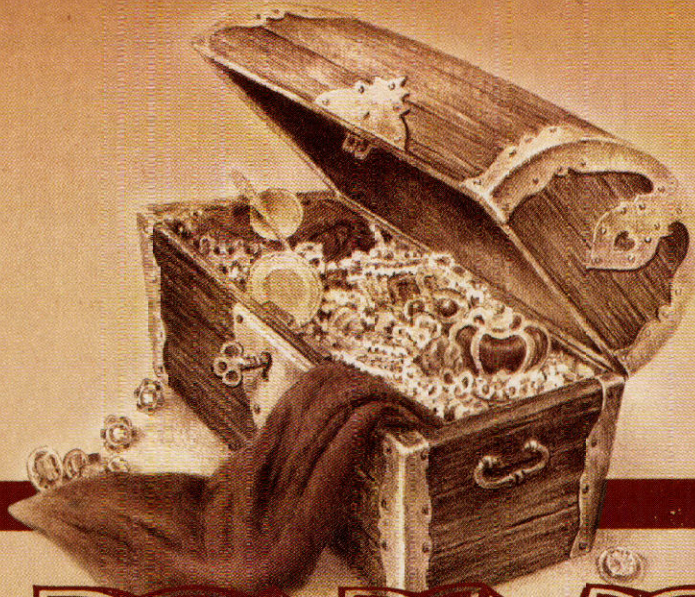
KERA-13 Dallas/Fort Worth
KUHT Houston
KLRN San Antonio
KCOSEI Paso
KWBU Waco

KOCV Midland, Odessa
KNCT Killeen, Temple
KMBH Harlingen, McAllen,
Brownsville
KACV Amarillo

Other broadcast times:
KLRU Austin (10 p.m.)
KTXT Lubbock (9 p.m.)
KEDT Corpus Christi (9:30 p.m.)
KAMU Bryan, College Station (9 p.m.)

For additional station listings and times, go to our Web site: www.tpwd.state.tx.us





GEMS

FOR LEARNING

KNOWLEDGE LEADS TO WONDER AT THE DOZENS
OF CLASSES OFFERED IN STATE PARKS.

BY SHERYL SMITH-RODGERS
ILLUSTRATIONS BY CHET JEZIERSKI

B

rand a Texas longhorn. Meet an alligator face to face. Beachcomb with an expert. See thousands of bats in flight. Cool!

The Texas Parks and Wildlife Department offers hundreds of interpretive programs and tours throughout the state park system. Covering everything from star gazing and bird watching to canoeing and historical hikes, they are designed to help visitors have fun and get a deeper understanding of nature.

Julie Martenson, TPWD's statewide interpretive coordinator explains: "At the Devil's Sinkhole State Natural Area, for example, we want people to learn

about the sinkhole's significance, its geology and the bat colony that lives there during a portion of the year. We want to make sure they get a unique experience at each park site. We also want to help the younger generation become land stewards and constituents so these sites remain protected."

Because all the cool interpretive programs offered across the state can't be covered in just a few pages, here's a sampling, categorized by regions. For a more complete calendar listing by date, region, activity and site, go to: www.tpwd.state.tx.us/news/tjwcal/.

PANHANDLE PLAINS

"Star Walk," Copper Breaks State Park

An isolated location and dark skies make this park a perfect place for star gazing. Using laser pointers, knowledgeable volunteers identify the planets and constellations. Binoculars and telescopes are available on-site.

When: Starts at dusk. May 24, June 21, July 19, Aug. 23, Sept. 27, Oct. 18.

For information: Regular park fees apply, (94C) 839-4331. Bonus: park officials will reserve sites for visitors planning to camp after a Star Walk.

Directions: The park is located between Quarah and Crowell off State Highway 6.

"Fort Griffin Annual Calf Branding," Fort Griffin State Park and Historic Site

Every year in February or March, staff at Fort Griffin round up the calves from the official Texas longhorn herd, move them into cattle pens, and brand their hips with three numbers and the state's registered brand, a five-pointed star. In this hands-on program, visitors get in the pens and help with the branding. The day also includes breakfast, lunch and an afternoon program.

When: Call for next year's date.

For information: (325) 762-3E92, \$10 per person.

Directions: To reach the park, travel 15 miles north of Albany on U.S. 283.

Other cool programs:

"Bison Seminar," June 7, San Angelo State Park, (325) 949-4757.

"Canyon Critters," June 18, Palo Duro Canyon State Park, (806) 488-2227.

PRAIRIES & LAKES

"Palmetto Summer Camp," Palmetto State Park

Palmetto State Park hosts a day camp that teaches outdoor

skills to children ages 8 to 12. Children will learn how to pitch a tent, cook over an open fire, shoot a bow and arrow and angle for fish. "Every day is something different," says park manager Todd Imboden. Camp leaders even bring in a rock-climbing wall so kids can safely experience the thrill of scaling a sheer surface.

When: June 2-5, June 9-12

Reservations/information: Call (830) 672-3266 for reservations; packet will be mailed. Per child, \$69 one week; \$119 two weeks.

Directions: To reach the park, travel 10 miles northwest of Gonzales on U.S. 183 to FM 1586, then west on FM 1586 for two miles to Ottine, then south on Park Road 11.

Other cool programs:

"Wildflower Bicycle Tour," May 10, Lake Mineral Wells State Park, (940) 328-1171.

"Stagecoach Days," May 10, Fanthorp Inn State Historic Site, (936) 873-2633.

"Snakes, Our Scaly Skinned Friends," June 7, Cedar Hill State Park, (972) 291-5490.

"Creatures of the Night," June 21, Cooper Lake State Park South Sulphur Unit, (903) 945-5256.

PINEYWOODS

"Pioneer Woodworking Skills," Mission Tejas State Park

From the cradle to the grave, wood played a big part in pioneers' lives in the 1820s. Exhibit technician John Tatum demonstrates the tools people used in the 19th century to build houses, furniture, eating utensils and toys. Using a poll axe, broad axe, froe and club (a shingle-making tool) and other antique tools, Tatum shows how pioneers squared logs, made pegs and crafted tables and benches. The program also includes a tour of the Joseph Redmond Rice Family Log home, built from 1828-1838.

When: Call for dates.

**LEARN
HOW TO
FISH AT
EVENTS
IN STATE
PARKS
ALL
ACROSS
THE
STATE.**





PHOTO © ERICH SCHLEGEL



For information Regular park fees apply, (936) 687-2394.

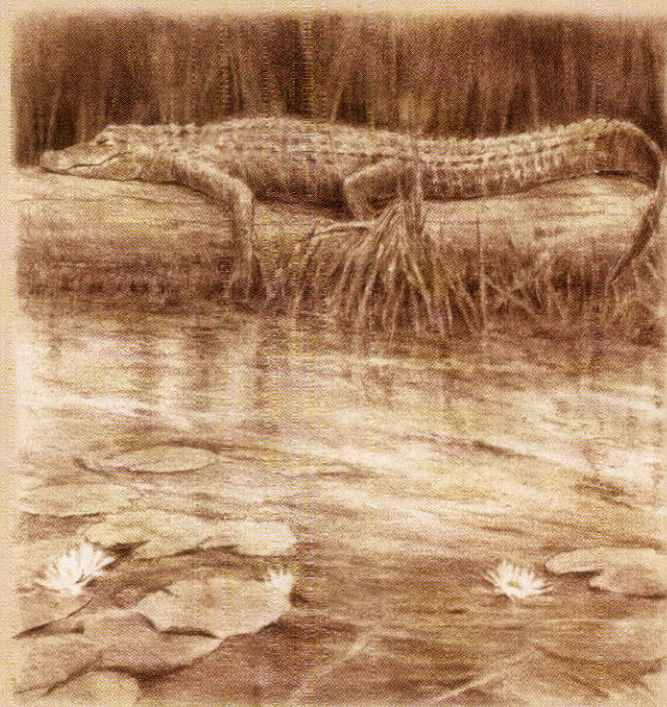
Directions: The park is located 21 miles northeast of Crockett and 12 miles west of Alto. The entrance to the park is in Weches, where Park Road 44 intersects with State Highway 21.

"Floating the Forks," Martin Dies, Jr. State Park

Join park ranger Terry Lamon on an easy half-day canoe trip down the heavily wooded Angelina River. The nine-mile trip, for both novice and experienced canoeists, starts at historic Bevilpert and ends at the park's Walnut Ridge Unit. Along the way, paddlers will see an abundance of wildlife and birds, possibly including alligators, deer, herons, hawks and feral hogs. Canoeists have even spotted a bald eagle.

When: May 17, June 21; call for more upcoming trips.

Reservations/information:



Fees \$30 per two-person canoe; \$25 per two-person canoe, if bringing your own canoe; \$5 for additional third person in canoe. Reservations required, (409) 384-5251.

Directions: To reach the park from Houston, take U.S. 59 north to Livingston, then travel east on U.S. 19C for 65 miles to the park.

Other cool programs:

**LEARN
ABOUT
SNAKES
AND OTHER
TEXAS
WILDLIFE
AT STATE
PARK
PROGRAMS.**

**LEARN
ABOUT
PLANTS
AT NATURE
WALKS AND
HIKES
OFFERED
YEAR
AROUND.**

"Take a Kid Fishing," June 7, Tyler State Park, (503) 597-5338.

"Steam Engine Shop Tours," June 14, Texas State Railroad State Park, (800) 442-8957 or (903) 683-2561.

GULF COAST

"Beachcombing and Shelling Tour," Matagorda Island State Park

Lightning whelks, knobbed whelks, Scotch bonnets and sand dollars are just a few of the

treasures people will find when beachcombing with an expert. Participants should bring a bucket, a sack lunch, a hat, sunscreen and plenty of water for this six-hour program. A four-wheel-drive truck takes beachcombers to an isolated Matagorda Island beach. Then, while everyone hunts, an interpreter talks about the different shells, marine invertebrates, tropical drift seeds and the sandy shore environment.

When: 9 a.m.-2 p.m. May 17 and 25, June 8 and 25.

Reservations/information: \$8 adult, \$4 with TCP; \$4 children, \$2 with TCP. Reservations required, (361) 983-2215.

Directions: Park headquarters is in Port O'Connor at the intersection of 16th Street and Maples. Only access to island is by boat or the Matagorda Ferry. Call the park to make arrangements for getting to the island. Fees vary.

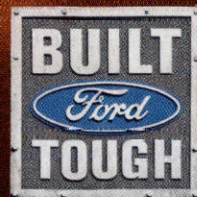
Continued on page 37



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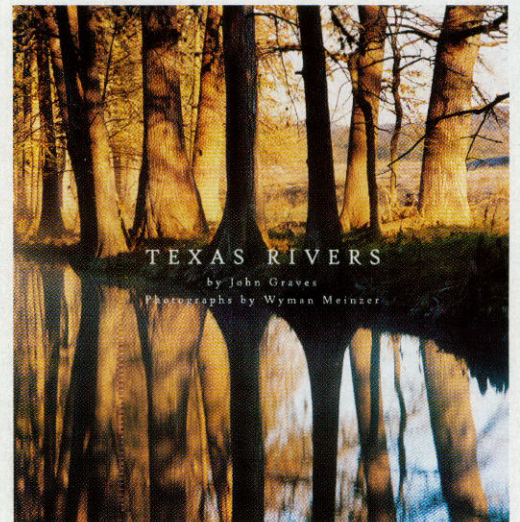
In *Goodbye to a River*, John Graves defined what it means to know a river—as a real place, as a landscape of memory and imagination, and as “a piece of country, [that] hunted and fished and roamed over, felt and remembered, can be company enough.” Readers who’ve taken that canoe trip down the Brazos with him have long wished to travel other rivers with John Graves. Those journeys now begin in *Texas Rivers*.

This book marries the work of two Texas legends. John Graves brings to *Texas Rivers* his ability to weave history, geography and culture into a vibrant portrait of a land and its people. Through photographs of rare beauty, Wyman Meinzer reveals the rivers as few will ever see them in person, distilling decades of experience in capturing light on film into a tour de force presentation of Texas landscapes.

In essays on the Canadian, Neches, Pecos, Llano, Clear Fork of the Brazos and Sabinal rivers, Graves captures the essence of what makes each river unique. While the Canadian is a river of the plains that runs through big ranch country, the Neches is a forested stream heavily impacted by human encroachment. The Llano and Sabinal remain largely unspoiled, though the forces of change ebb and flow about them. The Pecos shows ripples of its Old West heritage, while the Clear Fork of the Brazos flows through country still living in those times. Meinzer’s photographs offer a stunning visual counterpoint to Graves’ word portraits and, together, they show clearly that rivers have been central to the development of the unique character of Texas.

T E X A S R I V E R S

by John Graves
Photographs by
Wyman Meinzer



John Graves lives and writes in Glen Rose, Texas, in the Hard Scrabble country that has inspired so much of his work. A recipient of many honors for his writing (including a National Book Award nomination for Goodbye to a River), he is a former president of the Texas Institute of Letters and a past holder of both Guggenheim and Rockefeller fellowships. Wyman Meinzer has published numerous books of photographs of Texas and has the distinction of having been named Texas State Photographer by the Texas Legislature. His work appears in magazines nationwide; he is a frequent contributor to Texas Parks & Wildlife and Texas Highways.

Published by TEXAS PARKS & WILDLIFE PRESS
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ISBN 1-885696-38-8, \$39.95 hardcover
Order from University of Texas Press
(800) 252-3206, M-F 8:00 - 4:30

Continued from page 33

Other cool programs:

Photo Walks, May 10 (bird photography), June 14 (close-up photography), July 12 (close-up), Sept. 13 (amphibians and reptiles), Oct. 11 (birds) Nov. 8 (landscapes), Dec. 13 (surprise!), Brazos Bend State Park, (979) 553-5101.

"Fishing with a Ranger," June 7, Lake Texana State Park, (361) 782-5718.

"Candle Making Demonstration," Sept. 20, Varner-Hogg Plantation State Historic Site, (979) 345-4656.

SOUTH TEXAS PLAINS

"Alligators," Choke Canyon State Park, Calliham Unit

Is it an alligator or a crocodile? Park ranger Maile Chapa explains the differences and even handles a young alligator that was caught in the park's reservoir. Chapa also will describe the American alligator's biology and habitats. Male alligators, for instance, can live up to 40 years and weigh up to half a ton.

When: Call to schedule a program.

For information: Regular park fees apply, (361) 786-3868.

Directions: The Calliham Unit is located 12 miles west of Three Rivers on State Highway 72 to Tilden.

"Kiskadee Birding Tours," World Birding Center — Bentsen-Rio Grande Valley State Park

The Rio Grande Valley is one of the best regions in the state for birding. Buff-bellied hummingbirds, Audubon's orioles, green kingfishers and clay-colored robins are just a few of the birds visitors might see on a Kiskadee Birding Tour, hosted by Bentsen-Rio Grande Valley State Park. Depending on the day, park rangers take participants to such prime birding spots as Falcon State Park. Participants should bring a sack lunch,

binoculars, a bird book and comfortable walking shoes.

When: Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday, 7:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m.

Reservations/information: Fees \$25-\$28 per person. Space limited, reservations recommended, (956) 585-1107.

Directions: From Mission, take U.S. 83; continue west on Loop 374 for 2.5 miles, then south on FM 2062 for 2.6 miles, and enter on Park Road 43.



Other cool programs

"Photographing Native Plants," Government Canyon State Natural Area, (210) 688-9055, call for dates.

"Fishes of the Hill Country," June 7, Government Canyon State Natural Area, (210) 688-9055.

Beginning Birding Tours, twice a month, World Birding Center — Bentsen-Rio Grande Valley State Park, (956) 585-1107.

HILL COUNTRY

"Bat Flight Tours," Devil's Sinkhole State Natural Area

Visitors on the interpretive tour at Devil's Sinkhole State

Natural Area peer inside the sinkhole, the third-deepest cavern in the state. This collapsed limestone pit is 40 to 65 feet in diameter and more than 350 feet deep. It was discovered by Anglo settlers in 1867 and was made a registered National Natural Landmark in 1971.

At dusk, millions of Brazilian free-tailed bats emerge from the cavern. Like a tornado, they spiral upward, disappear into the darkening skies and fly all night in search of insects.

When: April-November,

10 and 24, Longhorn Cavern State Park, (877) 441-2283 or (512) 756-4680.

"Crawling Wild Cave Tour," June 7, Colorado Bend State Park, (325) 628-3240.

"Honey Creek Hike," every Saturday, Honey Creek State Natural Area, (830) 438-2656.

BIG BEND COUNTRY

Rock art tours, Seminole Canyon State Park and Historic Site

Thousands of years ago, a prehistoric tribe lived beneath a huge cliff overhang and hunted the surrounding lands. They left behind more than 200 pictographs on the walls of their cliff dwelling, today called the Fate Bell Shelter. The pictures range from single paintings to murals hundreds of feet long. "The only way people can see the oldest rock art in North America is to go on a tour," says exhibit technician Billie Foster. Three special hikes, including a strenuous eight-hour tour, take visitors to closed areas of the canyon where they can see the rock art up close, accompanied with a thorough background on prehistoric life.

When: Fresa Canyon Tour (eight hours), Oct. 25 and Nov. 15; VV 75 Tour (three hours), Oct. 18 and Nov. 29; Upper Canyon Tour (three hours), Oct. 26 and Nov. 16.

Reservations/information: Reservations required and will not be taken more than 30 days in advance; some restrictions apply; tours subject to cancellation, (432) 292-4464.

Directions: The park is located nine miles west of Comstock on U.S. 90, just east of the Pecos River bridge.

Other cool programs:

"Spring Trail Ride," May 9-11, Big Bend Ranch State Park, (432) 229-3416.

"Bouldering Tours," month of June, Fuego Tanks State Historic Site, (915) 849-6684 or (915) 357-1135. ★

Wednesday-Sunday. Tours depart from visitors center in Rocksprings 5 p.m. to 7 p.m., return 9 p.m. to 10 p.m.

Reservations/information: \$12 adults, \$10 senior citizens, \$8 children. Reservations preferred. Call Devil's Sinkhole Society, (830) 683-2287 or (830) 683-3762.

Directions: To reach the park, travel on State Highway 55 to Rocksprings and go north six miles on U.S. 377. Devil's Sinkhole Visitors Center is in Rocksprings at 101 N. Sweeten St. All tours meet at the visitors center.

Other cool programs:


"Concert in the Cave," May

TIME TRAVELIN' TEXAS

THROUGH PREHISTORIC
PICTOGRAPHS,
THE TEXAS REVOLUTION,
FRONTIER FORTS,
STAGECOACH INNS,
19TH-CENTURY MANSIONS
AND WORLD WAR II
ARTIFACTS,
STATE PARKS MAKE
HISTORY LIVE.


BY

DANA JOSEPH



T

ravel back in Texas history to days when ancient peoples painted mysterious pictures on rocks, pioneers braved the unknown, heroes birthed a new republic and rangers rode off into the sunset. The Texas Parks and Wildlife Department offers more than 30 state historic sites where you can explore the magnificent story that is Texas. But don't just read about it here: Get out and experience firsthand the legendary places, people and events that give the Lone Star State its worldwide reputation for greatness.



Reflect on 254 years of history at Mission Espiritu Santo State Historic Site's reconstructed mission in Goliad State Park.



ARCHEOLOGICAL SITES

From prehistoric burial mounds to the Cradle of Texas Liberty

CADDOAN MOUNDS
STATE HISTORIC SITE
35 miles west of Nacogdoches

1 Don't let your familiarity with Native Americans start and stop with cowboys and Indians. Caddoan Mounds is named for the

PICTOGRAPH SITES

From mythological mask paintings to panther pictures

HUECO TANKS
STATE HISTORIC SITE
32 miles northeast of El Paso

3 For a whole new meaning to the term "watering hole," explore the large natural rock basins, or huecos, that have collected rain-

water for thousands of years in this arid West Texas region. Prehistoric Indians and riders on the Butterfield Overland Mail Route alike quenched their thirst here. The site boasts fantastic ancient rock paintings. Lively images of mythological designs and human and animal figures include face designs or "masks." Centuries of adventures unfold in ochre and other ancient hues. (Some sites are open only to guided tours.)

SEMINOLE CANYON
STATE PARK AND HISTORIC SITE

30 miles northwest of Del Rio near Comstock

4 If you'd followed large mammals here to hunt, you might have wanted to capture your prehistoric adventures in cave drawings, too. Once the site of now-extinct species of elephant,



camel, bison and horses, the canyon's climate changed 7,000 years ago, producing a new culture that gathered wild plants and hunted small animals to exist. The new inhabitants left a legacy of pictographs in Fate Bell Shelter — a huge cliff overhang containing some of the state's most spectacular rock paintings — and other rock shelters of the Lower Pecos River Country.



mound-building Caddo Indians, who lived in the region for 500 years beginning around A.D. 800, in structures that resembled huge beehives. Interpretive trails lead you through ceremonial areas, including two temple mounds, a burial mound and a village site.

SAN FELIPE STATE
HISTORIC SITE

at Stephen F. Austin State Park,
35 miles from Houston

2 Glimpse early state history at this historic archeological site, part of a townsite that was burned during the Runaway Scrape in 1836. Under a contract with Mexico, Stephen F. Austin settled the first 297 Anglo-American families in Texas near this site in 1821. From 1824 to 1835, San Felipe de Austin served as the capital of the American colonies of Texas. Dubbed the "Cradle of Texas Liberty," San Felipe also gave birth to Texas' first Anglo newspaper, its first postal system and the Texas Rangers.

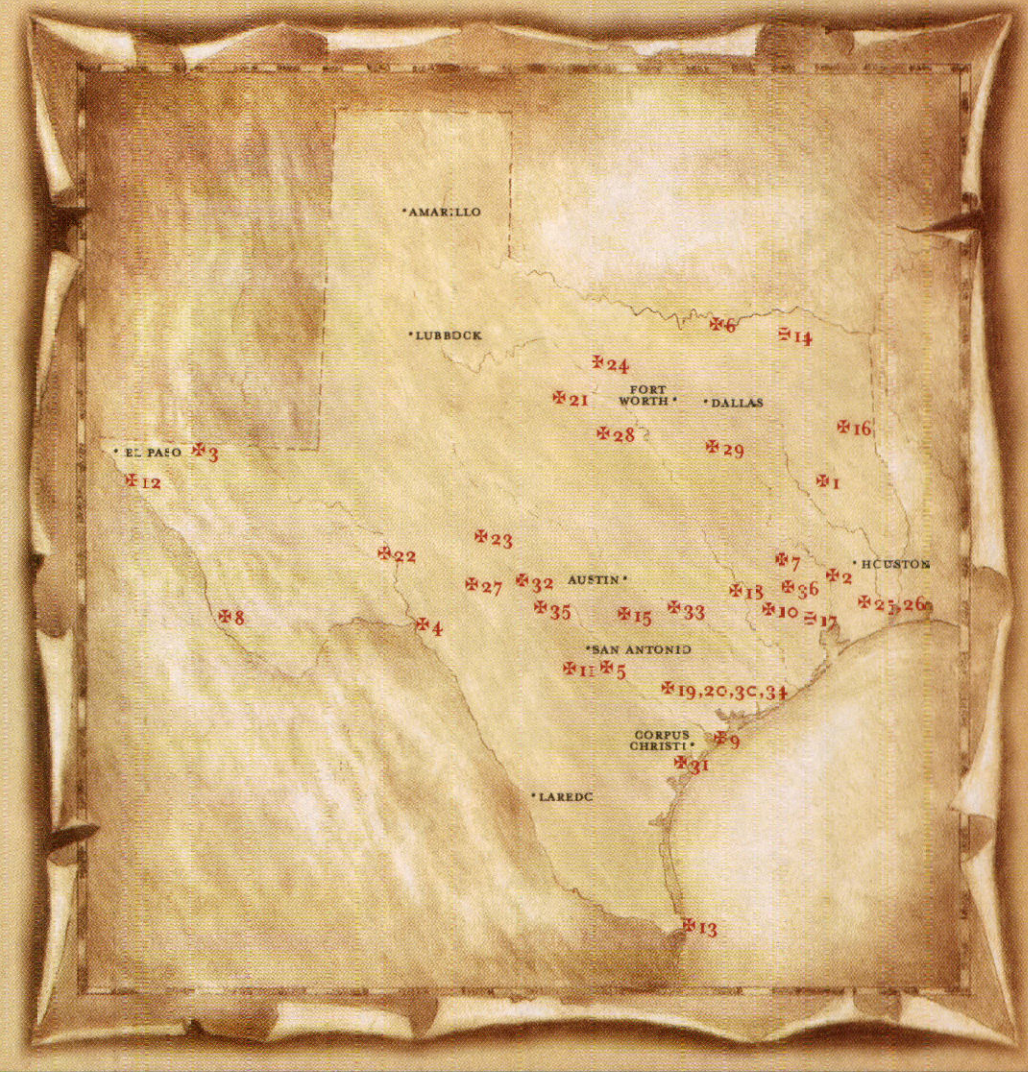


ILLUSTRATION BY CHET JEZERSKI

HISTORIC HOUSES AND STRUCTURES

From an old German brewery to Ike's birthplace

CASA NAVARRO STATE HISTORIC SITE
on Laredo Street in downtown San Antonio.

5 Three limestone, caliche block and adobe structures built around 1848 were the residence of Texas hero José Antonio Navarro (1795–1871). A prominent San Antonio merchant, rancher, statesman and defender of his people, Navarro served in the state legislatures under Mexico, the Republic of Texas and the State of Texas. Representing San Antonio Tejanos, he signed the Texas Declaration of Independence in 1836 and was the first Tejano to write about the history of Texas.

EISENHOWER BIRTHPLACE STATE HISTORIC SITE
70 miles north of Dallas

6 In a modest, two-story frame house, a baby was born on October 14, 1890, putting Denison on the map



for much more than its place in railroad history. This child would become the 34th president of the United States. The only one of David and Ida Eisenhower's seven children to be born in Texas, Dwight was barely a toddler when the family left this modest home in North Texas for Abilene, Kansas.

FANTHORP INN STATE HISTORIC SITE
30 miles southeast of Bryan/College Station

7 Ride in a replica of an 1850 Concord stagecoach and get a taste of 19th-



century life at a stagecoach stop. English immigrant Henry Fanthorp built a cedar-log dogtrot house here when Texas was part of Mexico. After petitioning Stephen F. Austin in 1832 for permission to settle in this original Austin Colony, Fanthorp bought 1,100 acres and built his house in 1834 on the road that crossed his land, allowing him to bring travelers to his home/inn.

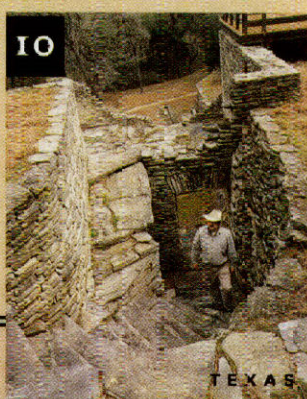
FORT LEATON STATE HISTORIC SITE
80 miles southwest of Alpine

8 On the scenic River Road to the Big Bend (FM 170), you'll find the site of an old pioneer trading post. The massive adobe fortress built here in 1848 was the work of scalp hunter Ben Leaton, whose fortified structure dominated border trade with the Apaches and Comanches. Known by many as *un mal hombre* — a bad man — both Mexican and American authorities accused him of encouraging the Indians to raid Mexican settlements for livestock.

FULTON MANSION STATE HISTORIC SITE
on Headen Street in Rockport-Fulton

9 This high-style Victorian suburban villa built in 1877 was the home of industrialist rancher George W. Fulton and his wife, Harriet. Its setting overlooking Aransas Bay made it exotic; its distinction as the first house in Texas with indoor plumbing made it even more so. With Thomas Coleman, Fulton became an innovator in the cattle industry, building range fences, introducing new crops and helping bring the telephone to South Texas.

KREISCHE BREWERY STATE HISTORIC SITE
70 miles southeast of Austin



You can't quaff a pint here, but you can see the ruins of a unique, 1870s German-style brewery and the restored home of the Kreische family. One of the first commercial breweries in Texas, Kreische ranked third in production in the state by 1870. Early Texas industrialist Henrich Kreische, a master stone mason, emigrated to Texas in 1846. He took advantage of a steep slope and used gravity to harness cold spring waters to cool the fermentation area. But resourcefulness couldn't keep competition from mass-producing beers from coming in his brewery at the turn of the century.

LANE MARK INN STATE HISTORIC SITE
20 miles west of San Antonio

11 If you'd been a Forty-niner on your way to the California gold mines, passing through Castroville on the old San Antonio–El Paso Road, you'd probably have stopped for provisions at the Swiss merchant's little store. French entrepreneur Henri Castro settled this part of the Republic of Texas in 1844. The store and a residence were built along the Medina River in 1849. Today, those structures and five others — including a 19th-century wash house and the remains of an old grist mill — make up Landmark Inn State Historic Site, which offers bed-and-breakfast accommodations in a historic setting.

MAGOFFIN HOME STATE HISTORIC SITE
eight blocks east of downtown El Paso

12 What kind of digs befitted a Texas pioneer who earned himself the title "Mr. El Paso"? Visit the Magoffin Home to find out. After serving as an officer in the Confederate army, Joseph Magoffin went on to become one of the incorporators of El Paso in 1873. During four terms as El Paso's mayor, he helped

transform the city from frontier town to commercial center, bringing utilities, hospitals, schools, a bank and streetcars — and building himself a 19-room adobe Victorian showplace from which to preside.

**FORT ISABEL
LIGHTHOUSE STATE
HISTORIC SITE**

25 miles northeast of Brownsville

13 In the 1800s, sea captains pleaded that something be done to help them chart a seagoing course along the difficult, low-lying Texas Coast. In 1852, help came in the form of Fort Isabel Lighthouse, which served as a beacon for South Texas shipping until railroads provided a direct link between Corpus Christi and the interior of Mexico. Commercial shipping subsequently declined, and the lighthouse was extinguished in 1905. One of 16 original lighthouses along the Texas Coast, Fort Isabel is the only one open to the public.

**SAM BELL MAXEY
HOUSE STATE HISTORIC
SITE**

on South Church Street in Paris

14 Where did Confederate generals settle after the war? Sam Bell Maxey went to Paris, Texas. The general, also a Mexican War veteran, and his wife Marilda moved into their fashionable home in 1868. The high Victorian Italianate home made suitable shelter for a man who went on to become a two-term U.S. senator. The property includes the house, a book house, a stable and ancient oak and pecan trees. The Maxey House was officially listed on the National Register of Historical Places in 1971.

**SEBASTOPOL HOUSE
STATE HISTORIC SITE**

35 miles northeast of San Antonio in Seguin

15 Concrete never looked so good. Unusual limecrete construction in Greek Revival style helped land the Sebastopol House in the National Regis-

ter of Historic Places. Built by Col. Joshua W. Young between 1854 and 1856, the house is one of the best surviving examples of early concrete construction in the Southwest. Saved from demolition in the 1960s, the home earned TPWD the San Antonio Conservation Society Award.

**STARR FAMILY HOME
STATE HISTORIC SITE**

30 miles east of Longview in Marshall

16 Amid majestic East Texas gardens sit three historical estates that were the homes of an important early Texas family, the Starrs. Four generations of construction and adaptations, from the late 19th century through the late 20th century, saw many Starrs come and go. But the site remains particularly associated with two prominent Starrs: Dr. James Harper Starr, a leader during the Republic and first statehood periods, and his son, James Franklin Starr, a leading land developer of the 1800s.

**VARNER-HOGG
PLANTATION STATE
HISTORIC SITE**

50 miles south of Houston

17 The antebellum plantation is named for its first and last owners, Martin Varner and Governor James S. Hogg. Varner, one of Stephen F. Austin's original settlers and a veteran of the Texas Revolution, established the state's first rum distillery in 1829, then sold the land to the Patton family in 1830. With the help of highly skilled slaves, the Pattons turned the plantation into a leading producer in the "Texas Sugar Bowl." Hogg left the governor's office in 1895 and bought the plantation in 1901.

**WASHINGTON-ON-
THE-BRAZOS
STATE HISTORIC SITE**

28 miles south of Bryan-College Station

18 While blood was spilling at the Alamo and Colonel William Barrett Travis and Jim Bowie were fighting to their deaths, another group of courageous





18

men struggled for 17 straight days and nights to write a constitution that declared Texas' independence from Mexico and established the Republic of Texas. Stand inside a replica of Independence Hall and imagine the delegates holed up here in the small, unfinished frame building in Washington, a rough little town next to a ferry landing on the Brazos River.

HISTORIC MISSIONS

From missionaries to cattle ranchers

MISSION ESPÍRITU SANTO STATE HISTORIC SITE

next to Goliad State Park, 80 miles southeast of San Antonio

19 Serenity pervades Santo today, but 250 years ago this site on the San Antonio River was a bustling ranch with as many as 40,000 head of cattle. In 1749, Franciscan missionaries relocated the mission here and for 108 years — the longest run of any Spanish colonial mission in Texas — missionaries operated the first large-scale ranch in Texas (then New Spain). Displays and artifacts at the reconstructed mission whisper to the imagination of modern-day visitors about life in Texas' Spanish Colonial era.

MISSION ROSARIO STATE HISTORIC SITE
at Goliad State Park, 80 miles southeast of San Antonio

20 Founded in 1754 by Franciscan mis-

sionaries from the College of Zacatecas in Mexico, Mission Nuestra Señora del Rosario was the Catholic Church's attempt to settle the Karankawa Indians. Today the Rosario ruins are still being studied and can be visited by appointment. Take a scenic driving tour through the ranches and farms in the San Antonio River Valley Historic District; just west of Goliad stop at the site's historical marker and ponder the bygone mission days.

MILITARY HISTORY

From frontier forts to battleships

FORT GRIFFIN STATE PARK AND HISTORIC SITE

40 miles northeast of Abilene near Albany

21 On a bluff overlooking the Clear Fork of the Brazos River, the partially restored ruins of Fort Griffin hint at life on a post-Civil War garrison. Walk among the remains of a hand-dug well, mess hall, barracks, library, hospital and other 19th-century structures, then visit the restored bakery and



21

replicas of enlisted men's huts. New home to part of

the official Texas longhorn herd, from 1867 to 1881 the fort was home to a rugged group of men who commanded the southern plains.

FORT LANCASTER STATE HISTORIC SITE

90 miles southwest of San Angelo

22 Historic ruins comprise this site the pre-Civil War guardian of the famous San Antonio-El Paso Road. From 1855 to 1861, when the fort was abandoned after Texas seceded from the Union, the fort protected immigrants from Indian attack. Ruins include a sutler store — a "sutler" is a person following an army to sell food, liquor, etc. to soldiers — and a munitions dump. What the ruins don't say, the exhibits on history, natural history and archeology do.

FORT MCKAVETT STATE HISTORIC SITE

70 miles south of San Angelo

23 General William T. Sherman once called Fort McKavett "the prettiest post in Texas" — perhaps because of its location overlooking the headwaters of the San Saba River Valley and the area's many natural springs. Walk through more than 25 restored buildings — including the 1870 hospital, a barracks, schoolhouse and bakery — and imagine what life was like for the Buffalo Soldiers who served here. Come in March when reenactors portray its history, and you don't even have to imagine.

FORT RICHARDSON STATE PARK AND HISTORIC SITE

50 miles northwest of Fort Worth

24 The northernmost of a line of federal forts established after the Civil War, Fort Richardson dates from 1867. Named in honor of General Israel B. Richardson, who died in the Battle of Antietam, the fort was a fallback location on Lost Creek after unhealthy conditions and

constant Indian raids forced soldiers to abandon Buffalo Springs. Original buildings restored include the officers' quarters, a powder magazine, morgue, commissary, guardhouse and bakery, which once turned out 600 loaves a day. You can almost picture the expeditions heading out to fight Comanches in Palo Duro Canyon.

SAN JACINTO BATTLEGROUND STATE HISTORIC SITE

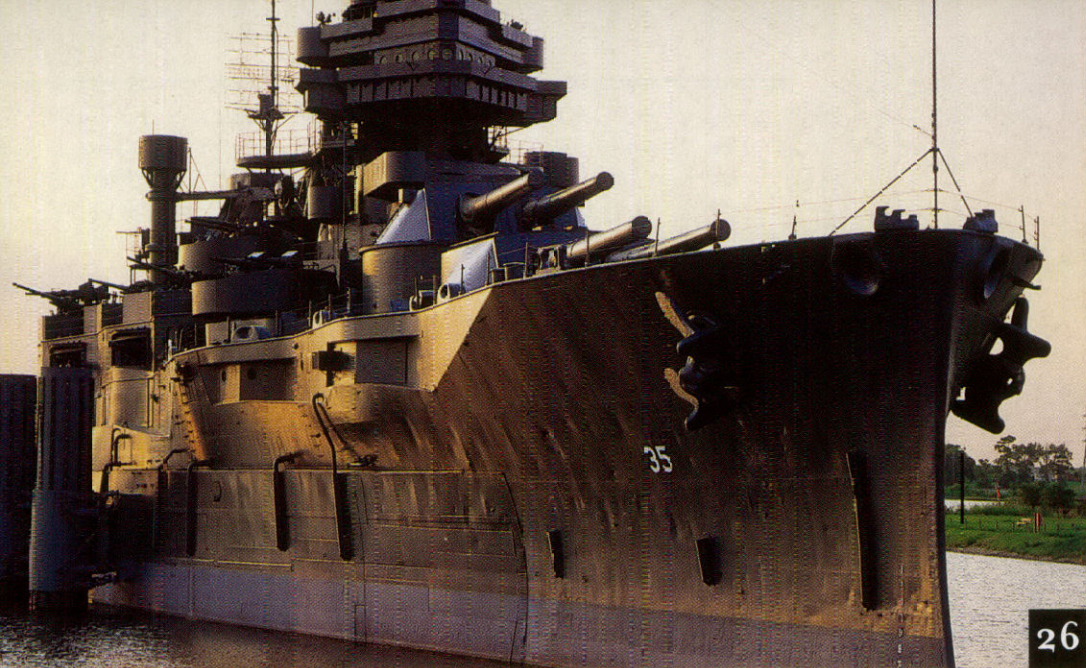
15 miles east of Houston in La Porte

25 Remember Goliad! Remember the Alamo! "Remember the Alamo!" was the call when revenge-minded Texans



25

surprised the Mexican army here in April 1836. In less than 20 minutes, 530 Mexicans lay dead or mortally wounded. Only nine Texans died, but Santa Anna escaped. When Houston's forces captured him the following day disguised as a private, Santa Anna ordered the Mexican troops out of Texas, and independence was won. Learn more from markers on the battleground and a slide presentation, dioramas and artifacts in the San Jacinto Museum of History in the base of the San Jacinto



Monument, the tallest monument in the United States.

**BATTLESHIP TEXAS
STATE HISTORIC SITE**

14 miles east of Houston in La Porte (at San Jacinto Battleground)

26 Go aboard the world's last dreadnought and feel the weight of two world wars. Patterned after HMS *Dreadnought*, the USS *Texas* was the most powerful weapon in the world when she was commissioned in 1914. After seeing action in World War I, she was modernized for the second World War, transmitting General Eisenhower's first "Voice of Freedom" broadcast, firing on Nazi defenses at Normandy and lending gunfire support and anti-aircraft fire to the landings on Iwo Jima and Okinawa.

ADMIRAL NIMITZ STATE HISTORIC SITE AND THE NATIONAL MUSEUM OF THE PACIFIC WAR
in downtown Fredericksburg

27 World War II buffs, you'll be in your element here because this is the sole institution in the continental United States dedicated exclusively to telling the story of Fleet Admiral Chester W. Nimitz and World War II in the Pacific Theater. With 24,000 square feet of indoor exhibit space and an impressive display of Allied

and Japanese aircraft, tanks, guns and other large artifacts made famous during the Pacific War campaigns, there's a lot to look at. Ponder the life of Chester Nimitz, the meaning of war and the possibility of a world that doesn't resort to it in the Japanese Garden of Peace.

COMMEMORATIVE SITES

From the Black Bean Incident to the birthplace of a Mexican hero

ACTON STATE HISTORIC SITE

30 miles southwest of Fort Worth

28 The smallest state park in the United States sits in the middle of a peaceful cemetery cut in the middle of quiet countryside. There's not much to do here but pay tribute and ponder the history that makes this .01-acre important. Here is the burial site of Elizabeth Crockett, the second wife of Davy Crockett who fought for Texas and died at the Alamo. She married him in Tennessee in 1815. A monument stands at the grave and marks her death in 1860.

CONFEDERATE REUNION GROUNDS STATE HISTORIC SITE

50 miles northeast of Waco

29 Bonded by blood, veterans of the Confederacy met here in

1889, 24 years after the Civil War ended, with the purpose of perpetuating the memories of fallen comrades; aiding disabled survivors and indigent widows and orphans of deceased Confederate soldiers; and preserving their fraternity. Annual reunions continued on this site for almost 60 years. Today you can picnic and hike, see historic buildings and a Civil War-vintage cannon, and take a scenic three-mile canoe trip down the Navasota River to Fort Parker.

FANNIN BATTLEGROUND STATE HISTORIC SITE

20 miles southwest of Victoria

30 On March 20, 1835, Colonel J. W. Fannin surrendered himself and 284 of his men to Mexican General Jose Urrea. Fannin believed they were to be treated as prisoners of war. Instead, seven days after their capture, General Santa Anna had Fannin and the men with him — along with other prisoners captured in the area — executed as traitors, massacring 342 men near what is now Goliad State Park.

LIPANTITLÁN STATE HISTORIC SITE

40 miles northwest of Corpus Christi

31 If you can't pronounce it, that might be because the wooden picket fort built near here was named for a camp of Lipan

Apaches in the vicinity. Anticipating trouble with Anglo immigrants, Mexican forces built the fort around 1831; their small guard held it until surrendering to Texan forces in 1835, without a shot being fired.

LYNDON B. JOHNSON STATE PARK AND HISTORIC SITE

50 miles west of Austin

32 Besides the Texas president, this area of the Hill Country was shaped by Native Americans, Spanish and Germans. The wildlife and wildflower cultures also shaped the countryside, as enclosures containing buffalo, longhorns and white-tailed deer and a breathtaking spring wildflower display testify. But the park's pièce de résistance is the visitor center, where memorabilia from President Johnson's boyhood and presidency and a wide variety of items representative of Hill Country ethnic groups speak of the area's history, as do two cabins from the 1800s.



MONUMENT HILL STATE HISTORIC SITE

70 miles southeast of Austin

33 On a scenic bluff near the Colorado River, two groups of martyred Texans lie entombed, victims of the Battle of Salado (1842)

TOP PHOTO © LANCE VARNER; BOTTOM PHOTO © GRADY ALLEN

and the notorious "Black Bean Incident" (1843). Texans who had escaped from Mexican forces at Hacienda Salado were recaptured and President Santa Anna ordered every 10th man executed. Prisoners drew from a pot containing 17 black beans and 159 white beans. Those who drew black beans were executed on March 23, 1843, and the rest imprisoned until 1844. The remains of the two groups of Texas heroes were reinterred here with full military honors on September 18, 1848, and the monument erected in 1936 for the Texas Centennial.

ZARAGOZA BIRTHPLACE STATE HISTORIC SITE

at Goliad State Park, 80 miles southeast of San Antonio

34 Spend Cinco de Mayo at the birthplace of General Ignacio Zaragoza, the man responsible for this holiday and the pride behind it. On May 5, 1862, outnumbered and outequipped, Zaragoza and his men defeated the French at the Battle of Puebla in a struggle that lasted the entire day. For this, they are honored in the Mexican state of Puebla and in U.S. cities with a significant Mexican population. The Texas-Mexican hero was born in Goliad in 1829. Connected by shared history, the citizens of Puebla, Mexico, donated a statue of the general.

LIVING-HISTORY SITES

From 1800s farmstead to period livestock

SAUER-BECKMANN LIVING-HISTORY FARM

at Lyndon B. Johnson State Park, 50 miles west of Austin

35 Step back a century into the rural world of a Texas-German farm family — cooking food on a wood-burning stove; churning butter; feeding and milking the cows; gathering eggs; slopping hogs; scrubbing

floors with homemade lye soap; plowing the garden with a team of horses. Park interpreters wear period clothing, and portray life as it would have been lived by Johanna and Christine Sauer, along with their four children, who settled this land in 1869.

BARRINGTON LIVING-HISTORY FARM

at Washington-on-the-Brazos State Historic Site, 28 miles south of Bryan-College Station

36 Experience life on a Texas farm in the 1850s without having to get up before dawn to milk the cows. This home of the last president of the Republic of Texas, Anson Jones, brims with costumed staff and period livestock. Along with Barrington, the Star of the Republic Museum and Independence Hall give visitors to Washington-on-the-Brazos unique insight into the lives and times of the men who fought and won Texas' independence from Mexico. ★

For More Information About Historic Parks

Get ready to time travel. Contact parks featured in this story at the phone numbers listed. For more information about the state historic sites, go to <www.tpwd.state.tx.us> and click on "Historic Sites."

ARCHEOLOGICAL SITES

Caddoan Mounds State Historic Site, (936) 858-3218

San Felipe State Historic Site, (979) 885-3613

PICTOGRAPH SITES

Hueco Tanks State Historic Site, (915) 857-1135

Seminole Canyon State Park and Historic Site, (432) 292-4464

HISTORIC HOUSES AND STRUCTURES

Casa Navarro State Historic Site, (210) 226-4801

Eisenhower Birthplace State Historic Site, (903) 465-8908

Fanthorp Inn State Historic Site, (936) 873-2633

Fort Leaton State Historic Site, (915) 229-3613

Fulton Mansion State Historic Site, (351) 729-0386

Kreische Brewery State Historic Site, (979) 968-5658

Landmark Inn State Historic Site, (830) 931-2133

Magoffin Home State Historic Site, (915) 533-5147

Port Isabel Lighthouse State Historic Site, (800) 527-6102

Sam Bell Maxey House State Historic Site, (903) 785-5716

Sebastopol House State Historic Site, (830) 375-4833

Starr Family Home State Historic Site, (903) 935-3044

Varner-Hogg Plantation State Historic Site, (979) 345-4656

Washington-on-the-Brazos State Historic Site, (936) 878-2214

MISSIONS

Mission Espiritu Santo and Mission Rosario state historic sites, (361) 645-3405

MILITARY HISTORY

Admiral Nimitz State Historic Site and the National Museum of the

Pacific War, (830) 997-4379

Battleship Texas State Historic Site, (281) 479-2431

Fort Griffin State Historic Site, (325) 762-3592

Fort Lancaster State Historic Site, (432) 836-4391

Fort McKavett State Historic Site, (325) 396-2358

Fort Richardson State Park and Historic Site, (940) 567-3506

San Jacinto Battleground State Historic Site, (281) 479-2431

COMMEMORATIVE SITES

Action State Historic Site, (817) 645-4215

Confederate Reunion Grounds State Historic Site, (254) 562-5751

Fannin Battleground State Historic Site, (361) 645-2020

Lipantitlan State Historic Site, (361) 547-2635

Lyndon B. Johnson State Park and Historic Site, (830) 644-2252

Monument Hill State Historic Site, (979) 968-5658

Zaragoza Birthplace State Historic Site, (361) 645-3405

LIVING HISTORY SITES

Barrington Living History Farm, (936) 878-2214

Sauer-Beckmann Living History Farm, (830) 644-2252



PHOTO BY EARL NOTTINGHAM

WANT TO CLIMB CLIFFS,
SURF THE SAND, SHOOT THE RAPIDS,
BIKE THE HEIGHTS, SPELUNK A CAVE?
THESE ARE THE STATE PARKS FOR
OUTDOOR THRILLS.



BY BRANDON WEAVER

EXTREME FINDS

The state parks of Texas are the ultimate playgrounds for the extreme sports athlete. Whether you're a seasoned veteran looking for the next challenge, a rookie seeking out a new thrill or just someone looking for a quirky adventure, you'll find it in a state park. Don't worry — there are no back flips on BMX bikes or skateboard rail grinds here, just good old-fashioned, clear, outdoor fun. Chalk up your hands for rock climbing at Lake Mineral Wells State Park, load up the mountain bike for singletrack bliss in the Panhandle, shoot the rapids on a remote river in South Texas and discover an encephalin rush in some parks you never imagined.

For each sport we'll suggest one prime location and one or more additional sites you might enjoy.

Looking for adventure?
Rock climbing is just
one of several
activities that extreme
sports enthusiasts
enjoy in state parks.

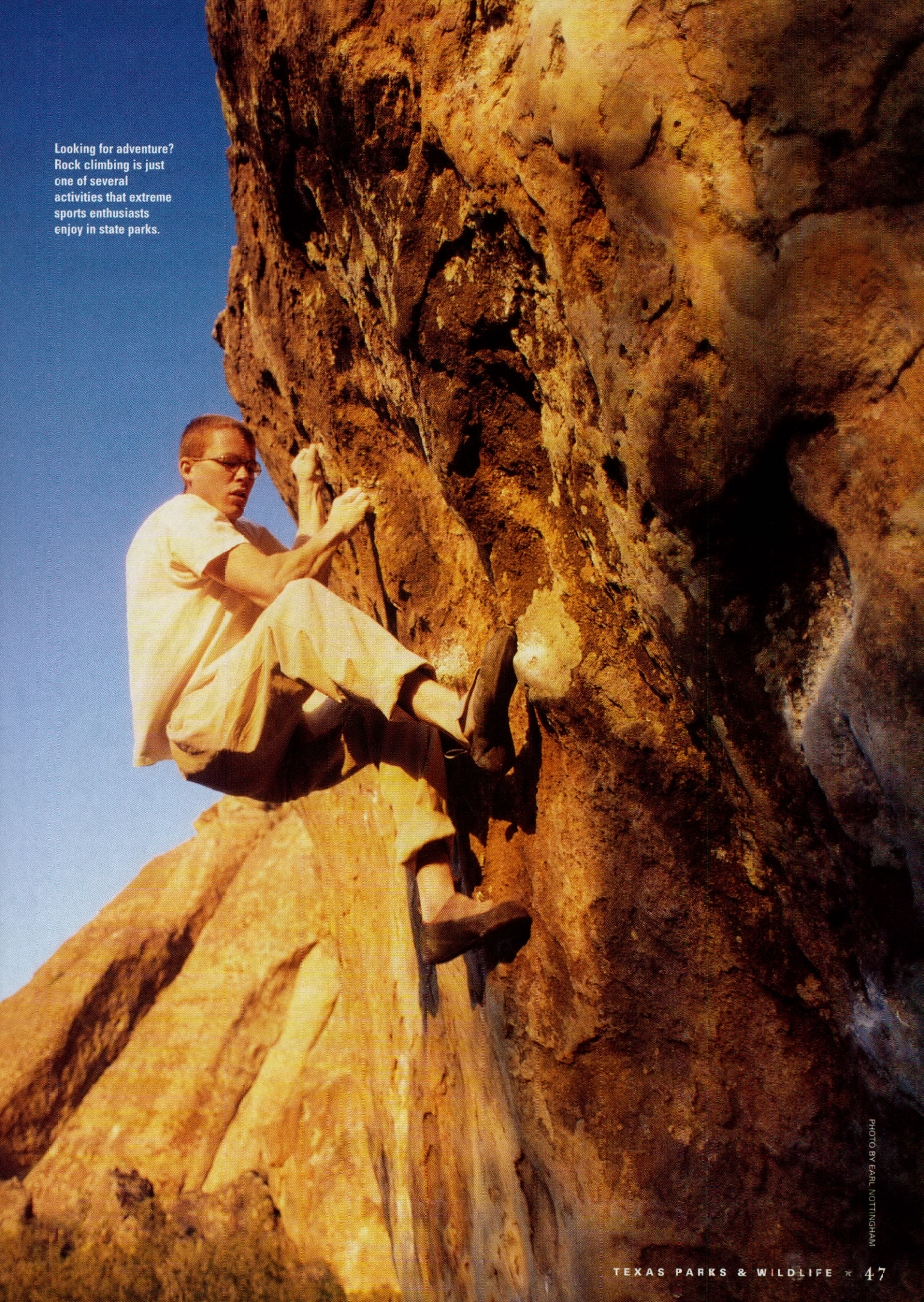


PHOTO BY EARL NOTTINGHAM



Lake Mineral Wells State Park, above, and Enchanted Rock State Natural Area offer challenging climbing.



ROCK CLIMBING

I Beware! The rock walls at Penitentiary Hollow in Lake Mineral Wells State Park and Trailway have teeth and they do bite. Slide your hand inside a rock pocket here and you're likely to feel a collection of tiny spikes inside. Make sure your grip is secure, because if your hand slides out of this little menace, the spikes will shred your fingertips like a cheese grater. Shaded by oaks, cedars and elms, Penitentiary Hollow is

a little canyon with 40- to 60-foot rock faces composed of sandstone conglomerate. This is the perfect spot for those looking to make the transition from climbing gym to real rock. There are more than 80 routes, varying in difficulty from 5.5 to 5.11

(5.0 being the easiest and 5.15 the hardest) inside the two long rock corridors and various side channels. All climbing is top-rope only, using trees and boulders as anchor points.

THE DETAILS: Because of the park's proximity to the

Dallas-Fort Worth Metroplex, the small climbing area is prone to overcrowding on weekends. Penitentiary Hollow closes when conditions are wet, so call ahead. Climbers must check in at park headquarters four miles east of Mineral Wells on U.S. 130.

OTHER SITES

Multi-pitch routes, lead climbing, vertical cracks, big slabby faces, and 200-foot ascents forge Enchanted Rock State Natural Area near Fredericksburg into a granite pleasure dome for rock jocks. The 1,643-acre state park features more than 350 routes ranging from 5.10 to 5.13.

MOUNTAIN BIKING

2 Inside the red walls of Palo Duro Canyon State Park is some of the most pristine singletrack in Texas. The canyon is host to more than 13 miles of mountain-bike trails rolling across the backs of gentle knolls, dropping down narrow ridges, snaking through cottonwood trees and skirting the edges of canyon walls. It's all connected by the one thing that separates a good trail from a great trail — rhythm! It's no surprise that after 36 years of the musical "Texas" playing here the canyon would become musically inclined. The appropriate balance of technical, sketchy and aerobic sections patters along like notes on sheet music. Looming in the background like a gigantic orchestra, the dramatic canyon scenery adds the final touch. This is one of the best mountain-bike destinations in the state.

THE DETAILS: Palo Duro Canyon's busy season is the summer, during play season. And the summer temperatures can make the riding brutal. Do yourself a favor and



Mountain bikers in Palo Duro Canyon State Park enjoy spectacular scenery along the 13 miles of biking trails.

PHOTO BY EARL NOTTINGHAM

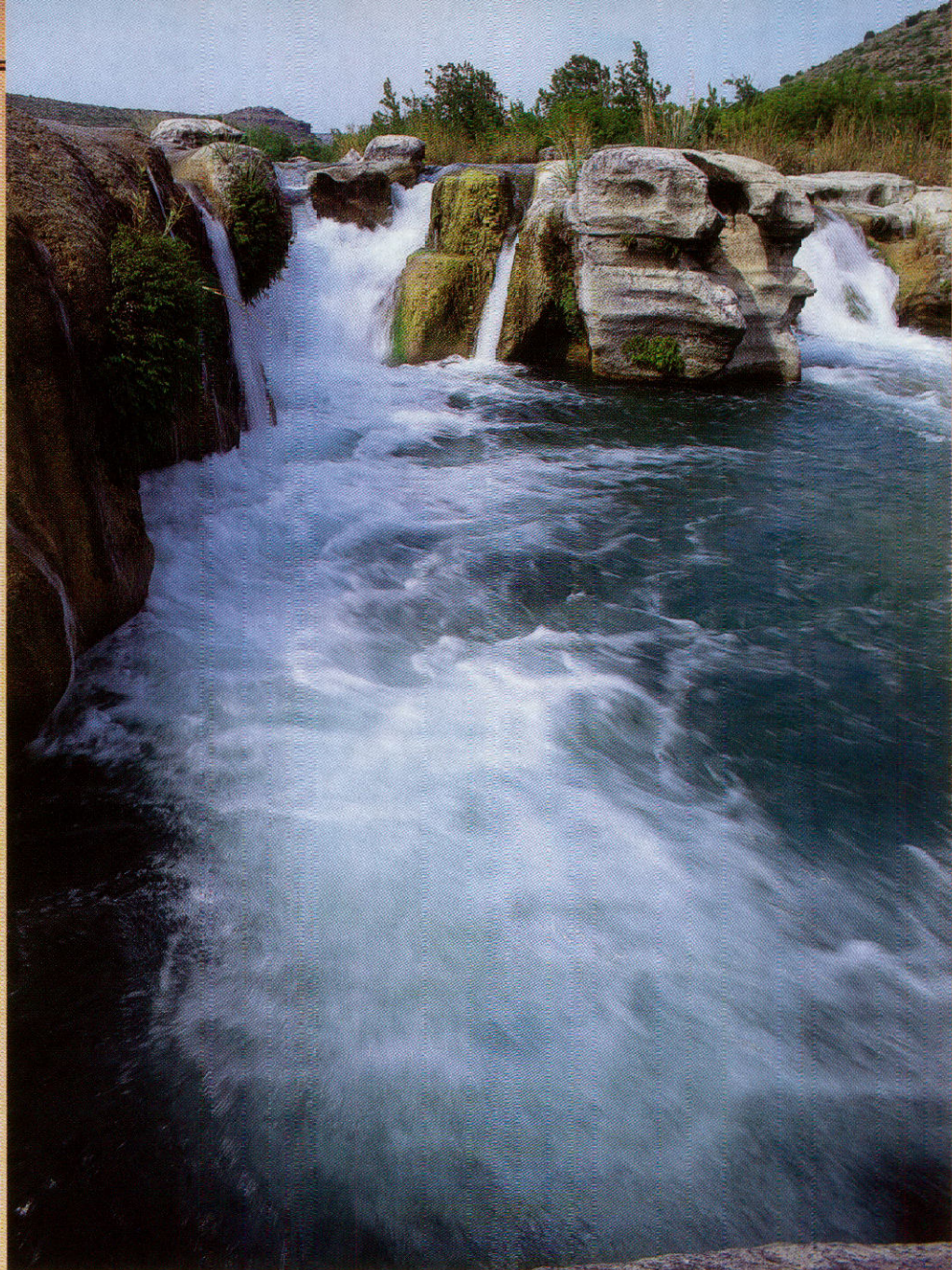
hit the park in early fall. The leaves are changing, and the temperature is perfect. Palo Duro Canyon State Park is off Interstate 27, 12 miles east of Canyon or Texas 217.

OTHER SITES

Rugged, scenic and highly technical are the words most used to describe the 10-mile loop at **Copper Breaks State Park** west of Wichita Falls. Your bike-handling skills will be pushed to the limit as the trail circumnavigates the park's 1,899-acre interior. Due to the remote location, your solitude is almost guaranteed. On June 7 the park will host "Rattlesnake Racing," an event that includes biking, hiking, mapping and kayaking.

Located within the city limits of El Paso, the 24,247-acre **Franklin Mountains State Park** is the largest urban park in the United States. The 16-mile Sunset Loop trail is open-desert riding at its best. Most riders will need at least three hours to complete the epic ride. An additional 73 miles of trails are in the works. Helmets are required.

What started as a three-mile trail at the Johnson Branch unit of Ray Roberts Lake State Park has grown into an



Kayakers can shoot the rapids on the Devils River in the state park of the same name, or choose the calm waters of the Texas Coast at Goose Island and Matagorda Island state parks.



8.8-mile loop of glorious singletrack winding its way through heavily wooded hillsides. Located 50 miles north of Dallas, this is a DORBA (Dallas Off Road Bicycle Association) built and maintained trail. These folks turn out fantastic singletrack, giving Johnson Branch instant dirt-credentials.

KAYAKING

3 On the cusp of South and West Texas, north of Del Rio, a congregation of tormented rapids and crystal-clear water flows through the Devils River State Natural Area.

Texas kayakers know all too well that rapids on Texas rivers are fickle creatures that demand nourishment from gobs of rain. But like its namesake, the Devils River has a few tricks up its sleeve. Up to 80 percent of its flow is spring-fed, producing relatively reliable rapids. This is Texas, however, and no river is exempt from low water; portaging around shallow areas is common. The river's most notorious obstacle occurs within the first mile of the put-in. Declan Falls is a treacherous 12-foot waterfall that should be attempted only by the most experienced. The next eight miles below the

falls are where you'll find the river's best rapids. The water's flow nearly doubles, producing some really nice class II and class III rapids. Outside the park boundaries the Devils River runs through private property. The surrounding landowners *do not* act kindly to trespassers, so stay on the river.

THE DETAILS: The best rapids are found in the nine-mile stretch of river below the park put-in. It takes about four hours to make the trip. The park is a put-in point only for kayaks and canoes. Call and make prior arrangements with the park headquarters for river access; the 1.5-mile road to the river is blocked by a locked gate.

The take-out point is run by a commercial operator who will shuttle you back to your car. Due to the park's remote location, the shuttle back to the park takes about two hours. Cost is \$150 for a

group of up to five; additional persons are \$35 each. See sidebar for contact information.

OTHER SITES

Two state parks offer unparalleled sea kayaking. Launch from **Goose Island State Park** and explore the small inlets and bays in the area. Paddle the nearby shoreline of the Aransas National Wildlife Refuge and you might catch a glimpse of the rare and endangered whooping crane. (The eastern shoreline of the refuge is closed from mid-October to mid-April.)

Matagorda Island State Park is accessible only by water. Contact the park to find the best place in Port O'Connor to launch your boat. There is a campground at the boat dock on the island. Or let the park staff transport you the 2½ miles to the beach camping area.

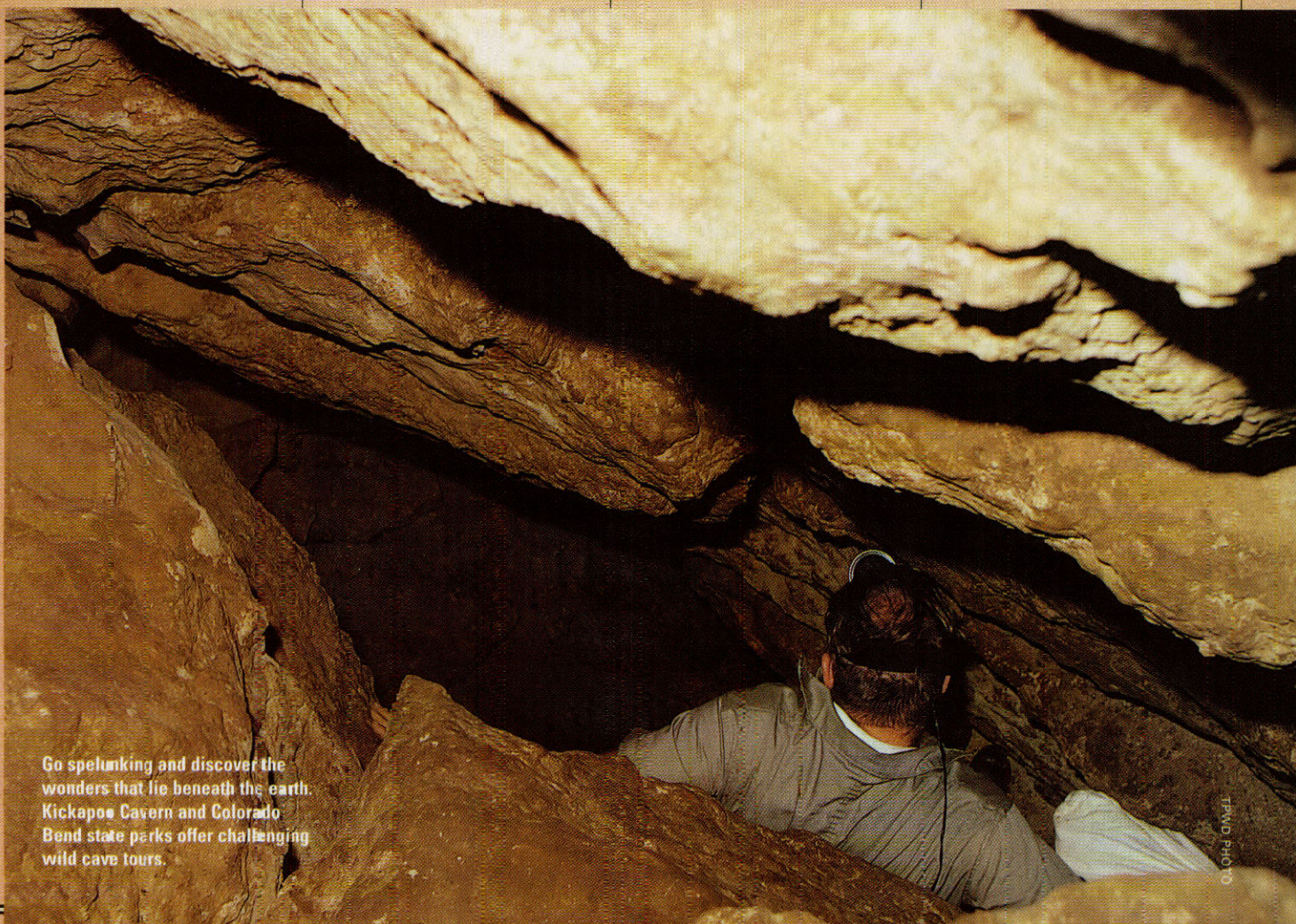
Pitch a tent and enjoy a blissful night under the stars.

SPELUNKING

4 On the surface, the staff-guided tour of Kickapoo Cavern in **Kickapoo Cavern State Park** doesn't sound very extreme. Ease your way inside the small opening of the cave, however, and that starts to change. This is a wild cave, no paved paths or elaborate lighting systems; it's just you and your flashlight. As you work your way across the rubble of boulders and large rocks, you look over your shoulder and watch the light from the cave's opening fade into nothing. Those recessed fears of claustrophobia lingering around in your subconscious begin to flicker. You dismiss the sensation and continue your descent into the bowels of the earth. At about 700 feet in, the cav-

ern appears to dead-end. You approach the wall and discover that it is actually two gigantic columns. Columns form where stalactites (roof formations) and stalagmites (floor formations) grow together. In the dim light of your flashlight the columns resemble stacks of petrified jellyfish. At 80 feet tall and around 30 feet in diameter, they are the largest known formations in any cave in Texas. About one percent of the cave is still active with growing formations.

THE DETAILS: Wear closed-toe shoes and bring a good flashlight and two backup lights. The better your light, the more enjoyable your experience. Kickapoo Cavern State Park is located in South Texas, 22 miles north of Brackettville on Ranch Road 674. The cave maintains a 69-degree temperature, so any time of year is comfortable. Entrance to



Go spelunking and discover the wonders that lie beneath the earth. Kickapoo Cavern and Colorado Bend state parks offer challenging wild cave tours.

TRAVIS PHOTO

the park and cave tours must be arranged in advance. Tour fees are charged.

OTHER SITES

Wedge your way through rock tunnels on a cave-crawling tour at **Colorado Bend State Park** near San Saba. You'll crawl on your belly like a commando through spaces barely a foot high, encountering harvestmen (daddy longlegs), muddy troughs and the joy of spelunking in its purest form. The park offers walking tours at 9:15 a.m. every Saturday and Sunday and crawling tours at 1:30 p.m. the first Saturday of each month. Reservations are highly recommended.

WINDSURFING

5 For most folks, a lake wind advisory (winds of 30 mph or more expected to last for one hour or more) is a good hint to stay off the water. In a motorboat, the white-capping waves and rough chop would rattle the fillings out of your teeth. But for a windsurfer, these are prime sailing conditions. The **Johnson Branch** and **Isle du Bois** units at **Ray Roberts Lake State Park** near Denton are two popular launch spots for North Texas windsurfers. When conditions look impossible for a powerboat, an expert windsurfer can work with the wave faces and

speed across the water at speeds approaching 30 mph. The Isle du Bois unit's southern location facilitates the most launch options. Sailors can launch here when the wind is out of the north, northwest, west, southwest or south. The Johnson Branch unit is suitable as a launch point only when the winds are out of the northwest, north and southeast.

THE DETAILS: Winds are at their best in spring and fall. The Isle du Bois unit is located on FM 455, 10 miles east of Interstate 35. The Johnson Branch Unit is located on F.M. 3002, seven miles east of Interstate 35.

Surfing in Texas? Windsurfers take to the open water in Ray Roberts Lake State Park, and the dunes of Monahans Sandhills State Park provide a playground for sandsurfers.

SANDSURFING

6 Yes, this actually is a sport. There are international competitions around the globe organized by the sports sanctioning body, Dune Riders International. A number of manufacturers produce boards and related gear specifically designed for surfing dunes (a snowboard can be used in a pinch).

The sport's online magazine, <www.sandboard.com>, lists a number of places to sandsurf, including exotic locations like Mongolia, Bolivia, Libya (650-foot tall dunes in the Sahara Desert) and Monahans Sandhills State Park in West Texas. But before you grab your snowboard and head out the door, you should know that the dunes in the





3,840-acre park stay in the 70-foot range and are not really worth the time it takes to strap on a snow plark.

The trick to sand surfing at Monahans Sandhills is to keep it simple. You can rent sand disks at the park headquarters and start out surfing the sand sitting, move up to kneeling and then ultimately work your way up to standing. Before you know it you'll be

heading to the world championships in Germany.

THE DETAILS: Sand disks can be rented at park headquarters for \$1 an hour. The sliding goes better when the sand is a little wet. To reach the park take Interstate 20 west from Odessa and exit at mile marker 86 to Park Road 41. ★



ILLUSTRATION BY CHET JEZERSKI

For More Information about Extreme Sports Parks

Get started on your own adventure by contacting one of the state parks or guide services listed below. For more information about any state park, go to www.tpwd.state.tx.us and click on "Parks."

ROCK CLIMBING

Lake Mineral Wells State Park, Penitentiary Hollow, (940) 328-1171; guide: Bobby Lewis, B&B Guiding, (972) 647-0675, www.johnsoncamping.com

Enchanted Rock State Park, (325) 247-3503; guide: Mountain Madness, (512) 329-0309 www.mtmadness.com

MOUNTAIN BIKING

Palo Duro Canyon State Park, (806) 468-2227
Copper Breaks State Park, (940) 339-4331
Franklin Mountains State Park, (315) 566-6441

Ray Roberts Lake State Park (Johnson Branch Unit), (940) 637-2294

Guides: Rhino Ridge Outfitters, (254) 897-3866, www.rhinoridge.com; Desert Sports, (888) 989-5900, www.desertsportstx.com

KAYAKING

Devils River State Natural Area, (830) 395-2133; shuttle service: Gerald Bailey, (830) 395-2266

Goose Island State Park, (361) 729-2858
Matagorda Island State Park, (361) 983-2215; guide: Rhino Ridge Outfitters, (254) 897-3866, www.rhinoridge.com

SPELUNKING

Kickapoo Cavern State Park, (830) 563-2342
Colorado Bend State Park, (325) 623-3240

WINDSURFING

Ray Roberts Lake State Park: Johnson Branch Unit, (940) 637-2294; Isle du Bois Unit, (940) 686-2148
Windsurfing School on Lake Ray Hubbard - Mariner Sails, (972) 241-1498, www.mariner-sails.com

SANDSURFING

Monahans Sandhills State Park, (432) 943-2092

The Extreme Library

As Texans, we have plenty to brag about. Here's one more thing: the elaborate Texas Parks and Wildlife Web site at www.tpwd.state.tx.us. For extensive information on outdoor adventure sports, click on the Adventure button at the top of the page; for information on parks, click on the Parks button.

For more detailed information, check out these books:

Rock Climbing New Mexico and Texas by Dennis R. Jackson, Globe Pequot/Falcon, www.falconbooks.com, (888) 249-7586.

Mountain Bike! Texas and Oklahoma, A Guide to the Classic Trails, 2nd edition, by Chuck Cypert, Menasha Ridge Press, www.menasharidge.com, (205) 322-0439.

Texas Whitewater by Steve Daniel, Texas A&M University Press, www.tamu.edu/upress/, (800) 826-8911.

Texas Caves by Blair Pittman, Texas A&M University Press, www.tamu.edu/upress/, (800) 826-8911.

PHOTO © LANCE VARNELL

LEGEND, LORE & *Legacy*



An Open Heart

*From a mother's love and a small plot of land,
the state park system was born. // BY DANA JOSEPH*

In 1935, Mother Neff State Park was the site of a Mother's Day celebration that would have made any mother feel like a duchess for the day. It was a Texas-style, pass-the-victuals-and-hug-your-mom day like no other. Ten thousand townspeople from Central Texas and the young men

of Company 817 of the Civilian Conservation Corps gathered on the tree-shaded grounds of the Leon River for the event. The throngs listened to the music of the Baylor University Golden Wave Band and a black quartet from the CCC unit at Abilene State Park. At a groundbreaking ceremony for a new clubhouse, then-governor James Allred described the love of a mother as the "golden chord that binds the earth to God" and Mother Neff State Park as "a monument to the motherhood of all Texas."

The words must have brought a tear to the eye and a smile to the lips of former Texas governor Pat Neff. As chairman of the State Parks Board, he had organized the Mother's Day bash both to honor the CCC members for their work in the first Texas state parks and to honor motherhood itself.

**THE NEWLYWEDS MADE A
LONG, ARDUOUS JOURNEY
BY CARRIAGE ON ROADS
THAT WERE LITTLE MORE
THAN DIRT TRAILS.**

Pat Neff had done his mother proud. The youngest son of the family, Pat Morris Neff had grown up to be a lawyer; Texas governor (1921-1925); Baylor University president; state parks board founder, member, and chairman; park superintendent; activist; and orator.

He was also the consummate mama's boy, devoted son of the consummate mother. Though she didn't live long enough to see the dedication of her namesake park, Mother Neff had seen her son become governor. She had died in 1921, at the age of 91, in the Governor's Mansion.

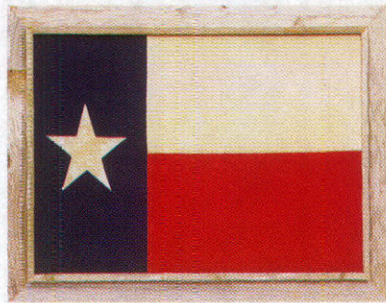
When Pat Neff established the Texas state parks system, he began with the seed land of six acres his beloved mother donated to the public. Paying homage to the woman everyone knew as Mother Neff was the driving force in his life. In a book dedica-

tion he elevated his mother to mythic proportions: "To her who passed for me through the martyrdom of motherhood — to her who guided with a steady hand my erring feet from childhood to manhood — to her who during all these years has lived the simple faith of a simple life, far removed from the world's ignoble strife, the noblest and best woman in all the world because she is my mother." One could add, "To her who gave Texas its first state park."

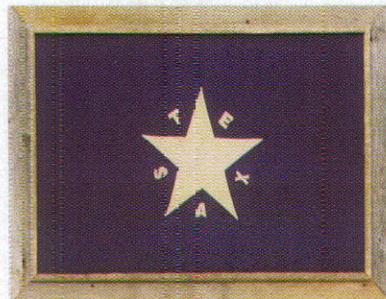
Who was this woman who inspired her governor son's florid prose and his intense devotion? Though posterity remembers her as Mother Neff, she began life in 1830 as Isabella Eleanor Shepherd. Born in Roanoke, Virginia, she became a school-teacher there and was said to have enjoyed comfort, culture and congenial associations. Imagine the hardship she was signing up for when she married Noah Neff on October 26, 1854, and set off just days later for a new life on the Texas frontier.

The newlyweds made the long, arduous journey by carriage on roads that were little more than dirt trails. Just 24 and brave beyond her years, Isabella sat — more likely bounced violently — beside her new husband in that carriage for two months as they climbed the Appalachian Mountains, passed through the dense forests of the South and finally crossed into Texas on New Year's Day 1855. The young couple made their way to Dallas, then traveled south to Central Texas. They stopped first in Belton, where they stayed for three months. The trip was finally over when they put down stakes along the headwaters of Horse Creek in Coryell County.

Near a watering hole that would come to be known as Neff Spring, Isabella and Noah built a little log cabin. The landscape was idyllic — bottomland covered with oak, elm, pecan, hackberry and cottonwood trees. But the area was far from a peaceful paradise. As the first settlers on the land, the young couple lived at the edge of civilization, enduring a dicey subsistence existence in a constant battle against the elements — and more. The Tonkawa Indians, a tribe that occasionally practiced ritual can-



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nibalism, roamed the prairie near the settlements, hunting and fishing.

Despite the Indian presence and growing conditions that were less than ideal, Isabella and Noah raised both cotton and a family of 12 children, three of whom were adopted. Existing on inadequate rainfall, tough moral fiber and solid Baptist faith, they persisted in a transitional place and a changing time.

The Civil War would wound the nation, the railroad would come, the bison would be slaughtered, the Indians would be forced elsewhere, the frontier would push ever westward. Cotton farming in Central Texas would ultimately give way to cattle ranching. An extension of the legendary Chisholm Trail passed just east of the Neff farm. According to a history of Mother Neff State Park by Pat Neff's secretary, thousands upon thousands of cattle were driven by the Neff homestead on the way to Kansas markets. "The dusty, thirsty cowboys always stopped for a drink from the spring and often for a piece of pie and a cup of coffee, brewed on the back of Mother Neff's stove, where it is said a pot of coffee simmered for more than 40 years."

The legendary pot of coffee that was always ready for cowboys, neighbors and travelers was also said to come with potato pies and egg custards. But Isabella Neff opened more than her kitchen to others — she also invited people to use her land.

In 1882, when Pat was only 11, his father Noah died, leaving the 52-year-old Isabella alone to raise the family, manage the farm and make decisions about the land. During the 1880s, she opened a lovely spot on the Leon River for the entire community to use as a picnic ground and gathering place for church groups, families and lodges.

When the Woodmen of the World chapter in Whitson approached her in the early 1900s about paying for the use of her family's land for their gatherings, she is said to have stated, "As long as the Woodmen maintain a lodge, the picnic grounds shall be free to them, and they shall be open to songfests, revival meetings and other meetings that have a moral and spiritual community uplift."

Her outstretched hand and open heart earned Isabella Eleanor Shepherd Neff the name Mother Neff. Like all good mothers, she left a legacy of nurturing generosity. She also left a son who was determined to honor her by bequeathing that legacy of love to the state of Texas. ★

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day use, as well as access to the nearby Lake Mineral Wells State Trailway.

Opened in 1998, this 20-mile-long, multi-use trail was converted from an abandoned railroad right-of-way at a cost of \$2 million. It runs from just northwest of Weatherford to downtown Mineral Wells, a city once famed for its mineral waters, which were thought to cure many ailments.

Now tourists head to Mineral Wells for the healing powers of camping, hiking and rock climbing. A low-water crossing spanning Rock Creek, alongside a concrete dam built in 1919, leads to the north side of the park and 16.5 miles of sylvan trails. Here, too, are four wooded camping areas offering 148 campsites, including primitive backpacking sites, an equestrian campground, screened shelters and sites with hookups for recreational vehicles. The new Lone Star Amphitheater, which opened last fall, is the site of weekend interpretive programs. Expect to share the rocky terrain around Lake Mineral Wells with rock climbers. The park's 40-foot sandstone cliffs, sculpted overhangs and boulders draw rock climbers by the dozens from Fort Worth and Dallas. (See "Extreme Finds" for more about rock climbing in this park.)

CEDAR HILL STATE PARK

30 Only 18 miles south of downtown Dallas, Cedar Hill State Park was opened in 1991 as an urban nature preserve and quickly became the annual leader in state park visitation. The park was planned for crowds, with two boat ramps and more than 300 campsites.

The park's major draw is the 7,500-acre Joe Pool Reservoir, which gives the park 100 miles of shoreline and attracts sailors, water skiers and anglers. Nature lovers are drawn to the park's five native tallgrass prairie remnants, which are listed on the federal endangered species list.

The park has historical significance as well. Many of its 1,800 acres were part of 19th century farmer John Anderson Penn's homestead. Many of his farm buildings have been restored as part of the Penn Farm Agricultural History Center. The center provides a glimpse into agrarian life as it evolved from using horses and mules to modern farm machinery. Daily guided tours lead visitors through the old barns and outbuildings, some dating to the 1860s and used by the Penns for more than a century.

The Dallas Off Road Bicycle

Association (DORBA) has built a biking trail 15 miles long that crisscrosses the varied terrain, offering choices for both novices and experts. Every summer, the park welcomes 200-plus teams of adventure racers who compete in a series of physical challenges including running, biking, kayaking and a special test that changes from year to year. The Texas Hi-Tec Adventure Race is broadcast on the Outdoor Life Network.

BONHAM STATE PARK

31 In the 1930s, the Civilian Conservation Corps built this intimate, 261-acre park around a small lake located near the town of Bonham, northeast of Dallas. This small, quiet park has a laid-back atmosphere that's perfect for escaping the stress of city life. It also features a newly renovated indoor complex that sleeps 94 and includes a game room. The 65-acre man-made lake offers swimming, fishing and canoeing. Powerboats are allowed, but skippers must keep their noise and their wakes down by obeying the 5-mph speed limit on the tiny lake.

LAKE TAWAKONI STATE PARK

32 The newest park in the state system, this 376-acre park opened in 2002 and isn't too crowded. The park may be small, but it sits on a 36,700-acre reservoir with five miles of shoreline and a four-lane boat ramp. There are 78 campsites, 40 picnic areas and more than five miles of hiking trails. The park also has a Group Youth Area that can be reserved for groups of up to 35. The park staff is working to maintain and enhance more than 40 acres of native prairie grass rarely found in East Texas. This habitat has drawn many birders, who have confirmed 128 bird species in the park.

FURTIS CREEK STATE PARK

33 This large park (1,582 acres) is known for its heavily wooded, thus well-shaded campsites, and the great bass fishing on its 355-acre lake. The small size of the lake requires a limit of 50 boats at a time. During the summer months, the park also conducts daily educational programs on subjects that range from ecology to history. Every summer (June 7 this year) Furtis Creek State Park hosts a Kids Fish and Play Day. This free event includes fishing, wildlife exhibits, a rock wall and a free hot dog lunch.

CONFEDERATE REUNION GROUNDS STATE HISTORIC SITE

34 In 1889, Confederate veterans from Limestone and Freestone counties gathered at an encampment to remember fallen comrades and to support the widows and orphans of the war. In 1892, the group permanently moved to a tract of land where Jack's Creek enters the Navasota River. The site contains two 19th-century buildings and a vintage Civil War cannon. Every March the site plays host to the Living History Days. During this weekend-long event, hundreds of volunteers show up to relive life in the 19th century, and to reenact Civil War battles. In October the park hosts the Jack's Creek Bluegrass Festival, featuring two days of camping and great bluegrass music.

LAKE WHITNEY STATE PARK

35 The park borders and has access to the long and winding Lake Whitney, created by the damming of the Brazos River in 1951. This 23,000-acre reservoir offers great boating and fishing. The park offers hiking, biking, camping and excellent birding, with 194 identified species. On the first Saturday in June, the park hosts a youth fishing tournament. The park also has a 2,000-foot paved runway for small aircraft. Pilots often fly into the park in the morning, spend the day at the lake or in the park, then take off for home in the afternoon.

MERIDIAN STATE PARK

36 Created by the Civilian Conservation Corps in 1935, this small, 72-acre park contains a large dining hall, a boat dock, a playground and 10 miles of hiking and biking trails. The park prides itself on its quiet and relaxing atmosphere, suitable for family getaways. Every January the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department stocks the small lake in the center of the park with rainbow trout, drawing many anglers. Depending on the weather, trout fishing can last well into the spring.

CLEBURNE STATE PARK

37 In the 1930s, the Civilian Conservation Corps created this park around 115-acre, spring-fed Cedar Lake west of Fort Worth near the Brazos River. The lake offers great fishing, boating, canoeing, kayaking and pedal boating, and the park offers camping, hiking and biking. There are rough-

ly seven miles of mountain biking trails throughout the park that offer many varieties of terrain: from fast, smooth flats to rough, rocky downhill. The technical and wooded trails form a loop, making this park a favorite of riders from around the state.

DINOSAUR VALLEY STATE PARK

38 Some of the best-preserved dinosaur tracks in the world are located in the riverbed of the Paluxy River, which cuts through the middle of the park. Along with these fossils are two giant fiberglass replicas of a Tyrannosaurus Rex and an Apatosaurus. Activities at the park include camping, hiking, mountain biking and horseback riding in a separate 100-acre area (no horses provided). Visitors interested in seeing the dinosaur tracks in the riverbed should call the park in advance to check on river conditions.

ACTON STATE HISTORIC SITE

39 This park, the smallest in Texas (.01 acre), consists of the monument and burial site of Elizabeth Crockett, the second wife of Davy Crockett. She married Crockett in 1815 in Tennessee and died in 1860. Because Davy Crockett died fighting for Texas at the Alamo, Elizabeth Crockett was eligible for a land grant, but didn't submit her claim until 1853. By this time all choice land had been taken, and she was forced to give a surveyor half of her allotted land for locating a tract worth claiming. This land was in northeast Hood County, near Acton, where she is now buried in Acton Cemetery.

FORT RICHARDSON STATE HISTORICAL PARK

40 The federal government established Fort Richardson in 1867 to defend against Comanches in the area. After operating for a little more than 10 years, the government abandoned the fort in 1878. Today the site boasts seven of the original buildings, and two replica buildings. Guided tours are available every Saturday and Sunday at 10 a.m. In 1998 the park opened Lost Creek Reservoir State Trailway, which runs 10 miles along Lost Creek and the shores of Lake Jacksboro and Lost Creek Reservoir. The trail is perfect for hiking, biking or horseback riding.

RAY ROBERTS LAKE STATE PARKS

41 Ray Roberts consists of three parks bordering a massive 30,000-acre reservoir built on the Elm Fork of the Trinity River. The Isle du Bois Unit on the south shore of the lake and the Johnson Branch Unit on the north shore provide swimming beaches, shaded picnic areas and several miles of biking, hiking and AEA-accessible trails. The Ray Roberts Greenbelt runs between Ray Roberts Dam and the headwaters of Lake Lewisville. The greenbelt offers 20 miles of trails — 10 for equestrians and 10 for hiking and biking.

EISENHOWER STATE PARK

42 Lake Texoma provides the backdrop for this beautiful little park. Full access to the lake is provided at both a public boat ramp and a privately run marina, the Eisenhower Yacht Club. The yacht club is a

full-service marina offering fuel, boat rentals and boat repair. The park's seven-acre mini-bike area is popular, and dirt bike, four-wheeler and go-cart riders can wander wooded trails and jump and bump in a large field.

EISENHOWER BIRTHPLACE STATE HISTORIC SITE

43 The home on Denison where Dwight D. Eisenhower was born in 1890 is preserved on this six-acre site. After a yearlong restoration of its interior to an 1890s appearance, the birthplace was reopened this spring and rededicated with members of the Eisenhower family present. Tours of the birthplace are offered Tuesday through Saturday, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., and Sunday 1 p.m. to 5 p.m. The site may be rented for functions such as weddings or meetings. ☆

For More Information About Day-Trip Parks

Use the telephone numbers below to contact the parks featured in this story. For more information about any state park, go to www.tpwd.state.tx.us and click on "Parks."

HOUSTON PARKS

- Brazos Bend State Park, (979) 553-5101
- Fanthorpe Inn State Historic Site, (936) 873-2533
- Galveston Island State Park, (409) 737-1222
- Huntsville State Park, (936) 295-5644
- Lake Houston State Park, (281) 354-6881
- Lake Livingston State Park, (936) 365-2201
- San Jacinto Battleground State Historic Site, (281) 479-2431
- Sheldon Lake State Park, (281) 456-2800
- Stephen F. Austin State Historic Site, (979) 885-3613
- Varner-Hogg Plantation State Historic Site, (979) 345-4656
- Village Creek State Park, (409) 755-7322
- Washington-On-The-Brazos State Historic Site, (936) 878-2214

SAN ANTONIO PARKS

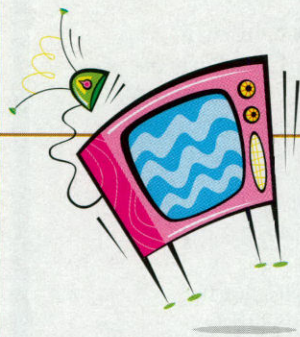
- Admiral Nimitz State Historic Site — National Museum of the Pacific War, (830) 997-4379
- Blanco State Park, (830) 333-4333
- Casa Navarro State Historic Site, (210) 226-4801
- Choke Canyon State Park/Calliham unit, (361) 786-3868 and South Shore unit (361) 786-3538
- Enchanted Rock State Natural Area, (915) 247-3903
- Garner State Park, (830) 232-6132
- Guadalupe River State Park, (830) 438-2656

- Hill Country State Natural Area, (830) 796-4413
- Landmark Inn State Historic Site, (830) 931-2133
- LBJ State Park and Historic Site, (830) 644-2252
- Lockhart State Park, (512) 398-3479
- Lost Maples State Natural Area, (830) 966-3413
- McKinney Falls State Park, (512) 243-1643
- Palmetto State Park, (830) 672-3266
- Pedernales Falls State Park, (830) 868-7334
- Sebastopol House State Historic Site, (830) 379-4833

DALLAS/FORT WORTH PARKS

- Acton State Historic Site, (817) 645-4215
- Bonham State Park, (903) 583-5022
- Cedar Hill State Park, (972) 291-6641
- Cleburne State Park, (817) 645-4215
- Confederate Reunion Grounds State Historic Site, (254) 562-5751
- Dinosaur Valley State Park, (254) 897-4588
- Eisenhower Birthplace State Historical Site, (903) 465-8908
- Eisenhower State Park, (903) 465-1956
- Fort Richardson State Historical Park, (940) 567-3506
- Lake Mineral Wells State Park and Trailway, (940) 328-1171
- Lake Tawakoni State Park, (903) 560-7123
- Lake Whitney State Park, (254) 694-3793
- Meridian State Park, (254) 435-2536
- Purtis Creek State Park, (903) 425-2332
- Ray Roberts Lake State Parks: Isle du Bois Unit, (940) 686-2148; Johnson Branch Unit, (940) 637-2294

SIGHTS AND SOUNDS



THE FRONT LINE OF NEWS AND VIEWS



TELEVISION

TEXAS: THE STATE OF WATER VIDEO DOCUMENTARY TO AIR

May 29:

Texas: The State of Water, a one-hour documentary, will air Thursday, May 29 on 13 PBS television stations reaching some 32 Texas cities. Air times are 8 p.m., unless stated otherwise below.

The documentary includes segments involving El Paso, Caddo Lake in East Texas, the Ogallala Aquifer in the Panhandle, the Pecos River area in West Texas, the Colorado and Trinity River watersheds and the once mighty Rio Grande.

KERA: Dallas, Fort Worth, Abilene, Denton, Longview, Marshall, San Angelo, Texarkana, Tyler, Wichita Falls and Sherman

KUHT: Houston, Beaumont, Port Arthur, Galveston, Texas City, Victoria

KLRN: San Antonio
KLRU: - Austin (10 p.m.)

KEDT: Corpus Christi (9:30 p.m.)

KAMU: Bryan, College Station (8:30 p.m.)

KMBH: Harlingen, McAllen, Mission, Brownsville

KWBU: Waco

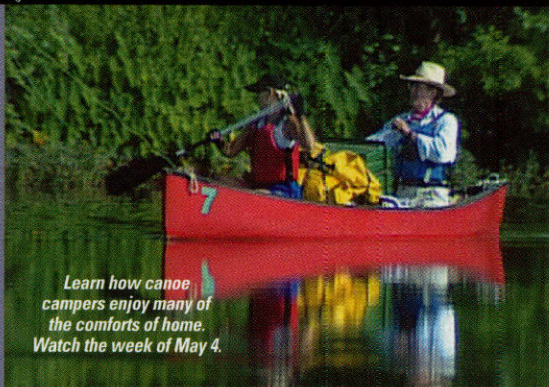
KOCV: Midland, Odessa

KTXT: Lubbock (9 p.m.)

KACV: Amarillo

KNCT: Killeen, Temple

KCOS: El Paso



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AUSTIN: KLRU, Ch. 18 / Sun. 10 a.m. / Mon. 12:30 p.m. KLRU-TOO, Cable Ch. 20 / Tues. 11 p.m.

BRYAN-COLLEGE STATION: KAMU, Ch. 15 / Thurs. 7 p.m. / Sun. 5 p.m., 1C:30 p.m.

CORPUS CHRISTI: KEDT, Ch. 16 / Sun. 11 a.m. / Thurs. 1 p.m. / Fri. 8:30 p.m.

DALLAS-FORT WORTH: KERA, Ch. 13 / Sat. 8:30 a.m.

Also serving Abilene, Denton, Longview, Marshall, San Angelo, Texarkana, Tyler, Wichita Falls, Sherman

EL PASO: KCOS, Ch. 13 / Sat. 5:30 p.m.

(rotates with other programs; check listings)

HARLINGEN: KMBH, Ch. 60 / Sun. 5:30 p.m.

Also serving McAllen, Mission, Brownsville

HOUSTON: KUHT, Ch. 8 / Sun. 5 p.m. / Fri. 1 p.m.

Also serving Beaumont/Port Arthur, Galveston, Texas City, Victoria

KILLEEN: KNCT, Ch. 46 / Sun. 5 p.m.

Also serving Temple

LUBBOCK: KTXT, Ch. 5 / Sat. noon

ODESSA-MIDLAND: KOCV, Ch. 36 / Sat. 5 p.m.

PORTALES, N.M.: KENW, Ch. 3 / Sun. 2 p.m.

Also serving West Texas/Panhandle area

SAN ANTONIO & LAREDO: KLRN, Ch. 9 / Friday noon, Sunday 2 p.m.

WACO: KWBU, Ch. 34 / Sat. 3 p.m.

Check local listings. Times and dates are subject to change, especially during PBS membership drives.

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ABILENE: KACU-FM 89.7 / 7:04 a.m., 1:43 p.m., 6 p.m.; KWKC-AM 1340 / 6:30 a.m.

ALPINE: KSRU-AM 1670 / 9 p.m.

AMARILLO: KACV-FM 89.9 / 11:20 a.m.

ATLANTA: KPYN-AM 900 / 7:45 a.m.

AUSTIN: KVET-AM 1300 / between 5 a.m. and 7 a.m. Sat.; K-Zilker 90.1 / 7:15 a.m., 2:45 p.m.

BEAUMONT: KLVJ-AM 560 / 5:20 a.m.

BIG SPRING: KBST-AM 1490 / 10:50 a.m.

BRADY: KNEL-AM 1490 / 7:20 a.m.; KNEL-FM 95.3 / 7:20 a.m.

BRIDGEPORT: KBOC-FM 98.3 / 10:20 a.m.

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CANTON: KVCI-AM 1510 / 6:40 a.m.

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CARTHAGE: KGAS-AM 1590 / 6:40 a.m.; KGAS-FM 104.3 / 6:30 a.m.

CENTER: KDET-AM 930 / 11:55 a.m.

COLUMBUS: KULM-FM 98.3 / 5:20 a.m.

COMANCHE: KCOM-AM 1550 / 6:30 a.m.

COMMERCE: KETR-FM 88.9 / 10:15 a.m.

CORPUS CHRISTI: KEDT-FM 90.3 / 5:33 p.m.; KFTX-FM 97.5 / 5:40 a.m.; KVRT-FM 90.7 / 5:33 p.m.

CROCKETT: KIVY-AM 1290 / 7:45 a.m., KIVY-FM 92.7 / 7:45 a.m.

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DENTON: KNTU-FM 88.1 / 10:58 a.m., 3:58 p.m., 11:59 p.m.

DIMITT: KDHN-AM 1470 / 12:30 p.m.

EAGLE PASS: KINL-FM 92.7 / 3:30 p.m.

EASTLAND: KEAS-AM 1590 / 5:50 a.m., 5:50 p.m. KATX-FM 97.7 / 5:50 a.m. & 5:50 p.m.

EDNA: KGUL-FM 96.1 / 7:10 a.m.

EL CAMPO: KULP-AM 1390 / 2 p.m.

FAIRFIELD: KNES-FM 99.1 / 6:47 a.m.

FLORESVILLE: KULB-FM 89.7 / 1:30 p.m.

FORT STOCKTON: KFST-AM 860 / 12:55 p.m., KFST-FM 94.3 / 12:55 p.m.

GAINESVILLE: KGAF-AM 1580 / 10 a.m.

GRANBURY: KPIR-AM 1420 / 4:05 p.m.

GREENVILLE: KGV_-AM 1400 / 8:10 a.m.

HARLINGEN: KNB-I-FM 88.9 / 4:58 p.m.; KHID-FM 88.1 / 4:58 p.m.

HASKELL: KVRP-FM 97.1 / 9:30 a.m.; KVRP-AM 1400 / 9:30 a.m.

HENDERSON: KZCX-FM 104.7 / 10:20 a.m., 4:20 p.m.

HEREFORD: KPAN-AM 860 / 2:50 p.m.; KPAN-FM 106.3 / 2:50 p.m.

HILLSBORO: KHBR-AM 1560 / 9:35 a.m.

HOUSTON: KILT-AM 610 / between 4 a.m. and 7 a.m. Thur.-Sun.

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JACKSONVILLE: KEBE-AM 1400 / 7:15 a.m.

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KERRVILLE: KRNH-FM 92.3 / 5:31 a.m., 12:57 p.m., 7:35 p.m.; KMBL-AM 1450 / 5:49 a.m., 12:49 p.m., 5:49 p.m.; KERV-AM 1230 / 5:49 a.m., 12:49 p.m., 5:49 p.m.; KRVL-FM 94.3 / 5:49 a.m., 12:49 p.m., 5:49 p.m.

LAMPASAS: KCYL-AM 1450 / 7:10 a.m., KACQ-FM 101.9 / 7:10 a.m.

LAREDO: KHOY-FM 88.1 / 2 p.m.

LEWELLAND: KLVF-AM 1230 / 12:05 p.m.

LUBBOCK: KJTV-AM 950 / 6:45 a.m.

MADISONVILLE: KMVL-AM 1220 / 7:45 a.m.; KMVL-FM100.5 / 7:45 a.m.

MARBLE FALLS: KHLB-AM 1340 / 12:20 p.m., 5:20 p.m.; KHLB-FM 106.9 / 12:20 p.m., 5:20 p.m.

MARSHALL: KCUL-FM 92.3 / 6:15 a.m.

MCCALLEN: KHID-FM 88.1 / 4:58 p.m.

MESQUITE: KEOM-FM 88.5 / 5:30 a.m., 2:30 p.m., 8:30 p.m. M-Th.; 5:30 a.m., 4:45 p.m. F)

MEXIA: KYCX-AM 1580 / 3:15 p.m.; KYCX-FM 104.9 / 3:15 p.m.

MINEOLA: KMOO-FM 99.9 / 5:10 p.m.

MONAHANS: KLBO-AM 1330 / 6 a.m., noon, 3 p.m.

NACOGDOCHES: KSAU-FM 90.1 /

2:45 p.m.

NEW BRAUNFELS: KGNB-AM 1420 / 6:52 a.m., 5:24 p.m.

ODESSA: KCRS-AM 550 / 6:05 a.m., 5:15 p.m., KOCV-FM 91.3 / 7:37 a.m.

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VICTORIA: KTXN-FM 98.7 / 6:50 a.m.; KZAM-FM 104.7 / 7:10 a.m.

WACO: KWTX-AM 1230 / 7 a.m., 7 p.m. Sat. and Sun.

WICHITA FALLS: KWFS-AM 1290 / 6:15 a.m., 7:45 a.m.

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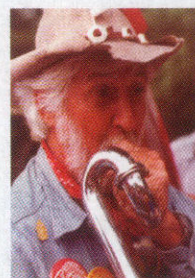


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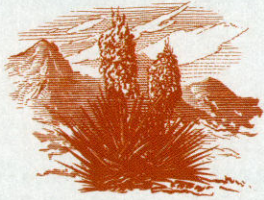
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MAY: Bouldering Tours, Hueco Tanks SHS, El Paso, every Wednesday through Sunday by prior arrangement, (915) 849-6684.

MAY: Hiking Tours, Hueco Tanks SHS, El Paso, Wednesday through Sunday, by prior arrangement, (915) 849-6684.

MAY: Pictograph Tours, Hueco Tanks SHS, El Paso, every Wednesday through Sunday, by prior arrangement, (915) 849-6684.

MAY: Camel Treks, Monahans Sandhills SP, Monahans, reservations required, (866) 6CAMELS.

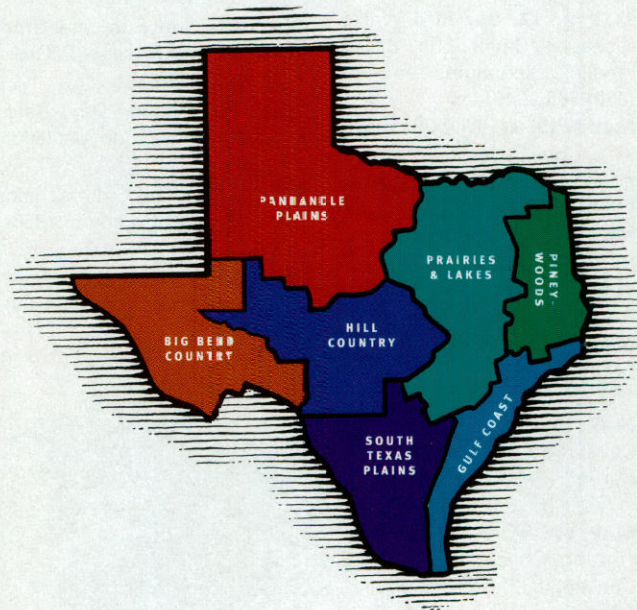
MAY: Fate Bell Cave Dwelling Tour, Seminole Canyon SP & HS, Comstock, every Wednesday through Sunday, (432) 292-4464.

MAY: White Shaman Tour, Seminole Canyon SP & HS, Comstock, every Saturday, (888) 525-9907.

MAY 1-31: Fishing on the Rio Grande, Black Gap WMA, Alpine, (432) 376-2216.

MAY 1-31: Maravillas Canyon-Rio Grande Equestrian Trail, Black Gap WMA, Alpine, (432) 376-2216.

MAY 2-4: Native Plant Weekend, Big Bend Ranch SP, Presidio, reservations required,



(432) 229-3416.

MAY 2-4: El Paso Heritage Week, Wyler Aerial Tramway SP, El Paso, (915) 552-9599.

MAY 3: Madrid Falls Tour, Big Bend Ranch SP, Presidio, reservations required (432) 229-3416.

MAY 3-4, 17-18: Guided Tours, Franklin Mountains SP, El Paso, reservations required, (915) 566-6441.

MAY 4: Spring Victorian Tea, Magoffin Home SHS, El Paso, reservations required. (915) 533-5147.

MAY 9-11: Spring Trail Ride, Big Bend Ranch SP, Presidio, reservations required. (432) 229-3416.

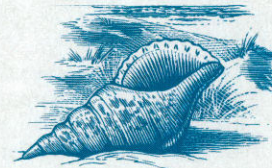
MAY 10: Stories of Spirits, Magoffin Home SHS, El Paso, (915) 533-5147

MAY 11: Mother's Day Special, Wyler Aerial Tramway SP, El Paso, (915) 562-9399.

MAY 17: Fresno Canyon Tour, Big Bend Ranch SP, Presidio, reservations required. (432) 229-3416.

MAY 18: Bird Identification Tours, Hueco Tanks SHS, El Paso, reservations required, (915) 849-6684.

MAY 24: Guale Mesa Tour, Big Bend Ranch SP, Presidio, reservations required, (432) 229-3416.



GULF COAST

MAY: Weekend Nature Programs, Brazos Bend SP, Needville, every Saturday and Sunday, (979) 553-5101.

MAY: Hatchery Tours, Coastal Conservation Association/American Electric Power Marine Development Center SFH, Corpus Christi, Monday through Saturday, reservations required, (361) 939-7784.

MAY: Nature Programs, Lake Texana SP, Edna, every Saturday, (361) 782-5718.

MAY: Aquarium and Hatchery Tours, Sea Center Texas, Lake Jackson, every Tuesday through Sunday, hatchery tours by reservation only,

(979) 292-0100.

MAY: Airboat Tours, Sea Rim SP, Sabine Pass, Wednesday through Sunday, reservations required. (409) 971-2559.

MAY: Plantation House, Barn and Grounds Tours, every Wednesday through Sunday, Varner-Hogg Plantation SHS, West Columbia, (979) 345-4656.

MAY 1: Ribbon Cutting, J.J. Mayes Wildlife Viewing Area, Wallisville, (409) 766-3900.

MAY 3: Texas Gulf Coast Roundup, Corpus Christi, (361) 939-8745.

MAY 3: History Tour, Matagorda Island SP & WMA, Port O'Connor, reservations required, (361) 983-2215.

MAY 3: May Day Celebration, Varner-Hogg Plantation SHS, West Columbia, (979) 345-4656.

MAY 3, 17: Summer Night Hikes, Sea Rim SP, Sabine Pass, reservations required, (409) 971-2559.

MAY 3, 17, 31: Wild Boar Safari, Fennessey Ranch, Bayside, reservations required, (361) 529-6600.

MAY 3, 10, 16, 17, 24, 31: Story Time, Sea Center Texas, Lake Jackson, (979) 292-0100.

MAY 4, 10: Walking Bird Tour, Matagorda Island SP & WMA, Port O'Connor, reservations required, (361) 983-2215.

MAY 10-11: Spring Photo Shoot, Fennessey Ranch, Bayside, reservations required, (361) 529-6600.

MAY 12-16: Subtropical Birds of the Lower Rio Grande Valley Workshop, World Birding Center, South Padre Island, reservations required, (800) 850-2473.

MAY 16: Seabirds of the Gulf of Mexico, World Birding Center, South Padre Island,

reservations required, (956) 584-9156.

MAY 17: Nighttime Alligator Count, J.D. Murphree WMA, Port Arthur, (409) 736-2551.

MAY 17: Gordon's Birthday Party, Sea Center Texas, Lake Jackson, (979) 292-0100.

MAY 17, 25: Beachcombing and Shelling Tour, Matagorda Island SP & WMA, Port O'Connor, reservations required, (361) 983-2215.

MAY 18: 13th Annual Monumental Bug Bash, San Jacinto Battleground SHS, LaPorte, (281) 479-2431.

MAY 24: Nighttime Wildlife Tour, Matagorda Island SP & WMA, Port O'Connor, reservations required, (361) 983-2215.

MAY 24: Willacy County Young Farmers Benefit Fishing Tournament, Port Mansfield, (956) 440-0725.



HILL COUNTRY

MAY: Evening Bat Flight Tours, Devil's Sinkhole SNA, Rocksprings, reservations required, (830) 683-BATS.

MAY: Gorman Falls Tour, Colorado Bend SP, Bend, every Saturday and Sunday, weather permitting, (325) 628-3240.

MAY: Walking Wild Cave Tour, Colorado Bend SP, Bend, every Saturday and Sunday, weather permitting, reservations recommended, (325) 628-3240.

MAY: Wild Cave Tour, Longhorn Cavern SP, Burnet, every Saturday, reservations required, (877) 441-2283.

MAY 1, 8, 22, 25, 29: Basic Canoe Skills Clinic, Inks Lake SP, Burnet, reservations required, (512) 793-2223.

MAY 1, 8, 22, 25, 29: Devil's Waterhole Canoe Tour, Inks Lake SP, Burnet, reservations required, (512) 793-2223.

MAY 2: Range and Wildlife Seminar, Kerr WMA, Hunt, (830) 238-4483.

MAY 3: Crawling Wild Cave Tour, Colorado Bend SP, Bend, reservations recommended, (325) 628-3240.

MAY 3: Hike the Hill Country,

Inks Lake SP, Burnet, (512) 793-2223.

MAY 3, 24, 31: Go Fishing with a Ranger, Inks Lake SP, Burnet, (512) 793-2223.

MAY 3, 10, 24, 31: Stumpy Hollow Nature Hike, Inks Lake SP, Burnet, (512) 793-2223.

MAY 3, 17, 31: Bat Flights at Stuart Bat Cave, Kickapoo Cavern SP, Brackettville, reservations required, (830) 563-2342.

MAY 3, 17, 31: Bird Walks, Kickapoo Cavern SP, Brackettville, reservations required, (830) 563-2342.

MAY 3, 17, 31: Wild Cave Tour, Kickapoo Cavern SP, Brackettville, reservations required, (830) 563-2342.

MAY 9: A Hill Country Celebration - Gala 2003, Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center, Austin, (512) 292-4200.

MAY 10, 18: Guided Hikes, Bright Leaf SNA, Austin, (512) 459-7269.

MAY 10, 24: Concert in the Cave, Longhorn Cavern SP, Burnet, reservations required, (877) 441-2283.

MAY 17: 4th Annual Homecoming Concert, Garner SP, Concan, (830) 232-6132.

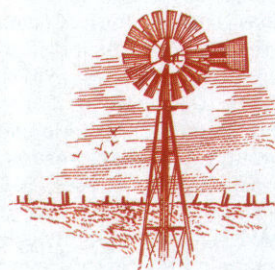
MAY 17: Bluegrass Music in the Park, Inks Lake SP, Burnet, (512) 793-2223.

MAY 21: Texas Amphibian Watch Workshop, Austin, (512) 912-7062.

MAY 24: Tour the Texas State Parks Slide Show, Inks Lake SP, Burnet, (512) 793-2223.

MAY 24-25: Island Assault 1944 Living History Program, Admiral Nimitz SHS-National Museum of the Pacific War, Fredericksburg, (830) 997-4379.

MAY 26: Memorial Day Program, Admiral Nimitz SHS-National Museum of the Pacific War, Fredericksburg, (830) 997-4379.



PANHANDLE PLAINS

MAY 3: Nature Hike, Palo Duro Canyon SP, Canyon, (806) 488-2227.

MAY 3: Prehistoric Permian Track Tour, San Angelo SP, San Angelo, (325) 949-4757.

MAY 10: Wildflower Safari, Palo Duro Canyon SP, Canyon, (806) 488-2227.

MAY 17: River Walk, Palo Duro Canyon SP, Canyon, (806) 488-2227.

MAY 24: Wildflower Tour, Caprock Canyons SP and Trailway, Quitaque, (806) 455-1492.

MAY 24: Sun Fun and Star Walk, Copper Breaks SP, Quanah, (940) 839-4331.

MAY 24: History Day, Palo Duro Canyon SP, Canyon, (806) 488-2227.

MAY 25: Canyon Critters, Palo Duro Canyon SP, Canyon, (806) 488-2227.

MAY 31: Night Noises, Palo Duro Canyon SP, Canyon, (806) 488-2227.



PINEWOODS

MAY 1-2, 8-9, 15-16: School Steam Train Excursions, Texas State Railroad SP, Rusk, reservations required, (800) 442-8951 or (903) 683-2561 outside Texas.

MAY 3: Birding Boat Tour, Martin Dies, Jr. SP, Jasper, reservations required, (409) 384-5231.

MAY 3, 10, 17, 24, 31: Guided Nature Hike and Interpretive Program, Tyler SP, Tyler, (903) 597-5338.

MAY 10, 24: Guided Nature Trail Hike, Village Creek SP, Lumberton, (409) 755-7322.

MAY 11: Mission San Francisco de los Tejas Tour, Mission Tejas SP, Grapeland, (936) 687-2394.

MAY 11, 18, 25: Walk on the Wild Side, Martin Dies, Jr. SP, Jasper, (409) 384-5231.

MAY 16: Nature Slide Program, Village Creek SP, Lumberton, reservations required, (409) 755-7322.

MAY 17: 3D Archery Shoot, Alazan Bayou WMA, Lufkin, (936) 639-1879.

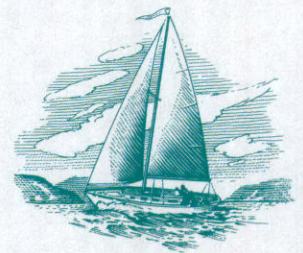
MAY 17: Floating the Forks, Martin Dies, Jr. SP, Jasper,

reservations required, (409) 384-5231.

MAY 24: Campfire Programs, Martin Dies, Jr. SP, Jasper, (409) 384-5231.

MAY 24: Storytelling, Mission Tejas SP, Grapeland, (936) 687-2394.

MAY 25: Archeology Tour, Mission Tejas SP, Grapeland, (936) 687-2394.



PRAIRIES & LAKES

MAY: Evening Interpretive Programs, Lake Mineral Wells SP & Trailway, Mineral Wells, every Friday, (940) 328-1171.

MAY: Yegua and Nails Creek Canoe Tours, Lake Somerville SP & Trailway/Birch Creek Unit, Somerville, every Thursday, reservations required, (979) 535-7763.

MAY: Yegua and Nails Creek Canoe Tours, Lake Somerville SP & Trailway/Nails Creek Unit, Ledbetter, every Thursday, (979) 535-7763.

MAY: Historic and Scenic Tours, Monument Hill & Kreische Brewery SHS, La Grange, available by reservation only to groups of 10 or more, (979) 968-5658.

MAY: Kreische Brewery Tours, Monument Hill & Kreische Brewery SHS, La Grange, every Saturday and Sunday, weather permitting, (979) 968-5658.

MAY: Interpretive Programs, Purts Creek SP, Eustace, every Saturday and Sunday, (903) 425-2332.

MAY: Feat of Clay: Texas Pottery and Potters, 1850-1890, Sebastopol House SHS, Seguin, (830) 379-4833.

MAY: Family Life in the Republic, Washington-on-the-Brazos SHS-Barrington Living History Farm, Washington, every Saturday and Sunday, (936) 878-2213.

MAY 1-3: Heritage Longhorn Cattle Drive, Texas Ranch Life, Chappell Hill, (888) 273-6426.

MAY 3: Wildflower Walk, Cooper Lake SP/Doctors Creek Unit, Cooper, (903) 395-3100.

MAY 3: Wildflower Walk, Lake

Mineral Wells SP & Trailway, Mineral Wells, (940) 328-1171.

MAY 3: 3rd Annual May Day Celebration, Sebastopol House SHS, Seguin, (830) 379-4833.

MAY 3, 4: Texas Archeology Academy, Tarrant County College, (361) 727-1766.

MAY 3, 10, 17, 24: Walk on the Wild Side, Heard Natural Science Museum and Wildlife Sanctuary, (972) 562-5566.

MAY 3, 17: Children's Fishing Derby, Washington-on-the-Brazos SHS, Washington, reservations required, (936) 878-2214.

MAY 3, 31: Penn Farm Tour, Cedar Hill SP, Cedar Hill, (972) 291-5940.

MAY 3-4, 11, 17-18, 24-25, 31: Tours, Fanthorp Inn SHS, Anderson, (936) 873-2633.

MAY 4, 11: Kreische House Tours, Monument Hill & Kreische Brewery SHS, La Grange, (979) 968-5658.

MAY 10: Snakes, Our Scaly Skinned Friends, Cedar Hill SP, Cedar Hill, (972) 291-5490.

MAY 10: Guided Nature Hike, Cooper Lake SP/South Sulphur Unit, Sulphur Springs, (903) 395-3100.

MAY 10: Stagecoach Days, Fanthorp Inn SHS, Anderson, (936) 873-2633.

MAY 10: Wildflower Bicycle Tour, Lake Mineral Wells SP & Trailway, Mineral Wells, reservations required, (940) 328-1171.

MAY 10, 17, 24, 31: Blooms of Spring, Cedar Hill SP, Cedar Hill, (972) 291-5940.

MAY 17: Kids Wilderness Survival, Cedar Hill SP, Cedar Hill, (972) 291-5490.

MAY 17: Poisonous Plants, Cooper Lake SP/Doctors Creek Unit, Cooper, (903) 395-3100.

MAY 17: Storytelling Down in the Holler, Lake Mineral Wells SP & Trailway, Mineral Wells, (940) 327-8950.

MAY 17: Garden Walk, Texas Discovery Gardens, Fair Park, Dallas, (214) 428-7476.

MAY 24: History of the Cooper Lake Area, Cooper Lake SP/South Sulphur Unit, Sulphur Springs, (903) 395-3100.

MAY 24: Night Sounds, Lake Mineral Wells SP & Trailway, Mineral Wells, (940) 327-8950.

MAY 25: Cowboy Campfire-Music and Poetry, Lake Mineral Wells SP & Trailway, Mineral Wells, (940) 327-8950.

MAY 31: Venomous Snakes, Cooper Lake SP/Doctors Creek Unit, Cooper, (903) 395-3100.

MAY 31: Kids' Wilderness Survival, Lake Mineral Wells SP & Trailway, Mineral Wells, reservations required, (940) 328-1171.



SOUTH TEXAS PLAINS

MAY: Spring Hawk Watch, World Birding Center, Bentsen-Rio Grande Valley SP, Mission, (956) 584-9156.

MAY 2-5: Cinco de Mayo, Goliad SP, Goliad, (361) 645-3405.

MAY 12-16: Subtropical Birds of the Lower Rio Grande Valley Workshop, World Birding Center, McAllen, reservations required, (800) 850-2473.

SP	State Park
SHS	State Historical Site
SNA	State Natural Area
WMA	Wildlife Management Area
SFH	State Fish Hatchery



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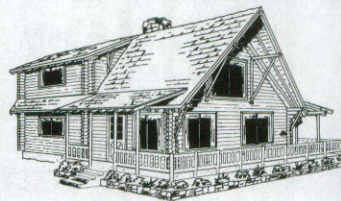
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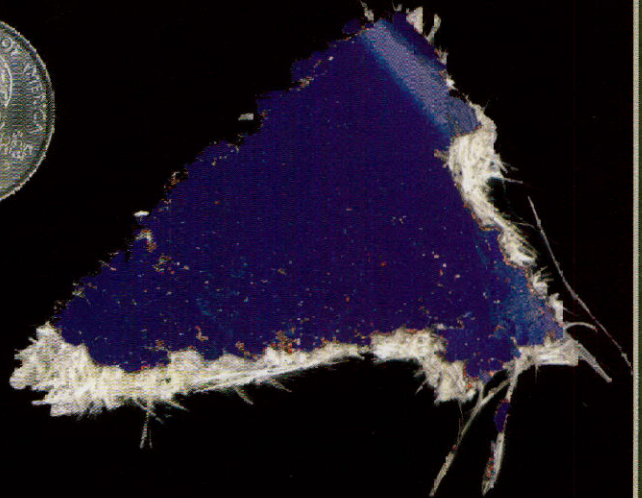
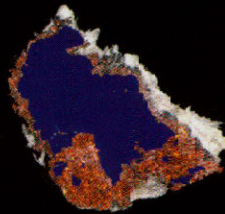
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Texas' Wildlife Crime-Stoppers Program



PARTING SHOT



David Alloway, 45, died suddenly on March 11, 2003. Alloway was a former TPWD employee, and a frequent and valued contributor to *Texas Parks & Wildlife* magazine. He will be sorely missed.

Shown here with his son Ian, Alloway was a world-renowned expert in desert survival, an author with many magazine articles and a book to his credit, a naturalist, a teacher and, most importantly, a devoted father.

His values live in the epigraphs he selected for his book *Desert Survival Skills*, which he dedicated to sons Ian and Sean:

Remember the days of old, Consider the years of many generations,
Ask your father, and he will show you: Your elders,
and they will tell you.

— Deuteronomy 32:7

When you teach your son, You teach your son's son.

—Talmud



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