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# TEXAS PARKS & WILDLIFE

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**T E X A S**  
**P A R K S & W I L D L I F E**

February 1990, Vol. 48, No. 2

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**MAGAZINE**

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*Dedicated to the conservation and enjoyment of Texas wildlife, parks, waters and all outdoors.*

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EDINBURG, TEXAS

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**COVERS—Front and Back:** Time seems to stand still when winter covers the landscape with an icy shell. Leroy Williamson captured this scene on Kodachrome 64 film using an Olympus OM2-N, 50mm macro lens, 1/60 sec. at f/5.6. **Inside Front:** The evening sky casts a golden glow over Hueco Tanks State Park. Read about this park in far west Texas on page 28. Freelance photographer R. Michael Charske used a Nikon F3 camera, Nikor 24mm lens, 81B filter, 1/2 ND filter for four seconds at f/22 on Kodachrome 25 film.

# At Issue

Last winter about this time we went through a little exercise called a readership survey, one of those deals where we mailed a four-page questionnaire to 1,000 patient souls who subscribe to this magazine asking them all manner of questions. Among other things, we wanted to know what aspects of the magazine they liked, what they would like to see more of and how we could improve the publication.

The top-12 subjects of interest were:

1. Scenic beauty
2. State parks
3. Historical parks
4. Wildlife research and management
5. Outdoor photography
6. Game species
7. Wildflowers
8. Freshwater fishing
9. Nongame or endangered species
10. Environmental issues
11. Hunting
12. Fisheries research and management

The reason behind such surveys is to give the editors some feedback; are we on the right track with the type of stories we run and the photos we publish? It's good information we already have used to make some changes in the magazine, with more changes to come during 1990.

Since outdoor photography-related subjects rank high on the list, one of the things we started with last month's issue was a regular department written by Photo Editor Leroy Williamson, called "Picture This." Leroy has been in this business for more than 20 years and each month he will pass on a bit of his knowledge about outdoor photography. He invites your questions about photography, as well as suggestions for future columns.



Also along the outdoor photography line, Leroy has talked me into holding a photo contest among our readers. Announcement of the contest rules, categories and other particulars may be found on page 14. We plan to publish the winners in the December issue. This is strictly a contest for our readers who are interested in outdoor photography; none of the staff or freelance contributors will be involved, so your work will be judged against other interested amateurs.

The photo with the text on pages 14 and 15 is by McAllen photographer Steve Bentsen. Pictured from left to right are David Langford of San Antonio, Bill Reaves of Austin and Wyman Meinzer of Benjamin, all contributors to this magazine. We don't know who the poor owl is, or if it survived the collected exposure to such high-powered photographers. Just having to face the lenses of this foursome is dangerously close to wildlife harassment. Anyhow, we eagerly await your entries and will publish contest reminders in Leroy's column each month.

Historical parks ranked high among readers' pref-

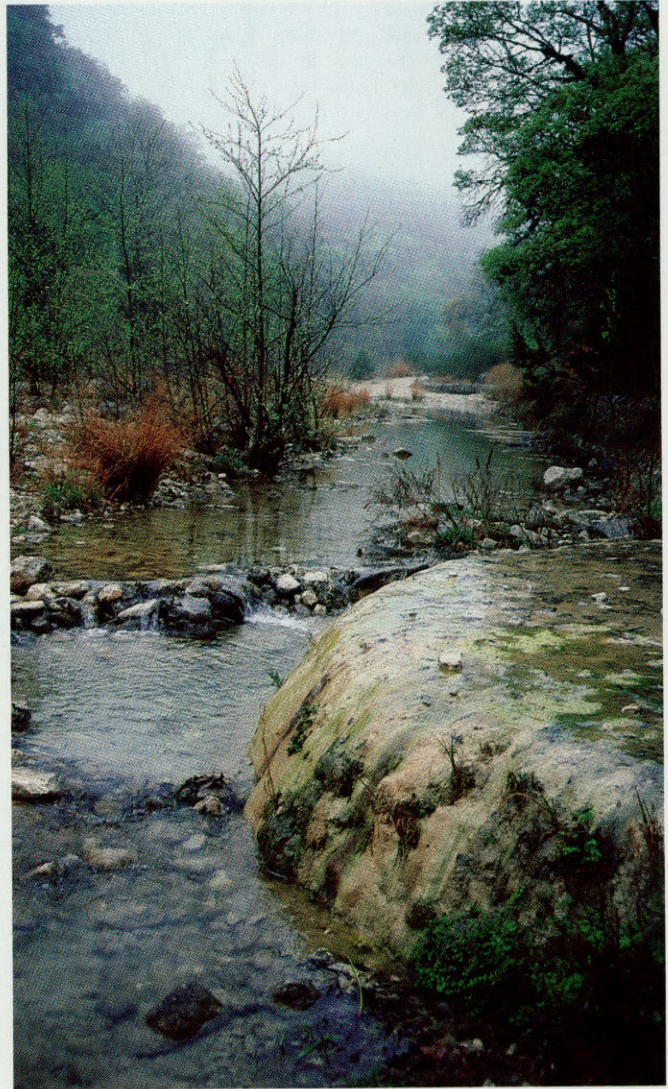


Leroy Williamson

erence and our lead story this month is about the Hogg family and the influence they wielded in the state, plus the parks that bear their name. With the race for governor just beginning to gather steam, I hope our candidates will take note of what Governor Hogg said in his final speech: “. . . in Texas, public office is the center of public conscience . . . no graft, no crime, no public wrong, shall ever stain or corrupt our State.”

Next month, in the March issue, Senior Editor Jim Cox will take us on a tour of his favorite white bass fishing spots. The team of Dunn and Myers will take us night diving on a reef. We will have an extensive piece on native Texas prairies; the work being done around the state to map bird-nesting habitat, the so-called bird atlas project; and a Young Naturalist on the kudzu vine, an insidious plant that literally has covered much of the Southeast United States.

—David Baxter



Leroy Williamson

*Scenic beauty and outdoor photography rank high on our readers' list of preferences. Now's your chance to show us your stuff in the "Best of Texas" photography contest. See page 14 for details. Chief photographer Leroy Williamson photographed the cattle egrets at a rookery near Eagle Lake. The misty shot, above, was taken last spring at Lost Maples State Park.*

# Biography of a Native Son

1990 marks the centennial of Jim Hogg's election as Texas' first native-born governor.

**O**n April 19, 1890, a big man with warm blue eyes stood before a crowd of 3,000 people who had gathered in a shady grove near Rusk, Texas. James Stephen Hogg was a product of those pine woodlands, having been born near that very spot just 39 years before. "Let facts be stated, truths told, the law explained, a decent campaign made, and a correct verdict will be rendered," he said near the end of a three-hour speech that launched his campaign for governor of Texas.

Texas in 1890 stood at the threshold of a new century. Reconstruction was still fresh in the minds of many, corruption was invading the railroad industry and lawlessness was on the rise. Texans were ready for a big bear of a man who would work to improve the lot of the average citizen, a man who would stand up to the likes of the notorious Jay Gould.

James Stephen Hogg learned about public service at a young age. His grandfather, Major Thomas Hogg, served in the state legislatures of Georgia, Alabama and Mississippi. Joseph Lewis Hogg, Jim's father, moved to the Republic of Texas in 1839 in response to recruiting efforts by Sam Houston. Said to bear a strong resemblance to President Andrew Jackson, Joseph Hogg was a delegate to the Texas Constitutional Convention in 1845, and wrote much of the state's first constitution. He served as a senator in the first state legislature and as a

colonel in the War with Mexico.

Joseph Lewis Hogg and his wife Lucanda established a comfortable home for their four children at a plantation near Rusk called Mountain Home. James Stephen, their fifth child, was born there in 1851. Two more boys followed in 1854 and 1856, bringing the Hogg brood to seven. The years that followed were prosperous and happy. Political leaders were frequent guests at Mountain Home and Joseph provided for the educational needs of his children by establishing a school and bringing tutors into the home.

But this comfortable life was not to last. In 1861 Joseph Lewis Hogg became a delegate to the Texas Secession Convention and in 1862 he was appointed a brigadier general by Jefferson Davis. He left Rusk in March of that year but by May he was dead, a victim of flux, or dysentery, that was sweeping through Corinth, Mississippi. The youngest Hogg child, seven-year-old Richard, died early the next year and by that summer Lucanda was also dead. The oldest Hogg child, 29-year-old Martha Frances, assumed responsibility for the younger children, including 12-year-old Jim.

The events that followed the deaths of his parents no doubt helped shape the man who paved the way into the 20th century for Texas. Jim's schooling continued for a time but the hardships of Reconstruction, crop failures and falling land values were having a disastrous effect on many families, in-

cluding the Hoggs. In 1866, 15-year-old Jim embarked on his first job, setting type for a newspaper in Rusk, the *Texas Observer*. The *Observer's* slogan was "The World Is Governed Too Much," and during the elections that year, young Jim was exposed to frequent political discussions in the newspaper office.

In succeeding years Jim worked as a printer's devil in Fort Worth and Cleburne before returning to East Texas to work at the *Quitman Clipper*. In 1869 he left the newspaper business to become a sharecropper on 10 acres near Quitman.



*Jim Hogg State Historical Park near Rusk features a house that is representative of early pioneer homes in the area. James Stephen Hogg was born near this spot in the Pineywoods in 1851.*

by Mary-Love Bigony

In Quitman, an incident occurred that would influence Jim's outlook on law enforcement, an outlook that would be an advantage during his future political campaigns. When a band of outlaws cornered the sheriff in the courthouse, Jim and two other young men rushed to the scene. After getting the situation under control, the sheriff handed Jim a rifle and told him to guard one of the men. The man tried to get away, and when he failed to stop on Jim's orders, Jim knocked him out with the butt of the



Barker Texas History Center, University of Texas

rifle. Several months later Jim and his brother John were invited to a Christmas party that turned out to be a trap for Jim. The outlaw Jim had knocked out in Quitman retaliated with a bullet in the young man's back. Jim was left for dead.

Jim recovered from the shooting

*Longtime friend Horace Chilton said of Hogg: "His personal appearance, large of frame and broad of face, was a self-made introduction to every audience. . . ."*

under the care of Dr. William McDuggald, husband of his sister Julia. But the bullet stayed in, causing increasing discomfort as the years passed. Thirteen years later, during a session in Tyler as district attorney, Hogg was in such pain from the old bullet that he insisted on having it removed at noon, between cases, with no anesthetic.

Jim recuperated from the shooting at Mountain Home. But he could no longer handle the heavy work involved in farming so he turned his attention to studying law, as his older brother Tom was doing. To support himself during his law studies, he returned to newspaper work, this time in Tyler. In 1871 he established his own newspaper, the *Longview News*. The following year he moved his newspaper to Quitman, the East Texas community that would become the site of his first political victory.

Through his newspaper, Jim Hogg made a name for himself with his eloquent and thoughtful articles. He warned against using bond money to finance railroad construction and he took strong stands on law enforcement. In 1873 Hogg campaigned for and won the office of justice of the peace.

Hogg's tenure as justice of the peace was a successful one. Among his accomplishments was a regulation that standardized the measurement of liquids such as kerosene and whiskey. From this regulation came the term "Jim Hogg Quart" to mean a legal



Leroy Williamson

measure, a term that was used in Wood County long after Hogg was gone from the area.

The Quitman years were happy on a personal level as well. In April 1874 Hogg married Sarah Ann (Sallie) Stinson, a young woman he had met five years earlier during his sharecropper days. The couple moved into a four-room house in Quitman and on January 31, 1875, their son William Clifford was born. The birth of his son was an incentive for Hogg to complete his law studies, which he did later that year.

After an unsuccessful campaign for the state legislature in 1876 (the only election he ever lost), Hogg was elected county attorney for Wood County in 1878 using the campaign slogan "Enforce the Law." His political career received a boost when he attended the state Democratic convention in Austin that year. According to Hogg biographer Robert C. Cotner,



An 1891 Hogg family portrait (left to right): Ima, age nine; Will, age 16; Tom, age four; Governor Hogg; Mike, age six; and Sallie Hogg.

Barker Texas History Center, University of Texas



The Stinson Home, part of Governor Hogg Shrine State Historical Park, was the site of the 1874 wedding of James Hogg and Sarah Ann Stinson.

Leroy Williamson

the 27-year-old county attorney won favor with many of the older Democrats at the convention who learned "that he possessed the earnestness and directness of his father but was possessed of more humor."

Two years later, Hogg was elected district attorney and the family moved to Mineola, which was more centrally located in the district than Quitman was. As district attorney he began the fights against out-of-state corporations such as railroads and insurance companies that would consume much of his career.

Troublesome social issues caught his attention as well. In Tyler, Hogg prosecuted a white man for assault on a black man. Despite convincing evidence that the white man was guilty, the jury acquitted him. The next case involved a black man who had al-

legedly assaulted a white man, but Hogg refused to prosecute the case since the white man had gone free in the previous case.

In 1882 Sallie Hogg gave birth to the couple's second child. "Our cup of joy is now complete!" the district attorney wrote his brother John. "We have a daughter of as fine proportions and of as angelic mien as ever gracious nature favor a man with, and her name is Ima!"

Hogg named his daughter after a character in "The Fate of Marvin," a Civil War epic written by his beloved older brother Tom. Miss Ima, as she came to be known during her long and distinguished life, told this story years later: "My grandfather rode his horse 16 miles into town and strode into the house to confront Father. 'Do you realize what you have done?' Father told



him it was too late, that I had already been christened. And I can remember a few years later the many times when Will would come home from school with a bloody nose. He had been defending my good name.”

The Hoggs had two more children, Michael born in 1885 and Thomas born in 1887. Ima was the only daughter. Throughout her life Miss Ima wore her name with pride, and introduced herself as “Ima (pause) Hogg.” There was never a sister named Ura, and Miss Ima bristled at the persistent myth that there was.

One version of how the “Ura Hogg” story got started concerns Governor Hogg’s warm oratorical style. A skillful politician, Hogg made frequent whistlestop tours around the state, often accompanied by young Ima. Occasionally a friend of Ima’s would join the party. At the end of his speech, so the story goes, Hogg would try to bring the crowd into his circle. “I’m a Hogg, you’re a Hogg (gesturing toward Ima and her friend), we’re all Hoggs!” he would exclaim as he opened his arms to the crowd.

During his four years as district attorney, Hogg became known as one of the toughest prosecutors in the state. He entered private practice in Tyler in 1884, and earned the respect of the Democratic party during the national elections of that year by convincing Smith County blacks to switch from the Republican party.

Hogg’s successful record as district attorney and his reputation among influential Democrats earned him a spot on the statewide ticket in 1886. His campaign for attorney general was successful, and in 1887 the Hogg family moved to Austin.

The new attorney general rolled up his sleeves and went to work. During his four years in office he stood up to illegal insurance companies, out-of-state corporations and the powerful railroad interests. He succeeded in breaking up the nine-railroad Texas Traffic Association, formed under the guidance of financier Jay Gould, who was earning a reputation for unscrupulous dealings. According to biographer Cotner, “Jay Gould had met his match.” Hogg protected legitimate businesses and was responsible for Texas being the second state in the na-



*The Honeymoon Cottage, part of Governor Hogg Shrine, was the first home of Jim and Sallie Hogg. The young couple lived here while Hogg was justice of the peace in Wood County.*

tion to have an anti-trust law.

Through his dealings with the railroads, Hogg became increasingly convinced that Texas needed to establish a state railroad commission. It was on this platform he campaigned for the governorship. On November 4, 1890, James Stephen Hogg was elected the 20th governor of Texas and the Railroad Commission was approved by better than a two-to-one margin.

Hogg assumed the governorship with vigor and enthusiasm. A major coup was convincing John H. Reagan to resign from the U.S. Senate to serve as chairman of the new Railroad Commission. On April 27, 1891, the Corsicana *Daily Light* had this to say about the Reagan appointment: “Every successive act of Gov. Hogg seems to send him up higher and higher in the estimation of all intelligent and honest people who are capable of discerning the right in the public acts of men. In the appointment of Hon. John H. Reagan as railroad commissioner, he has simply accomplished a feat.”

Even though Hogg has become strongly identified with regulation of the railroad industry, his interests were far-reaching. “Shall the people or the corporations rule Texas?” he asked during the campaign, and he

worked to ensure that it would indeed be the people who held the reins. Among his accomplishments were improvement of the public school system and the prison system, a pardon board, and restriction on public indebtedness of local governments. He was concerned about mental health long before most Texans knew the meaning of the term, and he advocated hospitalization and medical treatment for drunkenness decades before the word alcoholism came into use.

A keen interest in Texas history led Hogg to establish the state archives, and he made frequent trips out of state to encourage venture capital to come to Texas. Many of his accomplishments were unpopular; some were achieved at personal risk to the governor. But his successes in office outnumbered his failures and he earned a reputation as a reformer that the passage of time has done nothing but enhance.

Hogg declined further political races at the end of his second term, and in January 1895 the Hogg family moved from the Governor’s Mansion to a boarding house on 8th Street in Austin. The former governor was 43 years old. Sallie Hogg, whose health had been delicate throughout her hus-

band's two terms in office, died the following September.

Hogg was in debt with just over \$100 in the bank when he left office. Years later, in response to the Sharps-town scandal of the 1970s, Miss Ima recalled: "My father was so honest, when his term was over he had to borrow money to move out of the governor's mansion." But within 25 years, the Hogg brothers and sister would rank among the state's wealthiest philanthropists. This transformation was the result of the age-old combination of hard work and good luck.

In 1895, Jim Hogg set about making money to provide for his family, something he had not had time for during his years of public service. Hogg and a partner started a law practice in Austin that was successful. In 1901 the family's fortune really began to change with the Spindletop gusher, which encouraged Hogg to make what turned out to be some wise investments in oil lands. Also in 1901, Hogg purchased the 4,100-acre Varner Plantation near

West Columbia for \$30,000, or roughly \$7 per acre. "The oil prospects are good," he wrote Ima in 1902 about the plantation. "It may yet turn out to be a gusher of oil."

Although he would never hold office again, Hogg remained active in politics. According to biographer Cotner, one of Hogg's contributions to Texas political history was his example as a former officeholder voluntarily turning civilian.

Hogg wrote to a friend in 1896, "My cup of ambition is full, but I shall stay with the people and help them out." He campaigned for William Jennings Bryan in 1896 and 1900. He continued to advocate reform and spoke out on subjects such as the role of labor in the 20th century and the need for an isthmian (Panama) canal to increase trade to South America and the Orient.

In 1894, Hogg moved to Houston to be closer to his business interests. Oldest son Will was practicing law in Austin, Ima was studying music in

New York and Mike and Tom were at Lawrenceville Academy in New Jersey. The family had drawn close following Sallie's death, maintaining a warm correspondence and getting together often. Jim Hogg cherished the time he spent with his children at Varner Plantation, a pleasant retreat from the business world.

The former governor's business success continued. He formed a partnership with two Houston attorneys. He helped establish the Texas Company (Texaco), which contributed to Houston's preeminence in the oil industry. He remained convinced that there was oil on the Varner property, and stipulated in his will that the property could not be disposed of for 15 years after his death.

On January 26, 1905, Hogg was traveling from Varner to Houston when the train he was riding in collided with a string of boxcars. Hogg was thrown out of his seat, but the injuries at first appeared minor. But the accident marked the beginning of his deteriorating health. He improved somewhat in the spring, and spoke at a banquet honoring President Theodore Roosevelt in Dallas. Roosevelt was one of the few Republicans the former governor admired, and he told the crowd: "I came here, several hundred miles, after a protracted, serious spell of sickness in order to testify my appreciation of the man who . . . liberated Texas from commercial tyranny." Hogg continued to make small improvements, but was never again completely well.

In November 1905, Hogg accepted an invitation to speak at a state Democratic meeting in Dallas. The day before the event he fell ill in a Fort Worth hotel. Ima, who had been a frequent companion during his illness, arranged to have her father record his speech, which was played to the crowd gathered in Dallas. At the end he proclaimed, ". . . in Texas, public office is the center of public conscience . . . no graft, no crime, no public wrong, shall ever stain or corrupt our State." It was Jim Hogg's last public speech.

In February 1906, Will Hogg convinced his father to go out of state for treatment. Will, Ima and the governor stopped in Houston on March 2, 1906, to visit Hogg's law partner Frank Jones.



Leroy Williamson

*The kitchen at Varner-Hogg State Historical Park is connected to the main house by a walkway. Hogg bought the Varner Plantation near West Columbia in 1901.*



Barker Texas History Center, University of Texas



Barker Texas History Center, University of Texas

*Ima Hogg's interests focused on music and the arts. Will C. Hogg was a member of the University of Texas board of regents.*

"I feel now as if I am going to get well," Hogg told Jones. But the next morning, when Ima knocked at his door, there was no response.

Elderest son Will was 31 when his father died. He moved from St. Louis to Houston to handle Hogg's business interests and became the director of various subsidiaries of the Texas Company. He founded *The Texaco Star* publication in 1913. During World War I, Will Hogg served in the special intelligence service in Washington.

After the war, Will, along with brothers Mike and Tom and sister Ima, organized the Hogg Brothers to handle the family's investments and support civic projects. An outgoing, gregarious man, Will Hogg served as president of the University of Texas ex-students association and later was a member of the board of regents. He helped establish Gregory Gym, the University commons and the *Alcalde* magazine. He supported student loans and left money for loans in his will. "In a well-ordered democracy," he was quoted as saying, "no boy or girl with brains and character should be denied the opportunity of college training."

In 1902, Will had written to Ima,

"Prepare to become a comfortably rich woman." Although the tone was teasing, the letter turned out to be prophetic and in 1919, Jim Hogg's conviction that there was oil on the Varner land proved true. The Hogg family, whose father had left the governorship in debt, was now wealthy. While the Hoggs no doubt enjoyed their wealth, each family member had inherited their father's compassion and held a strong conviction that their personal wealth should benefit the public good.

Will Hogg died in 1930. In his will he requested that the bulk of his estate be set aside for a purpose to be specified by his brother Mike, with the assistance of his sister, Ima. The result was the Hogg Foundation of the University of Texas, which would focus on mental hygiene, or the study of personality development and helping individuals use their capacities fully.

Mike Hogg died in 1941 and Tom Hogg died in 1949, leaving Ima the only surviving child of Jim and Sallie Hogg. Her generous nature, spirited personality, distinctive name and long life made Miss Ima the best known of the Hogg offspring.

Often compared to the Gibson girl of the 1890s because of her wholesome good looks, Ima attended the University of Texas and studied music in New York and Europe. At one time her ambition was to be a concert pianist, and her dedication to music and the arts was a mainstay of her life. In 1909 she moved to Houston to teach piano. She helped organize Houston's first symphony in 1913 and remained active in the symphony throughout her life.

With the discovery of oil on the Varner Plantation, Ima became a wealthy woman, as her brother had predicted. Always outspoken, she made it clear that she believed inherited wealth was a public trust. According to columnist Lynn Ashby of the *Houston Post*, "More than once she would confront someone of inherited wealth and ask what he or she intended to do with all that money. The answer was usually lacking, at least in Miss Ima's eyes."

Miss Ima's contributions encompassed the fields of music, art and historic preservation. She restored her father's beloved Varner Plantation and gave it to the state (see story on page 11). She filled her home, Bayou Bend, with the finest art and antiques, then gave it to the Houston Fine Arts Museum in 1966. In 1963 she purchased the historic Winedale Inn in Fayette County and supervised its restoration, putting her knowledge of early Texas furniture to work. In 1965 she gave the property to the University of Texas as a center for the study of the history and culture of ethnic groups who migrated to Texas in the 1800s. The Eisenhower and Kennedy administrations recognized Miss Ima for her contributions to the arts and historic preservation.

Miss Ima assisted in the creation of the Hogg Foundation upon her brother's death, and maintained an active role in it throughout her life. According to the director, she spent most of her waking hours thinking up projects for the Hogg Foundation. Miss Ima kept up with the latest treatments of mental illness and established one of the country's pioneering institutions of child psychiatry, the Houston Child Guidance Center. "By advocating prevention and early intervention, Miss Ima was years ahead of her time

in the field of mental health," said Dr. Ira Iscoe of the University of Texas.

Environmental issues caught Miss Ima's attention. In 1969, she helped convince Galveston not to cut down trees to accommodate new left-turn lanes. In 1966, she successfully campaigned against plans to turn Houston's historic Buffalo Bayou into a drainage ditch. Shortly before her death in 1975, she publicly threatened to reclaim Memorial Park (a gift from the Hogg family) if Harris County permitted the realignment of Buffalo Bayou through a portion of the park. County officials withdrew the proposal. Miss Ima's will stated that should

the City of Houston fail to use the park for its designated purpose, the land would be turned over to the Daughters of the Republic of Texas.

In August 1975, at the age of 93, Miss Ima made one of her frequent trips to London to enjoy the operas and plays. She slipped while being helped into a taxi, was hospitalized and died less than a week later from a heart attack. On August 23, 1975, she was buried alongside her father and brothers in Austin's Oakwood Cemetery. The last child of Jim and Sallie Hogg was gone, but Texas is a better place because the Hogg family called it home. \*\*



State Archives



Leroy Williamson

*Ima Hogg donated her home, Bayou Bend, to the Houston Fine Arts Museum in 1966. Miss Ima maintained a lifelong interest in historic preservation. In 1970, at the age of 88, she attended the annual meeting of the Texas State Historical Survey in Fredericksburg (above).*

# Hogg Family Homes

Article and Photos by Leroy Williamson

Several parks and museums in East Texas tell the story of the Hogg family. Jim Hogg State Historical Park covers 175 acres near Rusk. This is the site of the Mountain Home plantation established by Jim Hogg's parents, Joseph and Lucanda,

and where the future governor was born in 1851. A house that is representative of early pioneer homes in the area lies nestled in the East Texas woodlands.

Inside the house, two bedrooms are furnished in typical period furniture.

Elsewhere are a printing press, typewriter and other equipment from Hogg's newspaper days, as well as other artifacts and memorabilia. Outside is a sugar cane mill and a family burial plot.

Jim Hogg State Historical Park is located two miles northeast of Rusk off U.S. 84. Picnic sites and a nature trail make for a pleasant afternoon. The museum is open Tuesday through Sunday, 10 a.m. to noon and 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. For information call 214-683-4850.

Governor Hogg Shrine State Historical Park in Quitman is a 27-acre park near the downtown area. It contains the Honeymoon Cottage, the Miss Ima Hogg Museum and the Stinson Home, as well as a picnic area, playground and the Old Settlers' Tabernacle.

The Honeymoon Cottage was moved to the park from a nearby site in 1952. This was the first home of Jim and Sallie Hogg, the home they occupied while Jim Hogg was justice of the peace in Wood County. Ima Hogg played an active role in restoration of the home, acquiring furnishings that reflect the 1870s. Beautifully furnished, the cottage contains many items that belonged to Governor and Mrs. Hogg. Family portraits grace the walls, bringing the Hogg family to life for the visitor.

The Stinson Home, also part of Governor Hogg Shrine, was the site of Jim and Sallie Hogg's wedding in 1874. The entire wedding party spent the night at the Stinson home following the ceremony, since heavy rains



*The beautifully furnished Honeymoon Cottage at Governor Hogg Shrine contains many items that belonged to Governor and Mrs. Hogg.*

made travel impossible. Miss Ima furnished the spacious home with some of her own belongings and those of her brother Will.

The Miss Ima Hogg Museum, the third building at Governor Hogg

Shrine, was established in 1969. Exhibits in the museum trace the history of Wood County and northeast Texas. Items on display include Indian artifacts as well as decorative pieces and historical furnishings.

Governor Hogg Shrine is open Wednesday through Sunday, with tours available on those days from 9 a.m. to noon and 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. Admission is \$1 for adults and 50 cents for children. For information call 214-763-2701.

Varner-Hogg State Historical Park east of West Columbia was Governor Hogg's cherished retreat during the last years of his life. The two-story mansion contains only four rooms, two upstairs and two downstairs. A kitchen and dining room are connected to the house by a walkway.

The land originally belonged to Martin Varner, one of the "Old Three Hundred," Stephen F. Austin's first colonists. Varner built a log home and raised corn and livestock. There is evidence he also planted sugar cane and established the first rum distillery in Texas.

In 1834, Varner sold the land to Columbus Patton of Kentucky, member of a cotton and sugar plantation family. The Pattons built the main house in the 1830s as well as a separate building for the kitchen. Other buildings believed to have been built by the Pattons are no longer there.

The plantation changed ownership several times after the death of Columbus Patton until Hogg bought it in 1901. In 1920, following the major oil discovery on the property, the Hogg children remodeled the house in the colonial revival style. They enlarged the kitchen to include a butler's pantry and dining room, and built four frame houses, a barn and a garage.

In 1958, Ima Hogg presented the furnished house and other buildings to the state. Many of the furnishings accumulated by Miss Ima reflect the antebellum period, including prints and ceramic pieces. Hogg family books and photos are also on display.

Varner-Hogg State Historical Park is open Wednesday through Sunday. Guided tours are conducted from 9 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. and 1 p.m. to 4:30 p.m. (1 p.m. to 4:30 p.m. only on Sunday). Admission is \$2 for adults and \$1

*Miss Ima restored her father's beloved Varner Plantation and presented it to the state in 1958. Furnishings she accumulated reflect the antebellum period.*



for children. For information call 409-345-4656.

Bayou Bend, Miss Ima's Houston home, sits on a beautifully manicured lawn in the city's River Oaks neighborhood. After filling the home with the finest in art and American antiques, she gave it to the Houston Museum of Fine Arts in 1966.

Visitors may tour both the home and the gardens. Tours of the home are available Tuesday through Saturday. The first tour begins at 10 a.m. and the last begins at 2:45 p.m. (On Saturdays the last tour begins at 11:45 a.m.) Admission is \$4 (\$3 for persons 65 and over). The garden is open Wednesday through Saturday, 10 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. and Sunday, 1 p.m. to 4:30 p.m. For information, call 713-529-8773. \*\*



*The Stinson Home (top) was furnished by Miss Ima with some of her own belongings and those of her brother Will. The Miss Ima Hogg Museum, also at Governor Hogg Shrine, contains decorative pieces and historical furnishings.*



## *The Best of Texas*

# PHOTO CONTEST

by Leroy Williamson

*Texas Parks & Wildlife* magazine is pleased to announce the Best of Texas Photo Contest, its first-ever readers' outdoor photo competition. All entries will be judged by *Texas Parks and Wildlife* staff members, and decisions of the judges are final.

### RULES

**Eligibility:** The contest is open to all TP&W readers except employees of the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department, members of the Texas Parks and Wildlife Commission and their immediate families. Also excluded are freelance photographers whose photos have appeared in any issue of *Texas Parks & Wildlife* magazine. Photos must have been taken in Texas and be available to *Texas Parks & Wildlife* on a first-rights basis. Previously published photos are not acceptable.

**Entries:** Only transparencies will be accepted. The preferred transparency size and the smallest acceptable is 35mm, although 4 x 5 and larger transparencies are welcome. Color negative (print) film users may have their favorite negatives converted to color transparencies by their local photo lab. **Please, no prints, either color or black and white.**

### CATEGORIES

The following categories will be used and each contestant should indicate the category in which each photo belongs. However, the judges reserve the right to recategorize any entry they feel would better fit another category.

**Wildlife:** Any native Texas wildlife from insects to mammals, birds, fishes.

**Scenic:** Pictorial scenes of Texas. These scenes may include people if it is obvious that people are not the primary subject.

**Recreational activities:** People enjoying the outdoors.

**Macro:** Close-up photos of anything relating to nature and the outdoors.

**No more than one photo per category will be accepted from each entrant.** In other words, there are four categories, so the maximum number of entries per person will be four if one photo is entered in each category.

### PROCEDURE

Entrants must include a self-addressed mailer with sufficient postage for return of materials. Entries with no return postage or insufficient return postage will not be returned.

*Texas Parks & Wildlife* will not be responsible for damage or loss of entries. An 8-1/2 x 11 inch data sheet containing information for each slide must accompany each entry. The data sheet must contain the following information: Name, mailing address, area code and telephone number, category, subject of photo, where and when taken, camera model, film type and exposure information, if available.

Also, print your full name and address on each 35mm slide. On larger transparencies attach a label with this information.







Steve Bentzen

## RECOGNITION

We will publish the winning photos in the December 1990 issue of *Texas Parks & Wildlife* magazine, which will further our lawful purpose of informing the public about wildlife values. Each winner will receive a one-time publication fee much as we pay our professional freelance contributors. The best overall photo will receive a \$200 photo-use fee; first-place winners in each category will receive a \$150 photo-use fee; second place, \$100 photo-use fee; and third place, \$50 photo-use fee. All winners will receive certificates of achievement and six complimentary copies of the December 1990 issue.

## DEADLINE

The deadline for entering the Best of Texas color slide contest is August 15, 1990. Entries received

*Photographers have until August 15 to enter the Best of Texas Photo Contest. Winning photos will be published in the December issue.*

after that time will be automatically disqualified and returned to the entrant.

Send all entries to:

**The Best of Texas Photo Contest  
Texas Parks and Wildlife Department  
4200 Smith School Road  
Austin, Texas 78744**

Winning entries that are published in the magazine will be returned in December 1990. All other entries will be returned about September 15, 1990.

# In the Heart of Big Bass

by Sheryl Smith-Rodgers



Jim Cammack

*Waters off Bob Sandlin's pier have yielded two park record fish—an eight-pound-plus largemouth and a 46-pound buffalo fish. An automatic feeder casts fish food upon the waters twice a day.*

# Country

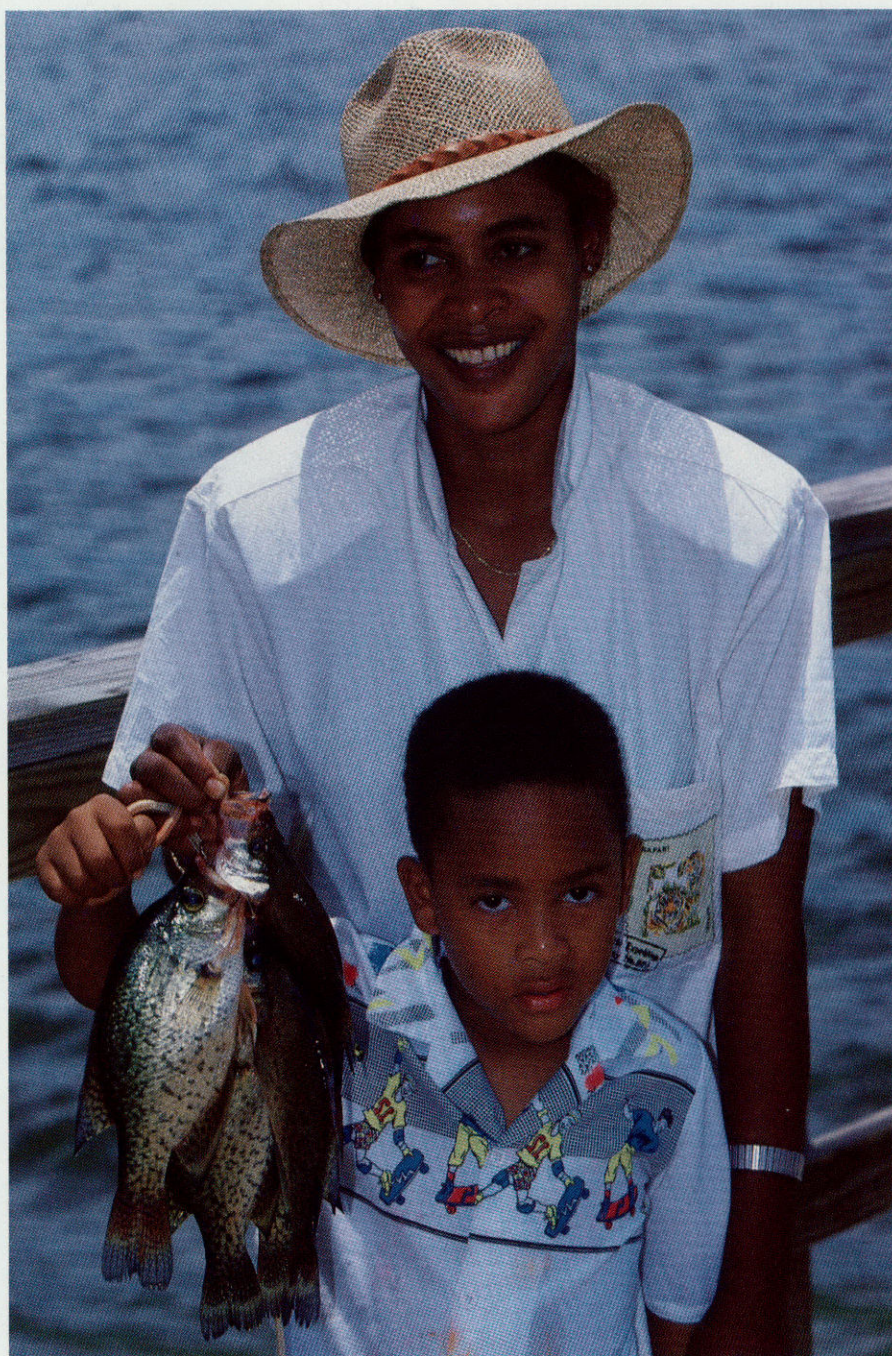
**G**rab the kids, load up the boat and pack a couple of well-stocked tackle boxes. We're headed for Lake Bob Sandlin State Park in Northeast Texas.

The park's primary attraction, Lake Bob Sandlin, was completed in 1977 by the Titus County Water District. The lake is named for a Mount Pleasant businessman who worked diligently to develop reservoirs in Titus County. Sandlin died in 1988 at the age of 86.

Dams separate Lake Bob Sandlin from Lakes Cypress Springs and Monticello, both of which are within five miles of the park. Bob Sandlin park superintendent Bill Griffin says many folks camp at the centrally located state park and fish on all three lakes. The three are referred to as the Tri-Lake Area and hailed as Big Bass Country, attracting sport fishermen from all over the country.

Lake Bob Sandlin is the biggest of the three at more than 12 miles long. The Texas Parks and Wildlife Department stocked the reservoir with 450,000 Florida bass and 2 million channel catfish from 1976 to 1978. Reproduction and recruitment have been excellent. As a result, national fishing organizations have held tournaments there with first prize money often exceeding \$20,000.

But if you'd rather keep your feet on shore, try your luck on the park's lighted fishing pier. Two park records have been caught from the pier, a largemouth bass weighing eight pounds, four ounces landed the day the park opened in November 1987, and a 46-pound buffalo fish caught in 1988. The lake record for largemouth bass is



Jim Cammack

*A mother-son fishing team shows off their stringer of crappie. Lake Bob Sandlin has plenty of the tasty panfish, as well as sunfish and white bass.*

13.02 pounds. Local fish seem to favor the pier for good reason—an automatic feeder on it slings out fish food twice a day.

Besides trophy bass, Lake Bob Sandlin has produced plenty of crappie. Fishermen also catch sunfish and white bass. The park has a two-lane boat ramp and a fish-cleaning shelter. Several marinas are also located on

Lake Bob Sandlin.

Nearby Lake Monticello offers year-round fishing on its 2,000 acres of water continually heated by a power plant. The lake is a renowned trophy bass fishery and is the site where the current big bass frenzy began in 1981. Lake Cypress Springs, located west of the park, offers good fishing for bass, catfish and sunfish. Twelve miles east

*Sandlin's flooded timber is part of why it and nearby Monticello and Cypress Springs are such good fishing lakes. The timber forms structure that attracts and shelters small forage fish, which in turn attract larger predators such as the Lake Sandlin record 13.02-pound largemouth bass.*



Glen Mills

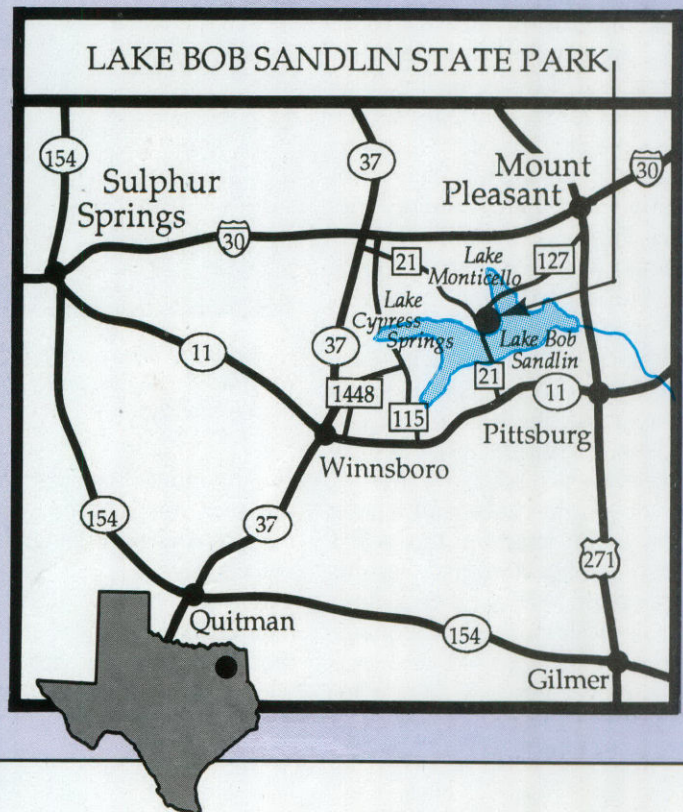
### LAKE BOB SANDLIN STATE PARK

**Location:** Titus County, Highway 21, 11 miles northwest of Pittsburg, 15 miles southwest of Mount Pleasant.

**Facilities:** There are 75 multiuse campsites with electricity/water, and primitive campsites with self-composting restrooms and 20 shelters. A day-use/boat launch area includes 25 picnic sites, a group pavilion, playground and restrooms along with a fishing pier and fish-cleaning stations. Modern restroom facilities with showers are located throughout the park.

**Fees:** \$2 entrance fee; \$4 for primitive backpack camping and \$9 for a campsite with water/electricity hookup. Shelters are \$12 with a maximum of eight persons. Charges for the group pavilion are \$12 for up to 24 people and \$24 for 25 or more. The pavilion seats up to 50 people and includes six picnic tables.

**For information and reservations:** Write to Lake Bob Sandlin State Park, Route 5, Box 224, Pittsburg, Texas, 75686. Telephone number is 214-572-5531.



Map by Elizabeth Sullivan



*Anglers up and down the food chain fish on the triangle of Lakes Sandlin, Monticello and Cypress Springs. It's not unusual for some good ol' boys to share a fishing spot with some great blue herons.*

of Lake Bob Sandlin is hot-water Welsh Reservoir. The 1,500-acre lake also offers excellent catfish and bass fishing.

Although Bob Sandlin Park has no designated swimming area, visitors may venture into the water from the shore. In the near future, Griffin plans to install a sandy beach with buoys for swimmers.

Camping facilities consist of 75 multiuse campsites and 20 shelters. Unlike screened shelters at other parks, these shelters are completely enclosed with glass windows that can be opened and shut. Some campers staying in the shelters have been known to bring small air conditioners or heaters and color televisions. Most shelters have a view of the lake, and several back up to it.

Two primitive camping areas with self-composting restrooms are located on one of the park's three hiking trails. No ground fires are allowed in the primitive camping areas, and no water is available. A second trail is located near the day-use area, and a third trail connects the two. Altogether, the trails wind approximately 3.5 miles through the park and cross eight bridges.

In September, the trails come alive with activity. For two consecutive years, more than 300 students have converged on the park to compete in a cross-country race. Cosponsored by the University Interscholastic League and Pepsi, the annual weekend event features junior high and high school runners from 25 Northeast Texas schools. Boys and girls in four separate races run down park trails for two- and three-mile distances.

As you drive through the park, you'll see a number of bluebird houses on posts along the way. A local Boy Scout troop built and hung 49 houses in all. The birds evidently appreciate the scouts' handiwork as evidenced by their prolific use of the houses last spring. Griffin said the bluebirds occupied half the houses and fledged three clutches. Other commonly seen birds in the area are the northern cardinal, great blue heron, American crow, green-backed heron, Carolina chickadee, blue jay, red-headed woodpecker, bobwhite quail, northern

Jim Carmack



Jim Carmack

*The park's well-equipped playground is a magnet for the Sesame Street crowd. See the sidebar on page 18 for a rundown of Scardlin's other facilities. The park's trees are typical of Northeast Texas—loblolly pines growing among hardwoods such as oaks, sweet gum and hickories.*



## NEARBY POINTS OF INTEREST

Mount Pleasant, 12 miles northeast of the park, calls itself the Christmas and Bass Capital of Texas. Each November and December, the city dresses up in white lights and hosts an annual Christmas festival. There's also a rodeo in June and a county fair in September, not to mention the year-round fishing opportunities surrounding the city.

Southeast of the park is Pittsburg, home of the "Ezekiel Airship" replica. At the turn of the century, Baptist minister and inventor Burrell Cannon persuaded local investors to fund his ambitious project, a winged craft inspired by the biblical Book of Ezekiel. An engine turning four sets of paddles

powered the large ship with fabric-covered wings. It was briefly airborne in 1902, a year before the Wright brothers first took to the air. While enroute by railroad to the St. Louis World's Fair in 1904, the airship was destroyed by a storm. In 1913 a second model crashed, and the minister gave up his venture. The foundry building used by the company still stands, and the "Ezekiel Airship" replica is on display at Warrick's Restaurant in Pittsburg.

Pittsburg hosts a variety of annual events, including the Spring Chick Fest held the last Saturday in April, Pioneer Days Festival the third Saturday in September, a "Spirit of Pitts-

burg" play the third week in September and a Christmas parade. Be sure and sample the town's famous link sausage, too.

Winnsboro, located southwest of the park, attracts contestants and spectators from many states each July 4 for its "Oldtime Fiddlers" contest. The town's annual "Autumn Trails Festival" in October and November includes trail rides, a chili cook-off, rodeo, an antique car rally, an art fair and more.

Forty miles southwest is Governor Hogg Shrine State Historical Park in Quitman. (See page 4 for a complete story on the Hogg family.) Beautiful Dangerfield State Park and Martin Creek Lake State Park are only an hour's drive away, too. For something different, book an evening dinner cruise aboard the Queen Maria, a paddle boat on Lake Bob Sandlin.



Jim Cammack



Glen Mills

mockingbird and mourning dove. A pair of bald eagles also has been sighted in the area during winter months.

Vegetation in the park varies. Forests of loblolly pine, white oak, post oak, willow oak, sweet gum, black hickory and mockernut hickory intertwine with nonnative plants from old homesites, such as Japanese honeysuckle, crepe myrtle, honey locust and chinaberry. Spring brings such wildflowers as Indian paintbrushes, phlox, crimson clover, wild roses, evening primroses, daisies, violets and indigo. Wildlife includes three-toed box turtles, gophers, armadillos, white-tailed deer, nutria, opossums, bobcats and squirrels.

"We've also had reports of a bear," Griffin added. At first park personnel were skeptical about alleged sightings of a black bear, but have since heard enough reports from different sources that they're changing their minds.

Even local residents have said they've seen one crossing the road. "It is a possibility," Griffin said, "but it's probably not a big bear. My wife said she thinks she's seen one, too."

The park's brochure briefly discusses an old wooden stockade believed to have stood within or near the park's boundaries. Fort Sherman, built in the early 1840s, was established to protect settlers from Indian attacks. The old Fort Sherman cemetery, located near the day-use area, contains four tombstones and many unmarked graves. One of the stones marks the grave of J.F. Coston, who served as a corporal in the Confederate Army and lived from 1838-1903. \*\*

*Sheryl did December's story on Purvis Creek State Park. She knows a thing or two about parks, since her husband Terry has worked at McKinney Falls, Martin Creek Lake and is now superintendent at Blanco State Park.*

*Local Boy Scouts built and set 49 bluebird houses in the park. Birds such as the pair above used about half the houses last spring and many fledged three clutches of eggs.*

# Flypaper Trap

**S**teeped in East Texas folklore, the Big Thicket is a place that piques the imagination with Hollywood-style scenes of dark swamps, bogeymen and flesh eaters. Bogeymen? Nah! But carnivores, yes, and with such exotic dining habits that they represent one of the greatest anomalies in nature.

The sundew plant, *Drosera annua*,

needs neither strength nor speed to catch its prey. It simply dresses its leaves with a glistening, dewy fare irresistible to small insects. Growing in a rosette form, the wedge-shaped basal leaves are covered by hundreds of reddish hairs called tentacle glands. Mucilage exudes from the tip of each gland, enabling the plant to appear dew-laden even in bright sunlight.

Combined, these features advertise the sundew like a sweet, succulent blob of strawberry jam on green bread, a tempting sight to the lowly gnat or fly.

As soon as it alights on a leaf, the insect tries to free itself from the sticky mucilage. Its movements only increase the flow of enzymes and adhesives from the tentacle glands, and send messages across the leaf that another meal has arrived.

Long peripheral tentacles receive the stimulus and stretch toward the insect, covering it with a hairy, liquid web within 18 minutes. Then the leaf curls around the victim and, for a few hours or days, bastes its meal in enzymes, slowly digesting and absorbing the most nutritious portions. Secretions stop when the leaf opens, leaving the scattered remnants of the insect to dry and blow away on the wind. A short time later, the tentacle glands resume their secretion in preparation for another meal.

All this activity comes from an herb that averages only the size of a dime! Yet the sundew's perfect synchronization of mechanical and chemical processes makes it one of the most aggressive types of carnivorous plant—the active flypaper trap. Its sticky, glandular secretions act like flypaper while leaf movements complete digestion and absorption.

Every part of the sundew is perfectly adapted for a carnivorous life. Small, pinkish flowers, which appear from February through July, serve only for reproduction. They sit atop a leafless scape (stem) four inches above the ravishing tentacles, ensuring successful results from visiting pollinators. Sundews can be biennial or perennial, and if you examine a group of them, you'll notice that their size varies widely.

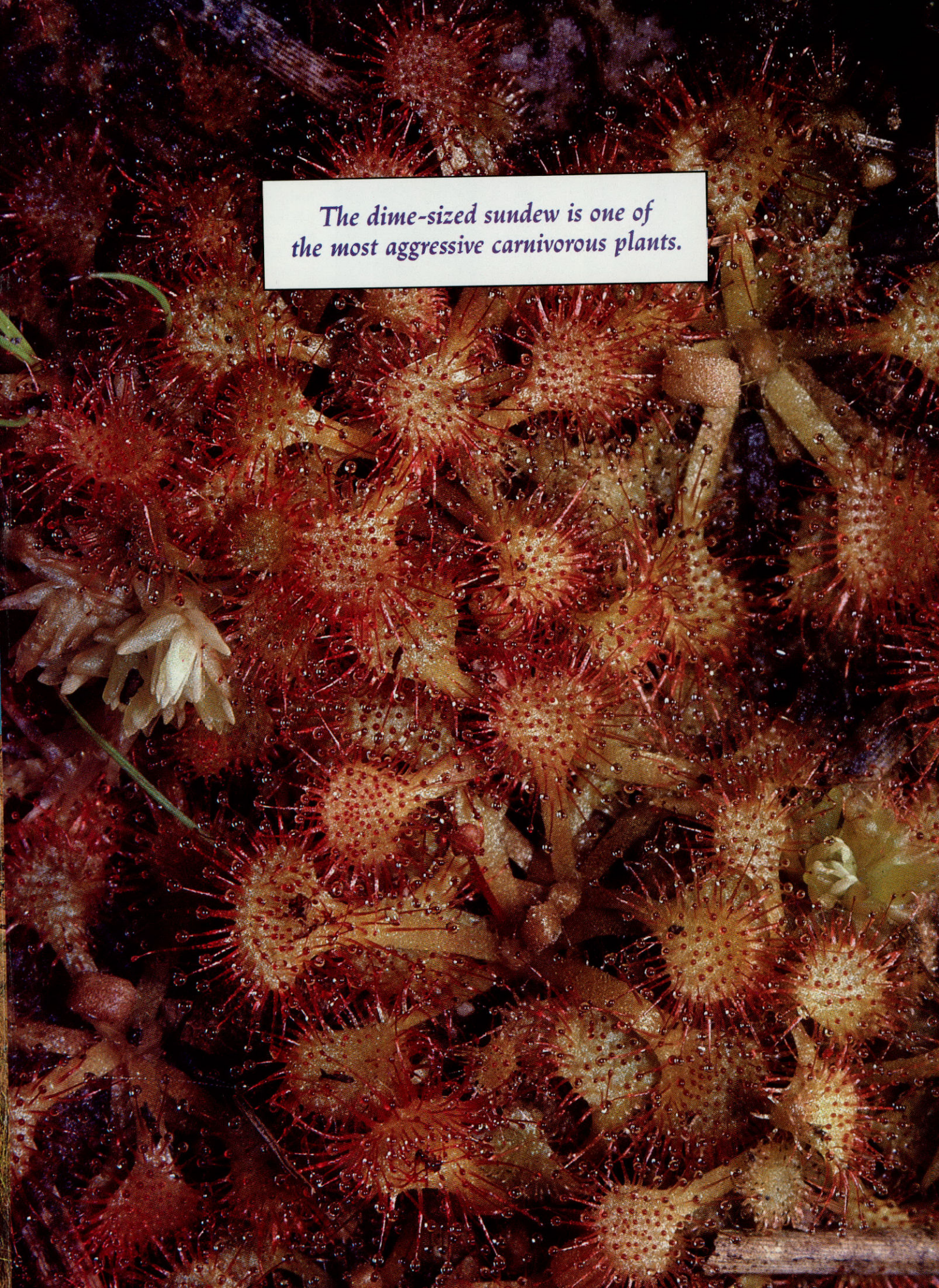
This carnivorous lifestyle expends large amounts of energy, and the sundew's environment requires that they supplement their diet. In 1874, Charles Darwin discovered that carnivorous plants are most prevalent in nutrient-poor soils. Recent studies show that when a carnivorous plant is placed in richer soil, it receives only marginal benefits from prey ingestion, since it absorbs nutrients from the soil instead. So although the sundew can survive without trapping prey, its unique adaptations allow it to thrive in nutrient-poor areas where competition from other plants is markedly reduced.

The sundew grows in moist, sunny



Sweet, sticky mucilage oozing from the tiny sundew (left and right) attracts and traps insects and makes the plant appear dew-laden.



A close-up photograph of a dense carpet of sundew plants. The plants are characterized by their numerous small, circular, reddish-brown traps, each covered in fine, hair-like tentacles. The traps are arranged in a repeating pattern across the ground. A few pale, star-shaped flowers are visible among the traps. The overall appearance is that of a highly aggressive and carnivorous plant.

*The dime-sized sundew is one of the most aggressive carnivorous plants.*



habitats in every part of the world except the polar regions. In Texas, *Drosera annua* ranges from Padre Island northeastward along the Gulf coastal plain. Along with the tall, cobralike pitcher plant, the sundew is one of the most numerous carnivores in the Big Thicket. The two are noncompetitive because the pitcher plant usually consumes larger insects and occupies different habitat.

These two species share the long-leaf-black gum savannahs and bay-gall holly bogs of the Big Thicket. The savannahs have a fine, hard-packed sand. Slow-draining and shallowly underlain by hardpan, this area becomes immersed with water during rains. The acid bogs and baygalls are comprised of sandy-loam soil underlain by an impermeable clay stratum. Drainage is very slow, so the soil remains moist and boggy.

Reduced water circulation lowers oxygen levels, and sphagnum and peat



absorb bases from the salts in the water. The result is a highly acid soil and water. Instead of decomposing, organisms become pickled, with their nutrients held within the dead matter. Such conditions would bring a quick death to most plants, but the sundew takes root and spreads its leaves.

Carnivorous plants have few, if any, predators. For obvious reasons, most insects avoid them, or die in the process of investigating them. Some sundews have been found to have a commensal, or mutually beneficial, relationship with assassin bugs. The bug's coloration resembles the plant's leaves, and when the sundew traps an insect, the bug inserts its powerful proboscis into the trapped victim and ingests it.

Except for extreme changes in habitat, sundews live a relatively unthreatened life. They require sunny surroundings, and the effects of savannah fires in clearing tall shrubs and

trees is important to their survival. After many years of water drainage, livestock grazing and fire suppression, the National Park Service at the Big Thicket has begun a carefully monitored program of prescribed fire, a program that will enhance the sundew's survival. Sundews have been known to disappear from certain areas during dry spells and, because of their small size, are easily trampled by people and animals.

To get a first-hand look at a sundew, go to the Sundew Trail in the Hickory Creek Savannah Unit of the Big Thicket. The National Park Service provides maps and a guide for exploring countless species of plants, trees and animals. \* \*

*The duo of Houston freelancers Barbara Dunn and Stephan Myers is becoming a mainstay of this magazine. Next month they have a story on underwater life of a reef at night.*



*After trapping an ant (opposite top), the sundew's leaf slowly folds around the victim and begins digestion (far left). The plant covers its victim with a hairy, liquid web (left). Small pinkish flowers (above) appear from February through July and serve only for reproduction.*



# The Perils of Color Print Film

by Leroy Williamson

Color print films are better than ever. The ISO 100 speed films have virtually no grain, and color saturation is superb. Films rated at ISO 200 are almost as good as the 100 films, and the 400 and 1000 speed films of today are as good as the slower films of just a couple of years ago. Yes, color print films are better than ever and it is likely that Kodak, Fuji and other major film manufacturers will continue to improve these films.

If these films are so good, why aren't our pictures better? I meet photographers all the time who have good equipment, including excellent telephoto lenses for photographing wildlife, but they are so disappointed with their pictures that they are ready to sell their equipment and quit photography altogether.

Not long ago, I met a man who had invested \$1,800 in equipment and didn't have a single good picture after several months of photographing. He wanted to know what he could possibly be doing wrong, or whether something was wrong with his camera. All his pictures were too dark. Sure enough, he showed me a big stack of pictures and they all looked badly underexposed. Fortunately, he had his negatives with him and a quick check of the negatives showed that his camera was working fine. The negatives were perfectly exposed.

Where does the problem lie? With your friendly photo finisher. Color negative film has a wide latitude—in other words, it forgives big mistakes. Good prints can be obtained from negatives overexposed by three stops or underexposed by as much as two stops. You have to make a big mistake

to get an unprintable negative, like your flash failing to fire in a darkened room. Unfortunately, interpreting the negative during the printing process is subjective. Even with the high technology in today's photo labs, the person printing the pictures still makes important decisions about your photos, such as how dark or how light they will be, as well as the color balance. In addition to being too light or too dark, your pictures also may be too red,

blue, yellow or green in varying degrees.

A dilemma? Without a doubt! But there is a solution. Talk candidly with your photo processor. If you don't like your pictures, tell him why and ask for reprints. Your photo finisher wants your business. He wants to please you and likely will get your pictures right the second or third try. If he can't, look for another photo finisher. There are some excellent photo finishing labs

*When photo labs get everything right, your pictures will be a good representation of what you photographed. If the lab doesn't get the color right, center, your photo may be, clockwise from left, too red, too blue, too green or too yellow, and also might be too light or too dark. This color and/or exposure imbalance can be slight or drastic. These elk and cattle egrets were photographed with a Canon EOS 620, 300mm f/2.8 Canon lens on Kodachrome 64. Exposure was 1/60 sec. at f/2.8. The camera rested on a car door for steadiness.*



scattered around the country you can try if you don't need your pictures back in an hour or by the next day. The ads in *Popular Photography* magazine list several labs that rate high in quality.

Professional photographers as well as many amateurs use color slide or transparency films rather than print film for several reasons. A major reason is that no one tampers with the color. What your camera records is what you get. But one of the problems with slide film is that exposure is fairly critical. Slide film does not have the forgiving latitude of color negative film. A half-stop over or under correct

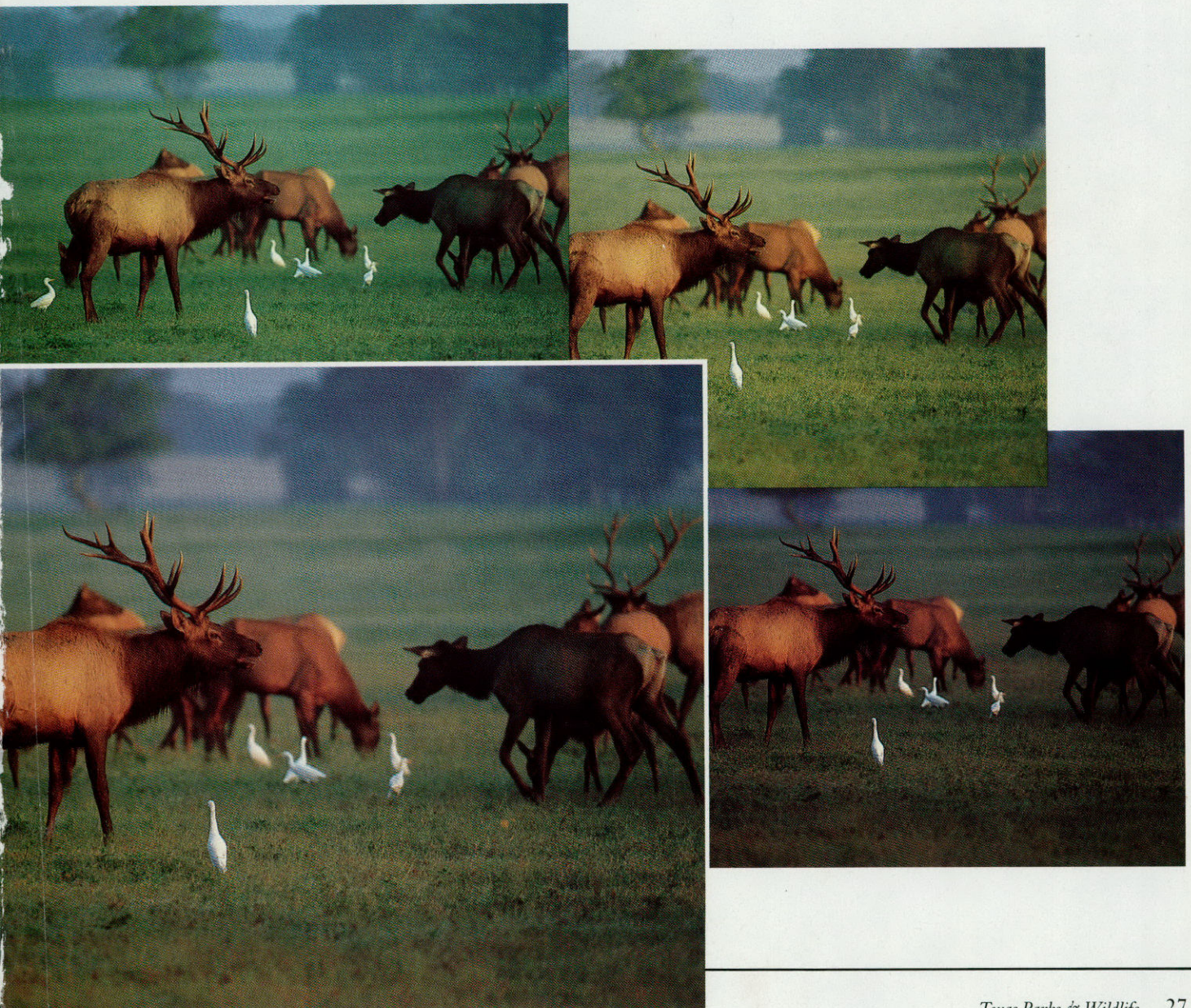
exposure is about all the latitude there is in color slide film.

Another reason for using slide film is that slides are viewed by transmitted light rather than reflected light, as prints are. Color prints can't approach the brilliance and color saturation of slides. Professionals use slide films for magazines such as *Texas Parks & Wildlife*, since color slides are better for magazine reproduction than color prints.

This is not an effort on my part to get anyone to switch from color print films to color slide films. By all means, if color prints are what you want, stick with color negative films. Just remem-

ber, you have every right to expect good prints if your photographic abilities are up to standard. Discuss any problems with your photo finisher and listen to any suggestions he may have for improving your photography. The problem could be something you are doing wrong, it could be faulty equipment, but it is most likely your photo finisher. Work with him and it won't be long until you get good prints the first time. \*\*

*Have a question about outdoor photography? Write to Leroy Williamson, Texas Parks & Wildlife magazine, 4200 Smith School Road, Austin, Texas 78744.*



# The Rain Catcher

by Bob Miles



**I**t looks tough, with its rocky hide and thorn-armed plants, but the desert is, in reality, a delicate environment. Despite its rugged exterior, the desert shows its scars for many years—long abandoned wagon roads and even older Indian trails can be traced in places; pictographs painted thousands of years ago appear as fresh as spray-painted graffiti from the 1960s.

Hueco Tanks State Historical Park east of El Paso is an excellent example of this delicate balance, having been exposed to many uses and abuses since this region was formed some 34 million years ago. Molten rock (magma) rising upward from the earth's interior was trapped beneath a vast inland sea. As the magma cooled, the pressure from the sea cracked the rock. Then the forces of erosion came into play when the water evaporated, stripping away the layers of sedimentary rock left by the sea. Wind, rain, lichens and other forces of nature chipped away at the underlying igneous rock (a low-grade granite called syenite porphyry), sculpting it into the fascinating shapes we see today.

The weathering process left many

# Hueco Tanks has quenched man's thirst for thousands of years.

potlike depressions scattered among the rock masses that collected and held rain water. The Spanish called these depressions "huecos" (hollows), hence the name of the park. As the area became more and more arid, this stored water increased in value and drew many life forms to the site.

Over the eons, the climate and the life forms changed. The age of the dinosaurs gave way to the age of the mammals, and humans appeared on the scene. About 10,000 years ago, Folsom hunters followed herds of camels, giant bison, mammoths and other now-extinct animals through the area, bringing down the huge creatures with the distinctive fluted points that give the culture its name.

Examination and analysis of ancient pack rat nests at Hueco Tanks indicate that the area was a woodland environment some 13,500 years ago (see *Texas Parks and Wildlife*, March 1979).

As the northern glaciers receded and the climate changed, the flora and fauna changed, too. The humans learned to adapt, hunting smaller game and gathering what plant foods they could find. Around A.D. 1000, agriculture appeared in the El Paso area, probably introduced from Mexico, and life became a little easier. With a more dependable food supply, people could spend time in other pursuits, so changes took place in house styles, pottery, rock art and other activities.

These people had vanished by the time the Spanish came to the El Paso area in 1581. No one knows why or where they went, but the Spanish found only the hunters and gatherers they called the Sumas and Mansos living along the Rio Grande. And they found the Apache who, along with the Kiowa and Comanche, would challenge Spaniard, Mexican, Texan and American alike for years to come. Spanish and Mexican records make little mention of Hueco Tanks, probably because the Apaches claimed the area, and Comanche and Kiowa raiders frequently camped among the protective rocks.

*Potlike depressions known as "huecos" (left) collect and hold rain water. This stored water has attracted humans and animals to the Hueco Tanks area for many centuries. Lichens and plants such as the mosquitoplant (right) add color to the desert landscape.*



Laurence Parent



life Department acquired the park from El Paso County and the following year, Hueco Tanks State Historical Park opened its 860 acres to the public. Since that time, the department has worked to restore and maintain the environmental balance and to preserve and protect the area.

Each of the groups that used Hueco Tanks during its long history had an impact on the area, some greater than others. Early cultures lived in harmony with the environment, leaving little changed. But the farming people left more obvious changes: they dammed crevices to hold rainwater for their crops; they tilled the soil; and they undoubtedly introduced new plants.

The Apaches, Comanches and Kiowas left little evidence of their passing, but their animals did. The cattle and horses that the Indians watered at the tanks ate, destroyed and spread plants, and compacted the soil. All three of these early cultural groups left their painted and carved art upon the rocks.

The Spanish brought their livestock to the area, which caused further changes to the environment, as the grazing animals spread plant seeds. But it is the Anglo Americans who have had the greatest impact, beginning with roads, which brought in

R. Michael Charaske



*A summer thunderstorm replenishes the water in the huecos (above). Ranger Dave Parker leads a group of El Paso teachers on a tour of the rock masses (left).*

R. Michael Charaske

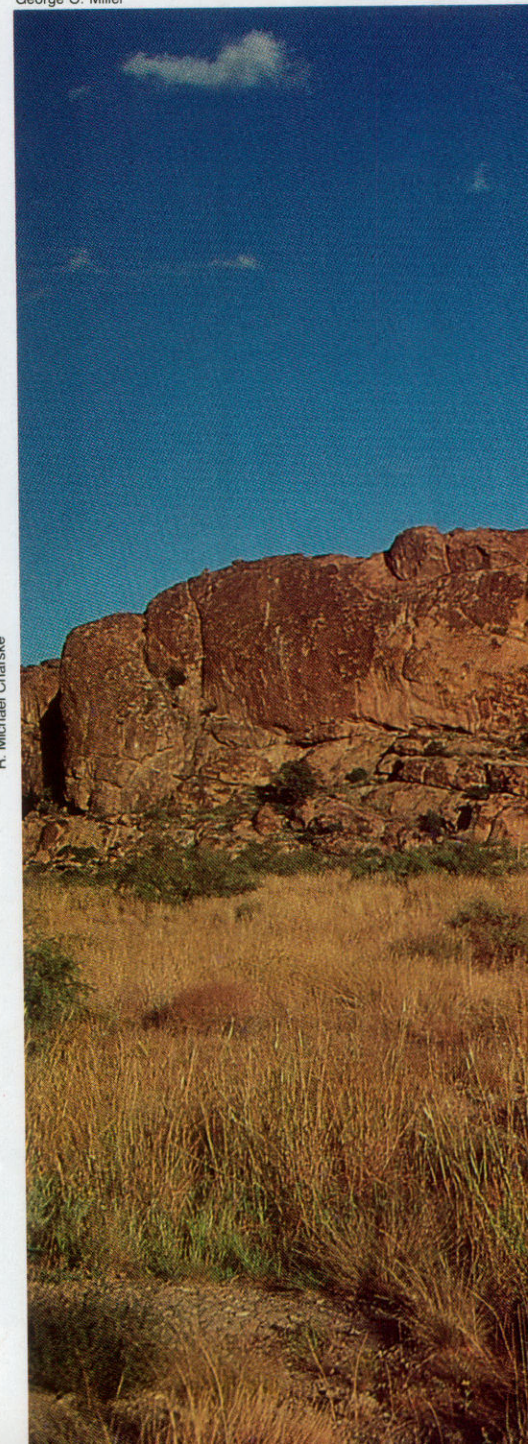




The land developer in the 1960s had built a huge earthen dam between North and West Mountains and had changed drainage patterns from the surrounding mountains to create a 240-acre lake. This construction caused erosion in previously undisturbed areas. The department restored the natural drainage and, with the help of Boy Scout groups and other volunteers, has attempted to control erosion by placing rocks and dead wood in the arroyos and washes to slow runoff. As the water slows, its sediments settle out, slowly filling the washes.

Vehicular traffic has been restricted

George O. Miller



R. Michael Charstke

more people. Soil was compacted; erosion followed the roads. Ranchers built dams and overgrazed the land.

The mesquite and creosote, both common in the Chihuahuan Desert, gained the upper hand when overgrazing and the lack of wildfires permitted them to dominate. The familiar tumbleweed spread into disturbed areas in the region. It had been introduced to the Great Plains in a load of Russian

grain and quickly made itself at home throughout the arid West.

Technically speaking, Hueco Tanks itself is a relic woodland; that is, its trees are all that are left of a once widespread forest. It is an oasis in an arid sea and therefore even more delicate than most desert environments. Efforts to restore and maintain an environmental balance have been ongoing since 1970.

*Efforts to restore the environmental balance at Hueco Tanks have included reseeding areas that were stripped of vegetation and placing rocks and dead wood into the arroyos to control erosion and slow the water rushing off the rocks.*

to paved roads, and the south side of the park has been completely closed to vehicles. Roads had compacted the soil seriously, causing problems for the few remaining groves of oak and hackberry trees. The roads and the earlier development stripped much of the ground cover, increasing the erosion by both wind and water.

Reseeding the impacted areas has been another conservation project carried out at Hueco Tanks. Since 1977, some 800 pounds of side oats grama grass seed have been sown, along with 15 pounds of green spangletop grass seed. Native grass seeds

are supplied by the Knox City Plant Material Center of the U.S. Department of Agriculture Soil Conservation Service under a cooperative agreement with the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department.

A continuing program of graffiti removal is also a part of the park's conservation efforts. New products are being tested to find the most effective and safest means of removing this vandalism. This work is conducted with great care to prevent damage to the irreplaceable Indian rock art scattered throughout the park.

In a few cases, rock art has been re-

stored through a process of reintegration. This consists of carefully matching the color and texture of the natural rock and painting over the modern graffiti adjacent to, not on, the original rock art. Due to the time and expense involved, this method is not practical on a large scale, but it can be used to restore some of the more spectacular examples of the pictographs.

Another ongoing conservation effort at Hueco Tanks is the interpretive programming. Educational programs aimed at explaining the park and its natural features, prehistory and history are offered to both park visitors



and the general public. Off-site programs are presented to schools, civic groups and other interested parties. The programs consist primarily of talks, slide programs, demonstrations of plant uses and pottery painting techniques. Through these efforts, the public can learn about the park and its unique and irreplaceable treasures and may help protect it.

It is often a complex task to help preserve Hueco Tanks' unique niche in the delicate balance of the desert ecology. But when you see the blaze of wildflowers in the reclaimed areas after a spring rain, or watch a mother ringtail lead her young out into the twilight or see the wonder on a child's face as he studies the ancient rock art, the efforts are all worthwhile. \*\*

*This is Park Superintendent Bob Miles's second story for the magazine. He did a piece for us on the Magoffin Home back in July 1981 while serving as superintendent at the historic El Paso home.*



*Wind, rain and the forces of erosion have sculpted the rocks into interesting shapes (above). Winter brings an icy sparkle to the park (below).*



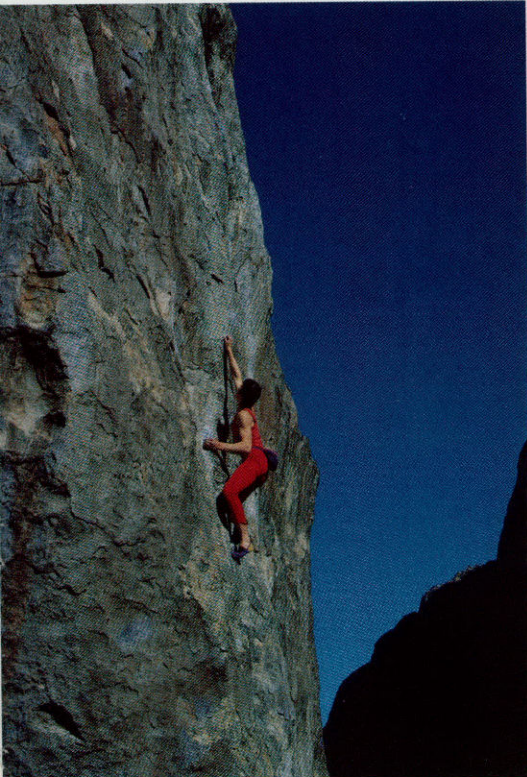
## Climbing at Hueco Tanks

Hueco Tanks State Historical Park, with its granite rock masses and usually mild weather, has become a winter haven for technical rock climbers from all over the world. In 1981, only eight or 10 local climbers regularly visited the park. In 1988, that number increased 100 fold, with an estimated 800 to 1,000 climbers and rappellers using the park. Climbers came from all over the United States and such foreign countries as Japan, Great Britain, New Zealand, France, Germany and Canada.

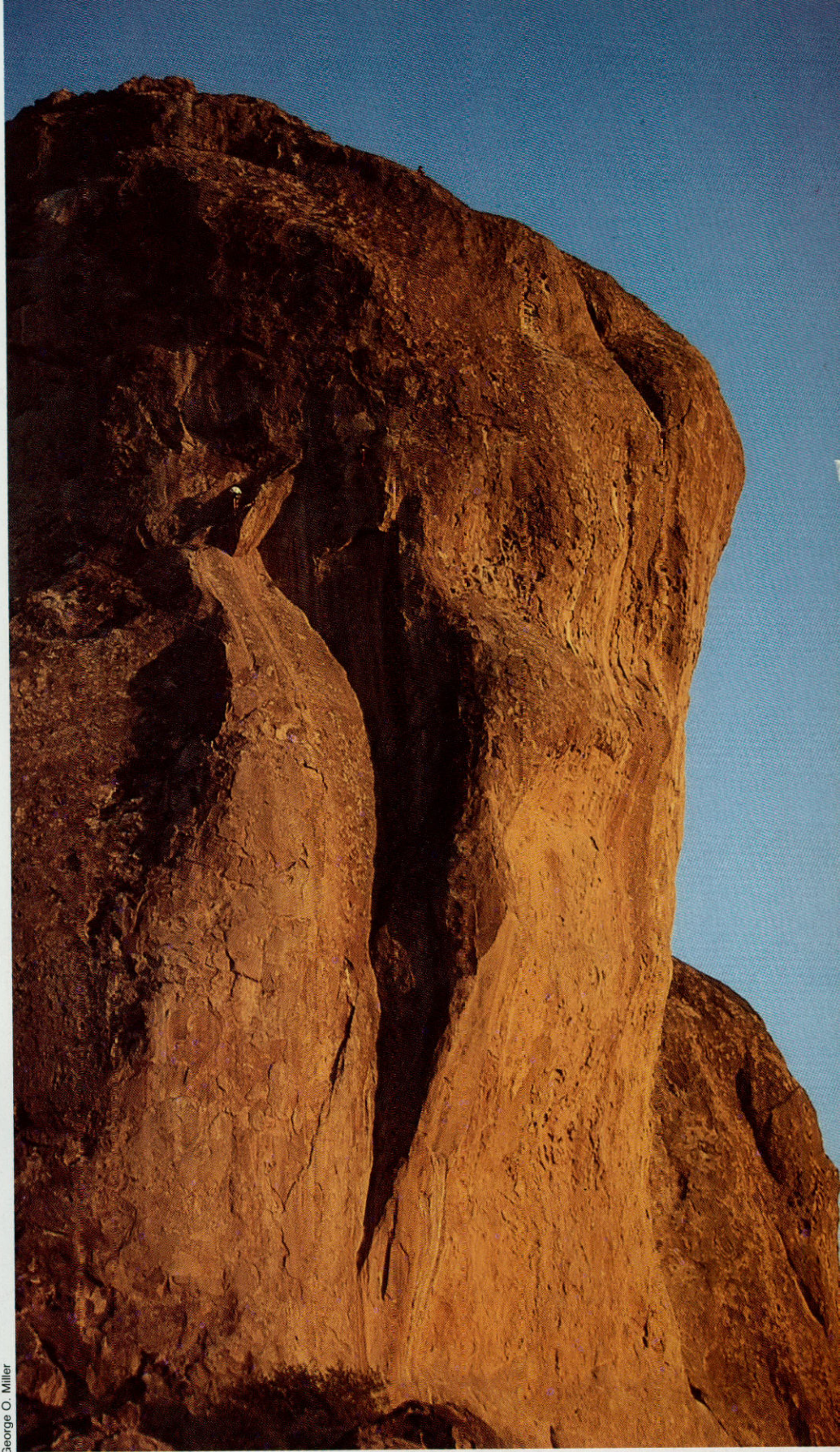
Technical climbers and rappellers must sign a liability release in the park office before climbing or rappelling. Restrictions include a ban on bolts, pitons or other equipment that damages the rock or other natural features; no climbing or rappelling is permitted in closed areas or on rock art; and rappelling is restricted to West Mountain only and only with someone below to belay.

While Hueco Tanks is designated a historical park, compatible recreational activities are welcomed. Efforts are continuing to achieve a workable balance of recreational uses while protecting and preserving the natural, prehistoric and historic features of the park.

Laurence Parent



George O. Miller



*Rock climbers from the world over have accepted the challenge presented by Hueco Tanks' sheer cliffs. Check in with the park office before beginning your climb.*

*Hagerman is the winter home for thousands of geese. Refuge staff cultivate winter wheat (below) to help sustain waterfowl such as these Canada geese.*



David J. Sams



# Honk if you love Hagerman

by Sherrie S. McLeRoy

**Y**ou can find them by rolling down your car window and listening for that distinctive, squawky honk. Follow your ears and there they'll be: thousands of Canada and snow geese, a patchwork of brown, black and white spread across pastures that are unnaturally green for a North Texas December. They're the most famous residents of Hagerman National Wildlife Refuge and they attract thousands of birdwatchers every year.

But the geese are only a small part of the picture at Hagerman, a national wildlife refuge created in 1946 that today encompasses more than 11,000 acres of marsh, water, upland and farmland environments. Located west of Denison in Grayson County, Hagerman lies on the Big Mineral arm of Lake Texoma, which was created when the Red River was dammed for flood control in the early 1940s. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service manages it to protect all wildlife, although the stars here are the waterfowl.

Visitors and staff have recorded more than 300 species of birds at Hagerman, everything from the endangered bald eagle to the common mallard. A small, resident bird population lives there year-around but most are migratory, enroute to other nesting and breeding grounds. And while many human visitors come only in the winter to see the geese, refuge manager Jim Williams notes enthusiastically that the summer shorebird migration is also an impressive sight.

Williams and his staff spend much of their time managing the refuge to produce optimum habitat for the birds and animals. Every year they cultivate 600 acres of milo, corn and wheat to feed the waterfowl, which accounts for the beautiful green winter fields. They also monitor and adjust the lake level, lowering it in summer to promote plant food growth and flooding it in winter for food.

The thousands of acres of grasslands at Hagerman are managed with

*Ducks and geese arrive by the thousands at Hagerman National Wildlife Refuge each winter.*



David J. Sams

periodic burning and controlled grazing. The sight of cattle grazing within the refuge's boundaries may surprise some visitors but Williams points out that limited grazing is actually beneficial for the grass. A small savannah area in the refuge has one of the last remaining stands of bluestem prairie grass left in Texas. Williams hopes to add an interpretive nature trail to explain the history and significance of the tall grasses.

While the emphasis at Hagerman is on the birds, there are plenty of other things to do. You can fish year-around, in accordance with state laws, of course, and boat on refuge waters from April through September. (See sidebar for trotlining regulations.) Boat launching pads are located at Sandy, Goode and Eig Mineral access areas. The winter restriction on boating leaves the migratory birds undisturbed.

*A characteristic red shoulder patch gives this hawk its name. The red shouldered hawk is a buteo or buzzard hawk and is a resident of the eastern half of Texas. It and the white pelicans below are just some of some 300 bird species found at Hagerman.*



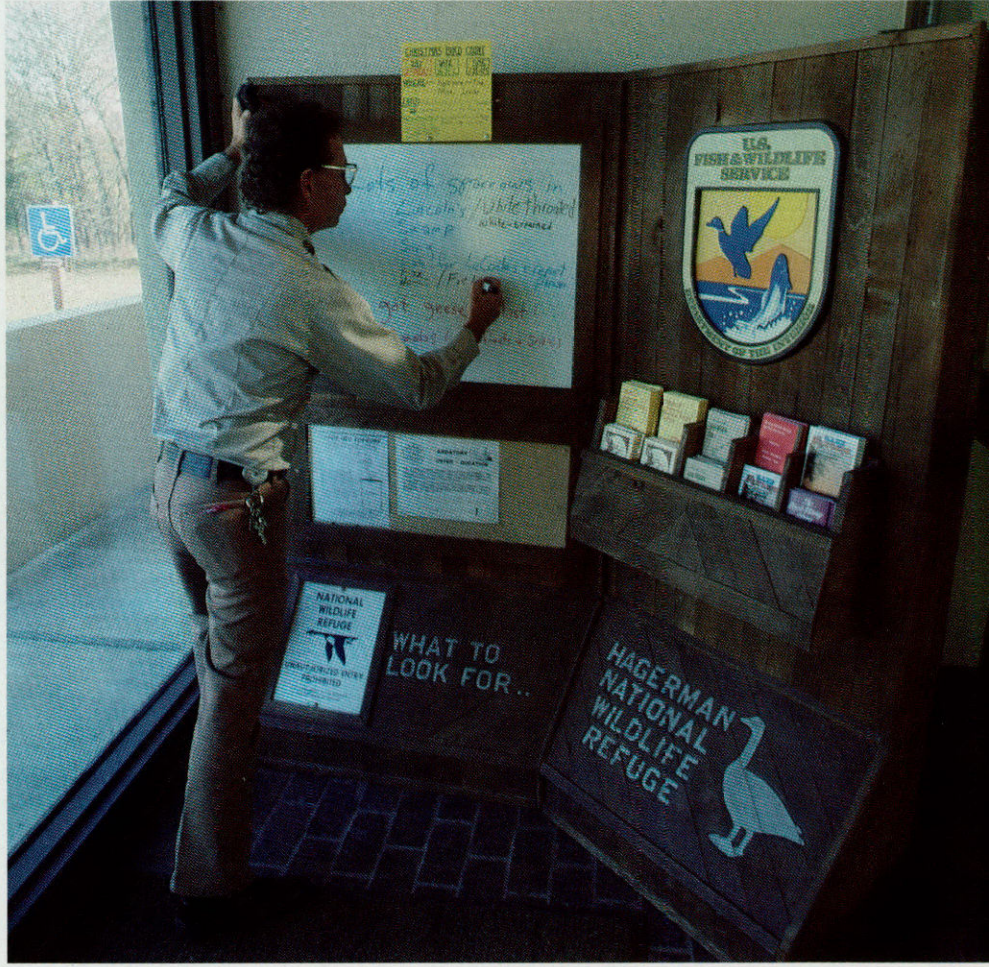
David J. Sams

Glen Mills





Glen Mills



David J. Sams

Visitors should first check in at the headquarters visitor center (above) for refuge maps and literature. Refuge manager Jim Williams and his staff keep the bulletin board up-to-date with information on bird sightings. The refuge's 3/4-mile nature trail (left) starts near the visitor center. See the sidebar on page 44 for information on how anglers can help safeguard wading birds such as the great blue heron (above left).



Swimming, water-skiing and camping, while not allowed within the refuge, are available in abundance at nearby Lake Texoma. You can hike anywhere you wish in Hagerman; one developed nature trail, located near the visitor center, winds for 3/4 mile through several ecological communities. (As is true for anywhere in Texas, you'll need to watch out for snakes and use insect repellent in warm weather.)

There are picnic areas with restroom facilities at Big Mineral, Sandy and Goode, as well as at the headquarters building. Several historic flowing wells scattered around the refuge provide clean and safe drinking water. But remember that there are no food services within the refuge; the closest restaurants are in Pottsboro.

First-time visitors should begin their tour at the headquarters or visitor center on the east side of the refuge. The vestibule is always open and is kept stocked with maps and literature. A notice board, updated daily, gives recent sightings of unusual birds and their locations. During the main migratory season (October through March), volunteers staff the buildings on weekends. These people are familiar with the refuge and can provide visitors with detailed information on things to do and places to see.

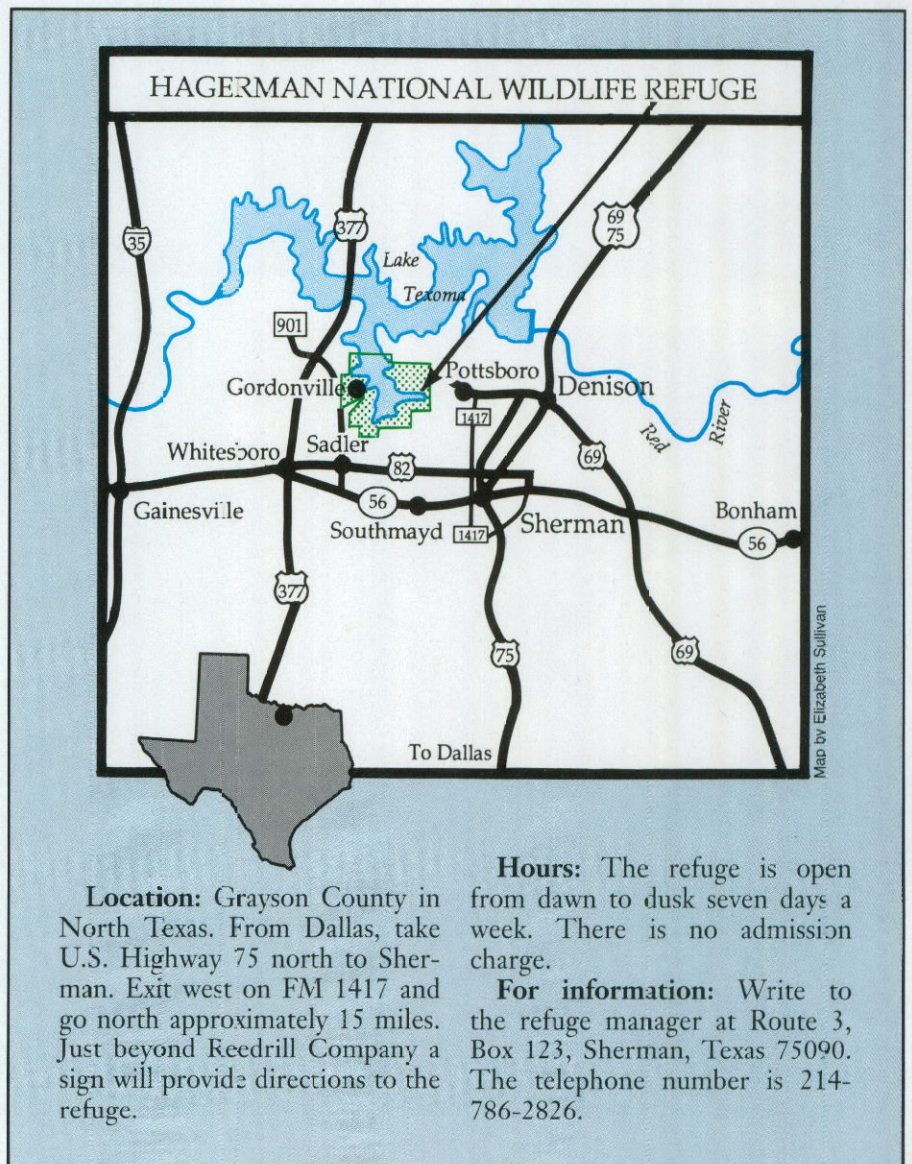
From there a four-mile, self-guided auto tour will give you the major highlights. Numerous improved gravel roads lead into more isolated areas. (Vehicular traffic is not allowed on dirt roads unless otherwise marked.) But beware the rain and North Texas black mud! Certain roads may be closed during bad weather because they're impassable or underwater.

You'll enjoy your visit to Hagerman much more if you bring binoculars or a spotting scope and one or two basic guides to birds and mammals. Hagerman attracts a number of rare birds not usually seen in Texas; a basic guide such as Peterson's or Audubon's will help you spot these elusive critters. And don't forget your camera.



David J. Sams

*This photo blind is strategically located near a refuge pond so visitors can get close to the many water birds that frequent Hagerman.*



**Location:** Grayson County in North Texas. From Dallas, take U.S. Highway 75 north to Sherman. Exit west on FM 1417 and go north approximately 15 miles. Just beyond Reedrill Company a sign will provide directions to the refuge.

**Hours:** The refuge is open from dawn to dusk seven days a week. There is no admission charge.

**For information:** Write to the refuge manager at Route 3, Box 123, Sherman, Texas 75090. The telephone number is 214-786-2826.



David J. Sams

Some hunting is allowed within the refuge but it is restricted, so inquire before going. Dove, rabbit, quail and squirrel hunts are done on this basis, as well as a bow hunt for deer.

Rehabilitated birds and animals are occasionally returned to the wild at Hagerman, although the staff carefully considers such a release before approving it. The animal must be able to hunt and survive in the wild, and the habitat and time of the year for release must also be correct. In January 1989, with the help of the Texas Parks and

*A wood duck is a likely visitor to ponds such as the one on the opposite page. Bring along your binoculars, camera and a bird guide book when you visit the refuge.*

David J. Sams



*Broken cement foundation slabs are all that remain of the old town of Hagerman. Most folks had left by 1943 when rising waters from Lake Texoma started lapping at the town's outskirts.*

Wildlife Department, the refuge embarked on a program to restock Rio Grande turkeys to the area with the release of 41 birds.

There's one other sight to see at Hagerman, an inconspicuous historical marker located near the visitor center that commemorates the town of Hagerman, after which the refuge was named. In the late 19th century, the Missouri-Kansas-Texas Railroad, known as "the Katy," ran a rail line through here. (In fact, the main access road through the refuge is laid down over that old rail bed.) The switch located at this particular site was named for James Hagerman, the Katy's chief attorney from 1892 to 1911. The four Smith brothers came to the area from Arkansas in 1889 and settled there. When they divided the land amongst themselves in 1904, the Smiths laid out the parcel adjacent to the switch

for a townsite and just borrowed the name Hagerman from the railroad.

The town had a pretty short life as towns go, less than 40 years. It grew to a population of 250, with a cotton gin, churches, bank, school, post office, depot and an ice cream parlor. Shortly after the Great Depression, talk began to circulate of a dam to be built nearby on the Red River and Hagerman started to die as a consequence. The gin moved to Collinsville and the lumberyard to Whitesboro. When the electrical plant failed, no one bothered to spend money on it "because the dam is coming anyway." Hagerman's few remaining residents dragged out their old oil lamps.

By 1943, the town was deserted and water soon began to creep over its outskirts. Many townspeople were bitter about being forced out of their homes and paid only a small amount

for their land and the mineral rights that went with the land. Some held out for those rights, finally accepting a lower price per acre for the land only. But those few soon reaped the benefits. Hagerman sat on top of a major oil field, discovered only a few years later; there are still about 100 wells operating within the refuge. To locate the town site, stand in front of the historical marker and look north. Hagerman stretched west from the low water crossing in front of you, and roughly parallel to the present road. Except during the spring floods, the site is usually above water. \*\*

*Sherrie McLeRoy is a freelance writer living in Sherman. She specializes in travel and history pieces, and currently is working on a historical novel. Before turning to a freelance career she spent 15 years as a director/curator of museums.*

## TROTLINES AT HAGERMAN

by Lynn A. Nymeyer

A trotline is an excellent way to get a supply of fresh catfish, and if properly designed, it is relatively harmless to everything but catfish.

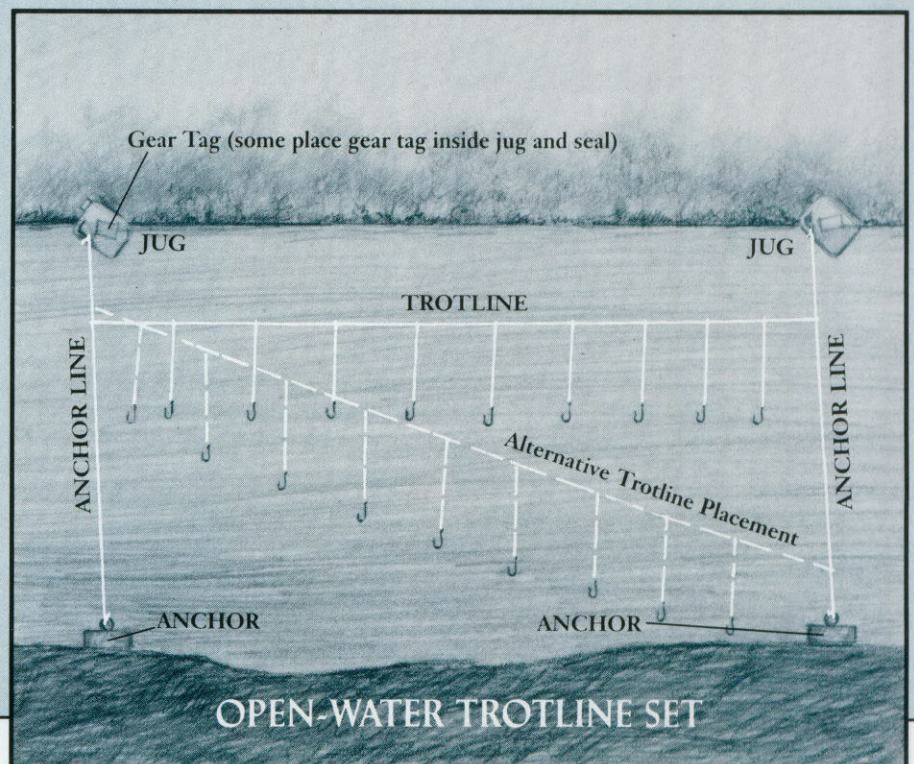
But problems occur when one or both ends of a trotline are attached to a fixed object such as a tree. As long as the line and hooks remain under the water's surface, the danger is minimal. But as water levels recede, the trotline and its sharp hooks remain above the surface of the water. When this occurs, the trotline becomes a potential death trap to egrets, herons, pelicans and many forms of wading and diving birds.

These birds hunt fish, frogs, crawfish and any variety of aquatic life for food. They may foul hook themselves on hooks near the surface, then face a slow death struggling for freedom. Many of the baits used, as well as fish caught, will attract these birds when the hooks come near the water's surface.

Hagerman Refuge regulations regarding trotline use are designed to eliminate this form of needless death. Refuge regulations prohibit the attachment of trotlines to fixed objects, requiring instead a floating trotline design that is easy to build, simple to place, and in reality more efficient than the fixed-object line.

A floating line requires the trotline

and hooks, two long droplines, two substantial weights and two large floats. The weights should be heavy enough to ensure that the largest of catfish could not drag them away. The dropline should be long enough to reach from the water's surface to the bottom, even during periods of high water. The best floats are empty, one-gallon bleach or anti-freeze bottles.





David J. Sarns

*Hagerman and Lake Texoma sit atop a good-sized oil field. There are some 100 wells operating on the refuge.*

To place the floating trotline, attach a dropline to a weight on one end and a float on the other. Repeat the operation with the second dropline. Place a dropline rig in the water where desired and attach one end of the trotline

to the dropline. Stretch out the trotline, attach the remaining end to the second dropline and place where desired. The floating trotline is now in place and ready for use. Should the water level fall, the floats will drop with the water, keeping the hooks below the surface and away from unknowing water birds.

Allow enough length on the drop-lines so the trotline can be pulled up for baiting and catch removal without having to lift the weight as well. Failure to do this will result in tired arms or perhaps a nasty foul hooking of the fisherman should the weight fall.

By careful attention to the placement of the trotline to the floatline, the artful fisherman can take full control of the depth of the baits at all times. This makes a floating trotline more effective than a fixed trotline by keeping the hooks in the water with the fish but away from the birds.

There are a few regulations regarding trotlines that all fishermen should be aware of. State law requires that no trotline may be longer than 600 feet or contain more than 50 hooks. Hooks must be at least three feet apart. In addition, hooks and rigging must never be above the water's surface, and the trotline may not be attached to metal

stakes. Each trotline must have gear tags attached to *each* end. The gear tags must be as durable as the trotline, contain the name and address of the owner and the date the trotline was set out. These gear tags must be renewed or the trotline removed at the end of 30 days. As of September 1, 1989, an additional law requires each gear tag to be within three feet of the first and last hook.

All state regulations apply in the waters of Hagerman National Wildlife Refuge. The restriction to floating trotlines is an additional federal regulation to protect innocent wildlife species. Fishermen placing trotlines in refuge waters are urged to heed these regulations. The refuge staff makes periodic patrols by land and boat, and trotlines that fail to comply with any regulations are subject to confiscation and the owners to prosecution and fine.

Hagerman National Wildlife Refuge exists to provide a suitable home for wildlife. We strive to provide as many activities for the public as we can, without disrupting the lives of the wildlife in our care. \*\*

*Lynn Nymeyer is assistant manager at the Hagerman National Wildlife Refuge.*



Lynn Nymeyer

*David Thompson extracts a great blue heron from a trotline last summer. Before you set a line pay close attention to refuge regulations designed to prevent such a death.*



## OUTDOOR ROUNDUP by Jim Cox



Leroy Williamson

*Several outstanding bucks were taken last fall on the Kerr Wildlife Management Area.*

### Quality Bucks Taken During Kerr W.M.A. Hunts

Good deer management practices on the Kerr Wildlife Management Area produced tangible results for public hunt participants last fall.

Donnie Harmel, manager of the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department facility, said 227 hunters harvested 86 deer during three either-sex hunts and six antlerless-only hunts during November and December. Participants in the hunts were selected by drawing earlier in the year.

Harmel said the number of quality bucks has increased in recent years partly because of lowering the harvest rate on bucks while maintaining a consistent harvest of the antlerless segment of the herd. "Three years ago hunters took only eight bucks that were two and a half years or older," Harmel said. In response, the taking of fork-antlered bucks was suspended during the 1987 season. This year 17 were taken, and nine were of sufficient quality to merit a trip to the taxidermist, he added.

Several outstanding bucks were taken during the hunts, including a 10-pointer with a 20 $\frac{1}{2}$ -inch outside spread and field-dressed weight of 108 pounds. A 12-pointer had a 16-inch antler spread and weighed 114 pounds, Harmel said.

"These bucks are higher quality in terms of body size and antler development than most bucks found in the Edwards Plateau," Harmel said. "This quality was brought about by simple management techniques that could be applied anywhere." He said habitat improvements, a controlled harvest to bring overall deer numbers within carrying capacity of the range, and selective harvest of bucks to improve their age structure were the main elements of the program.

Harmel said that while hunting was good on the Kerr area, hunters in some other Edwards Plateau areas have reported slow hunting this fall. "Rains during October caused a sudden growth of forbs in Kerr County, and I'm sure the same thing occurred in other parts of the region. This sudden appearance of forage caused deer to move less and generally ignore feeders," said Harmel.

He said hunters and landowners should not misinterpret low deer movement as being a shortage of deer. "We continue to have too many deer for the range to support in most of the Edwards Plateau, so we especially need to keep the hunting pressure on the antlerless deer to keep some semblance of control on populations."

Texas has an estimated 4 million deer, so even the recent harvest rate of some 450,000 whitetails per year is well below what it should be, Harmel said.

### Marine Mammal Stranding Network Organized

Scientists and others interested in learning more about the phenomenon of marine mammal strandings along the Texas Gulf Coast are invited to join the nonprofit Texas Marine Mammal Stranding Network (TMMSN).

The TMMSN was incorporated in 1988 as a nonprofit public foundation, funded by donations from individuals and corpo-

rations. The organization has published its first Texas Stranding Journal, which includes stranding statistics for 1989, articles on three documented strandings and background information on TMMSN.

The TMMSN membership includes professional biologists from universities and state and federal agencies, including the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department, according to department coastal fisheries biologist Karen Meador.

Persons interested in participating should write to the Texas Marine Mammal Stranding Network, P.O. Box 130524, Houston, Texas 77219.

### San Angeloan Catches Two Record Red Drum

Richard Schmidt set the lake record for red drum (redfish) at San Angelo's Lake Nasworthy twice within two days.

Biologist Billy Follis of San Angelo said the two fish, caught during November, weighed 17.31 pounds and 17.59 pounds. The department stocked red drum fingerlings at Nasworthy in 1984 through 1986. Schmidt caught both fish from deep water on a crankbait, Follis said.

Follis said seven red drum also were collected in a recent electro-fishing survey at Nasworthy, with the largest weighing 18.6 pounds.

### Amon G. Carter Lake is Now 'Bigger and Better' for Anglers

North Texas area fishermen who knew Lake Amon G. Carter as a mediocre bass fishing lake a few years ago might be well-advised to check out the new improved version, according to the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department.

Biologist John Moczygemba of Denison said the reservoir's size was increased from 1,540 acres to 2,126 acres in 1985. "Most of the timber was left standing in the expansion basin, and when the water level rose it created a lot of new habitat for bass," Moczygemba said.

Electroshocking surveys conducted on

the lake, located just southeast of Bowie in Montague County, show that bass populations have improved in both numbers and quality in this "new lake" habitat, according to Moczygemba.

The 1986 survey showed that 14 percent of the largemouth bass over eight inches long were 14 inches long or longer. This percentage increased to 33 percent in the 1989 survey, Moczygemba noted. This improvement was also seen in the largest bass collected in the surveys, going from 2.25 pounds in 1986 to a 10-pounder in 1989. The big fish was released alive near the dam, Moczygemba said.

The catch rate, or number of bass collected per hour of electroshocking, also

showed an upward trend, from 15 per hour in 1986 to 82.6 this year.

Moczygemba said introductions of Florida-strain bass to the lake and ponds in the expansion basin in 1983 were effective in establishing genetics of the fast-growing fish in the lake. In 1988, an estimated 92.5 percent of Carter bass had Florida bass genetic characteristics, he said.

The five largemouth bass per day bag limit and 14-inch minimum length limit established in September 1986 also may have enhanced the average size of bass, Moczygemba said.

Lake Carter, owned by the City of Bowie, is located about 55 miles northwest of Fort Worth.



Leroy Williamson

A new videotape focuses on endangered species such as the Houston toad.

## Black Bear, Snowbirds Have Rare Encounter

A yearling black bear apparently retreated to Mexico after getting a close-up view of a posse of camera-waving campers at an Amistad Reservoir area RV park in December.

Texas Parks and Wildlife Department Game Warden Al Vielma said the animal was spotted wandering through the park's fish-cleaning area by one of the residents who ran to fetch a camera, alerting other park residents on the way.

Several curious campers returned to the fish-cleaning station, but the bear had already crossed a fence and disappeared. After a brief search, the party spotted the

animal about six feet up in a wild persimmon tree.

After taking a few photographs, the group decided that leaving the bear alone was the best thing to do, Vielma said. No one saw the bear after that. He theorized that the bear probably came across the Rio Grande from Mexico, and returned there after being "treed" by the RVers.

Black bears are listed by the state as an endangered species, which means it is illegal to kill or harass them, Vielma said. "I would advise anyone seeing a bear or other endangered species to report the sighting, but not harass or attempt to catch it," he said. Reports of such sightings can be made toll-free at 1-800-792-1112.

## TPWD Produces Video Show on Endangered Species

The Texas Parks and Wildlife Department has produced a videotape entitled "Threatened and Endangered Animals of Texas."

The program was produced by staff members of the Wildlife and Resource Protection Divisions.

Catrina Martin said the video tape is being offered for checkout by educators, scout troop leaders and other groups that wish to learn more about the state's threatened and endangered wildlife species. "The program deals with the reasons many species are endangered, their natural history and current status, and habitat needs," said Martin.

The program is available for checkout at department offices across the state. Call toll-free 1-800-792-1112, ext. 4505, or 512-389-4505, or write the Nongame Resources Program, 4200 Smith School Road, Austin, Texas 78744 for additional information on locations near you. Information on threatened and endangered species can be obtained from the Texas Natural Heritage Program at the above address and toll-free number, ext. 4586, or at 512-389-4586.

## Ducks Unlimited Praises TPWD's Waterfowl Work

The Ducks Unlimited (DU) organization has bestowed its "Bronze State" award on the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department (TPWD) for its waterfowl conservation projects.

During a reception held recently in Austin, DU officials presented the award to Chuck Nash of San Marcos, chairman of the Parks and Wildlife Commission, and



Cartoon by Patrick J. Stark

Stark

# OUTDOOR ROUNDUP

Chairman Emeritus Perry R. Bass of Fort Worth.

Ducks Unlimited also presented Conservation Service Awards to Charles D. Travis, TPWD executive director, and Dr. Dan Moulton, program leader for waterfowl habitat acquisition and development.

DU officials cited the department's expenditure of almost \$240,000 in Texas Waterfowl Stamp funds on DU-MARSH (Matching Aid to Restore States' Habitat) waterfowl development projects in Texas between 1985 and 1988. Those funds were matched by DU with monies from the Texas DU-MARSH account.

## Fishery Crew 'Rescues' Tons of Sabine River Fish

In an unusual rescue mission in December, crews from the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department's fisheries office in Jasper and their counterparts from Louisiana seined some 8,000 pounds of fish from below the Toledo Bend Reservoir Dam and released them in the reservoir.

The operation was made possible by the Sabine River Authority (SRA), which was filling a washed-out area below the dam.

Biologist Paul Seidensticker said swift water below the dam had washed out a one-acre body of water adjacent to the stilling basin, and when the river authority reduced the flow to make repairs a large number of fish were trapped.

Seidensticker said crews pulled seines across the pond as it grew smaller with every load of fill material dumped by the contractor. "We weren't sure how many fish were in there, so we started with a large-mesh, 200-foot seine," Seidensticker said. "We pulled in about 150 striped bass from 10 to 40 pounds on the first pull." About 100 of the stripers were in the 20- to 25-pound class, he added.

As the pond shrunk, the crews switched to a smaller mesh 75-foot seine to collect smaller fish. In all, the one-day operation resulted in the capture and release of approximately 500 stripers and hybrid striped bass (about 4,000 pounds), 300 largemouth bass up to nine pounds, 300 white bass in the two- to four-pound class, two 25-pound flathead catfish and about 1,500 pounds of assorted sunfish and rough fish.

Seidensticker said the department normally does not engage in fish-salvaging operations, but biologists considered the

Toledo Bend operation necessary because of the large number of large striped bass of spawning size that would have perished otherwise.

"The best part about the whole operation was the excellent survival rate of the fish," Seidensticker said. "We were able to back the trucks right up to the seining area for loading, and we only had a five-minute drive to the boat ramp above. I don't think we lost more than four or five fish in the entire operation."

Seidensticker praised the SRA and the contracting company doing the repair work for contacting the two fishery agencies and cooperating in the transfer. Eggs and milt collected from Toledo Bend and other sites provide the hatchery system the fry needed for rearing and stocking in lakes across Texas and Louisiana.

## Possum Kingdom Enjoying Increased Fish Production

Fishing prospects are excellent for three species of bass at Possum Kingdom Reservoir, according to the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department.

Biologists using electroshocking gear to temporarily stun fish found significant increases in numbers and size of largemouth, smallmouth and spotted bass in a 1989 survey, compared to an identical survey conducted in 1987, according to biologist Bruce Hysmith of Denison.

The per-hour catch rate during the surveys increased from 24 largemouths in 1987 to 126.5 in 1989; spotted bass increased from three per hour to 12.5, and smallmouths showed a gain from 0.5 per hour to six during the same period.

"Reproduction and survival of young largemouth bass apparently was excellent during the past two years, because 50 percent of our catch were less than eight inches long, and 22 percent were between eight and 12 inches long," Hysmith noted. "Also, the percentage of largemouths 15 inches and larger more than doubled, and a five-pound, 21-inch largemouth collected in 1989 was around two pounds heavier and three inches longer than the largest collected in 1987."

Hysmith theorized that three factors have contributed to the Possum Kingdom fishery's improvements. "One factor is the 1.6 million Florida-strain largemouths the department has stocked between 1973 and 1978," Hysmith said, adding that samples

during 1987 indicated that 70 percent of the largemouths in the lake were either Florida bass or offspring of the fast-growing Florida strain.

Another possible factor is the 14-inch minimum length limit and three-per-day bag limit established for bass in September 1986, which afforded extra protection for the larger bass.

A third possible reason for the resurgence may surprise some fishermen, Hysmith said. "Lowering of the water level in 1987 for dam repairs may have made more prey fishes available to predator fish such as bass, allowing faster growth rates. Then the lake came back up in spring 1989 and forage fish such as threadfin shad and bluegills had a bumper spawning season."

Hysmith said Possum Kingdom has entered the trophy bass derby, with two largemouths over 13 pounds caught in 1986 and a 16 pounder taken on October 13, 1989.



Leroy Williamson

Dallas-Fort Worth anglers are setting lake records on area reservoirs.

## Metropolex Anglers Setting New Lake Records

Dallas-Fort Worth fishermen are doing their part in establishing records in the

Texas Parks and Wildlife Department's new water body fish records program.

Biologist Bobby Farquhar of Fort Worth said anglers have a good opportunity to get into the record book because many lakes have no established records or records only on a few species.

Some of the fish from D-FW area lakes that have been submitted recently for record consideration include a 12.75-pound hybrid striped bass from Lake Benbrook, a 3.05-pound smallmouth bass from Eagle Mountain Lake, a 5.15-pound largemouth bass from Grapevine Lake, an 8.3-pound largemouth from Lake Worth and a 10.5-pound largemouth from Joe Pool Lake.

Farquhar said lake record fish must be weighed before witnesses on certified scales, and official department lake record forms must be completed and sent to TPWD headquarters. The forms are available at all department offices.

### 'Smallest' State Record Fish Certified by State

Rex Hewitt of San Benito owns the dubious distinction of having set a state fish record with the smallest fish ever certified by the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department.

Hewitt was fishing off a pier at South Padre Island on September 9 when he pulled in a snake-like creature that was 15¼ inches long. Instead of tossing the needle-thin fish back, Hewitt decided to try to identify it.

Department biologists said it was a flat needlefish, a fairly rare offshore species that can attain lengths of up to three feet. There was no entry in the state record book for the species, so Hewitt weighed the 1.28-ounce whopper on certified scales and subsequently was awarded a state record.

The state fish records committee also certified another record that was just as unusual as Hewitt's catch. Lucky Turner of Mesquite caught a three-pound, eight-ounce fish from Lake Tawakoni during July, and he was unable to decide its species. Fishery Biologist Barry Lyons of Tyler also was unsure, so tissue samples were sent to the department's San Marcos Hatchery for analysis. The fish turned out to be a natural hybrid between a white bass and a yellow bass.

Yellow bass are closely related to white bass, and while they are fairly widespread in the eastern half of the state they are seldom reported by anglers because they are usually too small to keep.



Leroy Williamson

*Dark winter skies are perfect for stargazing in state parks.*

### Winter Activities in Texas State Parks

State park visitors are enjoying winter trout fishing, wintering bald eagles and dark skies for stargazing, according to Texas Parks and Wildlife Department officials.

Rainbow trout are being released in waters at 21 state parks on a put-and-take basis. The program, which began in November, ends in February. Fishing licenses and trout stamps are required and can be purchased in the parks; those exempted from fishing license requirements are not required to possess a trout stamp. An entry fee of \$2 per vehicle is charged at most parks, as are overnight camping fees.

Northern bald eagles, wintering in Texas, have been sighted at Atlanta State Park since Thanksgiving by Marvin Berry, park superintendent, and Brenda Sears,

park clerk. In past years, wintering eagles have been seen at Possum Kingdom, Eisenhower, Lake Bob Sandlin and Colorado Bend State Parks. Eagles are often found near large reservoirs because fish and waterfowl are a major part of their diet, according to wildlife officials.

Long winter nights provide excellent stargazing opportunities according to Dr. Carolyn Summers of the George Observatory.

For more information on state parks and the rainbow trout stocking program contact the TPWD, 4200 Smith School Road, Austin, Texas 78744, or call toll-free 1-800-792-1112. The George Observatory is located in Brazos Bend State Park, 21901 FM 762, Needville, Texas 77461, 409-553-3243.

### Lake O' the Pines Producing Good Crappie, Sunfish Catches

Creel surveys conducted by the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department on Lake O' the Pines indicate panfishermen are having excellent success on the 18,700-acre reservoir near Longview.

Biologist Mike Ryan said angler interviews during October and November revealed that 40 crappie fishermen harvested 266 fish, averaging seven fish per angler. "Quality of the catch has been excellent, with 84 percent of the crappie being nine inches long or longer," Ryan said. The most productive area for crappie has been

the Big Cypress River area above the Highway 259 bridge, Ryan said.

Good catches of sunfish also were noted in the survey, with considerable numbers of bluegills and redear sunfish over six inches being caught.

Anglers are reminded that there is no minimum length limit for crappie at Lake O' the Pines, but there is a 25 per day bag limit. There is no bag or minimum size restriction on sunfish.

Lake O' the Pines is located about 20 miles northeast of Longview. The best boat launching access to the Big Cypress area of the lake is Lone Star Landing on the north side of the Highway 259 bridge in Lone Star.



# WILD Teacher of the Year

Article by Ilo Hiller, Photos by Leroy Williamson

Education, by its very nature, is difficult to evaluate with precision and accuracy because its results may take a lifetime to measure. Measuring the impact of a supplementary wildlife education program such as Project WILD (Wildlife In Learning Design) is even harder because teaching about wildlife, habitat and conservation is not a priority within the curricula of most public schools.

For these reasons, we depend on our "WILD" teachers to help us monitor the impact we are having on education by letting us know what "WILD" things they are doing in the classroom and how their students are responding to the environmental and conservation education activities. Since we have shared the Project WILD materials with more than 10,000 educators during our four years of implementation, we decided it was time to take a look at some of their efforts on behalf of the program and try to select one of them as the 1988-89 Project WILD Teacher of the Year.

As applications for "WILD Teacher of the Year" came in, it became obvious that our judges would have a difficult time choosing a winner. Their classroom efforts were as varied as the many Project WILD activities, and they were all outstanding WILD teachers who were sharing an awareness and appreciation for nature with their students.

After careful evaluation of all of the entries, the judges selected Donna M. Turner, a fifth-grade teacher at Colby Glass Elementary School in San Antonio, as the first "WILD Teacher of the Year."

Turner received her introduction to



*Donna M. Turner, fifth grade teacher, Colby Glass Elementary, San Antonio, Texas*

Project WILD during a six-hour workshop conducted in April 1987 at Harambe Oak near Fischer. She was so impressed with the program and its application in the classroom that she immediately signed up to be trained to teach Project WILD workshops so she could share the material with other teachers. As a volunteer instructor/facilitator she has taught five such workshops, introducing the Project WILD materials to an additional 65 teachers in the San Antonio area.

Turner incorporated WILD activities into her curriculum while working as a transient gifted/talented teacher for fourth- and fifth-grade students at eight elementary schools in the Har-

landale Independent School District. During a field trip to a ranch outside San Antonio, she used Project WILD activities to teach and reinforce the ecology objectives of that outing to 175 fourth- through eighth-grade gifted/talented students.

Later, in conjunction with the higher order thinking skills of the gifted/talented program, she developed a correlation between Project WILD and Bloom's Taxonomy. She also wrote and taught a similar correlation between Project WILD and the seven-step creative problem-solving method of teaching. She then presented this material in a mini-workshop for teachers at Morrill, Flanders and Gilbert Elementary Schools in the Harlandale I.S.D.

While teaching seventh- and eighth-grade English at Oak Crest Middle School in East Central I.S.D., Turner adapted many Project WILD activities for her language arts curriculum through a series of journal activities progressing from the awareness level to responsible actions. The "Oh Deer" activity was presented as a motivator for research papers on habitat needs and ecological principles, while "Stormy Weather" and "Animal Poetry" led to writing various forms of poetry. Through a mini-grant from the East Central School Foundation, Inc., Turner published and distributed some of the written products of these Project WILD activities in a booklet entitled, "From the Minds of Stingers." This booklet contains writings of 123 seventh- and eighth-grade students, and their efforts demonstrated a measurable increase in writing skills. Their scores on the writing section of



Eager students (above) want their WILD teacher to select them as the predator that must locate its hidden prey in the outdoor activity called "The Thicket Game." In this variation of hide-and-seek, the predator must stay in one location and rely on movement or lack of camouflage to give away the prey's location. In a classroom extension of the Aquatic WILD activity "Aqua Words," Donna Turner's fifth graders discover how all living things are ultimately connected to water (left).



*A "blind" bear competes with healthy bears for food tokens in the Project WILD activity, "How Many Bears Can Live in This Forest?" Students learn that limiting factors such as competition, food availability and physical condition determine survival.*

the state TEAMS test were nine percent higher than the year before.

Through Northside I.S.D., Turner initiated a Project WILD continuing education program, offering a 16-session, after-school class for fourth- and fifth-grade students. For this con-

tinuing education class she developed several extensions for existing Project WILD activities. One (which she calls "Who Lives Here?") requires the students to collect a variety of plant species available in an ecosystem and to use inductive reasoning to project the animal life that the ecosystem supports.

In her fifth-grade classroom at Colby Glass Elementary this year, Turner continues to use Project WILD activities, working them into language arts, science and math. She also has shared her Project WILD materials and curriculum adaptations with the district science coordinator to assure that other students will be exposed to this environmental and conservation education material.

Turner also has presented Project WILD activities for members of the Boy Scout and Girl Scout Councils to show them how the material can be correlated with their youth group conservation programs.

According to one of her former principals, "Donna is one of only a few really inspired teachers I've known in 33 years of public schools. She is highly effective in applying Bloom's Taxonomy and was the best in teaching the higher-order thinking skills. She motivated our students with her warmth, enthusiasm and professional skill. She used your materials to deepen appreciation and knowledge of conservation of our regional wildlife. She profoundly influenced many young and not so young people with her teaching. She was a WILD teacher!" \*\*

## CALLING WILD TEACHERS

If you know of a Project WILD teacher who should be considered for the title "1989-90 WILD Teacher of the Year," let us hear from you with detailed information regarding how Project WILD is being used in the classroom. If you or your students are involved in any conservation or environmental projects in the community as a result of Project WILD's influence, we would like to hear about them too. Since 1990 marks the 20th anniversary of Earth Day (April 22) and this year's Wildlife Week theme will be "Earth Week is Every Week," be sure to let us know if you do anything special to commemorate this historical environmental anniversary.

Applications for "1989-90 WILD Teacher of the Year" should be sent to Project WILD Coordinator, Texas Parks and Wildlife Department, 4200 Smith School Road, Austin, Texas 78744. They should arrive no later than June 30, 1990, and the materials included should cover only those things accomplished since June 1, 1989.

## AWARD-WINNING WILD TEACHERS

As a part of their continuing interest in the Project WILD program in Texas, the Dallas Safari Club has underwritten the costs of the awards program for this environmental and conservation education program. With their financial support the following awards were given this year to bring the program up to date:

Donna M. Turner—1988-89 WILD Teacher of the Year (Colby Glass Elementary School,

San Antonio)

David Allard—1988 Teacher Facilitator of the Year (Texarkana College, Texarkana). Allard taught six workshops for 148 educators.

Clyde Gottschalk — 1988 Agency Facilitator of the Year (Texas Soil and Water Conservation Board, Temple). Gottschalk taught eight workshops for 226 educators.

Marsha Tucker—1987 Teacher Facilitator of the Year (Joshua

Intermediate School, Joshua). Tucker taught five workshops for 177 educators.

Jana Nelson—1987 Agency Facilitator of the Year (U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Fort Worth). Nelson taught 18 workshops for 369 educators.

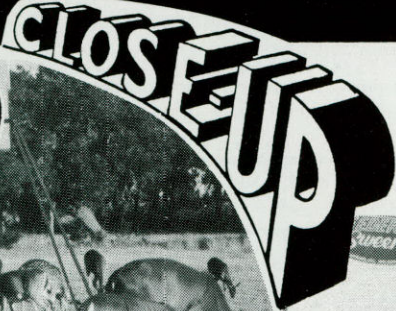
Mary Kennedy—1986 Teacher Facilitator of the Year (Boerne High School, Boerne). Kennedy taught six workshops for 174 educators.

Roberta Sawin—1986 Agency Facilitator of the Year (Region VI Education Service Center, Huntsville). Sawin taught seven workshops for 194 educators.

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## LETTERS

### Butterfield Overland Route

As usual, the December 1989 issue is very informative. However, the Butterfield Overland Mail started at Tipton, Missouri (on the railroad west of St. Louis) and not at St. Louis, as stated in "Ranch on the Concho."

Your route shows only the northern segment of the Butterfield Stage Route from Horsehead Crossing to El Paso. There was a southern segment from Horsehead Crossing through Comanche Springs (now Fort Stockton), Fort Davis and Fort Quitman to El Paso.

Edwin G. Troutman, M.D.  
Fort Worth

### October Issue

I don't know how you did it, but it really worked this time. Your October 1989 issue is your best. I have never seen such a cohesive collection of fascinating facts and photos from cover to cover. I'm sure the subject matter of fine vistas and adventure made it easier than most, but you certainly did a great job on this one.

Thomas F. Brown  
Richardson

I was delighted with Andrew Sansom's alluring description of Big Bend Ranch State Natural Area. I am waiting impatiently for this "western jewel" to open to the public. I heartily support the efforts of the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department to protect significant areas of our state's wild lands within the state park system, both for recreational use and for the preservation of scenic beauty and biological diversity.

But more needs to be done in West Texas, especially in the Davis Mountains. The existing state park there is inadequate to meet either recreational demand or the need to preserve a portion of this magnificent area. There is a window of opportunity now, because of reasonable land prices and willing sellers, for Texas to acquire a state park in the Davis Mountains. If the Parks and Wildlife Department does not take action now, this window will be closed as the large ranches are subdivided and developed.

Tom Maddux  
Houston

The inside back cover of the mountain lion (October, 1989) was worth

more than the price of a year's subscription. It just doesn't get any better. Pat Powell put new meaning in the word "freelance."

Nancy Robinson Masters  
Abilene

I have lived in the Davis Mountains 70 years, and I enjoyed the special Trans-Pecos issue. Mountain lions were never residents of this area until they became protected in the Big Bend and Guadalupe Mountains parks. They passed through the Davis Mountains as they traveled to Mexico and New Mexico and now there are so many that residents of Alpine and Fort Davis consider them a menace.

Two more animals that are not native to the Davis Mountains are porcupines and javelina. The first porcupine I ever saw was in the 1930s, in the Guadalupe. The first time I saw a javelina was 15 to 20 years ago and now there are hundreds, possibly thousands. One detrimental thing they do is spread the growth of the prickly pear.

Mrs. Berry Hart  
Van Horn

### Thrasher ID

The fine article on photographing Texas birds (December) should give a good many people insights into this interesting hobby.

One of my pet peeves is incorrect bird identifications. I am usually quite impressed that your staff takes the time and effort necessary to obtain correct identifications before going to press. But on page 41 there is a photo of a long-billed thrasher perched on a dead stump that is misidentified as a brown thrasher.

The long-billed thrasher and the brown thrasher are of the same genus and are superficially similar, but the long-billed has an all dark bill that is noticeably curved, while the brown has a pale base to the lower mandible and less curvature to the bill. The long-billed has a grayer face than the brown and its plumage generally lacks the rufous tones of the brown. The long-billed thrasher is a resident of far south Texas and has not been known to occur in any other state, although it is common over much of Mexico. The brown thrasher is found over much of the eastern U.S.

Greg W. Lasley  
Austin

### Nature at Its Best

I just want to say how much I enjoy *Texas Parks & Wildlife*. In fact, I keep all the copies and during deer season I put magazines in all the deer stands on our lease. This is a great time for everyone to read and learn more about Texas.

I was never an outdoor person until I started going out to Fredericksburg with my husband and daughter to hunt on the H-Bar-2. That is one of the prettiest places I have ever seen, and I fell in love with the animals and the hills. My cousin kept trying to get me to hunt with her. Finally I started going and then I was hooked on all the peace and quiet and seeing nature at its best.

This was my 10th deer season and I am 41 years old. Isn't that great? I have killed a few nice bucks, but the main thing I enjoy is being out there in Texas' great outdoors.

Margaret Davis  
Spring

### In Search of Crappie

I have been a fisherman for most of my life. I enjoy fishing for crappie, as do my wife and children. There are three lakes I have fished for a long time, and it seems like every time stripers are introduced into a lake the crappie disappear. We have created underwater structures of tires and brush with little or no effect. When stripers are introduced into a lake, does it reduce the number of crappie or other game fish?

Al W. Duesterhaus  
Pep

■ There have been a number of scientific studies on the food habits of striped bass. All studies we are aware of draw basically the same conclusion: stripers have virtually no impact on populations of other game fish, including crappie. Stripers' preference for shad and minnows is so strong they will virtually starve before switching to other species for forage.

Crappie are extremely cyclic in nature, being abundant some years and virtually nonexistent—at least from the angler's point of view—in other years. This happens frequently in lakes that have never been stocked with stripers. Crappie have a habit of moving into deep water areas and sus-

# LETTERS

pending, where they are hard to find and catch. Also, crappie populations are vulnerable to heavy fishing pressure, since they often are caught in large numbers when they move into shallow areas to spawn in the spring.

You did not identify the lakes you fish, but the problem most likely can be traced to changes in habitat, water quality, forage base and the like, rather than stripers.

## Warm Feelings, Fond Memories

I am a native Texan serving an overseas military tour in Europe. The countries and ways of life over here are quite an experience. I'm ashamed to admit I had to come all this distance and be confronted with the wildlife laws and recreation customs of another culture to appreciate

what I had back home. I'm proud to be serving my country, but I miss my home and family.

*Texas Parks & Wildlife* comes to my German bungalow each month and with it come warm feelings and fond memories.

Edward Kirk Jr., Sgt., USAF  
Bitburg, West Germany

## Mountain Pass

I was surprised to read the following in the story about Abilene State Park (September): "The small town of the same name (Buffalo Gap) sits serenely under large live oaks that once sheltered Comanches. The Butterfield Stage also took this route through the gap . . . Colonel Charles Goodnight and Oliver Loving drove their cattle . . . along this trail in 1866."

I supposed everyone in Taylor County knew that the Butterfield

Trail (September 1858 to March 1861) went through *Mountain Pass*, some 12 miles west of Buffalo Gap. Also, Loving and Goodnight followed the Butterfield Trail through Mountain Pass on their cattle drives west in 1866 and 1867, as did General Mackenzie and the 4th U.S. Cavalry while moving the Regiment in 1871 from Fort Concho to Fort Richardson at Jacksboro.

After the Civil War, the El Paso Stage followed the Butterfield Trail through Mountain Pass from Sherman to Fort Concho through the 1870s. Since that was the only road west from Jacksboro, everyone followed the Butterfield Trail through Mountain Pass in Taylor County and on west to El Paso.

Bill Dennis  
Jacksboro

## Blaze Orange

I have subscribed to *Texas Parks & Wildlife* for quite some time. Mainly I enjoy the photography, but I enjoy the stories too.

When I read "Ruminations of a Deer Hunter" (November), I was shocked at observation 7 about the camouflage face mask and the picture of the man in full camouflage. As a hunter education instructor, I know that with as many hunters as there are in the field a hunter should always wear blaze orange.

Does Mr. Sasser want to be shot, or what?

Bill Sharp  
Bandera

## Not Exactly a Math Whiz . . .

On page 2 of the December issue David Baxter writes that, "In 1871 Sawyer came to Texas and met one George M. Maverick who sold him a section of land for \$100, that's \$6.40 per acre."

Where did David Baxter learn arithmetic?

Konrad E. Ebisch Sr.  
Austin

On page 2 of the December issue you state that Mr. Sawyer bought a section of land from George Maverick for \$100, or \$6.40 per acre.

According to my reckoning, a section of land contains 640 acres and if it sold for \$100 the price would be 15-5/8 cents per acre.

I enjoy your magazine very much. Keep up the good work.

Ernest Churchman  
Weslaco

I cannot resist chiding you on your mathematical goof; \$100 for a section doesn't work out to anything close to \$6.40 per acre. It is more like 15-1/2 cents per acre for each of the 640 acres in a section (15.625 cents, to be exact).

In any event, the article was great and the quality of the pictures continues the excellence I have come to expect.

W. T. Burton  
South Padre Island

I don't know whether to be glad or sad that I'm not buying land from you. At \$6.40 per acre, the section of land would have cost \$4,096. I doubt that Sawyer would have paid that much. You obviously divided 640 acres by \$100 instead of the other way around.

I want to commend you on your regular publication of a superior magazine. The pictures alone are worth the price, and you usually have such a varied mix of articles there is something for everyone.

George M. Wyatt  
Borger

*Texas Parks & Wildlife* welcomes letters to the editor. Please include your name, address and daytime telephone number. Our address is 4200 Smith School Road, Austin, Texas 78744. We reserve the right to edit letters for length and clarity.

## INSIDE BACK COVER

The leaf of the sundew plant is covered with reddish hairs called tentacle glands. Mucilage exudes from the tip of each gland, giving the plant a dew-laden appearance that is irresistible to creatures such as this ant. Once the ant is on the leaf it cannot extricate itself from the sticky mucilage and the sundew begins to digest its prey. Read more about this carnivorous plant on page 22. Freelance photographer Stephan Myers used a Nikon F2 with a stacked lens system for 1/60 sec. at f/32 on Kodachrome 25 film.



Cartoon by Patrick J. Stark





