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Annual Texas Wildlife Expo Edition

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TEXAS

PARKS & WILDLIFE

The OUTDOOR MAGAZINE of TEXAS

8 GREAT CROSS-THE-BORDER ADVENTURES

265 TEXAS PUBLIC HUNTING AREAS

RECREATION ON PRIVATE LANDS



SOLITARIO SOLAMENTE

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CHEESEBURGER
IN A LAND OF TOFU.**

*When properly equipped.

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For the latest and greatest parks and wildlife information, check out our Web site <www.tpwd.state.tx.us>

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by E. Dan Klepper

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PHOTO BY ERIC NORTRIGRAM

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Covers

FRONT: Ride along on a three-day mountain bike adventure in Big Bend Ranch State Park. The story begins on page 32. Photo by Earl Nottingham.

BACK: Outfitter and guide Mike Long of Desert Sports sets up camp in Tres Patalotes, part of the Solitario in Big Bend Ranch State Park.

This page: Dove hunter © Grady Allen



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AT ISSUE

FROM THE PEN OF ROBERT L. COOK

October is a good month. It is a busy month, and for many outdoor Texans it is one of anticipation. Who could not love a month filled with ghosts and goblins and hand-carved pumpkins, Friday night football and the World Series?

October is also a busy month outdoors. The East Texas squirrel season opens Oct. 1. The archery season for white-tailed deer and Rio Grande turkeys that began Sept. 29 picks up even as the dove season winds down. By now almost 400,000 Texans have made a couple of dove hunts with friends, smelled the powder for the first time in the new hunting season and perhaps enjoyed a couple of dozen bacon-wrapped birds on the backyard grill.

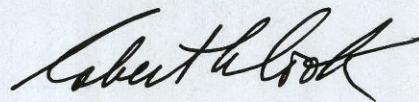
For those of us who love the outdoors and want to share it with others, October at Texas Parks and Wildlife offers two special treats: our annual Wildlife Expo on Oct. 5 and 6, and Lone Star Legacy Weekend Oct. 19 and 20. Expo offers a free introduction to every aspect of outdoor recreation in Texas, from birding to kayaking to fishing and hunting, while Lone Star Legacy Weekend allows free entrance to every state park and wildlife management area in Texas. Come see us, this year and every year.

Anticipation, that is what October is really about. Summer is gone. October promises cooler nights around the campfire. There is definitely a hint of fall at daybreak. Any day now frost will visit the cottonwoods along the Canadian in the Texas Panhandle. The Lost Maples that hide in the upper drainages of the Sabinal and the Frio know the cold is coming, sometimes beginning their blush before its arrival. The mist that appears over the river and in the low areas makes its appearance for the first time. With the chill in the air my old friends seem to be a little livelier. They have more spring in their step, smile easier, quicker, and their old aches and pains seem less apparent. The pointers and retrievers sense the change; they are eager to begin the hunt.

All spring and summer the wildlife of Texas has been getting ready for fall, "laying on the fat" as we used to call it. The summer coats are gone, replaced by darker, thicker, shinier layers of hair. The bucks have polished their antlers, and their summer bachelor groups have dispersed. Their necks and chests are beginning to "swell," and they hold their heads high with the tips of their ears down. They know the rut is about to begin.

October brings a visual feast for birders as fall warblers and migratory waterfowl begin to arrive for their winter stay. Hunters are busy, too, opening and airing out camps and laying in supplies. Wood for the campfires to come must be gathered and neatly stacked. Time must be made for at least one trip to fish the surf for big reds a day or two after a norther passes and the water clears.

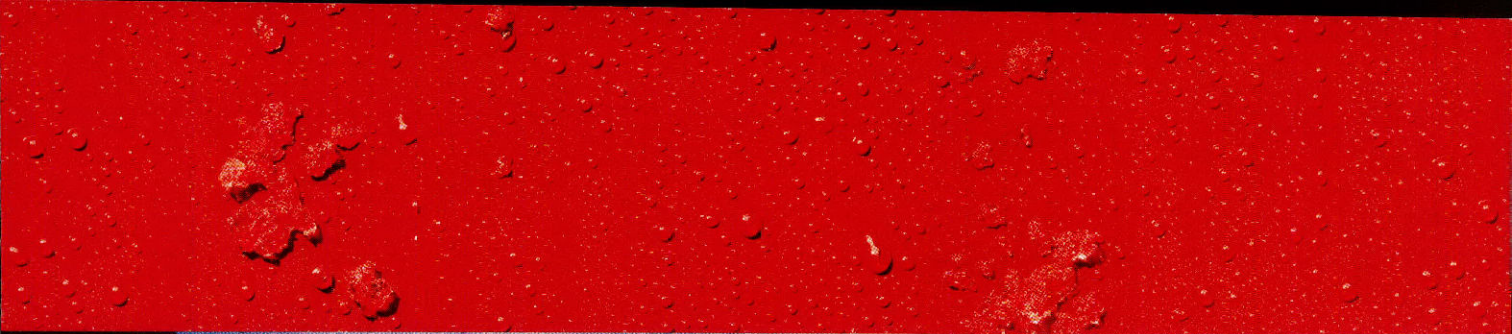
Yes, October is definitely a very good month; a good month to learn about and to enjoy the outdoors of Texas. I hope you'll join me.



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annual Wildlife Expo
on Oct. 5 and 6,
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Texas Parks and Wildlife Department mission statement:

To manage and conserve the natural and cultural resources of Texas and to provide hunting, fishing and outdoor recreation opportunities for the use and enjoyment of present and future generations.



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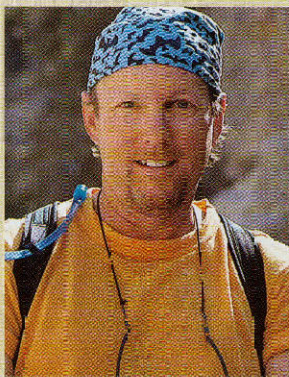
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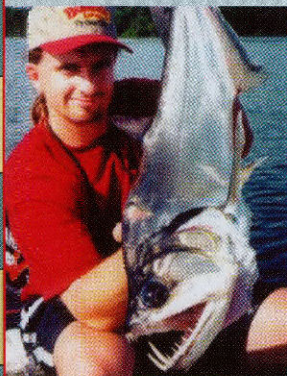


In the Field

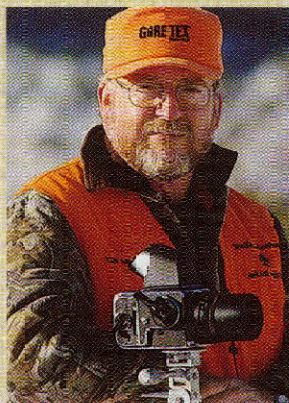
E. DAN KLEPPER a native Texan, writes about a mountain bike trip through Big Bend Ranch State Park's Solitario in this issue. Under the pen name Edwin Daniels, Klepper authored *Ghostdancing: Sacred Medicine and the Art of JD Challenger* and *Wolf Walking* (Stewart, Tabori & Chang), the latter of which won a Texas Outdoor Writers Association Excellence in Craft Award. He also has written articles on art, adventure sports and the Southwestern lifestyle for magazines including *Mountain Athletics*, *Taos Magazine*, *U.S. Art* and *Cowboys & Indians*. Klepper writes from his home in Marathon, Texas.



CHESTER MOORE, JR. is a freelance outdoor writer from Orange. He is outdoor editor of the *Port Arthur News* and *Orange Leader* and the author of more than 300 magazine pieces and two books written on the subject of fishing: *Flounder Fundamentals* and *Speckled Trout Tactics*. He is also interested in the subject of cryptozoology — the study of the lore concerning legendary animals — and jumped at the chance to write about the “loup-garou” or “Cajun werewolf.” Nature’s mysteries are some of his favorite subjects.



EARL NOTTINGHAM, who photographed the Solitario bike ride in this issue, professes to be “optically addicted” to the landscapes and faces of Texas and is passionate about using photography as an effective tool to define the natural and cultural treasures of the state. A photographer for more than 25 years, Nottingham has been chief photographer for Texas Parks and Wildlife Department for six years and has been published in *Texas Highways*, *Texas Monthly*, *National Geographic Traveler*, *Smithsonian*, *Men's Journal* and numerous other publications. When not traveling to all corners of the state, he lives in Temple with wife Paula and son Adam. He currently is remodeling his childhood home.



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OCTOBER 2002, VOL. 60, NO. 10

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MAIL CALL

PICKS, PANS AND PROBES FROM PREVIOUS ISSUES

FOREWORD

Executive Director Robert L. Cook, in this month's "At Issue," gives readers many suggestions on ways to enjoy the month of October outdoors. If you're still hankering for a few more, add these to your "to do" list:

See a new interpretive exhibit, "A Hill Country Heritage: the Land and People that Inspired a President and First Lady," which debuted this past August on what would have been former president Lyndon B. Johnson's 94th birthday.

The exhibit explores the diverse cultures of the Texas Hill Country and the landscape that helped shape the values and character of one of America's most controversial and charismatic leaders. Johnson, the nation's 36th president, was born in the Hill Country near present-day Stonewall. Throughout his life, he returned often with first lady Lady Bird Johnson to conduct the business of state, raise prizewinning cattle or simply to renew himself in the place he called home.

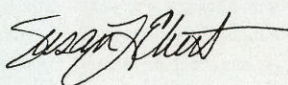
The exhibits were planned, written, designed and built by the Interpretation and Exhibits Branch of the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department with help and inspiration from the state park staff. The site reflects a unique partnership between the state park system and the National Park Service, which maintains the LBJ Ranch and Johnson City units of the Lyndon B. Johnson National Historical Park. For more information on the new exhibit, contact LBJ State Park and Historic Site at (830) 644-2252.

Visit a Hill Country bat cave to bid "hasta la vista" to some of the hundred million Mexican free-tailed bats that migrate from central Mexico to Texas each year. From March to mid-October, spectacular bat flights occur each evening at twilight as the bats fly out to hunt. Each female bat gives birth to one pup each year, can eat from 75 percent to 100 percent of her own body weight in insects each night and produces 25 percent of her body weight in milk each day while nursing — a metabolic marvel! The pups begin to fly in July and August, producing the largest evening flights. The female bats and their pups continue to inhabit their caves until mid-October.

Bracken Cave, near San Antonio, hosts the largest known bat maternity colony in the world with 40 million bats, and offers special viewing dates for members of Bat Conservation International. Some first-rate public viewing spots are the Eckert James River Bat Cave, near Mason, with 4 million to 6 million bats; and Austin's Congress Avenue bridge, inhabited by 1.5 million bats. For information on bat flights, visit Bat Conservation International at <batcon.org> or call them at (512) 327-9721.

Saddle up for a longhorn cattle drive, which will take place at Big Bend Ranch State Park Oct. 11-13. This TPWD longhorn herd is considered the most genetically pure herd of longhorns in the United States. Wanna-be cowpunchers meet the first day for orientation, ranch history and cattle drive ethics and spend the next two days rounding up cattle and calves for branding, vaccinations and ear tags. Sleep in the Saucedo bunkhouse, or better yet! under the stars, as West Texas has the darkest skies in the U.S. and the star gazing is beyond description.

For information on the Longhorn Cattle Drive, check out Lajitas Stables at <lajitasstables.com> or call (888) 508-7667. For reservations, call Big Bend Ranch State Park at (915) 229-3416.



LETTERS

HI AND FIE!

I am 77 years old, and I have praise and censure for your September issue. The former far outweighs the latter, so let's get to it: How could you possibly do a piece on hunting apparel and omit the *ne plus ultra* of them all? I speak of C.C. Filson Company of Seattle, now in its 105th year of producing serious outdoor wear.

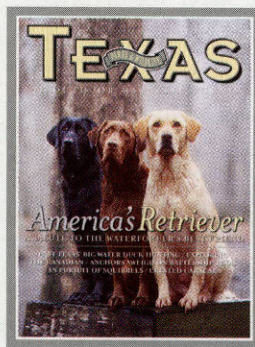
The legendary Willis & Geiger, maker of hunting clothes for Abercrombie & Fitch such as safari wear for the likes of Ernest Hemingway and Robert Ruark, is now history. For all intents and purposes, the same can be said for Eddie Bauer and L.L. Bean regarding serious outdoor wear. It's all bottom line today, and planned obsolescence is the norm. In part, given the habits of people who've never had to go without, you go with the flow.

Which makes Filson even more a treasure. Fie on you!

For the good news, the Lab photos are superb,

and Jess and Lou Womack and their kind make me proud to be a Texan. Again.

The story of the U.S.S. *Texas* was especially interesting in a personal way. I always knew my uncle, Harold Turner, was in the Navy in World War I, but it wasn't until my wife, who loves the work (and I don't) of burrowing through boxes of my family's history, one day came across a photo of Uncle Harold wearing a beret-like seaman's cap with "USS *Texas*" emblazoned on the brim. I knew he served in the



I am not currently a dog owner, but the cover story, "America's Retriever," (September 2002),

made me want one... specifically a lab!

The photography is outstanding and the cover shot is unforgettable.

I have been a subscriber now for about 24 years and always enjoy your magazine.

W.P. Barclay
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MAIL CALL

North Sea off Scotland in WW I, but not that he was on the Texas.

There is an interesting story about Uncle Harold. My grandfather was a conductor on the IGN Railroad, and after the disastrous Galveston hurricane of 1900, he took the first rescue train across the causeway over Galveston Bay to bring survivors of the hurricane back to Houston, where they gathered on the Harris County courthouse square to reunite with their families. One child, who had been found sitting on a barrel on the beach, was not claimed. My grandfather took him home to Palestine and later adopted him. The boy could not say his name, so my grandfather named him Harold Turner. A small, feisty kid, he was quick to take umbrage and when his school chums taunted him with "Harold-on-a-barrel," fierce action frequently followed!

BILL BRIDGES
Palestine

DARKEN IT AND THEY WILL COME

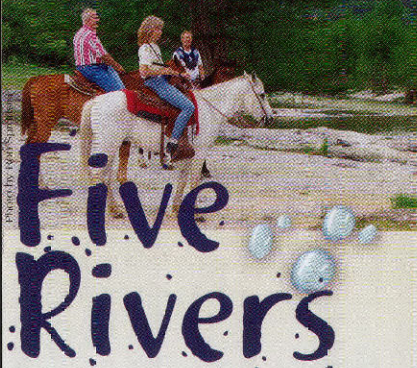
Here is a suggestion for increasing attendance at Texas state parks.

Practicing astronomy requires a dark place to view skies that also should be dark. Many state parks have dark skies, but only a few have a dark place to gather for viewing. This is because of very bright lights positioned in the campgrounds. If the parks with dark skies set aside a dark place to view and let us know about them, the astronomers will come.

— CHARLIE SMITH

WALT DABNEY, TPWD STATE PARKS DIVISION DIRECTOR, RESPONDS:
Astronomy is a very compatible park use. We will look at identifying good locations in parks that are not impacted by fugitive light and attempt to use facility lighting that does not compromise the night sky. However, with limited staffing, parks often are hard pressed to offer this type of event without help from volunteers. Currently the George Observatory at Brazos Bend State Park offers a variety of programs to star gazers. Davis Mountains State Park hosts star-gazing parties at different times of the year and Pedernales Falls State Park hosted monthly star parties until the sponsoring group moved the activity to a different location. Sponsoring groups are welcome to contact state park rangers for opportunities.

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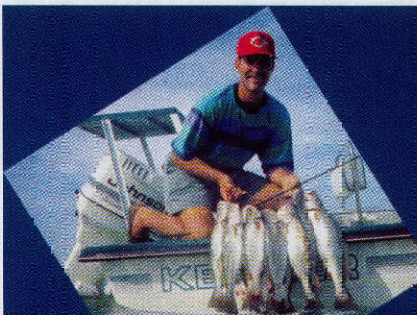
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MAIL CALL

MOORE, MOORE!

Rarely do I write a letter to any publication, but I felt this one was necessary. I have long followed the writings of Chester Moore, Jr. and really enjoyed his recent article on catfish (June 2002). The article was very informative and gave me a few pointers that have helped to land some nice catfish.

The real thing I want to comment on is the writer himself. I looked him up through the *Port Arthur News* and gave him a call. He was very gracious and gave me excellent pointers on where to go in the Guadalupe River to catch big flatheads, and said to call him any time I needed anything. It is nice to know the writers you admire are so nice and sharing with their professional knowledge.

EDGAR DUMMAS
Baytown

SUSAN L. EBERT, PUBLISHER & EDITOR, RESPONDS: *We feel the same way about Chester! In this issue, you'll find he's just as well-informed about whales and werewolves as he is flatheads.*

MASON MEMORIES

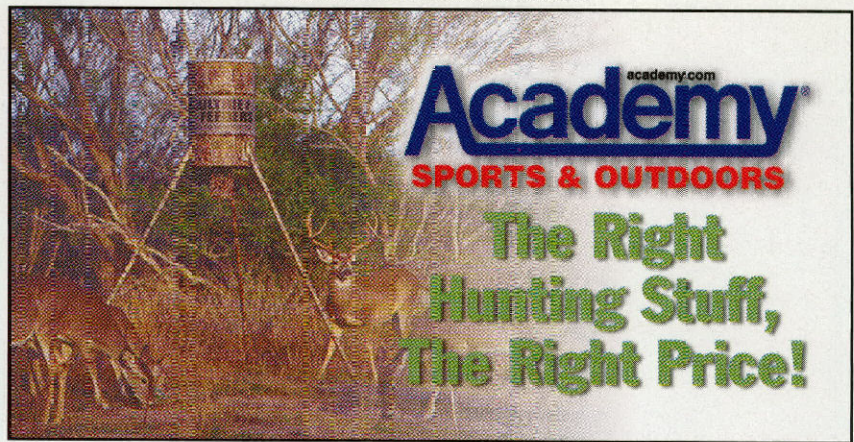
Jim Anderson's article about Fred Gipson (Legend, Lore & Legacy; August 2002) was wonderful. I grew up in Mason, Texas, and reading the article brought back many fond memories.

I was 12 years old at the time Disney was filming *Old Yeller* and when Fess Parker arrived in Mason to visit Mr. Gipson it was the most excitement in that small town for the rest of my stay there! Meeting him, shaking his hand and getting his autograph was something I will never forget. And I was so proud of Mr. Gipson and of having such a celebrity live in our home town!

Those are wonderful childhood memories, and when someone asks, "Where is Mason?" My response almost always is, "You mean you don't know, the home town of Fred Gipson, author of *Old Yeller*?"

Thank you for such a warm reminder of growing up in what I consider the most nurturing town one could grow up in, and for reminding me how much his

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JOAN O'DONNELL MCFARLAND

Austin

LOYALTY IN LLANO

Like so many other readers, I thought July's "The State of Water" issue was outstanding. But I strongly disagree with AJ Kullman (Malaise from Malaysia, September 2002 Mail Call), that the magazine is filled with "mundane hunting articles."

If anything is "sub par," it's his eyesight. *Texas Parks & Wildlife* magazine's selection of articles is as diverse as the State of Texas and both the writing and photography are superb.

As a sportsman, I'm glad that *Texas Parks & Wildlife* provides articles on hunting and fishing. But I've also enjoyed the many other types of articles, on subjects ranging from history to descriptions of out-of-the-way parks. One of my favorites issues is December 2001, with "Through the Valley of Tears" by Jan Reid and "Vein of History" by John Graves. And I could mention many more.

It's unfortunate that Kullman, who appears to have an anti-hunting and anti-firearm bias, can't understand hunting's many benefits. Hunting is critical to game management and hunters provide the lion's share of funding for wildlife programs in the state and the nation. I encourage *Texas Parks & Wildlife* to continue to show how hunters and hunting are a positive force in Texas.

CHUCK MERLO

Llano

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SCOUT

NEWS AND VIEWS IN THE TEXAS OUTDOORS

Balancing Act

Determining how to meet four-wheelers' desire for off-road adventure and still protect sensitive riverbed habitat is a topic currently under consideration by the Texas Legislature.

Utilizing oversized tires and specialized suspension systems, all-terrain vehicles (ATVs) like to tackle all sorts of challenges, but a combination of factors is making their road particularly rocky in Texas. The lack of public parks that permit ATVs has established many of Texas' streambeds as a *de facto* playground for the four-wheelers. Now, concerns over environmental damage to wildlife habitat and water quality, combined with landowner complaints about trespassing and litter, threaten to seal up popular off-road routes such as the Nueces and Llano rivers.

The Texas Legislature is currently considering proposals for how to police the tens of thousands of acres that comprise Texas' navigable streambeds. Without action, warns Larry McKinney, Ph.D., TPWD senior division director and director of resource protection, the growing popularity of off-road travel could have unfortunate consequences for Texas' sensitive river systems — ill's ranging from streambed erosion to pollution by spilled motor oil and other automotive fluids.

"It's not rocket science," McKinney says, noting that one quart of oil can contaminate 250,000 gallons of water. "In some areas the impacts from these activities is clearly evident, and it will reach a point where the damage

may not be recoverable."

Last year, in order to get a better handle on the issue, TPWD formed a 25-person task force that included representatives from federal and state agencies, Texas conservation organizations and motorized-recreation groups. In May, TPWD presented a 20-page report to the agency commissioners that outlined the key points of the problem: no state agency has authority to regulate vehicle use in the streambeds; motorized recreation has impacts on fish, wildlife and associated habitat and, not surprisingly, Texas lacks public facilities for off-road recreation.

"We can project that these activities are going to increase," says McKinney, "so now is a time to take action. It's best that we act when these solutions are still available."

Evidence indicates that more than half the major river systems in the state have been used for four-wheeling. Still, many in the motorized crowd believe that they have been targeted by intolerant landowners who want to limit river access to all users. They say they're being maligned because of a few

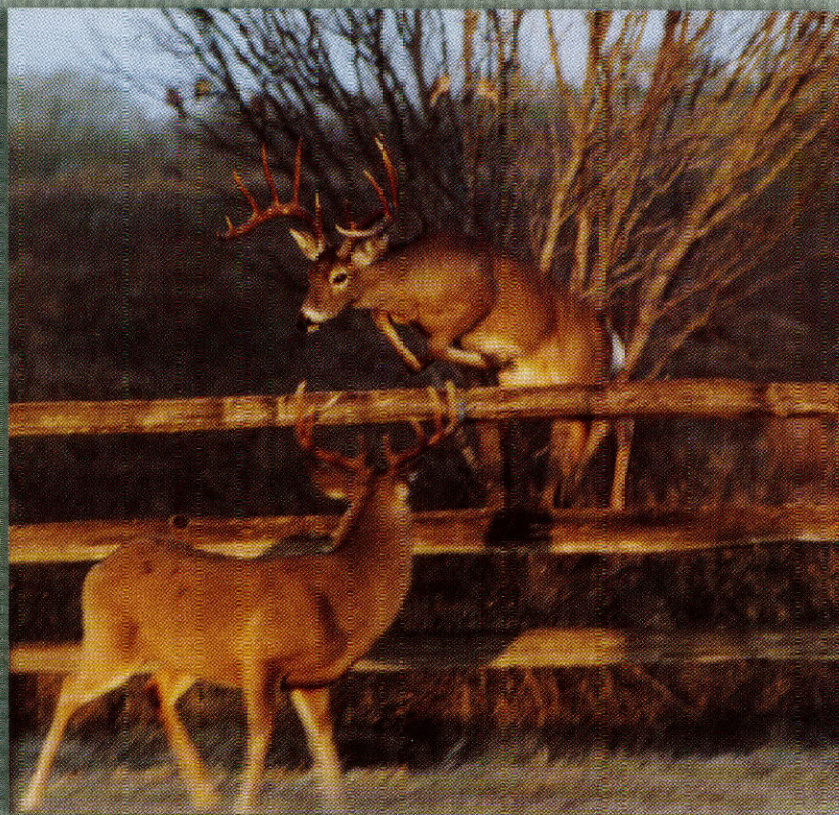
All-terrain vehicles can cause streambed erosion, but there are no public parks that provide ATV enthusiasts a place to pursue their recreation. The Texas Legislature will try to find a solution.



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bad apples, and that the resource damage they inflict has been blown out of proportion. Says task-force member Ingrid Hollinger, president of the TX 4X4 Cyber Club: "There is damage from uneducated individuals, but I honestly believe that there's not as much damage from these vehicles as there is from natural causes." Hollinger argues that many landowner practices, such as fertilizer use or allowing livestock into streams, can create more environmental problems than off-road vehicle use.

Be that as it may, the legislature will be scrutinized closely

next year when it tries to devise a solution. Con Mims, executive director of the Nueces River Authority, says he has seen increased impact of four-wheeling in his jurisdiction — on some days, vehicles by the hundreds visit the streambeds. Mims says that the state must come up with alternative places for motorized off-road recreation: "The state streambeds are not public highways. We need to find alternative lands for off-road vehicles. That's the only trade-off we're willing to make."

— Dan Oke

And Then It Rained

July rains bring South Texas habitat back to life.

July floods in Central and South Texas caused suffering and loss for many people but were a lifesaver for wildlife. The James E. Daughtrey Wildlife Management Area near Tilden is a good example of what a difference rain can make.

From January through June, Live Oak, McMullen and surrounding counties received approximately 1.5 inches of rainfall. Things were bad. Forbs had long since gone, grass was disappearing quickly and several important browse species were defoliating. With high daytime temperatures and extremely dry conditions, wildlife struggled to survive. Deer foraged at all hours of the day, and many fell victim to vehicle collisions as they fed along major roadways.

While turkeys and quail were nesting and deer were in the early stages of antler growing, times were ridiculously hard. Turkeys suffered the least, as they had productive hatches in the still-wet river and creek bottoms. Quail nests were destroyed by both predators and drought conditions. Bucks hustled trying to build the foundations of their racks. Most does managed to drop only one fawn. Ticks, fleas, shedding of hair and intense demands on their bodies left deer ragged and worn.

And then the rains came. In the first 14 days of July, the area received approximately 21 inches of desperately needed rainfall. Wilted and left-for-dead brush suddenly blossomed. Grass turned green and began growing. The woods came alive, and all things began to flourish. Quail began to pair up again. Deer rebounded nicely. Insects of all shapes, sizes and kinds were in plenty for quail chicks and turkey poults.

The saturated ground means late sea-

son forb and browse production will be excellent, and all wild animals should benefit. Expect above-average body weights on deer, below-average activity at corn feeders and possibly below-average hunter success on opening weekend. Animal health should remain good to excellent throughout the entire hunting season, and this may spark an earlier-than-normal rutting period in South Texas. Antler production will not be greatly influenced, as the rain fell too late for optimum growth, but we still expect some great deer to be produced this fall. There appeared to be an excellent carry-over of mature bucks in this area from last year and many bucks are reaching very old age classes. The late winter and early spring rains of last year pulled the deer through the hard times in fine fashion, and post-rut mortality did not appear to be a major problem this year.

There will be some impacts on hunters that are not so obvious. Lush vegetation means reduced visibility and deer movement. Reduced deer movement means reduced overall harvest, especially early in the season. Land managers may have difficulty reaching harvest goals.

Quail hunters and their dogs will have to deal with thick cover and reduced visibility, but the quail should be there.

Feral hog hunters should sharpen their knives. Hogs will be fat and sassy this fall, and the drought had little effect on their overall numbers.

— Macy Ledbetter

Summer rains brought relief to parched areas of Texas and its wildlife inhabitants, such as this northern cardinal.



PHOTO © LARRY DITTO

Remember Texas

A new booklet brings to life the characters and places in Texas history.

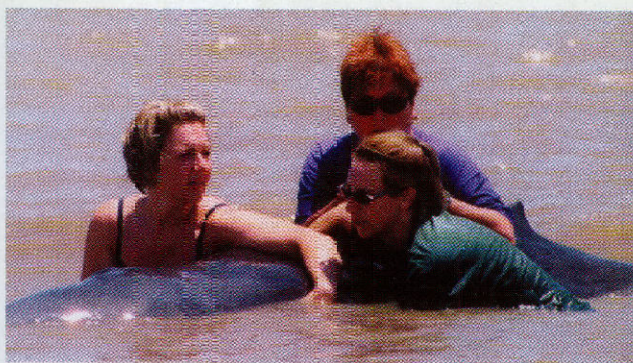


PHOTO © CHESTER MOORE, JR.

Off Course

Normally found far offshore, a pygmy sperm whale showed up on the beach at Sea Rim State Park last summer.

Marine biologists are unsure what caused a lone pygmy sperm whale to become beached at Sea Rim State Park near Port Arthur on July 20.

There is very little literature about the biology and behavior of pygmy sperm whales, *Kogia breviceps*, as they spend their lives far offshore and travel in pods of only five or six. Although they range from Nova Scotia to Cuba, these living miniature replicas of the true sperm whale, *Physeter macrocephalus*, are observed infrequently by scientists and are extremely rare in the Gulf of Mexico. This was the first time a live specimen had ever shown up on a Texas beach.

"When we got the call saying there was a whale in the surf at Sea Rim we were surprised and very concerned about its

A new, free booklet published by the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department reveals there's much more to Texas history than the Alamo.

The larger-than-life characters, compelling and complex web of events, and wild and sacred places that shaped the Texas epic come to life at more than 30 historic forts, inns and other noteworthy sites open to the public.

Remember Texas, a 20-page color booklet, provides vignettes about 14 of those sites and information about all 35 state historic sites. A locator map and site listings are included in the center spread.

To receive a copy of the limited supply of historic sites booklets, request *Remember Texas* from local chambers of commerce and convention and visitors bureaus, Texas Travel Information Centers, the Capitol Visitor Center in Austin and at the historic sites themselves. *Texas Parks & Wildlife* magazine readers may obtain a free copy of the booklet by referring to the ad in the November 2002 issue and circling the corresponding number on the reader service card. Supplies of this free introductory edition guide are limited. The booklet also is available for downloading from the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department Web site: <www.tpwd.state.tx.us>.

—Rob McCorkle

TEXAS READER

CONFLICT on the PLAINS

THE NEAR-EXTERMINATION of the buffalo in the last quarter of the 19th century was, depending on one's point of view, a cultural disaster or the culmination of a century of American nation-building. For the Plains Indians who depended on the buffalo for their very existence, the loss of the buffalo was the last step on the road to reservation life. For the land-hungry Americans who wanted to settle the vast region between the Mississippi River and the Rocky Mountains, getting rid of the buffalo — and thereby the Indians — was the first step toward "civilizing" the area.

Henry Chappell's historical novel *The Callings* portrays this violent and wrenching period in Texas history through the activities of a band of buffalo hunters and the Indians who opposed their intrusion into the Texas Panhandle, which had been reserved to Indian hunters by treaty. Chappell draws the conflict into focus by presenting events from the point of view of both groups while making no judgments about either.

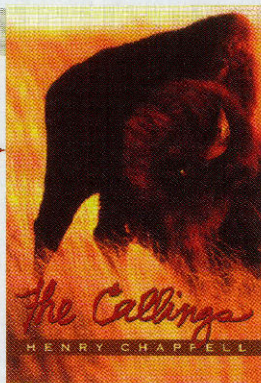
Chappell's writing reveals considerable familiarity with the book's setting — the red lands between the Pease and Canadian rivers — as well as with Plains Indian culture and the business of buffalo hunting.

There is no surprise ending here — the inevitable defeat of the Indians and the virtual disappearance of the buffalo are too well-known. However, the words of one of the characters, Bob Durham, a former slave turned hide hunter, reveal a little-known truth about this era of American history: the actors were well-aware of the significance of their actions. "But when somethin's gone it's gone and when you're lookin' at the last of it, it gets you wonderin' about what you're doin'," Durham philosophizes.

That's still relevant.

The Callings (\$24.95, Texas Tech University Press) is available by calling (800) 832-4042.

—Larry D. Hodge



health," says Celeste Weimer, regional coordinator for the Galveston branch of Texas Marine Mammal Stranding Network (TMMSN).

The whale's condition was extremely poor, with several small shark bites and complications caused by exhaustion and its emaciated state. TMMSN officials carefully moved the sick whale to the National Marine Fisheries Service Laboratory in Galveston for rehabilitation.

"We put it in a rehabilitation pool, but it was not strong enough to swim on its own. We had to help it," Weimer says. Volunteers monitored its condition and assisted with various facets of medical care.

"We did our very best, but the whale was too far gone and died at 6 p.m. Sunday July 21," Weimer says.

An autopsy showed the whale suffered from advanced cardiomyopathy, a disease or disorder of the heart muscle, which

resulted in its death. The animal also had a large infestation of internal parasites and several severe abscesses.

The death of this whale is not surprising. Despite worldwide efforts to help sick or injured pygmy sperm whales back to health, few have survived in captivity. A record of 25 days was set in 1981 and was not broken until 1994 when, after six months, a healthy juvenile pygmy sperm whale was released off the Florida coast.

Although the Sea Rim whale died of natural causes, pygmy sperm whales often are reported to have plastic bags in their stomachs. Both visually and with sonar, plastic bags are similar to some of their prey and get ingested, preventing their stomachs from functioning properly and eventually causing death.

If you see a stranded marine mammal in Texas, call the TMMSN at (800) 9-MAMMAL.

— Chester Moore, Jr.

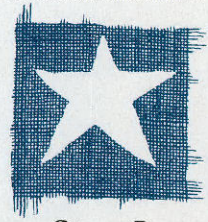
FIELD NOTES

Lone Star Legacy Weekend

OCTOBER BRINGS not only some of Texas' best weather but also celebrations at more than 120 state parks and historic sites for the third annual Lone Star Legacy Weekend, Oct. 19-20. Lone Star Legacy was created in 1998 to establish an endowment fund for every state park, wildlife management area and state fish hatchery. Fun and educational activities and events are scheduled at sites across Texas, including fishing tournaments, concerts, bike rides, dinner theater and living history.

No entry fees will be charged as Texas Parks and Wildlife Department sponsor Toyota has underwritten gate costs for all visitors during the weekend. Visitors will be invited to make a donation to the Lone Star Legacy endowment fund, with 100 percent of each donation going to the fund. For more information, visit <www.tpwd.state.tx.us/lslw>, or call (800) 792-1112, menu option 3.

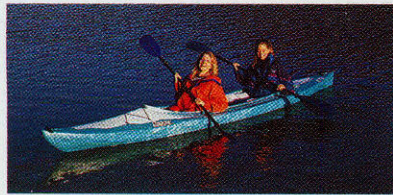
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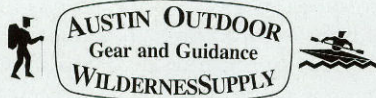
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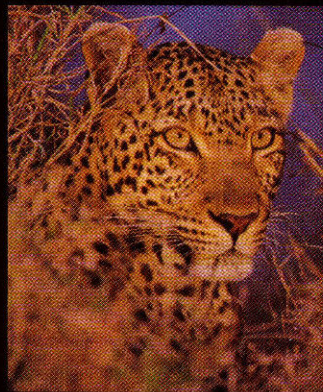
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WILDLIFE EXPO... BIG AS TEXAS

The 11th annual Texas Wildlife Expo offers new activities and brings back some old favorites.

providing hands-on family fun and entertainment while promoting awareness of the need to conserve natural and cultural resources.

Begun as a one-day tribute to hunting and the role of hunters in conservation, Expo has evolved in new directions while remaining true to its outdoor roots. Activities include fly fishing, backpacking, kayaking, living history, wildlife-watching, rock climbing and much more, with all necessary equipment provided. Events are free and open to the public, providing an opportunity for families to try new outdoor activities together.

"Expo is a wonderful opportunity to showcase what TPWD is about," says Executive Director Robert L. Cook. "As Texas has grown and become more urbanized, the natural heritage that is a part of rural living has diminished. The outdoor recreational opportunities that were taken for granted by older generations are not being passed on to new, urban Texans. Expo is one of TPWD's flagship efforts to introduce families



Expo has something for every age. Youngsters can learn to fish or shoot a bow. All ages can learn rock climbing, enjoy watching birds of prey and meet characters from Texas' colorful past.

In October 1992, the first Texas Wildlife Expo attracted some 7,000 visitors to the 35-acre Texas Parks and Wildlife Department headquarters site in Austin, adjacent to McKinney Falls State Park. Last year, a crowd of more than 44,000 visited from all parts of Texas, the nation and even from abroad. All told, more than 350,000 people have come through the gates since Expo's inception, and the event has become the biggest free outdoor show of its kind in the nation.

The two-day outdoor extravaganza marks its 11th anniversary this Oct. 5 and 6 at TPWD headquarters complex in Austin,

to the joys of outdoor recreation."

Expo's early focus on wildlife, hunting awareness and shooting sports expanded rapidly to include fishing and marine life displays. Camping and outdoor skills, including rock climbing and mountain biking, soon were added.

Today, other popular activities include the Last Chance Forever birds of prey demonstration, kayaking and sporting dog demonstrations. New additions like the Texas Rivers display and Design With Nature promote the importance of water and sound ecological practices for Texas ecosystems and habitat. Look, too, for the first use of solar power at Expo,

showcasing TPWD's efforts in conservation.

Last year's introduction, the Outdoor Kids Challenge, gives youth a chance to win hunting, fishing or camping packages which include gear, trips and licenses. Three winners will be drawn daily. Entrants simply visit or participate in a variety of Expo activities to qualify. Entry forms are available at the front gate.

Little Critters Corner, created in 1997, is the perfect place to bring the little ones. They'll crawl into a tipi, hold a bird's nest in their hands, dig in the sand for "dinosaur" bones and vie to earn a Junior Angler pin.

Another popular aspect of Expo is the Outdoor Marketplace, a tented bazaar of gear, garb, guides and destinations. More than 200 exhibitors will be displaying — and selling — everything from wildlife art and jewelry to the latest in fishing gear and camping equipment.

"The event is designed for the entire family, all families," says Cook. "Nearly all the activities are available to both adults and children, and we have many activities specifically for younger children. Expo is about enjoying the outdoors, it is about hunting, fishing, camping. Expo is about our history, our cultural heritage as Texans. Expo is about Texas Parks and Wildlife, and if the people of Texas know about us and what we do, they will support conservation and enjoyment of our natural and cultural resources, and they will support us."

In recent years, other states have sent representatives to Expo to see how it's done "Texas-style." Wyoming has already held its own Expo and Alabama, Colorado and other states will be coming on board next year. Says TPWD Commission Chairman Katharine Armstrong, "It's gratifying Expo has

become a model for this kind of important outreach. We are pleased and proud that it continues to lead the way in expanding the reach of the outdoors to today's youth. Where else can you catch a fish, shoot targets, mountain bike, kayak, see native Texas wildlife, taste wild game and rock climb while learning about the importance of conservation — for free?"

Texas Wildlife Expo remains free to the public through the generous support of its sponsors, including Anheuser-Busch, Inc., The Dow Chemical Company, Toyota, Hewlett-Packard Company and Time-Warner Cable. Additional supporters are Academy Sports & Outdoors, BP America, Careco Multimedia, ChevronTexaco, Coastal Conservation Association Texas, Mossy Oak Camouflage, Weyerhaeuser and Winchester Ammunition.

TPWD, conservation organizations, government agencies, sponsors and more than 3,000 volunteers and staff will host Texas Wildlife Expo 2002. From archery exhibitions and law enforcement displays to fishing instruction and special activities for the youngest children, Expo is designed to keep visitors of all ages engaged for hours.

Expo continues to evolve and change, but the basic goals stay the same: provide the public with a free, interactive, family-oriented experience while educating them about the importance of conservation of our natural and cultural resources. Three tenets, "be safe, obey the law and use it wisely" continue to guide Expo's outreach mission.

For more information on Texas Wildlife Expo, visit the Expo Web pages at <www.tpwd.state.tx.us/expo/> or call (800) 792-1112.

—Ernie Gammage

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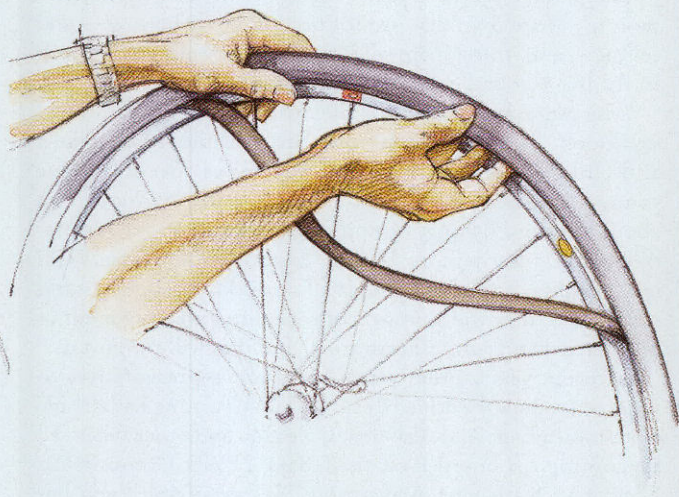
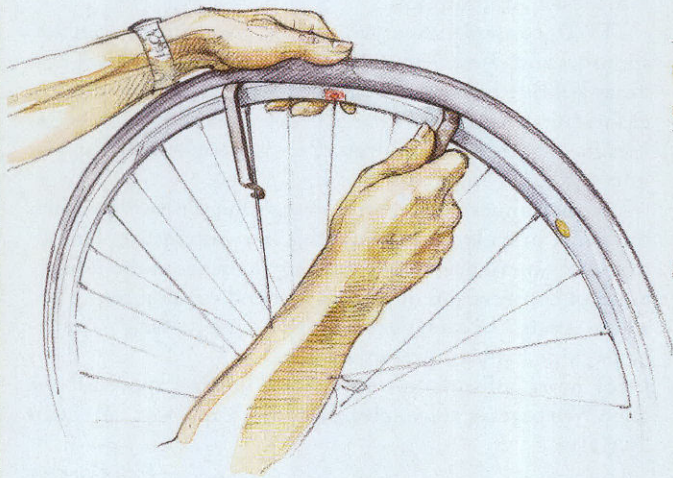
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Fixing Flats

The pros give up tips on how to keep your bike rolling along.

BY DAN OKO / ILLUSTRATIONS BY NARDA LEBO



Traveling the back roads or backcountry without a spare tube and portable pump in case of a flat tire is a mistake most cyclists make only once or twice early in their biking careers. So I'm a little ashamed to admit that in my many years of biking, it's happened to me a handful of times, leaving me at the mercy of the elements on any number of occasions. I can testify firsthand that there are few worse feelings than heading out for a few hours of bicycle-based exploration and being forced to walk your bike over hill and dale while dinner grows cold, just because you weren't prepared.

In short, replacing a flat tire is just about the easiest repair you can make to your bicycle. It doesn't matter whether you're a roadie-in-training or a dedicated off-road hammerhead, you just need a few tools — pump, spare tube, patch kit, tire levers and maybe a small wrench — and a little bit of know-how.

Jay Robinson, an avid bike racer, has worked in the service department at Austin's Cycle 360 bike shop for the past three years. Needless to say, he's got plenty of experience fixing flats. Here's his advice:

1. Check the condition of your tires before every ride. If a tire shows excessive wear or has a hole, invest in a new one. Also pay close attention to your air pressure. Most tires have a maximum (and on mountain bikes a minimum) pounds-per-square-inch (PSI) printed on the side. Pump the front and rear tire to their recommended PSI.

2. When you notice a tire going flat, stop riding to avoid damage to your wheel. Dismount and release the break

Lift one edge of the tire, known as the bead, from the rim. Do not take the whole tire off. Carefully feel the inside of the tire for anything that might have punctured the tube.

mechanism in order to remove the wheel. If the rear wheel has gone flat, shift gears so that the chain hangs loosely between the smallest cog on your rear cassette and the smallest chain ring in front.

3. Flip the bike over so it's resting on the seat and handlebars. Undo the axle skewer by loosening the bolts or opening the quick release. If your bike does not have a quick release, you'll need a wrench that fits the nuts holding the wheel in place. Remove the wheel.

4. Use the plastic tire levers to lift one edge of the tire, known as the bead, from the rim. Do not take the whole tire off. Remove the punctured tube. Carefully, feel the inside of the tire for anything (such as glass or thorns) that might have punctured the tube. Partially inflate your new tube and fit it in the tire. Or you can partially inflate the old tube and look for the leak to patch it.

5. Use your hands or the levers to reset the tire bead in the rim. Fully inflate the tire, and replace the wheel on the bike. If it's the rear, move the derailleur before situating the skewer back in the frame. Reattach the brakes! Spin the wheel and make sure the tire is not rubbing on the brake pads or frame.

Don't be discouraged if it takes a time or two to figure out how to change a flat. After you've done it a few times, changing a flat will be second nature — just like riding a bike. ★

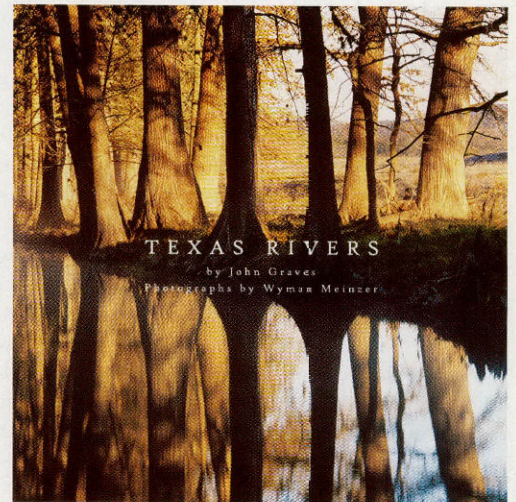
In *Goodbye to a River*, John Graves defined what it means to know a river—as a real place, as a landscape of memory and imagination, and as “a piece of country, [that] hunted and fished and roamed over, felt and remembered, can be company enough.” Readers who’ve taken that canoe trip down the Brazos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

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

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

T E X A S R I V E R S

by John Graves
Photographs by
Wyman Meinzer



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

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Inflatable Boats

Four easy-to-transport watercraft for backwater adventures. / BY GIBBS MILLIKEN

We've come a long way since the times when the only inflatable boat available was a round rubber dinghy. As anyone who's used one can attest, they can be difficult to steer and paddle — and nearly useless in a strong wind.

Fortunately, you can now find a wide range of inflatable watercraft. From float tubes to full-length kayaks or pontoon boats, the new designs are lightweight, easy to pack and made in elongated forms that are easier to maneuver.

For a relaxing way to float or fish in quiet waters, try the smallest inflatable — a one-person kick craft (also known as a "belly-boat"). The **Triad Open Front Float Tube** (\$208.95, Trout Traps, (800) 831-6398, <www.trout-traps.com>) features three separate PVC air bladders covered by durable nylon fabric. The opening front support allows easy entry and exit, and the pointed main tube gives better directional travel with less resistance than earlier round styles. Propelled with the aid of swim fins, it has multiple storage pockets. To save space, deflate the main tube, throw it in the back of the car, then easily top it off with a hand pump when you get to a fishing hole. When fully

deflated, it compacts into a large stuff-bag for air travel, cycling or backpacking.

The next step up in size, weight and features is the pontoon boat. These catcrafts may be kick-propelled or used with a set of light oars. Pontoon boats are not limited to still waters. The larger models can carry two people in fast rivers, with one person using the oars to maneuver difficult passages. Some have added frame supports behind the seat for gear, a battery and trolling motor. They have the advantages of easy mobility and less water resistance, and anglers are positioned higher for sight-casting.

One of the newest models is the one-person **Orvis Pontoon Boat** (\$450, Orvis, (800) 548-9548, <www.orvis.com>), which comes as a complete package with a comfortable two-position swivel seat, adjustable leg rests, aluminum breakdown oars, rod holder, stripping apron and rear anchor system. (Anchor not included.)

Although not all inflatable kayaks are recommended for open seas or large, windy lakes, the 14-foot **Sea Eagle 435 Paddleski** (\$899, Sea Eagle, (631) 473-7308,

Clockwise from top: Sea Eagle 435 Paddleski, Mad Dog Wetlands Kayak; Triad Open Front Float Tube.



<www.seaeagle.com>) is suitable for sea kayaking and is also rated for Class I or II rapids. Twin catamaran-style air chambers meet at the bow, making it unmatched for all-around stability and performance. It can be paddled as a kayak, rowed with oars or powered with a thrust of up to 85 pounds from an electric motor. Optional accessories include a rowing arm kit, deluxe fly fishing high seat, side motor mount, and a sailing rig for open water. This boat can carry two people and camping gear on a two-week

outing with its load capacity of 650 pounds.

The two-person **Mad Dog Wetlands Inflatable Kayak** (\$599.99, Model #H501, Stearns, (800) 697-5801, <www.stearnsinc.com>) is a fun and practical boat that can double as a blind for birders and photographers wanting a silent craft to approach wildlife. It has an 11-foot 8-inch elongated, heavy-duty outer hull and backrest seat. This kayak comes in several models, including the camouflaged hunter/fisher model shown here. Weighing just under 40 pounds, the unit has the advantages of low-profile stealth, stability and portability.

When you use an inflatable boat, always carry with you a good high-volume manual pump. One of the best is the **Double Action Hand Pump** (\$22.99, Model #9341 GRY,

Stearns), which pumps air on both the up and down stroke to either fill or top off the craft. In addition, a 12-volt electric inflator/deflator pump like the **Metro Magic-Air** (\$54, Model #12-IDAR, Metrovac, (800) 822-1602, www.metrovacworld.com) is very convenient if you have a power source. For safety, keep on board an approved personal flotation device (life vest), reflective warning patches, loud safety whistle, waterproof flashlight and the correct patch kit for your boat or float. ☆



When using an inflatable boat, be sure to have a reliable pump such as the **Double Action Hand Pump**, left, or the **Metro magic-Air 12-volt electric pump**.



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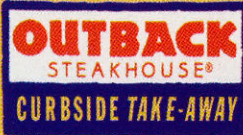

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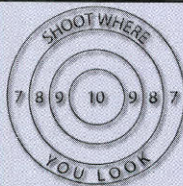
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Texas Safari

A 3 a.m. thunderstorm has left the air smelling as clean as towels on a clothesline.

THE SUN IS PEEPING through breaks in the dissipating clouds as we launch our kayaks into the Brazos River. The river-running is just the beginning of my escape into this scenic and historic part of rural Texas, but the nature of the transport discourages thinking very far ahead. The five of us — mostly novice kayakers — eye each other warily as we bob along, trying to get our balance.

Adam Eyres and Ted Brown of Rhino Ridge Outfitters, our guides for this trip down the Brazos, watch us carefully as we get our bearings. Before we got underway, they instructed us in use of the paddles, gave us each a bottle of water and a protein bar and matched each of us up with the proper kayak.

We're on the part of the Brazos that winds through Somervell County. Just an hour and a half southwest of the Dallas-

Fort Worth Metroplex, we could easily be hundreds of miles and a century distant, so secluded is this part of the river. Thick stands of oaks grow along one side, and a cliff rises on the other. The early morning thunderstorm put plenty of water in the river.

It's fascinating to be low in the water like this, much different from a canoe, to which I am more accustomed. I have trouble keeping my kayak from drifting,



On Fossil Rim's scenic drive and guided tours, visitors get an up-close look at animals from three continents. Safari Camp, right, is a collection of tent-like cabins.

and Ted patiently coaches me on maintaining my course. He also tells me how to paddle more efficiently to conserve my energy. We reach the confluence of the Brazos, Paluxy and Squaw Creek and stop for a quick stretch, then we're off again. Soon we're treated to a riffle, and our kayaks skim over the flowing water.

When we reach the takeout point for this half-day trip, my arms are glad but my spirit wants to stay a little longer. Nevertheless, I bid my companions goodbye and head for Fossil Rim Wildlife Center, my headquarters for these three days in the Glen Rose area.

ANIMAL MAGNETISM

Fossil Rim is a not-for-profit, 1,600-acre wildlife park and research facility set amid the wooded hills of the Cross Timbers region. Visitors may take a self-guided driving tour of the area or go with a guide, which I'll do tomorrow. Tonight I'm staying in the lodge, a gracious, five-bedroom home built of cream-colored Austin stone, cedar and oak. Each room is decorated differently. Fossil Rim also offers lodging in the tent-like cabins of Foothills Safari Camp, where I'll stay on my last night here.

Breakfast is complimentary for guests

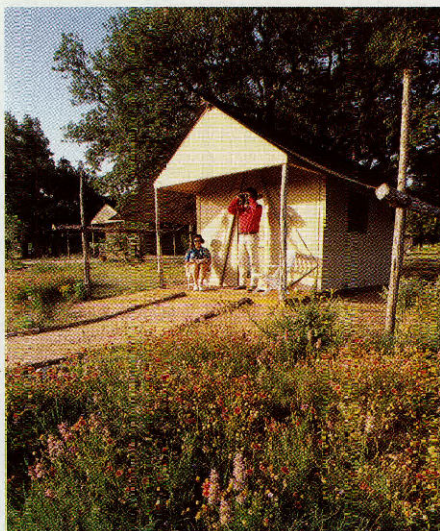


PHOTO BY GRIFF SMITH, TXDOT

staying overnight at Fossil Rim, and on Friday and Saturday nights guests have the option, for an additional charge, of a gourmet dinner. Tonight it's beef tenderloin, grilled vegetables and new potatoes with berry pie for dessert. We dine in the glass-walled Pavilion Dining Room and watch the sun set over the hills as we eat.

The next morning I board an open-air trailer for a tour. Fossil Rim also offers mountain bike tours for a variety of skill levels. Our driver and guide today is naturalist Jan Eussey, who tells us about

Fossil Rim and its mission to conserve endangered species.

As we get underway I see two long, wavy, black sticks emerging from the grass. Then the head they're attached to rises, and Jan identifies the handsome brown and white animal as a blackbuck antelope, a native of India. Asian and African animals dominate the first part of the tour, with Jan providing entertaining and educational commentary along the way. We see addax, sable antelope and scimitar-horned oryx, all endangered or decreasing in population. A curious ostrich comes close for a better look, as does a zebra. Each of us received a cup of animal food before we started, and the two young boys on the tour are thrilled when the giraffes eat right out of their hands. On down the road, we watch a lanky sandhill crane leaping and twirling to get the attention of his mate, who appears indifferent to his efforts.

An advantage of taking the guided tour is the opportunity to visit the Intensive Management Area, where much of the breeding of endangered species takes place. My heart skips a beat when I spot a cheetah lounging in the grass behind a fence, and Jan tells us about Fossil Rim's success in breeding this endangered cat,

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The scenic Paluxy River runs through Dinosaur Valley State Park. Dinosaur tracks are visible in parts of the riverbed when the water is low.

PHOTO BY GRIFF SMITH, TXDOT

the fastest land animal on earth. I ask if they get a chance to run, and she explains that the fenced area encompasses five acres, so they have plenty of room. We see an enormous black rhino and learn about the black rhino babies that have been born here.

The Mexican wolf once inhabited parts of West Texas near the Mexican border; the red wolf was the wolf of the Southeast, and could be found from Central Texas eastward. Both are endangered. At Fossil Rim's breeding facilities, we hop out of the trailer and move from one fence to another, hoping for a look at one of the wolves. Eventually, a red wolf steals toward the fence but remains in the shadows, eyeing us warily. We never do get a glimpse of the Mexican wolf. A lone coati, one of three at Fossil Rim, is visible in a nearby cage. This odd-looking animal, a relative of the raccoon, ranges from South Texas into South America. TPWD game wardens rescued two of Fossil Rim's coatis from people who had illegal possession of them.

Next, we come to pens housing Atwater's prairie chickens. While they're not as big or as imposing as a cheetah or a rhino, it's a sobering thought for me that I'm looking at Texas' most endangered bird. Fewer than 50 remain in the wild. I hear a sound like someone blowing across the top of an empty bottle, and realize I'm hearing the "booming" that used to echo across the coastal prairies of Texas and Louisiana each spring when the birds numbered more than a million. Fossil Rim is one of only five facilities involved

in the captive breeding of this critically endangered bird.

We pile back into the vehicle and take the winding, hilly road back to the headquarters. I end my visit with a trip to the Overlook Café, atop one of the steepest hills at Fossil Rim. I order a sandwich and take it out to the deck, where I enjoy the panoramic view and the zebras and antelopes grazing below.

MAKING TRACKS AT DINOSAUR VALLEY

The next morning I head for Dinosaur Valley State Park, located on the scenic Paluxy River. This is one of the best places in the state to let your imagination run free, to try to picture an ancient sea washing the shoreline as plant-eating dinosaurs graze on lush vegetation and carnivorous dinosaurs stalk the plant-eaters. A mural in the park's visitor center brings this 111-million-year-old scenario to life and is a good starting place for a visit.

The park contains some of the best-preserved dinosaur tracks in the world. The tracks are located in the riverbed, so track-hunters should plan to get their feet wet. But following a heavy rain, such as the one yesterday, the tracks are underwater and not visible. Nevertheless, I take the map I picked up at the visitor center and head for Track Site No. 1, known as the Blue Hole. Two youngsters splash with abandon in this old-time swimming hole, and while the dinosaur tracks are not visible, I marvel at the fact that these giant animals once walked where I'm standing now. I visit the other four track sites, which are well marked and posted with interpretive information.

I head out on the Cedar Brake Trail,

part of a system of hiking trails that wind for seven miles through the wooded countryside. This hilly terrain is remarkably similar to the Hill Country west of Austin, with oaks, mesquites and Ashe junipers. After I cross the river, I wave to a pair of mountain bikers heading toward the scenic overlook at the north end of the park. I reach the north primitive camping area, one of two primitive areas in the park, before turning back.

Before leaving, I stop for a visit with the staff at the state park store. I enjoy looking at the huge variety of dinosaur-related merchandise, something for every age.

SAFARI CAMP

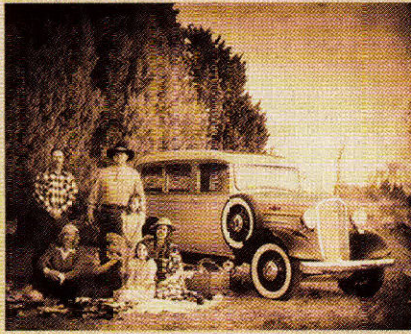
I'm spending my last night in the area at Fossil Rim's Foothills Safari

Camp, a collection of tents that from the outside look just like the ones I've seen on National Geographic specials about African safaris. Inside, they're about the size of a tent, but a ceiling fan spins overhead and a thermostat indicates the presence of central heat and air conditioning. I peek behind a canvas flap and find a modern and well-appointed bathroom.

My tent faces the large watering hole, and I watch the antelope gather there as the day comes to an end. The cicadas start their twilight serenade, joined soon by the rolling, musical rattle of the sandhill cranes.

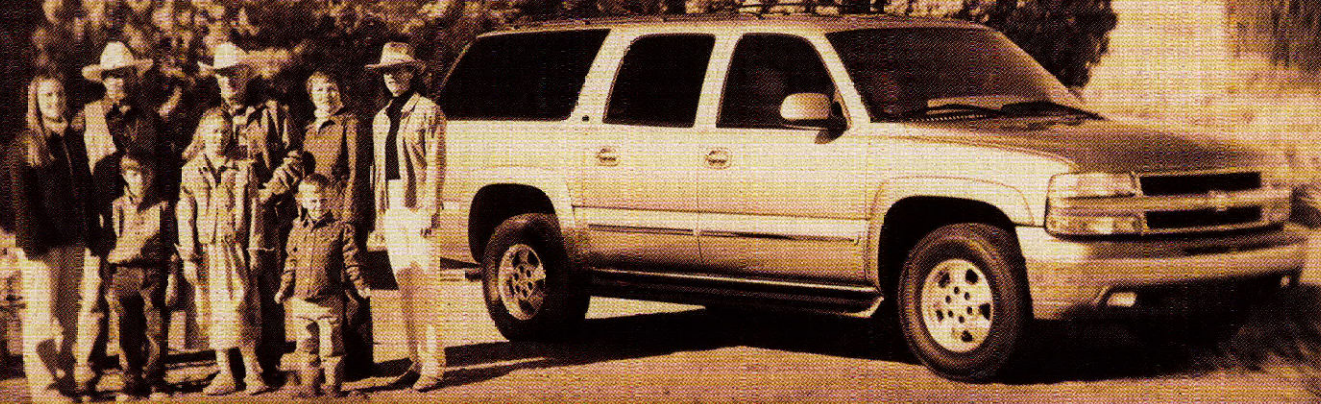
As the sky grows darker, another sound floats across the night air: a low, mournful howl. I peer toward the breeding area, dark now, and picture the Mexican gray wolves. I listen for a moment before going inside my tent, where the sound is softer but no less eerie. Even after the howling stops, it plays over and over in my mind, lulling me into a deep and dreamless sleep. ★

For More Information
 Dinosaur Valley State Park: (254) 897-4588; <www.tpwd.state.tx.us/park/dinosaur/>. For campsite reservations call (512) 389-8900 or go to <www.tpwd.state.tx.us/park/admin/res>. Fossil Rim Wildlife Center: (888) 775-6742, <www.fossilrim.org>. In addition to tours, Fossil Rim offers a variety of activities throughout the year.
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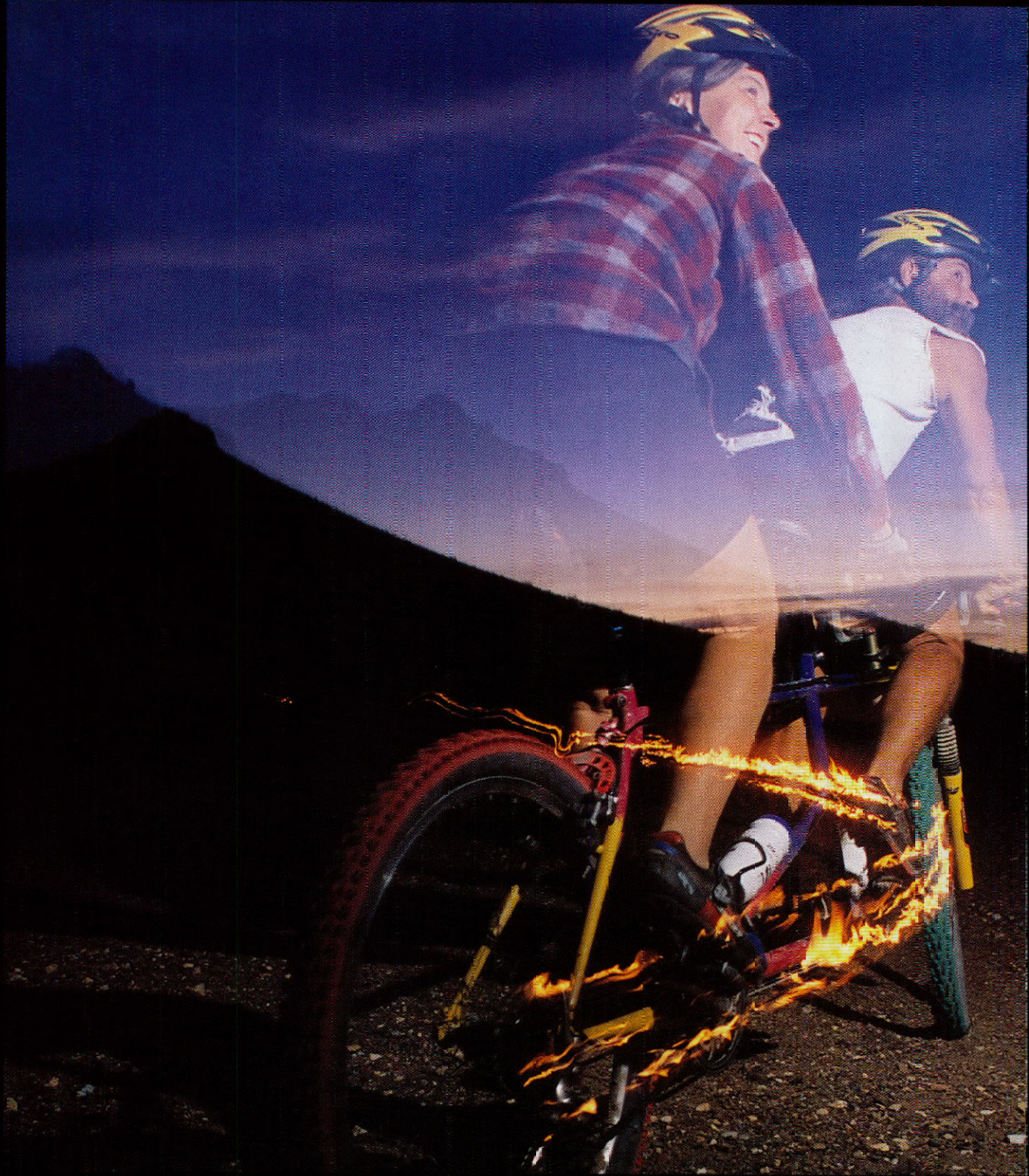
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**BY E. DAN KLEPPER
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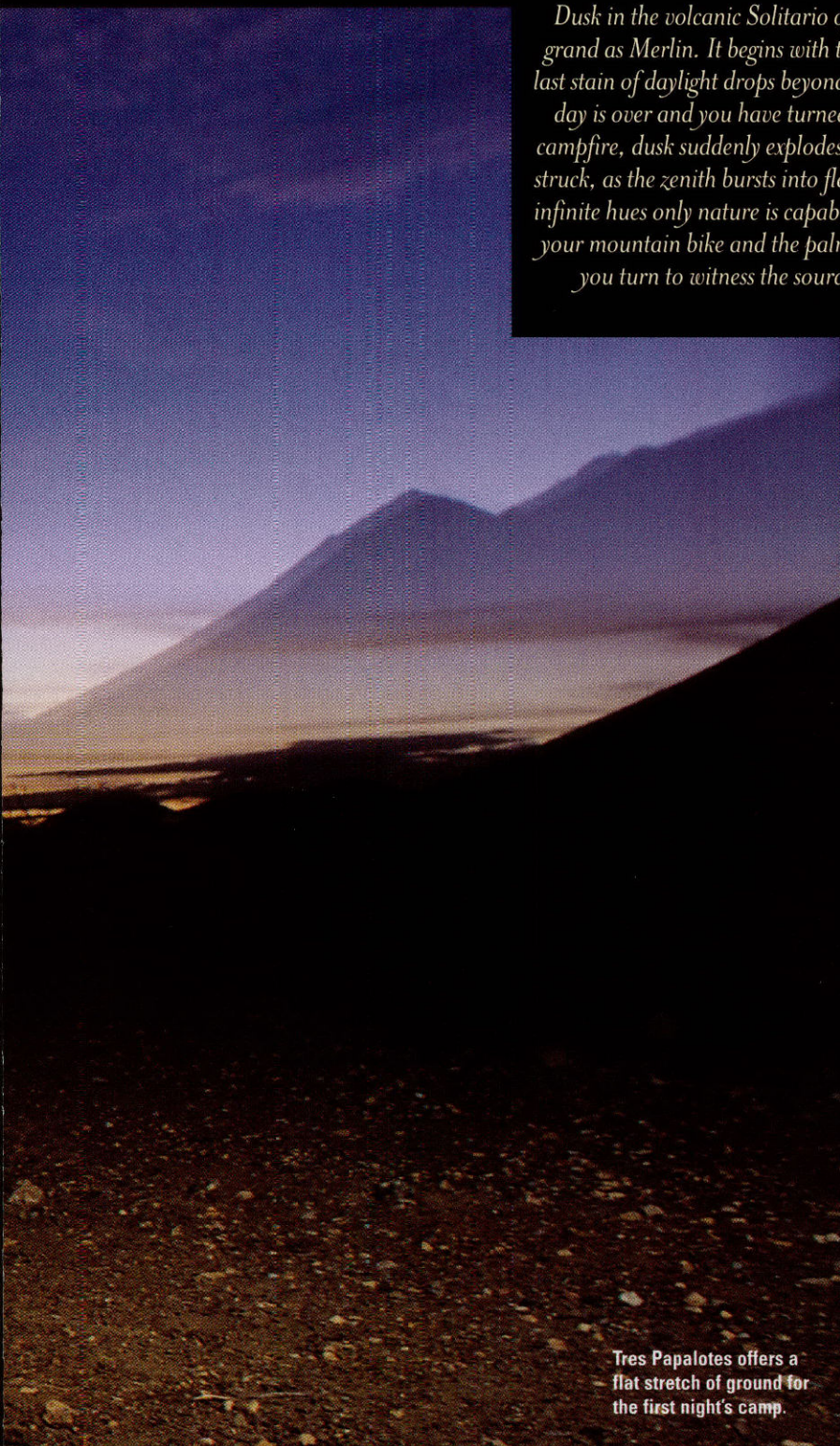


[FOREWORD]

A SKY IN FLAMES

Dusk ~ Infinite Colors ~ Twilight Magic

Dusk in the volcanic Solitario of West Texas often performs a magic trick as old and grand as Merlin. It begins with the sun sinking in a lazy arch across the sky until the last stain of daylight drops beyond the horizon. Then, once you are convinced that the day is over and you have turned away from the remnant light to begin feeding the campfire, dusk suddenly explodes in an eclipse-like flare of color. You pause, dumb-struck, as the zenith bursts into flames of iodine or magenta or tangerine or any of the infinite hues only nature is capable of igniting. The desert stones and your bedroll and your mountain bike and the palm of your hand reflect the dazzling spectrum and, as you turn to witness the source of all that is brilliant around you, it vanishes.



Tres Papalotes offers a flat stretch of ground for the first night's camp.

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BIG BEND RANCH SP

[CHAPTER 1]

OF MYTHS, MEALS AND WHEELS

Three Windmills ~ Only One Left ~ The Adventure Plan ~ A Winding Road ~ A Rowdy Crew ~ Food for All ~ Camp of Comforts

"Tres Papalotes means 'three windmills,'" remarks Mike Long, my guide and the co-founder of Desert Sports, a Big Bend-based outfitter specializing in mountain biking, hiking and rafting the wilds of West Texas and northern Mexico. "It's also the name of our campsite."

Mike is referring to the stretch of desert before us; a pan of hard pack that lies at the core of Big Bend Ranch State Park's Solitario dome. The campsite is distinguished from the surrounding landscape by an empty stock tank and a collapsing tin shack. It is also one of the few relatively level spots I have seen all day. The location offers little unless you are a cowboy in need of shelter, a team of geologists requiring a reference point for their Global Positioning Satellite instrument or, as in my case, a leg-weary biker with a bedroll in search of a flat piece of ground.

The campsite appears more appropriate to the namesake geography (Solitario as in

“solitary”) than it does to its place name Tres Papalotes. As far as I can see, there is only one windmill.

“There used to be three,” Long explains, “but now there’s only enough wind for one.”

Our arrival at Tres Papalotes signals the onset of a three-day adventure tour designed to explore the best that Big Bend Ranch State Park has to offer. The experience includes challenging mountain bike rides, hiking through dramatic canyons and what will be the favorite at the end of each day—relaxing around a campfire and savoring meals conjured in cast iron over hot coals.

This first day’s trek, a 17-mile mountain bike hump from the Big Bend Ranch State Park headquarters to the heart of the Solitario, has been a snaking roustabout across a terrain thrust upward and folded onto itself by geologic turmoil. Distances here, relatively short as the raven flies, require that all wingless take the long way around. And just where you end up may prove no less remote than where you began.

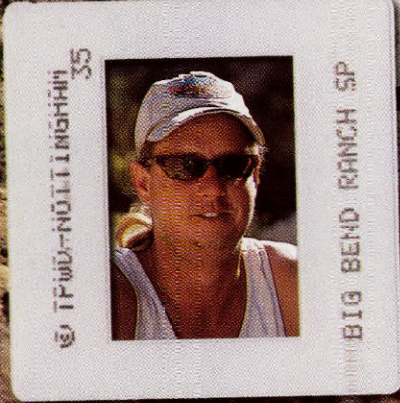
In addition to Long, a rowdy and athletic crew versed in outdoor skills has joined me in this adventure, including five members of Long’s Desert Sports staff and this magazine’s art director. As if on cue, we complete the day’s ride by dismounting our bikes just as the chuck wagon opens for business. We are fully supported for the expedition, exchanging the ornery pack animals of the previous century for a modern four-wheel-drive sag—the support vehicle that carries all the food and gear—laboring under enough outfitting for an extended stay and a welcome array of sustenance, including ready-to-eat snacks. I graze freely while the camp is set up and dinner ensues. Luckily, as I am merely the chronicler of this adventure and not the enabler, there is nothing for me to do but eat, relax and gaze lazily into the campfire watching for signs of ancient stories to ignite, flicker and blaze.

CHAPTER 2 LABYRINTH OF TIME

Dawn Scuffle ~ Rain ~ The Solitario ~ Meteor or Volcano

Dawn finds me wrestling free of my bedroll to try to catch a glimpse of coyotes quarreling just above camp. Guayacan, creosote and catclaw mimosa cast a reflecting hint of dew before the rising sun blanches the desert white. A wandering rain falls to the south; the moisture breaks loose from stubborn skies yet never reaches the ground. Fat javelinas scramble up the side of a steep bluff that crumbles with igneous shatter. The rock is a signature from the hand of the ancient Solitario dome and dominates the sweep of spires and pinnacles and slabs now pinned against the lightening sky, exposing the master of all I can see.





Staff from Desert Sports, a Big Bend-based outfitter, participating in the three-day trip include (clockwise from top) Jeff Renfrow and Rebecca Evans, Zach Hubbard, J.R. Sullivan.

The Solitario dome is one of the most unusual formations on earth. To cross it is a daunting task, as it offers no straight lines to follow and its manifestation, eight miles in diameter, can be distinguished clearly in satellite photography.

A giant mound with a collapsed center harboring rock unlike any other in the area, the Solitario offers a startling revelation into the construction of our planet. Some geologists interpret the dramatic crater at its center as the work of a meteor — not necessarily an implausible theory, since it is based on several meteor craters occurring in West Texas. However, others contend that the entire Solitario is the result of the volcanic activity that has traditionally wrought havoc on the Big Bend region. The Solitario dome is a maze of intrusions and ruptures formed millions of years ago by a mole of magma that pushed the earth upward, folding and shoving rock outward in its wake. Rather than erupting fully, the dome blew an edge like a tire pinched flat. Relieved of pressure, the magma mound cooled, leaving the surface to cleave and shatter and erode into a labyrinth of time. The legacy of such an event is now our pleasure to discover and explore.

CHAPTER 3

EAT, DRINK, RIDE

Warm Up ~ Riders Setting Pace ~ Choices Abound

The second day's ride begins with a hearty meal and a round of Frisbee to fuel and warm up. Water bladders are filled and packs are supplied with a choice of favorite energy snacks. Our guide, Mike Long, and Desert Sports' Crystal Allbright have chosen to push a rock-hopping tandem through the scrub while the rest of us, eight in all, mount up on our own wheels and head out at personal paces chosen by the individual rider. There is no hurry. A 14-mile loop around the core of the Solitario can take all day if desired.

Leisurely or not, the ride offers the best of challenges, including humpy jeep track, stretches of relatively thorn-free draws, speedy straightaways, chattering downhills and quad-burning climbs. The intensity is left for the rider to choose with impunity. I was free to dismount the bike and walk through the roughest treks without suffering the taunts of skilled veterans, giving me a chance to examine the wildlife and the cataclysmic geography. Then, if inspired, I could dive into the thrill, catch air, surf sand, and ingest a constant dose of adrenaline that transformed an already astonishing landscape into a dream.

KODAK
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CHAPTER 4

FLORA AND FAUNA

Thorn Warnings ~ Rocks ~ Making Friends

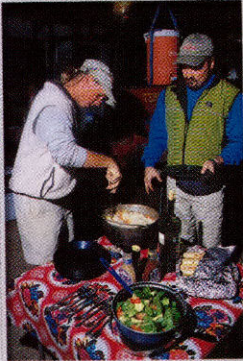
The Latin name for the whitethorn acacia, *Acacia constricta*, is fitting nomenclature for the bane of West Texas mountain bikers. *Acacia* means sharp, hard and pointed, and *constricta*, as defined by the experienced rider, alludes to limiting a tire's ability to retain air. Eight of the 10 species of Texas acacia occur in the Trans-Pecos region, and this adventure found the expedition members on intimate terms with at least two: the whitethorn and the aptly named "catclaw."

Native Texans are all too familiar with catclaw acacia, a plant that mimics its namesake by lounging quietly in wait until a victim walks or rides by. Then it casually slices a threadlike row of pain across the arm or shin. Catclaw, like its mammal namesake, is best left undisturbed. A rider's possible defense against both, I learned, includes a good set of slime-filled tubes (designed to modify punctures and available at most bike stores) and a comfortable pair of riding pants.

Thorn confrontations can be minimized during a Solitario ride, but rocks are unavoidable. You will find the mini-rock, the maxi-rock, the smooth, the round, the jagged and the monolithic. All exhibit the same unwillingness to move regardless of variety. Rocks in this country are cantankerous; shift a stone in the Solitario, and the void created by the rock's absence will retain the orneriness of its missing half.

Despite the landscape's challenges, and perhaps because of them, I discovered that most obstacles could be overcome simply by cooperating with the bike in a friend-

© TPOW-HOLLINGHAM 35



BIG BEND RANCH SP

35



BIG BEND RANCH SP

A hearty meal begins and ends each day. Duct tape comes in handy to staunch the inevitable bloodletting.



LEAVE IT TO TEXAS TO HANDCRAFT

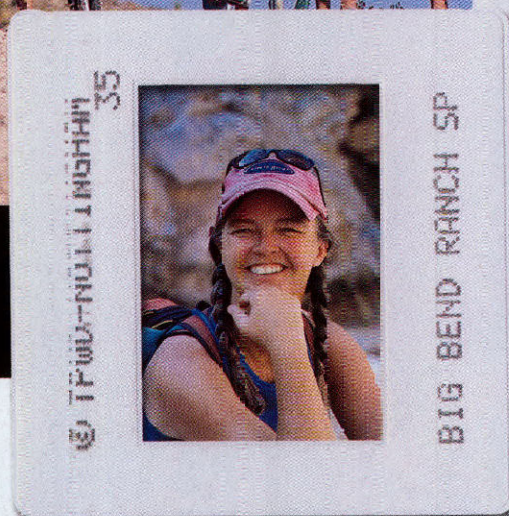
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The riders crest a ridge in the challenging and complex terrain. Desert Sports' Crystal Allbright, below left, and Rebecca Evans, below, lend their expertise and energy to the trip.



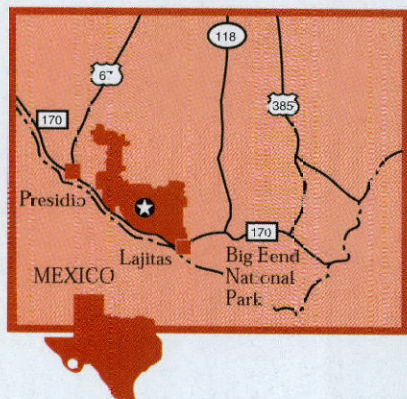
Getting There

For information on Big Bend Ranch State Park and the Solitario, go to www.tpwd.state.tx.us/park/bigbend/ or call the park at (915) 229-3416. For general information about this and other state parks in the Big Bend region, call (800) 792-1112.

For information about Desert Sports outfitter, (888) 389-6900 or www.desertsportstx.com, info@desertsportstx.com.

The Barton Warnock Environmental Education Center, located between Terlingua and Lajitas on Highway 170, can be reached at (915) 424-3327. Fort Leaton State Historic Site in Presidio can be reached at (915) 229-3613 or www.tpwd.state.tx.us/park/fortleat/.

Good Luck! Godspeed and May Adventurers Prevail!



ly, helpful manner. If I am nice to my bike, it is nice to me in return. But if I abandoned my bike in a descending plummet, it would lie down and play dead. If I ignored my bike's need for speed in a sandy wash, it would turn around and bite me in the leg to capture my attention. And if I attempted to jump over obstacles larger than, say the bike, I usually completed the maneuver alone.

However, there was never a disruption in my pleasure ride that couldn't be overcome with a wrench and some duct tape. The bike enjoyed the tweaking and attention and rarely minded the occasional realignment. The duct tape, on the other hand, came in handy to staunch my blood-letting.

CHAPTER 5 WHEEL ME ON!

Restite ~ A Walk Through the Ages ~ Riding Again ~ Kindly Light

The adventure's final day brings an afternoon's respite from a long workout in the saddle with a short ride and a hike through the Solitario's Lower Shut-up.

The Shut-up, a major canyon drainage that begins in the dome's core and ends with a wide sprawl toward the Rio Grande, peels away the ages in a vertical illustration of the region's volatile past. The canyon walls alternate in direction, height, composition, form, hue and proximity in an overwhelming variation that makes even the most hardened of Texas rock hounds gape.

But it is the send-up of light and shadow within the canyon that showcases the real alchemy of the place. Its ethereal nature suppresses all sense of time, allowing a simple hike to last for hours. The imperceptible decline from mountain to sea in the soft canyon floor draws the hiker farther and deeper into the canyon's realm. A peregrine falcon's pass and the cottonwood's shudder and the gentle impression of paws left by cougar in damp sand assemble and dissolve in the canyon glade.

We retrace our steps late in the day and return on bikes to break camp. It is a pleasure to ride again and navigate the terrain with a confidence born of familiarity. Any reservations about riding the Solitario brought on by the unknown are dispelled with memories of the track, fresh but made permanent. As I ride my leisurely pace through the remains of the day, I recall

Valuable Riding Tips

(Worth more than their Weight in Camp Brownies) From the DYNAMIC and ATHLETICALLY GIFTED Desert Sports team.

"Avoid a death grip on the handlebars. Stay relaxed."

— Jeff "Midnight Rider" Renfrow

"Pick a solid line and COMMIT!"

— Zach Attack Hubbard

"Pace yourself. Take it easy and don't burn up. Then turn it on when you see THE NEED FOR SPEED!"

— Jumpin' J.R. Sullivan

"Float with the bike. Trust it. Let it bounce. Set it free."

— Crystal Clear Allbright

the words of a bicyclist's hymn of sorts, a song meant for a more pious man than I, but fulfilling all the same:

"Wheel, kindly light, along life's cycle path,

Wheel Thou on me!

The road is rough,

I have discerned Thy Wrath,

but Wheel me on!"

AFTERWORD

IT'S FULL OF STARS!

Greatest Features ~ The Solitario's Seduction ~ Lighting a Lantern ~ Shadows and Talismans ~ Illuminating Your World

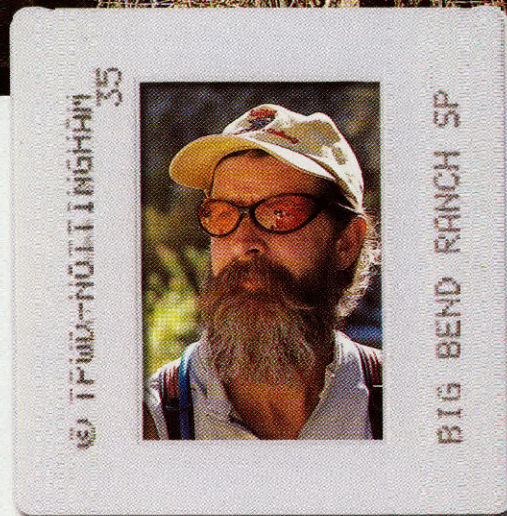
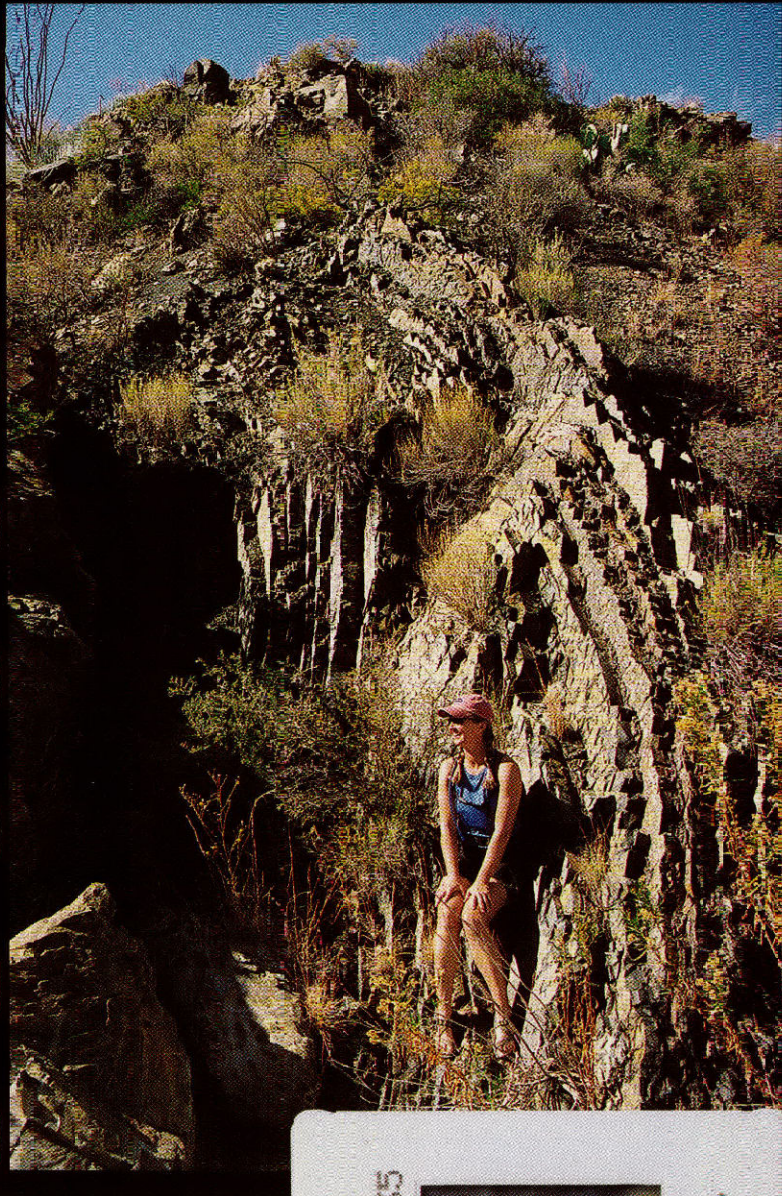
In a Solitario adventure, broad vistas made parchment by twilight and a sky-high sense of freedom and release dominate the dome's list of greatest attractions. But it is the geology's abrupt abandonment of daylight that truly lies at the core of its seduction. Once darkness descends, in the time it takes to light a lantern, you begin to witness the unraveling of an infinite universe above your head.

Below, a meal is enjoyed, good will is exchanged, and the evening finally settles in the guttering of the wick. As you slip into your bedroll surrounded by the talismans that accompany all adventurers — the book, the lamp, the knife, and the cup — you realize that they have become only shadows of objects in the absence of a sun, yet they are illuminated nonetheless. The starlight that falls over them is older than the ground you lie upon and, in that silent and perfect moment, it is shining just for you. ★

Bike Doctor

Desert Sports' **MIKE LDNG** (right) suggests that you perform the following bike checklist at least a week before your adventure to maximize your riding pleasure:

- 1. Give your bike a once-over** and make sure all the screws, nuts and bolts are snug.
- 2. Listen as the bike rolls**, shifts gears and brakes. Make sure there are no funny noises.
- 3. Check your bike pump for loose parts.** Over time, ride vibrations may have caused your pump to disassemble itself while attached to the bike frame mount.
- 4. Review your patch kit.** If you haven't patched a tire in a while, your glue may have evaporated even though it might look like you have a full can.
- 5. Give your bike a thorough tune-up** or have your local bike shop do it if you haven't had one in a while. Then ride it for a day before taking it on the trail to make sure all the kinks have been worked out.







BORDER CROSSINGS

Eight great Tex-Mex
outdoor adventures

*LOOK TO OUR NEIGHBORS
TO THE SOUTH FOR A NEW TWIST —
AND NEW VISTAS — TO SPICE UP
YOUR NEXT EXPEDITION.*

1. Birds in the Cloud Forest

El Cielo Biosphere Reserve

In convenient reach of the Rio Grande Valley is a birder's paradise, a jewel of biodiversity where tropical and temperate species coexist. El Cielo is "the sky" in Spanish, and you'll find the possibilities almost that limitless in this unique preserve. Lying along an important migratory route, it is the northernmost cloud forest in the world. El Cielo is home to species such as the Tamaulipas pygmy-owl, and it embraces the northernmost range of the barred antshrike, red-lored parrot, squirrel cuckoo and other tropical

eral nature study excursions, including botany, geology and a lot of hiking. All tours offer an opportunity to interact with the inhabitants of the reserve and to learn more about their culture.

How to get there: Tour buses depart from Brownsville, Harlingen or McAllen, depending on tour dates. The reserve is located about 300 miles south of Brownsville.

Best time to go: Tours are scheduled year-round except during August and September, the most rainy months. Peak butterfly abundance is usually October to November. Birding is better in May and June, but there's plenty to see year-round.

Farias, a tropical mecca for a diverse population of about 100 species of birds and 500 species of butterflies. Endemic and regional bird species, including crimson-collared grosbeaks, green parakeets and red-crowned parrots, are sighted here frequently, and butterflies such as Anna's eighty-eight, telegone eyemark and regal hairstreak often are seen fluttering through the countryside. The surrounding tropical river valleys prove a popular hangout for the stunning peleides morpho,



birds. Keep your eyes and ears keen for the thicket tinamou, black-headed nightingale-thrush and yellow-throated euphonia. Don't be surprised if you add some "lifers" to your list.

The Tamaulipas Wildlife Commission and Texas Parks and Wildlife Department offer a four-day, three-night tour of this majestic cloud forest.

The tours, which include transportation from South Texas, accommodations, meals, guide services and cultural programs, are scheduled throughout the year and cost anywhere from \$750 to \$900. Some tours specialize in birding, and others are gen-

Contact: Tamaulipas Wildlife Commission, telephone 52-834-318-9477 (Spanish only); e-mail <vidasilvestre@hotmail.com> or <maria.araujo@tpwd.state.tx.us>.

— Maria Araujo

2. Birds and Butterflies

El Cielo Biosphere Reserve

If you're up for a longer and more rigorous tour that includes El Cielo, try this nine-day bird and butterfly tour of Northeastern Mexico.

Part of the first few days is spent scouting the lush forest above Gomez

ruby-spotted swallowtail and many-banded daggerwing, among others. You won't want to go anywhere without your binoculars.

Hang on for a bumpy ride up a rough mountain road leading to Rancho del Cielo, a biological research station that provides access to the reserve. Located at the climate transitional zone between North and



Central America, the reserve boasts a panorama of four distinct ecosystems: tropical jungle, mountain forest, pine-oak forest and dwarf oak and heath forest. Spend the days in the orchard and gardens nearby or venture to higher elevations, where you can encounter bumblebee and amethyst-throated hummingbirds, mountain trogon and possibly even military macaw.

This nine-day, all-inclusive tour costs about \$2,000.

How to get there: This tour begins

Visitors to Mexico's El Cielo Biosphere Reserve, the northernmost cloud forest in the world, might see a green parakeet, top left, macaws or *Diaethria anna*, a butterfly known as eighty-eight. Hunters at Las Palomas de Loma Colorado will find plenty of geese, right.



and concludes in Brownsville, with overnight stays in Ciudad Mante and Rancho del Cielo. (Visas are required of U.S. travelers and may be purchased for about \$20 each at checkpoints a few miles from the border.)

Best time to go: The annual tour is scheduled during peak butterfly activity, usually in October or November.

Birding is better in May and June because of breeding activity, though there's plenty to see year-round.

Contact: WINGS offers a variety of worldwide birding tours, including this all-inclusive expedition to Northeastern Mexico. Call (888) 293-6443, (520) 320-9868 or visit <www.wingsbirds.com> for more information.

—Erica H. Brasseur

3. Hunting Gansos

Northern Mexico

Hunting *gansos* — geese — at Las Palomas de Loma Colorado wingshoot-



ing resort can spoil you. Preparations for the hunt begin at 2 a.m. While you slumber peacefully at the lodge, workers go to the hunt site and dig an individual pit — complete with dirt “bench” — for each hunter. After a full breakfast, your guide drives you to the field, arriving just before first light. The same workers who dug the blinds have also set out a decoy spread. As you sit in your blind, with your eyes just above ground level, you are completely hidden by stalks of milo all around. When the guide spots geese in the distance and cranks up two electronic calls, you

finally get to go to work.

Hunting this way contrasts starkly with rising at 4 a.m. and slogging around in a muddy rice field setting out hundreds of decoys. There may be fewer geese in Mexico than along the Texas Coast, but hunting pressure is lighter and the geese less spooky. Snow geese, Canadas and white-fronted geese are all present in plenty.

A four-day, three-night hunt with all accommodations, meals, ground transportation to and from Texas, guides, gun, shells — everything — runs about \$3,365. (Mexican law is testy about United States firearms and ammunition, even when the owners are law-

abiding sport shooters. Obtaining a permit to bring your gun is possible but can be a hassle. Best to accept the offer of the outfitters' guns and shells.)

How to get there: The resort is located in the small town of San Fernando, about 85 miles south of McAllen. All hunting packages include transportation to and from McAllen.

Best time to go: Goose hunting season is November through February.

Contact: Las Palomas de Loma Colorado, (800) 375-4868, <www.oaww.com>.

—Larry D. Hodge

EL CIELO © LARRY DITTO; SNOW GESE © JOHN R. FORD



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Bill Ireland

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Sandi Beitzel

Influential member of DU, National Wild Turkey Federation, The Nature Conservancy, National Wildlife Federation, Nalleys For Tomorrow and Big Game. She led the Wisconsin Ladies of DU and the nation in events, members and 1.77 million dollars raised for conservation. On the DU national board since 1998, she's risen to Regional Vice President, North Mississippi Flyway.



Mike Simpson

World hunter, taxidermist and Texas rancher, Mike's a Life Member and current Chair of The Safari Club International Conservation Committee. He helped initiate the Jaguar Mexico and a program to take city youth on their first hunts and fishing trips. Locally, he gives slide presentations to school kids on ethical sport hunting, conservation and community involvement.



Cheryl Haralson

Known as the Arkansas "Elk Lady", Cheryl was the second woman on the National Board of RMEF, is a member of the Arkansas Game and Fish Commission Elk Committee and is a moving force in the success of Arkansas' elk herd. She is a sponsor member of her local chapters of DU and NWF. Supporter of Becoming An Outdoors Woman and she volunteers across the state making conservation presentations to schools.

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4. Mariposas in Mexico *Chipinque Ecological Park*

Nestled into the side of the Sierra Madre Oriental that cradles Monterrey, Chipinque Ecological Park is home to countless birds and butterflies. Many butterfly species that only occasionally stray north of the Rio Grande can be seen here in numbers. Look for such rare treats as *Debora cycadians*, with gold-spotted black wings resembling stars on a midnight sky, and Gilbert's flashers, whose name derives from brilliant iridescent blue scales covering their body and wing bases.

A stream flowing down the mountainside provides tranquil background noise and a tropical backdrop for iridescent rainbow skippers feeding at a stand of flowers. Also in search of nectar, dancing zebra longwings and stout Mexican silverspots hover above patches of abundant lantana flowers maintained near the visitors' center. Higher up in the park's lush pine-oak forest, a black female broad-banded swallowtail with subtle blue trim is courted by a boldly patterned black and yellow male.

On a crisp fall day, you are likely to encounter monarch butterflies, sometimes in the millions, as they stream through the mountain passes on their way to their winter home in the boreal forests of Central Mexico. As night creeps into the forest, the swirling masses of orange-black wings retire, hanging in pendant clusters in the tall pines.

Bring your binoculars, of course, and don't forget your life list.

Guided tours are recommended, though the park is open to the public year-round. A guided four-day tour, which includes all expenses and travel from McAllen, runs approximately \$750. Increase the fun by checking out the Texas Butterfly Festival in Mission before heading south to Monterey.

How to get there: Chipinque Park is located about 140 miles southwest of McAllen and about an equal distance south of Laredo.

Best time to go: Chipinque is best in the fall, but with the wide range in elevations, a visit any time can be productive.

Contact: Most tours are taken in conjunction with various nature festivals. For tour information, contact Ray Bieber, (956) 631-4933, <raybieber@msn.com>. To learn more about the Texas Butterfly Festival, visit <www.texasbutterfly.com>.

—Mike Quinn

5. Fishing Lake Amistad *Del Rio*

Spice up your next fishing trip with some authentic Tex-Mex flavor on Lake Amistad, where Hill Country, chaparral and desert converge. Created by a six-mile-long dam built jointly by the U.S. and Mexico, the lake is basically a rock canyon filled with 67,000 acres of dramatically blue water (thanks to the area's abundant limestone). Fed by the Rio Grande, Pecos and Devils rivers, Amistad is one of the largest, clearest lakes in Texas and Mexico, and is well-known for its trophy strippers and gigantic catfish. Largemouth bass are the most popular and most abundant sportfish in the reservoir, while channel and blue catfish and other species of bass, sunfish and gar are present in good numbers.

And if you're not having luck on one side of the lake, simply cruise across the U.S.-Mexico boundary buoys located in the middle of the lake and give the other country a try. The Mexican side has a marina, and a Mexican fishing license (sold at most U.S. marinas) is required if you fish that side. Texas bag and length limits apply.

How to get there: The U.S. portion of Lake Amistad is accessible 10 miles north of Del Rio on US 90. Large boat ramps and marinas are located at Rough Canyon (US 277) and Diablo East (US 90).

Best time to go: Largemouth bass anglers are most successful during the fall, winter and spring. The best action for white bass is from late January through March, when whites migrate up rivers to spawn. Catfish anglers can find channel and blue catfish throughout the lake year-round.

Contact: Several boat rental and fishing guide services are available. Visit



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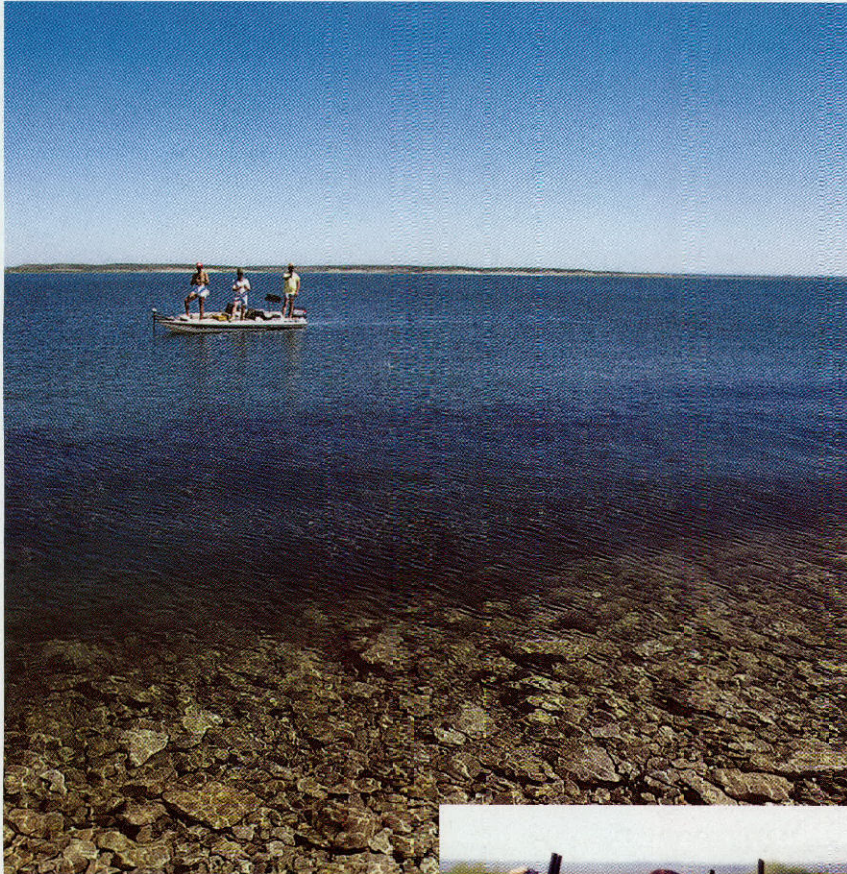
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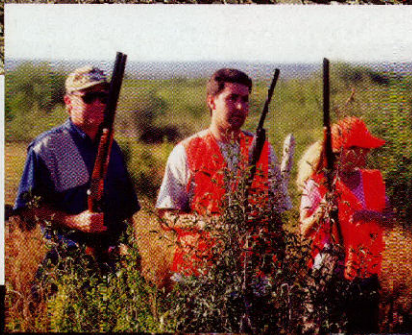
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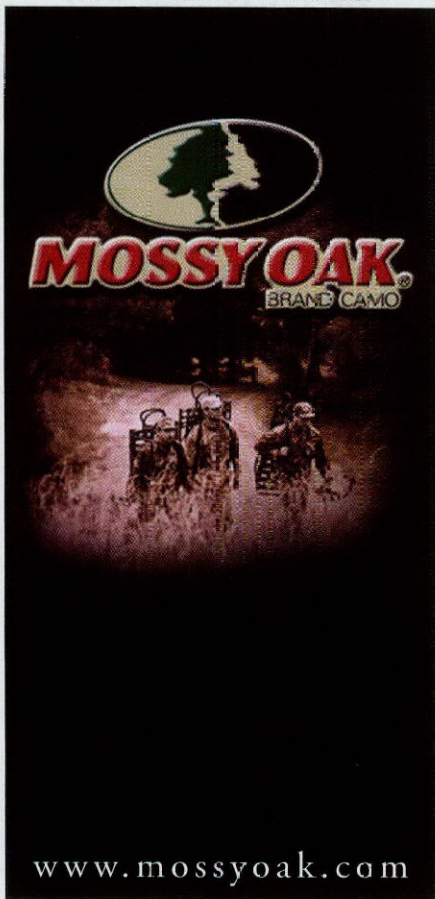
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The clear blue waters of Lake Amistad, above, yield large striped bass and catfish. Rancho Caracol, right and below, offers wingshooters a chance at geese, ducks, quail and doves.



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—Erica H. Brasseux

6. Wingshooting

Rancho Caracol

Hunting at Rancho Caracol is a lesson in patience, but not because you won't see any birds. Imagine yourself hunkered down in a pit in the middle of a grain field surrounded by 300 decoys, while thousands of geese start descending right on top of you. The trick is being able to control your adrenaline enough to wait until your guide tells you to shoot.

That breathtaking experience is matched by the dove and quail hunting. This 11,000-acre wing-shooting ranch is situated in the heart of Mexico's grain-producing region, which sustains some of the best whitewing dove and bobwhite quail populations in the country. Twenty coveys during a day in the field is typical, along with some great dog action, a lot of fast, high-flying birds, and plenty of bragging rights back at the hacienda at nightfall. And the ducks? Pintails, redheads, three kinds of teal, wigglers, shovelers, gadwals — the list goes on and on.

For reasons of legality and convenience discussed above, using the out-

fitter's 12- or 20-gauge Berettas is recommended.

All hunting packages include transportation from Harlingen, accommodations, meals, shotguns and shells, game-cleaning and English-speaking guide services. Prices for three-day hunts range from \$1,895 to \$3,395 per person; bass fishing packages also available.

How to get there: You will be met at the Harlingen airport and driven to Rancho Caracol, located in the Mexican state of Tamaulipas about three hours south of Brownsville.

Best time to go: Mexico hunting seasons are August through October for whitewing doves and November through February for mixed wing (mourning dove/quail/duck).

Contact: For more information visit <www.ranchocaracol.com> or call (888) 246-3164.

—Erica H. Brasseux

7. Birding: Rancho Rincon de Anacahuatas

South of the Rio Grande Valley

The 30,000-acre Rancho Rincon de Anacahuatas (Corner of the Olive Trees) is the largest contiguous protected area of natural habitat near the Rio Grande, and it is a must-do day trip for any birder visiting the Valley. An international site of the Western Hemisphere Shorebird Reserve Network, the wonderfully diverse habitat consists of 72 miles of Gulf

shoreline, coastal marshes, freshwater ponds, grasslands and other low vegetation: more than 420 species of birds find sustenance and refuge here throughout the year.

From Chihuahuan ravens and curve-billed thrashers to yellow-billed cuckoos and Altamira orioles, you gape and gasp at every turn as the van bumps along the tire-tracked dirt paths that wind through the brush. While exploring by foot and by van provides stunning access to a variety of species like horned larks, red-winged blackbirds, ladder-backed woodpeckers and scissor-tailed flycatchers, an afternoon boat tour offers a great change of pace.

A deep-hulled fiberglass fishing boat proves to be a convenient vessel for puttering along the waters of the Mexican Laguna Madre, which the sunlight turns gold. The lagoon is dotted with about 600 small islands. On their shores, numerous posts guide fish into traps of net, and these attract dozens of birds: brown pelicans, neotropic cormorants, and gull-billed, royal, Forster's and least terns.

By land or water, Rancho Rincon de Anacahuatas bestows an eyeful of avian activity year-round. Tours cost about \$105 and include an authentic Mexican lunch.

How to get there: The ranch is located about 45 miles south of Brownsville along Mexico 101.

Best time to go: Tours are scheduled each July in conjunction with the Brownsville International Birding Festival. Private group tours for parties of 10 or more are available year-round by reservation only.

Contact: For information about the birding festival tour, contact the Brownsville Convention and Visitors Bureau at (800) 626-2639, (956) 546-3721 or <www.brownsville.org>. To arrange private group tours, call ranch owner Jorge Martinez at (956) 541-2777 (Spanish only).

—Erica H. Brasseur

8. Races and Recreation

Samalayuca

Test your stamina against that of the Tarahumara Indians, famed long-dis-

tance runners who live a semi-nomadic existence at high elevations at least part of the year. Chihuahua's annual Adventure Tourism Festival, held from mid-July to mid-August, features several grueling events involving triathlons and individual foot and bicycle races in Copper Canyon and other remote places throughout the state. The event closest to the Texas border is "Aventura en Dunas" in Samalayuca, an ecosystem reminiscent of Monahans Sandhills State Park and White Sands National Monument.

Samalayuca, located in the Chihuahuan Desert just south of El Paso, is an ever-changing gypsum dune field stretching approximately 150 square kilometers. Dunes are usually stabilized by vegetation, but Samalayuca is one area where dunes actively grow, crest and change shape in response to seasonal prevailing winds. The resulting landscape is unique and ephemeral.

In this challenging desert environment, you can sign up for the "Carrera Extrema" and set out to bike 100 kilometers over dunes lighted by a full moon. The race takes about 12 hours and is the only one of its kind in the world. If you're a runner, try the 10K foot race. Or round up teams for the triathlon, called "Ecotlon," which includes running, rappelling and bicycling. Beach volleyball and sandboarding are other activities you can enjoy.

How to get there: From El Paso, cross to Ciudad Juarez and take Highway 45 to Chihuahua City. At the kilometer 323 mark, take the gravel road and drive eight kilometers to the first camping area.

Best time to go: The racing events are held in July and August. If you want cooler weather, though, visit in October.

Contact: Leobardo Armenta, Chihuahua Tourism Office, tel. 52-656-629-3340, <arevels@buzon.chihuahua.gob.mx>. Also see "Festival de Turismo de Aventura" at <www.chihuahua.gob.mx>.

—Maria Araujo



WINCHESTER
AMMUNITION

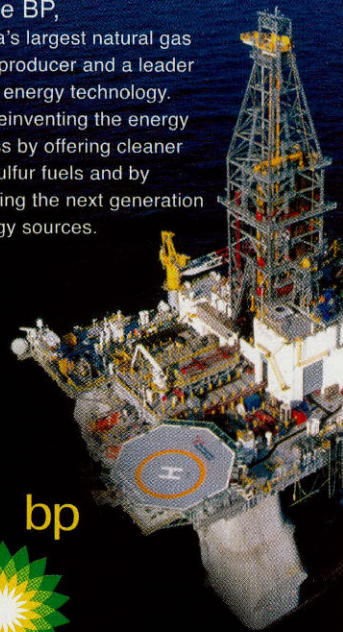
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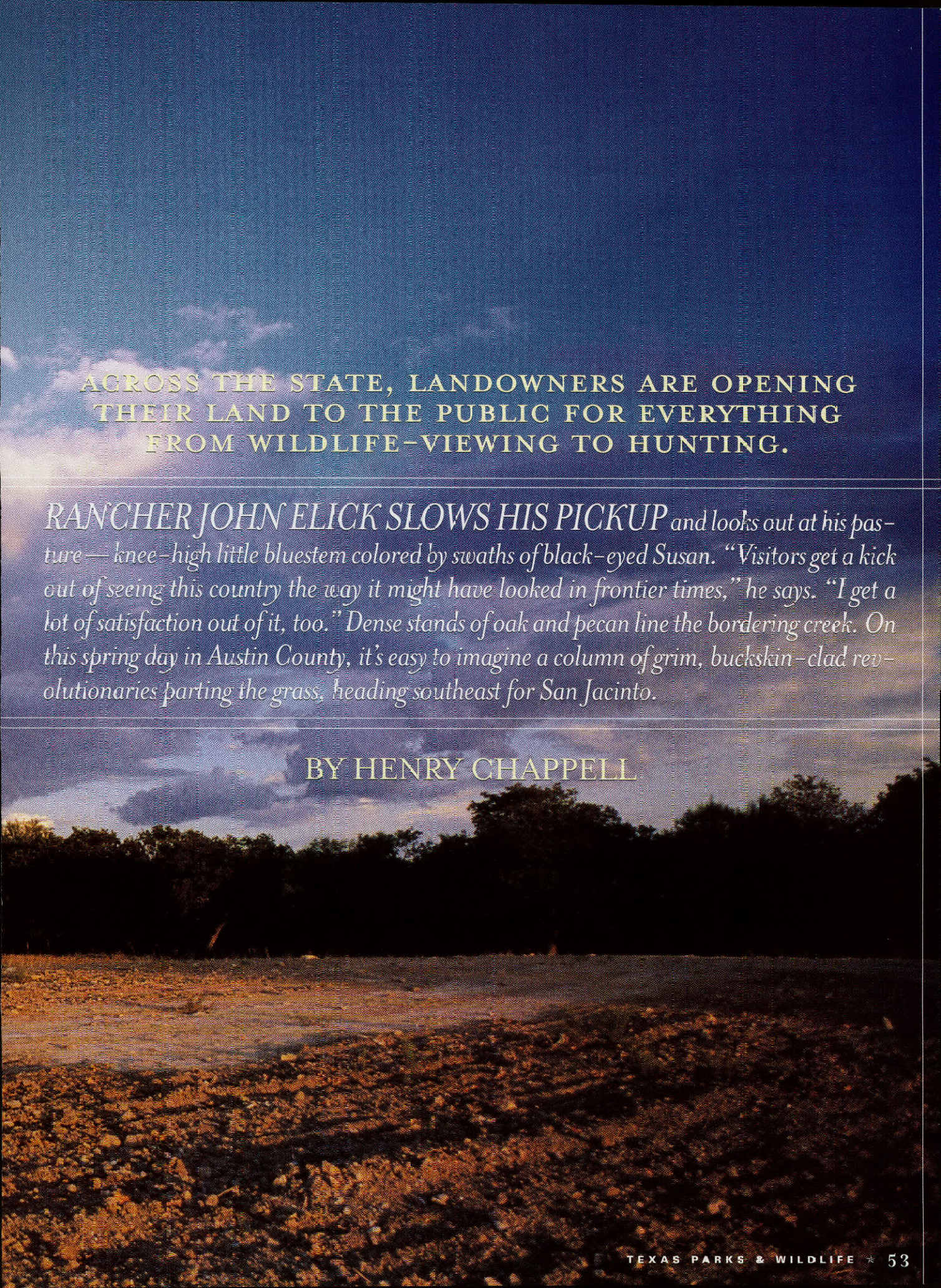
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RECREATION *on* PRIVATE LANDS



ACROSS THE STATE, LANDOWNERS ARE OPENING
THEIR LAND TO THE PUBLIC FOR EVERYTHING
FROM WILDLIFE-VIEWING TO HUNTING.

RANCHER JOHN ELICK SLOWS HIS PICKUP and looks out at his pasture — knee-high little bluestem colored by swaths of black-eyed Susan. “Visitors get a kick out of seeing this country the way it might have looked in frontier times,” he says. “I get a lot of satisfaction out of it, too.” Dense stands of oak and pecan line the bordering creek. On this spring day in Austin County, it’s easy to imagine a column of grim, buckskin-clad revolutionaries parting the grass, heading southeast for San Jacinto.

BY HENRY CHAPPELL

I'M CASUALLY BIRDING AS WE BOUNCE ACROSS THE PASTURE.

Scissor-tailed flycatcher, pair of mourning doves, cardinal, mockingbird, meadowlark, barn swallow. From the back seat, Taunia Elick, John's wife, says she saw a pair of bobwhites early this morning. He nods, smiles. They're working on their quail habitat. A small, brown bird flits across our path. Chipping sparrow? Rufous-crowned? Naturally, my binoculars are back home on my desk. A few minutes later, Elick jars me from my sketchy review of field marks and breeding range when he stops at a 13-acre lake and motions for me to get out and follow.

THE SIGHT of flooded timber at the head of the lake turns my thoughts from binoculars to fly rods and deer-hair bass bugs. "In the winter, ducks pour into this lake by the hundreds," he says. "I like to hide out here and watch them come in."

Like his wife, John Elick is an attorney. But the cowboy hat, tanned face and calloused hands — he was a saddle bronc rider on the Texas, Oklahoma, Arkansas, Louisiana circuit for 15 years — mark him as a Texas rancher trying to preserve a legacy and a way of life.

The Elicks pieced together their 1,400-acre Lonesome Pine Ranch over several years, buying a few hundred acres at a time. They also own two other ranches in Austin County: 1,800-acre Eagle Roost Ranch and 450-acre Prairie Place Ranch, a property that has been in John's family for nearly 50 years.

Like many Texas landowners struggling in today's agricultural economy, the Elicks began looking for ecologically sound ways to generate income from their land. A few years ago, the couple moved four historic homes from nearby Bellville, Industry

and Bleiberville to Lonesome Pine, where they were authentically restored, along with a sharecropper's cabin built on the ranch in 1949. In 2000, the couple opened their ranches to guests.

Today, the Elicks' guest ranch business, Texas Ranch Life, offers bed-and-breakfast accommodations, horseback riding, fishing on 12 small lakes, birding and wildlife-viewing, bald eagle tours on the Eagle Roost Ranch, limited dove, quail and deer hunting and the opportunity to see the workings of a successful cattle ranch.

A few minutes later, we ride up a gentle hill to a small herd of registered longhorns. Several new calves lie in lush grass. John points out the distinguishing features of various famous bloodlines, while Taunia makes sure every calf is accounted for. "Our visitors seem to be as interested in our longhorns as they are in all the wildlife," John says. "Your eyes are just naturally drawn to them." A massive young bull watches our progress, and I'm reminded of one of John's earlier observations: "Right now, the tourist dollar is a lot better than the beef dollar."



PHOTO © GRADY ALLEN



“THERE JUST ISN'T ENOUGH PUBLIC PROPERTY TO GO AROUND. ACCESS TO PRIVATE LAND IS CRITICAL IN TERMS OF RECREATION AND CONSERVATION.”



TOP: DAVID HANDEL/GETTY IMAGES; BOTTOM: RUSTY WATERS



“WE’RE LOOKING AT NATURE TOURISM AS A WAY FOR LANDOWNERS AND COMMUNITIES TO DIVERSIFY INCOME.”



A PRIVATE MATTER

According to “Taking Care of Texas,” a report produced in 2000 by The Governor’s Task Force on Conservation, 94 percent of Texas lands are privately owned. In other words, the future of Texas wildlife rests in the hands of landowners.

Although Texas’ state park system ranks among the finest in the country, and its wildlife management areas annually provide low-cost recreation to thousands of outdoor-lovers, a growing urban population and economic realities are forcing landowners, state agencies and communities to search for innovative ways to balance recreation, conservation and agricultural production.

“There just isn’t enough public property to go around,” says Jeff Mundy, president of the board of directors of the Houston

Audubon Society. “Access to private land is critical in terms of recreation and conservation. We can always create a few public refuges for wildlife, but we can’t properly address conservation in Texas without providing landowners incentive to conserve habitat.”

Hunters and anglers have long provided extra incentive by paying for access to private property. In recent years, more and more landowners are reaping the financial benefits of nature tourism — travel for the purpose of birding, hiking, wildlife-viewing, photography, canoeing and other outdoor and wildlife-oriented activity. For some, the extra tourist dollars may mean the difference between keeping a large piece of wildlife habitat intact and selling off portions of the land just to get by.

“Landowners are suffering serious fluctuations in agricultural commodity prices and land value,” says Linda Campbell, nature tourism coordinator for the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department. “Add that to inheritance taxes and all the other forces that pile up to cause habitat fragmentation. We’re looking at nature tourism as a way for landowners and communities to diversify income. That translates to wildlife conservation, because it keeps people on the land and keeps rural communities prosperous.”

Taunia Elick considers nature tourism an integral part of their ranching business. “We’re taking a holistic approach to ranching,” she says. “It’s very difficult to make it with cattle alone. The tourist dollar allows us to improve our wildlife habitat and operate without overgrazing. Our mission statement is to preserve the past and protect the future through our conservation efforts.”

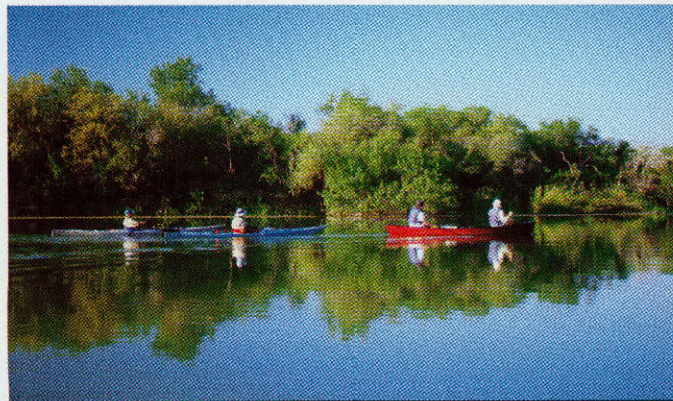
In September 2001, Taylor and Martha Russell Blanton moved temporarily from Austin to the Rio Grande Valley to find a way to keep an 82-acre tract of Russell land between Harlingen and Brownsville in its natural state. In January 2002, the couple opened Los Ebanos Preserve to the public as a nature refuge.

The property features butterfly gardens, trails, tropical and native plants, several varieties of palms and a lake that hosts numerous species of waterfowl. For a small daily fee, visitors may wander trails through native Lower Valley woodlands and ebony thorn forests. Birders may spot green jays, Altimira orioles, chachalacas, green kingfishers, great kiskadees and many other species year-round. Spring and fall migrations draw birders to the Valley from all over the world.

"It's a beautiful environment, and we're trying to save it," says Taylor Blanton. "With the help of the public, we'll be successful. We're not quite as rustic as some of the state parks — just different and a little more comfortable. We want to appeal to the serious birder and butterfly watcher as well as the not-so-serious. And we want visitors to be comfortable — especially the elderly. So far, we've gotten tremendous support from the local birding community."

HITTING THE TRAILS

Many of the recreational opportunities on private lands are highlighted on the Great Texas Wildlife Trails, which include the Great Texas Coastal Birding Trail, the Heart of Texas Wildlife Trail and the High Plains Wildlife Trail. The first of its kind in the country, the Texas Coastal Birding Trail brings together landowners, local communities, conservation organizations, birders and conservationists of all stripes. Completed in 2000 and jointly sponsored by TPWD and Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT), the trail winds through 41 Texas counties and encompasses the entire coastal region. The three sec-



of live oak woodland that wouldn't be here if it weren't for prudent management. Visitors are often amazed to find this incredible bird habitat on a cattle ranch."

Texas' phenomenal wildlife-viewing isn't limited to the coast. TPWD and TxDOT hope to complete maps of the Heart of Texas Wildlife Trail and the High Plains Wildlife Trail by late 2002 or early 2003. These two driving trails, modeled after the Great Texas Coastal Birding Trail, will extend from the northern Panhandle southward through the Hill Country to Laredo. These new trails feature a diversity of wildlife and habitats. Many of the 336 sites on the Heart of Texas and High Plains trails are on private land, but the trail also features state parks, wildlife management areas and city and county parks.

The 7,100-acre X-Bar Ranch, just south of Eldorado in Schleicher County, lies on the Sonora Loop of the Heart of Texas Wildlife Trail. Stan Meador coordinates the recreational side of X-Bar operations. His ranching roots run deep. "This is a working ranch; we run cattle, sheep and a few goats," he says. "My brother and I represent the fifth generation of my family on this land. And my father and



"WE'RE NOT QUITE AS RUSTIC AS SOME OF THE STATE PARKS — JUST DIFFERENT AND A LITTLE MORE COMFORTABLE."

tions — Upper Coast, Central Coast and Lower Coast — currently feature 310 viewing sites, including a number of sites on private land.

Texas was the first state to implement a birding trail of this magnitude. "It's working beautifully, helping birders and benefiting landowners and rural communities," says Linda Campbell. "And we're helping several other states with similar projects."

The legendary 825,000-acre King Ranch has sites along both the central and lower portions of the trail. Ornithologist Tom Langschied coordinates nature tours on the ranch. "When people go on these tours, they're demonstrating to landowners that there are financial rewards for being a good steward," he says. "Here on the King Ranch, we have more than 100,000 acres

grandfather are still involved."

In addition to deer, quail and turkey hunting, the X-Bar offers cabins and houses, more than 15 miles of hiking and mountain biking trails and guided driving tours. A series of interpretive trails is in the works. The X-Bar also hosts a series of summer dinner shows with professional entertainers and meals served at the main lodge. The X-Bar started its nature tourism business as a working guest ranch, but Meador soon found that most guests wanted to plan their own activities. "These days, we don't do a lot of hand-holding," he says. "Here's 7,000 acres — now go have fun."

In January 2002, the Texas Transportation Commission approved funding for the latest trail, the Prairies and Pineywoods

Wildlife Trail. Potential sites can be nominated by individuals or groups and will be evaluated on the basis of ecological importance, location, visitor support facilities and other factors. Landowners can nominate their own properties. The trail is scheduled for completion in 2004.

TPWD's Linda Campbell hopes that the wildlife trail system eventually will expand to the Mountain and Basins region of Texas. "Of course we have tremendous public land potential there, but there's growing interest on the private land side as well."

A SENSE OF COMMUNITY

"The great thing about nature tourism is that we all get to enjoy the benefits," says Remelle Farrar, president of Texas Prairie Rivers. Indeed, according to the 2001 National Survey of Fishing, Hunting and Wildlife-Associated Recreation, 3.9 million travelers enjoyed birding and wildlife-viewing and pumped \$2.6 billion into the Texas economy.

Texas Prairie Rivers, a nonprofit, public-private partnership to promote nature tourism, was born in the late 1990s, when community leaders in the small northern Panhandle town of

"FINALLY, WE REALIZED THAT WE LIVED IN AS BEAUTIFUL A PLACE AS YOU'LL EVER SEE.... SO WE STARTED LOOKING AT THIS THING CALLED NATURE TOURISM."

Canadian began looking for ways to revitalize their local economy. Like most ranching communities, Canadian was suffering from changing agricultural practices and declining oil revenue.

"At first we looked at the traditional approaches," says Farrar. "Raising taxes, trying to attract industry. We hired an economic development professional, and we expected miracles, which only set us up for failure and frustration. Finally, we realized that we lived in as beautiful a place as you'll ever see, and yet some of us were going to small towns in Kansas and Nebraska, paying to see prairie dogs and staying at bed-and-breakfast inns. So we started looking at this thing called nature tourism."

Farrar and her colleagues contacted Ted Eubanks of Fermata Inc., an Austin consultant specializing in nature tourism. Fermata held a seminar and Farrar said they were shocked at the tremendous interest from landowners and business leaders. "People were determined to make it work, and the county commissioners had the foresight to fund the effort," Farrar says.

The fledgling organization laid out a five-year plan, but within six weeks, they were scrambling to keep up with visitors. The word was out. Some of the earliest tourists were elderly women who simply wanted to ride around the ranches in a pickup and feed the calves — something they remembered from childhood.

Within a few months, area ranchers were offering to entertain paying guests on some 300,000 acres. Today, Texas Prairie Rivers arranges everything from hiking and nature tours to kayaking on the Canadian River. "We'll arrange for families to go out on the river with a host, grill hot dogs on a sandbar, watch the fish in the clear water — it's one of our most popular activities," Farrar says.

The healthy short and midgrass plains around Canadian are the last stronghold of the lesser prairie chicken. Texas Prairie Rivers arranges tours on private ranches where visitors can watch the birds' spectacular spring courtship ritual. Migration routes along the Canadian and Washita rivers create superb birding for numerous other species as well.

According to Farrar, nature tourism in the region not only has brought extra income to ranchers; the added commerce has fueled the creation of several new businesses and the renovation of 14 commercial buildings over the past three years.

And there are other benefits, equally important if less measurable. "We started out just trying to make money," Farrar says, "but we've come full circle so that now conservation is one of our major goals."

Today's tourist dollar is a boon to Texas' wildlife and ranching tradition. But the potential for empathy and good will between an increasingly urban population and our rural communities is priceless. ★

Plano writer HENRY CHAPPELL is an avid hunter and birder.



PHOTO © DAVIDSAMS.COM

For More Information:

TEXAS RANCH LIFE: (866) 839-2775, <www.texasranchlife.com>. Bed-and-breakfast accommodations, horseback riding, fishing on 12 small lakes, birding and wildlife-viewing, bald eagle tours, limited hunting and the opportunity to see cattle ranching activities.

LOS EBANOS PRESERVE: (800) 418-3543, <www.losebanospreserve.com>. Birding, butterfly-watching.

KING RANCH: (361) 592-8055, <www.king-ranch.com>. Scott Moore, area manager, <smore@king-ranch.com>. D. Johnson, unit manager, <djohnson@king-ranch.com>. Hunting, guided historical/agricultural tours, nature tours, special interest tours.

X-BAR RANCH: (888) 853-2688, <www.xbarranch.com>, <info@xbarranch.com>. Overnight accommodations, birding, wildlife viewing, mountain biking, guided ranch tour, opportunities to watch ranching activities.

TEXAS PRAIRIE RIVERS: (806) 323-6234, <www.texasprairierivers.com>, <canadian@yft.net>.

GREAT TEXAS COASTAL BIRDING TRAIL, HEART OF TEXAS, HIGH PLAINS AND PRAIRIE AND PINEYWOODS WILDLIFE TRAILS: <www.tpwd.state.tx.us/birdingtrails>

For maps and other information on nature tourism in Texas, contact:

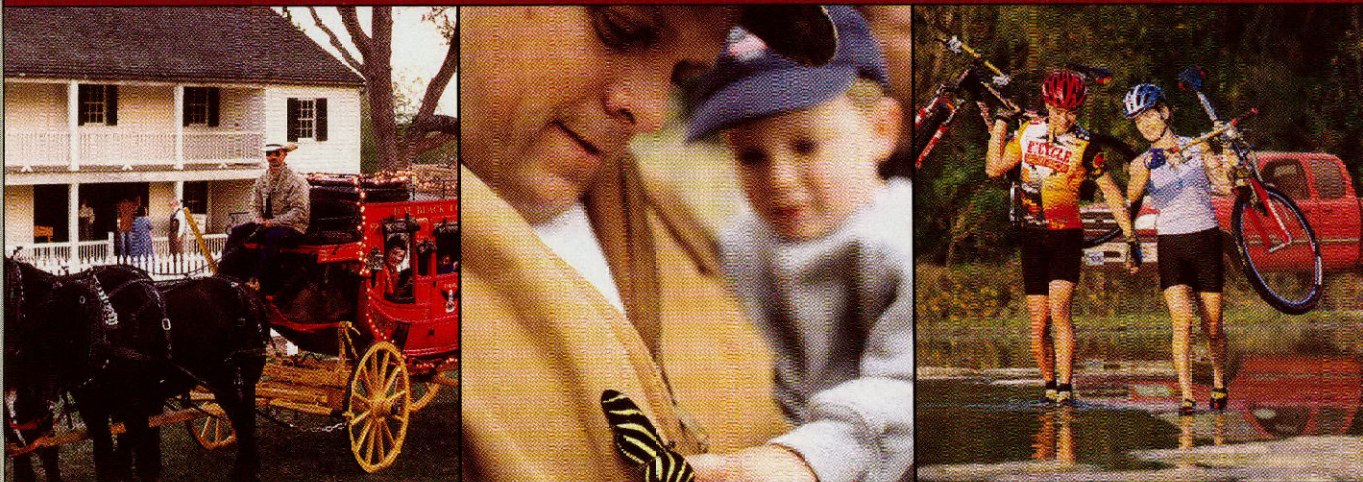
TEXAS PARKS AND WILDLIFE DEPARTMENT: (800) 792-1112, <www.tpwd.state.tx.us>

TEXAS DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION: (800) 452-9292, <www.traveltex.com>

TEXAS ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, TOURISM DIVISION: <www.research.travel.state.tx.us>

For additional information on opportunities for nature tourism in specific areas, contact the local chamber of commerce.

It won't be the same without you.



Lone Star Legacy.



All gate fees for Lone Star Legacy Weekend have been underwritten by Toyota, proud sponsor of Texas Parks and Wildlife.

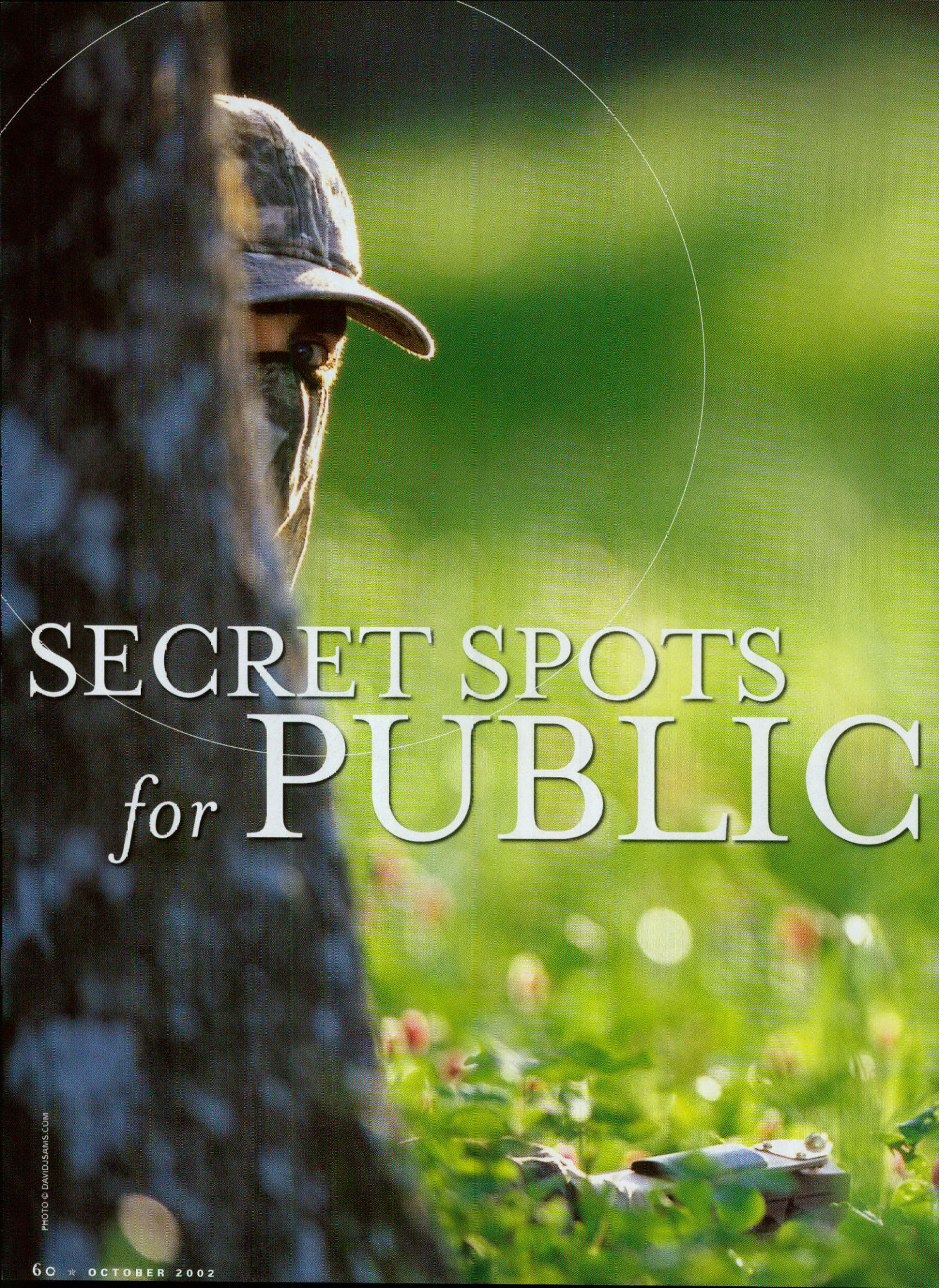
We're inviting you to join us for a great weekend of special activities and events for the whole family!

Lone Star Legacy Weekend October 19th and 20th

This is the weekend we roll out the red carpet and showcase many of the fun and exciting things to enjoy at Texas State Parks, from cycling tours and fishing tournaments to interpretive hikes and living history shows. And you can't afford to miss it since entry is free at more than 120 state parks and historic sites all weekend.

Come and see the best of what Texas State Parks has to offer. We'll be expecting you.

For more information, visit www.tpwd.state.tx.us/lslw
Or call 1-800-792-1112, menu option 3



SECRET SPOTS
for PUBLIC

PHOTO © DAVIDSANS.COM

I have the best hunting lease in Texas.

It includes coastal marshes, South Texas brush country, Big Bend mountains, Pineywoods forests and Panhandle plains. On it I've hunted squirrels, rabbits, ducks, white-tailed deer, mule deer, geese, feral hogs, Rio Grande turkeys, eastern turkeys, mourning doves, white-winged doves, bobwhite quail, scaled quail and chachalacas. So far I've passed on hunts for alligators, furbearers, woodcock, snipe and bullfrogs, but I'm thinking about them.

HUNTS

265 places to hunt you never knew existed.

BY LARRY D. HODGE, KIMBERLY TILLEY AND GARLAND LEVIT

You may be surprised that most of my hunts take place on public land.

Texas is 94 percent privately owned, but the opportunities for hunting on public land are rich and abundant. Besides 50-plus wildlife management areas owned or operated by Texas Parks and Wildlife Department, hunting is available on more than 70 tracts owned by the Texas General Land Office, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, the U.S. Forest Service and a number of other government agencies and private entities. In addition, TPWD annually leases approximately 150 public dove hunting areas from private landowners. In all, more than 1.5 million acres are open to public hunting.

Hunting on public land appeals to me for a number of reasons. The most important is the challenge. It's difficult to bow hunt bucks in the scant cover around Lake Amistad or figure out the flight paths of doves on a sorghum field in South Texas you are seeing for the first time. However, when I succeed in bagging game under such conditions, I feel I've earned the right to do so.

Hunting on public land also enables me to hunt in many different parts of the state. I love scrambling up rocky Big Bend canyon walls in pursuit of scaled quail as much as I enjoy talking turkey with an eastern gobbler in a pine forest.

Low cost is also an attraction. The \$40 Annual Public Hunting Permit from TPWD is all you need for access to most lands. Hunting is free on other public lands, while some agencies charge a small fee. The chart below gives the details. This chart does not include lands in TPWD wildlife management areas or public dove hunting areas. Purchasers of the Annual Public Hunting Permit receive a map book showing these lands. The WMAs are discussed in detail in the book *Official Guide to Texas Wildlife Management Areas*, available from the University of Texas Press by calling (800) 252-3206. The list below includes areas not covered in any TPWD publication.

If you have a hunting lease on private land but have itchy feet and would like to hunt more places and more kinds of game than can be found there, public land is for you, too. For less than the price of dinner and a movie you can add thousands of acres to your hunting lease — and untold amounts of fun to your hunting season. ☆

AMISTAD NATIONAL RECREATION AREA
National Park Service
HCR 3, Box 5J
Highway 90 West
Del Rio, TX 78840
(830) 775-6722



<www.nps.gov/amis>

County: Val Verde
Acreage: 3,000

Permit required: Free annual permit, by mail or in person

Game: Doves, ducks, rabbits, turkeys, deer, quail, javelina, mouflon sheep

Special regulations: Shotgun for doves, quail and ducks; archery only for deer, javelina, turkey, rabbits, mouflon sheep. Weapons must be unloaded and cased during transport.

ANAHUAC NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE
P.O. Box 278
Anahuac, TX 77514
(409) 267-3337



County: Chambers
Acreage: 34,000

Permit required: Free general permit may be obtained via phone, mail or in person; \$10 fee for some areas. Permits must be obtained in person on the day of the hunt.

Game: Waterfowl

Special regulations: All shotguns must be unloaded and cased while in transit. Hunters entering by boat must have an Anahuac NWR annual permit. General permit must be carried at all times during hunt.

ANGELINA NATIONAL FOREST
111 Walnut Ridge Road
Zavalla, TX 75980
(936) 897-1068



County: Jasper, San Augustine, Angelina, Nacogdoches
Acreage: 150,000

Permit required: Annual Public Hunting Permit in wildlife management area only; antlerless deer permits by drawing.

Game: Deer, feral hogs, eastern turkeys, waterfowl, squirrels, rabbits, quail, doves

Special regulations: Part of the forest is within the Bannister WMA, and Public Hunting Lands Program regulations apply there.

ARANSAS NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE

P.O. Box 100
Austwell, TX 77950
(361) 286-3559

County: Aransas

Acreage: 35,000 (archery); 25,000 (firearms)

Permit required: Gun permits by lottery, \$100; 500 archery permits on first-come, first-served basis, \$50

Game: White-tailed deer, feral hogs

Special regulations: No baiting, no alcohol

BALCONES CANYONLANDS NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE

10711 Burnet Road, Ste. 201
Austin, TX 78758

(512) 339-9432, ext. 42

(512) 339-9453 (fax)

County: Travis, Williamson, Burnet

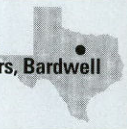
Acreage: 41,000

Permit required: \$15 for dove hunts in September, \$50 for deer/turkey hunts

Game: Deer, feral hogs, bearded turkeys

Special regulations: Hunters must be at least 12 years old. Game must be taken to a check station. Scouting before hunts is permitted.

BARDWELL LAKE
4000 Observation Drive
Army Corps of Engineers, Bardwell Project Office



Ennis, TX 75119
(972) 875-5711

County: Ellis

Acreage: 2,528

Permit required: Corps permit for feral hogs only

Game: Doves, quail, rabbits, waterfowl, feral hogs, squirrels

Special regulations: Feral hog hunting only permitted west of Texas 34 by archery or shotgun with slugs; no hunting within 200 yards of parks or houses; no dogs for feral hogs; permit only for feral hogs.

BELTON LAKE

3740 FM 1670
Belton, TX 76513

(254) 939-2461

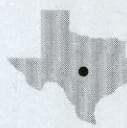
County: Bell, Coryell

Acreage: 3,900

Permit required: Corps permit for waterfowl only

Game: Doves, quail, squirrels, rabbits, waterfowl

Special regulations: Free waterfowl permit must be obtained at lake office. Muzzleloaders and cross-bows prohibited.



BENBROOK LAKE
P.O. Box 26619

Fort Worth, TX 76126-0619

(817) 292-2400

County: Tarrant

Acreage: 1,400

Permit required: Free Corps permit for small game; deer permits by drawing

Game: Doves, quail, squirrels, rabbits, waterfowl, deer

Special regulations: Archery only for deer; muzzleloaders and cross-bows prohibited.



BIG BOGGY NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE

1212 N. Velasco,
Suite 200

Angleton, TX 77515

(979) 849-6062

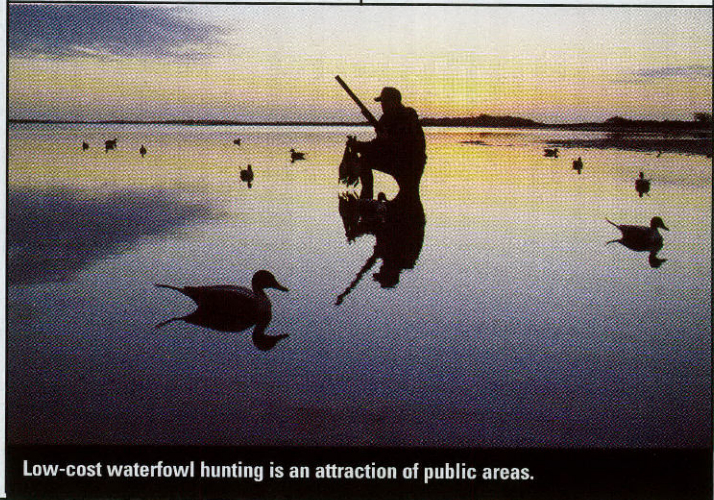
County: Matagorda

Acreage: 4,526

Permit required: None

Game: waterfowl

Special regulations: No permanent blinds; hunting in designated areas only.



Low-cost waterfowl hunting is an attraction of public areas.





A number of wildlife management areas and other public areas offer good deer hunting.

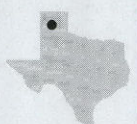
LAKE MEREDITH NATIONAL RECREATION AREA

P.O. Box 1460
Fritch, TX 79036
(806) 857-3151

County: Potter, Moore
Acreage: 40,000

Permit required: None

Game: Turkeys, doves, quail, pheasants, rabbits, white-tailed deer, mule deer



LAKE O' THE PINES

2669 FM 726
Jefferson, TX 75657
(903) 665-2336

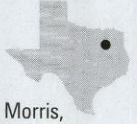
County: Camp, Marion, Morris, Harrison, Upshur

Acreage: 4,500

Permit required: None

Game: Doves, squirrels, rabbits, waterfowl, feral hogs, deer

Special regulations: Muzzleloaders and rifles are permitted. Antlerless deer may be taken during archery season only. No feral hog hunting May 15 through Aug. 31.



LAVON LAKE

3375 Skyview Drive
Wylie, TX 75098
(972) 442-3141

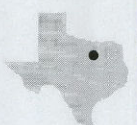
County: Collin

Acreage: 6,500

Permit required: None

Game: Doves, quail, squirrels, rabbits, waterfowl, feral hogs

Special regulations: Archery only for feral hogs; no rifles



BIG THICKET NATIONAL PRESERVE

3785 Milam
Beaumont, TX 77701
(409) 839-2683, ext. 228

County: Hardin, Jasper, Tyler, Polk
Acreage: 47,400

Permit required: Obtain in person in July; first-come, first-served basis

Game: Deer, squirrels, rabbits, feral hogs, waterfowl

Special regulations: Display Big Thicket Hunting Permit on dash of vehicle. No centerfire weapons; no hunting within 500 feet of trails, roads or residences.



COLETO CREEK RESERVOIR

P.O. Box 68
Fannin, TX 77960
(361) 575-6366

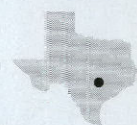
County: Goiaid, Victoria

Acreage: 500

Permit required: \$80, by drawing in August

Game: Deer, feral hogs

Special regulations: Archery only



DAVY CROCKETT NATIONAL FOREST

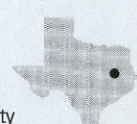
Route 1, Box 55 FS
Kennard, TX 75847
(936) 655-2299

County: Houston, Trinity

Acreage: 162,012

Permit required: Antlerless permits by drawing call (936) 639-8563

Game: Doves, quail, squirrels, rabbits, waterfowl, deer



GEORGETOWN LAKE

500 Cedar Breaks Road
Georgetown, TX 73628
(512) 930-5253

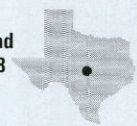
County: Williamson

Acreage: 1,200

Permit required: Corps permit

Game: Doves, quail, squirrels, rabbits, waterfowl, deer

Special regulations: Archery only for deer; proficiency test and hunter certification required for deer hunts.



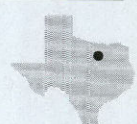
GRAPEVINE LAKE

110 Fairway Drive
Grapevine, TX 76051
(817) 481-4544

County: Denton

Acreage: 900

Permit required: Drawings for quail,



dove, feral hog and deer hunts; apply mid-July through November. Waterfowl permits first-come, first-served

Game: Doves, quail, squirrels, rabbits, waterfowl, deer, feral hogs

Special regulations: Archery only for deer and feral hogs; no muzzleloaders or crossbows. All hunters must have a hunter safety course certificate

HAGERMAN NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE

3465 Refuge Road
Sherman, TX 75092
(903) 786-2826

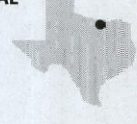
County: Grayson

Acreage: 3,000

Permit required: Self-registration for small game hunts. Drawing for deer hunts; fee required.

Game: Doves, quail, feral hogs, squirrels, rabbits, deer

Special regulations: Completion of BEP classes and score of 80 percent or IBQ 3-D course required only for deer hunt.



LAGUNA ATASCOSA NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE

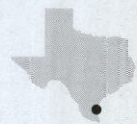
P.O. Box 450
Rio Hondo, TX 78583
(956) 748-3307

County: Cameron

Acreage: 3,000

Permit required: Obtain by mail or in person in August. \$40 user fee for each hunt.

Game: Deer, feral hogs, nilgai
Special regulations: Archery, muzzleloader, and modern firearms hunts



LBJ NATIONAL GRASSLANDS

1400 N. Hwy. US 81/US 287
P.O. Box 507
Decatur, TX 76234
(940) 627-5475

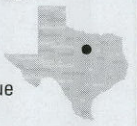
County: Wise, Montague

Acreage: 20,000

Permit required: None

Game: Feral hogs, deer, doves, quail, squirrels, rabbits, turkey

Special regulations: Shotgun, muzzleloader and archery only



LEWISVILLE LAKE

1801 N. Mill St.
Lewisville, TX 75057
(972) 434-1666

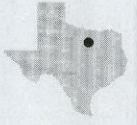
County: Denton

Acreage: 8,000

Permit required: Corps permit

Game: Doves, quail, squirrels, rabbits, waterfowl, feral hogs

Special regulations: Archery only for feral hogs; no hunting within 600 feet of the boundary line.



LIVINGSTON LAKE

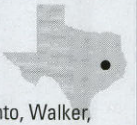
P.O. Box 60
Arlington, TX 76004
(817) 467-4343

County: Polk, San Jacinto, Walker, Trinity, Houston, Madison

Acreage: Varies with lake level

Permit required: None

Game: Waterfowl
Special regulations: Hunting permitted 200 yards or more waterward from the boundary line at 131 feet mean sea-level elevation.



CANYON LAKE

601 COE Road
Canyon Lake, TX 78133
(330) 964-3341

County: Comal

Acreage: 620

Permit required: Corps permit by drawing

Game: Deer

Special regulations: Archery only; proficiency test and hunter safety certification required.



PHOTO © GRADY ALLEN

LOWER RIO GRANDE VALLEY NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE

Route 2, Box 202A
Alamo, TX 78516
(956) 784-7500

County: Hidalgo, Willacy
Acreage: 4,000

Permit required: Lower Rio Grande Valley NWR Special Use Permit. \$25 for doves; \$40 for big game.

Game: Deer, feral hogs, nilgai, doves
Special regulations: Big game gun hunts for youths only.

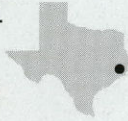
**MCFADDIN NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE**

P.O. Box 609
Sabine Pass, TX 77655
(409) 971-2909

County: Chambers, Jefferson
Acreage: 21,000

Permit required: \$10 fee for some units
Game: Waterfowl

Special regulations: Hunters must be off the area by 12:30 p.m.

**NAVARRO MILLS LAKE**

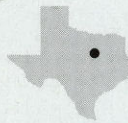
1175 FM 667
Purdon, TX 76679
(254) 578-1431

County: Hill, Navarro
Acreage: 3,500

Permit required: None

Game: Doves, quail, squirrels, rabbits, waterfowl, feral hogs

Special regulations: Dogs may be used to hunt feral hogs only on the Hill County portion of the lake.

**O.C. FISHER LAKE/ASU AREA**

3900-2 Mercedes Ave.
San Angelo, TX 76901
(915) 947-2687

County: Tom Green
Acreage: 4,645

Permit required: By drawing; apply to Deer Hunt Research Project, Box 10888, ASU Station, San Angelo 76909

Game: Deer, turkeys

Special regulations: Season as set by Angelo State University

**PROCTOR LAKE**

2180 FM 2861
Comanche, TX 76442
(254) 879-2424

County: Comanche
Acreage: 2,500

Permit required: Corps permit
Game: Doves, quail, squirrels, rabbits, waterfowl

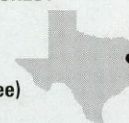
**SABINE NATIONAL FOREST**

P.O. Box 227
Hemphill, TX 75948
(409) 787-3870;
(866) 235-1750 (toll-free)

County: Sabine, San Augustine, Shelby, Newton
Acreage: 160,650

Permit required: Annual Public Hunting Permit on WMA only; antlerless permits by drawing (not required during bow season); youth hunts available; call (936) 639-8569.

Game: Deer, feral hogs, eastern



turkeys, waterfowl, doves, squirrels, rabbits

Special regulations: Part of the forest is within the Moore Plantation WMA; TPWD regulations apply there. Bag limit is one buck and two antlerless; dogs prohibited during deer season.

SAN BERNARD NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE

1212 N. Velasco, Ste. 200
Angleton, TX 77515
(979) 849-7771

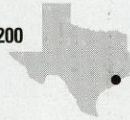
County: Brazoria
Acreage: 27,414

Permit required: Sargent hunt area only

Game: Waterfowl

Special regulations: \$10 fee required for Sargent hunt area; call (979) 849-6062 for reservation.

Hunters must return to check station by 12:30 p.m.

**SAM RAYBURN RESERVOIR**

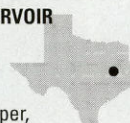
Route 3, Box 486
Jasper, TX 75951
(409) 384-5716

County: Angelina, Jasper, Nacogdoches, Sabine, San Augustine

Acreage: 6,000

Permit required: None

Game: Doves, quail, squirrels, rabbits, waterfowl, deer, feral hogs
Special Regulations: Antlerless deer may be taken during archery season



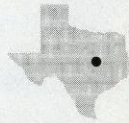
only. Shotgun with slugs only for deer. Except for deer hunting, shot-gunners must use No. 4 shot or smaller.

SOMERVILLE LAKE / COE AREA

P.O. Box 549
Somerville, TX 77879
(979) 596-1622

County: Burleson, Washington
Acreage: 3,000

Permit required: Fee for permanent duck blinds only; assigned by drawing
Game: Waterfowl

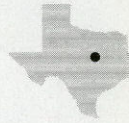
**STILLHOUSE HOLLOW RESERVOIR**

3740 FM 1670
Belton, TX 76513
(254) 939-2461

County: Bell
Acreage: 4,541

Permit required: Waterfowl only

Game: Doves, quail, waterfowl
Special regulations: Free waterfowl permit must be obtained from lake office; no hunting within 600 feet of boundary, parks and residential areas.

**TEXAS POINT NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE**

P.O. Box 609
Sabine Pass, TX 77655
(409) 971-2909

County: Jefferson
Acreage: 4,000



Quail hunting is available at dozens of public areas in different parts of the state.



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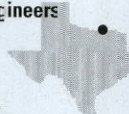


Goose hunting will be available at coastal national wildlife refuges, as well as a few wildlife management areas.

Permit required: Free
Game: Waterfowl
Special regulations: Hunters must be off the area by 12:30 p.m.

TEXOMA LAKE
 U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
 351 Corps Road
 Denison, TX 75020
 (903) 465-4990

County: Cook, Grayson
Acreage: 80,000 (in Texas and Oklahoma)
Permit required: None
Game: Quail, doves, squirrels, rabbits, deer
Special regulations: Deer hunting by archery only in Grayson County



TOWN BLUFF AND B.A. STEIN-AGEN LAKE / COE AREA
 890 FM 92
 Woodville, TX 75979
 (409) 429-3491

County: Jasper, Tyler
Acreage: 375
Permit required: None
Game: Doves, quail, squirrels, rabbits, waterfowl, deer, feral hogs
Special regulations: Hog hunting allowed only during deer season. Muzzleloaders are allowed. Does can be taken only during archery season.



TRUSCOTT BRINE LAKE. AREA VIII
 13173 CR 2531
 Crowell, TX 79260

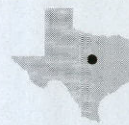
(940) 474-3293
County: Knox
Acreage: 2,000

Permit required: None
Game: Doves, quail, waterfowl, feral hogs
Special regulations: Shotgun and archery or y; no crossbows allowed.



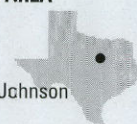
WACO LAKE
 3801 Zoo Park Road
 Waco, TX 76708
 (254) 756-5359

County: McLennan
Acreage: 2,000
Permit required: Corps permit
Game: Doves, squirrels, rabbits, feral hogs, waterfowl, deer, turkeys
Special regulations: Computer drawing for permits; application may be obtained in lake office.



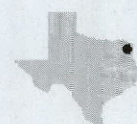
WHITNEY LAKE/ COE AREA
 235 CR 3602
 Clifton, TX 76634
 (254) 694-3189

County: Bosque, Hill, Johnson
Acreage: 14,000
Permit required: Corps permit
Game: Doves, quail, squirrels, rabbits, waterfowl, deer, feral hogs, turkeys
Special regulations: Deer hunting by archery only. All hunters must register in advance. No shot larger than No. 4, except No. 2 steel shot for waterfowl. Rifles, handguns, crossbows and muzzleloaders are prohibited.



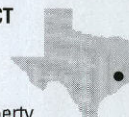
WRIGHT PATMAN DAM AND LAKE
 P.O. Box 1817
 Texarkana, TX 75704
 (903) 838-8781

County: Bowie, Cass
Acreage: 54,358
Permit required: Required to hunt ATV-accessible areas
Game: Doves, quail, squirrels, rabbits, waterfowl, deer, feral hogs, eastern turkeys
Special regulations: Antlerless deer may be taken during archery season only.



WALLISVILLE PROJECT
 P.O. Box 293
 Wallisville, TX 77597
 (409) 389-2285

County: Chambers, Liberty
Acreage: 19,000
Permit required: For stationary blinds only
Game: Waterfowl
Special regulations: Only authorized persons may use stationary blinds. All blinds must be removed within 30 days after close of season. No hunting after noon. No extended deer season.



TOP PHOTO © GARYKRAMER.NET; BOTTOM PHOTO © RUSSELL A. GRAVES

GETAWAYS

FROM BIG BEND TO THE BIG THICKET AND THE RED TO THE RIO GRANDE



BIG BEND COUNTRY

OCT.: Hiking Tours, every Wednesday through Sunday, by advance request only, Hueco Tanks SHS, El Paso, (915) 849-6684.

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

OCT.: Desert Garden Tours, by request to groups of six or more, Barton Warnock Environmental Education Center, Terlingua, (915) 424-3327.

OCT.: Pictograph Tours, every Saturday and Sunday, Hueco Tanks SHS El Paso, (915) 849-6684.

OCT.: Fate Bell Cave Dwelling Tour, every Wednesday through Sunday, Seminole Canyon SP & HS, Comstock, (915) 292-4464.

OCT.: Bouldering Tours, every Wednesday through Sunday by advance request only, Hueco Tanks SHS, El Paso, (915) 849-6684.

OCT. 5, 6, 19, 20: Guided Interpretive Tours, Franklin Mountains SP, El Paso, (915) 566-6441.

OCT. 11-13: Longhorn Cattle Drive, Big Bend Ranch SP, Presidio, (915) 229-3416.

OCT. 12, 26: Ghost Tours, Magoffin Home SHS, El Paso, (915) 533-5147.

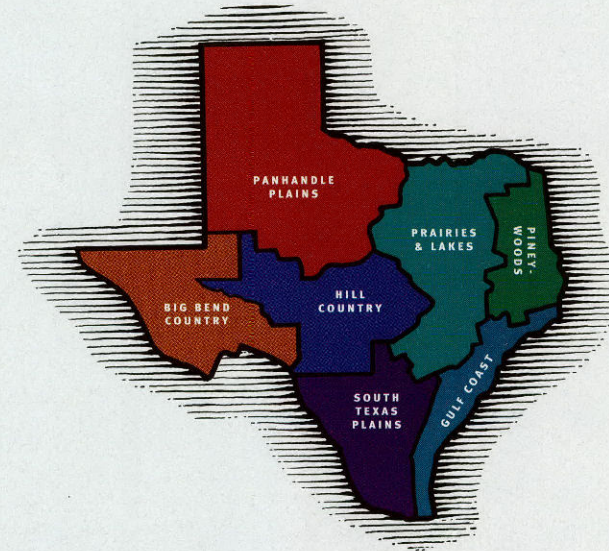
OCT. 17-19, 19-20, 22-23, 24-25, 26-27: Camel Treks, Big Bend Ranch SP, Presidio, (254) 675-4867.

OCT. 18: Ghostly Candlelight Tours, Magoffin Home SHS, El Paso, (915) 533-5147.

OCT. 18: Star Party, Fort Lancaster SHS, Sheffield, (915) 836-4391.

OCT. 19: Annual Living History Day, Fort Lancaster SHS, Sheffield, (915) 836-4391.

OCT. 19: Child's Play, Fort Leaton



SHS, Presidio, (915) 229-3613.

OCT. 19: V V 75 Tour, Seminole Canyon SP & HS, Comstock, (915) 292-4464.

OCT. 19: Bakery Demonstration, Fort Leaton SHS, Presidio, (915) 229-3613.

OCT. 19: Old Picture Display, Fort Leaton SHS, Presidio, (915) 229-3613.

OCT. 19: Music and Dance, Fort Leaton SHS, Presidio, (915) 229-3613.

OCT. 19: Slide Show, Davis Mountains SP, Fort Davis, (915) 426-3337.

OCT. 19: Guided Hike, Davis Mountains SP, Fort Davis, (915) 426-3337.

OCT. 19: Marketplace, Fort Leaton SHS, Presidio, (915) 229-3613.

OCT. 19: Historical Reenactments, Fort Leaton SHS, Presidio, (915) 229-3613.

OCT. 19: Solitario Overlook Tour, Big Bend Ranch SP, Presidio, (915) 229-3416.

OCT. 19: Ghost Tours, Magoffin Home SHS, El Paso, (915) 533-5147.

OCT. 19-20: Rock Art Tours, Seminole Canyon SP & HS, Comstock, (915) 292-4464.

OCT. 19-20: Guided Tours, Monahans Sandhills SP, Monahans, (915) 943-2092.

OCT. 19-20: Interpretive Fair Weekend, Hueco Tanks SH, El

Paso, (915) 857-1135.

OCT. 19-20: Interpretive Tours, Magoffin Home SHS, El Paso, (915) 533-5147.

OCT. 19-20: Outdoor Expo 2002, Franklin Mountains SP, El Paso, (915) 566-6441.

OCT. 19-20: Music and More, Wylar Aerial Tramway Franklin Mountains SP, El Paso, (915) 562-9899.

OCT. 19-20: Slide Shows, Seminole Canyon SP & HS, Comstock, (915) 292-4464.

OCT. 19-20: Tours, Barton Warnock Environmental Education Center, Terlingua, (915) 424-3327.

OCT. 19-20: Tours, Devils River SNA, Del Rio, (830) 395-2133.

OCT. 19-20: Guided Hike, Balmorhea SP, Toyahvale, (915) 375-2370.

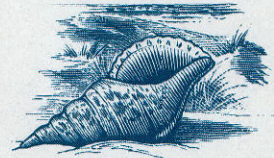
OCT. 20: Living History Demonstrations, Seminole Canyon SP & HS, Comstock, (915) 292-4464.

OCT. 20: Bird Identification Tours, Hueco Tanks SHS, El Paso, (915) 849-6684.

OCT. 26: Haunted Ghost Town, Big Bend Ranch SP, Presidio, (915) 229-3416.

OCT. 26: Presa Canyon Tour, Seminole Canyon SP & HS, Comstock, (915) 292-4464.

OCT. 27: Upper Canyon Tour, Seminole Canyon SP & HS, Comstock, (915) 292-4464.



GULF COAST

OCT.: Birding Tours, every Sunday, Galveston Island SP, Galveston, (409) 737-1222.

OCT.: Nature Programs, every Saturday and Sunday, Galveston Island SP, (409) 737-1222.

OCT.: Aquarium and Hatchery Tours, every Tuesday through Sunday, Sea Center Texas, Lake Jackson, (979) 292-0100.

OCT.: Hatchery Tours, every Monday through Saturday, CCA/CPL Marine Development Center SFH, Corpus Christi, (361) 939-7784.

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

OCT. 5: Fall Migration Hawk Watch, Fennessey Ranch, Bay-side, (361) 529-6600.

OCT. 5: Aquatic Wild Training, Galveston Island SP, (409) 737-5306.

OCT. 12, 26: Beachcombing and Shelling Tour, Matagorda Island SP & WMA, (361) 983-2215.

OCT. 13, 20: Walking Bird Tour, Matagorda Island SP & WMA, Port O'Connor, (361) 983-2215.

OCT. 19: Girl Scout Outdoor Roundup Program, Lake Houston SP, New Caney, (281) 354-6881.

OCT. 19: Garden Tours, Fulton Mansion SHS, Fulton, (361) 729-0386.

OCT. 19: Outdoor Extravaganza, Lake Texana SP, Edna, (361) 782-5718.

OCT. 19: Fishing Tournament, Goose Island SP, Rockport, (361) 729-2858.

OCT. 19: Hard Hat Tours, Battleship Texas SHS, LaPorte, (281) 479-2431.

OCT. 19: Car Show-N-Shine, Lake Corpus Christi SP, Mathis, (361) 547-2635.

OCT. 19: Birding Tours, Galveston Island SP, Galveston, (409) 737-1222.

OCT. 19: Children's Activity Tent, Galveston Island SP, Galveston, (409) 737-1222.

Continued on page 73

Legend, LORE & LEGACY



Tales of the Loup-garou

Legends of the loup-garou were passed down to the French Canadians who eventually settled in southern Louisiana and became known as Cajuns.

BY CHESTER MOORE, JR. / ILLUSTRATION BY KEITH GRAVES

"Beware of the loup-garou."

Those were the words of an elderly Cajun woman who owned property near the marsh I used to fish as a boy.

She never seemed fond of my friends and me as we crossed her property to get into the marsh, so I didn't know whether to laugh or be frightened. I had never heard of a "loup-garou" but it sounded like pretty serious subject matter. Most things spoken with a deep Cajun accent sounded serious to me back then.

"It's the man-wolf," she went on to explain. "He lives in the marsh, and he'll get you if you don't watch out."

I went into the marsh anyway, but I remember feeling very uneasy and leaving way before dark on that hot summer day. I explained the early exit to myself by saying the fish weren't biting, but in the back of my mind I could see claws raking against the spooky, old cypress trees, and I could've sworn I heard a frightening, wolflike howl.

I didn't fish that marsh for a while.

A couple of years later, I remember finding the term "loup-garou" in a book about werewolves in my school library.

I found out that loup-garou literally means "werewolf" in French and that the word was passed down to the French Canadians who eventually settled in southern Louisiana and became known as Cajuns.

There are numerous versions of the loup-garou legend floating around. Most storytellers describe it as a man who turns into a wolf at night and stalks the unsuspecting victims who dare to enter the dark swamps and woodlands of southern Louisiana and Southeast Texas.

It is said that a person who is bitten by a loup-garou becomes one for a period of 101 days. Some variations of the story say the man then returns to normal behavior with no recollection of his evil deeds. An even stranger story has the creature leaving its own skin and turning into a flame that haunts the night, searching for blood for the devil. After the deranged creature collects enough blood, it returns to human form.

Some storytellers say the creature's only downfall is that it is so compulsive it must stop to count grains of sand spread upon the ground. They hold that a good defense, therefore, is to leave a pile of rice or sand near your front door. Hopefully, the creature will take a long time to count it all, and the sun will come up and transform it back into a man before it can kill you.

One Cajun superstition says the creature is indeed compulsive, but not so bright. It calls for laying 13 small objects — such as pennies, beans or broom straws — by your doors. As the story goes, the werewolf cannot count higher than 12. When it comes to the 13th object, it gets confused and starts over. It is hoped the creature will keep counting until dawn, when it must flee from the sun.

Not every loup-garou is so fierce, though.

One Cajun myth describes the loup-garou as being a rather harmless, if not mischievous, creature. It is said that it visits oyster cullers and steals the tasty morsels for its own dining. The workers are said to hit the creature with a pole and scare it away with ease. No silver bullets needed for this werewolf.

In the children's book *Feliciana Meets da Loup Garou*, a little girl is cranky all day because her mother won't let her go to the local dance. The brother laughs at the argument between his mother and sister, so he is told to stay home and watch her. The meanest, ugliest, smelliest monster of them all — the loup-garou — can smell kids who have been mean, and it comes to their house to "eats bad li'l girls an' boys... from d'tip o' dey hair to dey baby toenails."

In 1996 a creature that some people believe was a real loup-garou was killed on a lonely stretch of Highway 12 near the town of Deridder, La. In the Sept. 25, 1996, edition of the *Dequincy News*, a picture of this creature ran, sparking quite a bit of speculation in the Southwest Louisiana/Southeast Texas region.

"WHAT IS IT?" the headline read. "Mrs. Barbara Mullins took this photograph of an animal that apparently had been killed by a car on the road east of Temple-Inland. It was the size of a very large dog and was covered with thick, wooly hair. It had

the general appearance of a dog, except for the face, which looked somewhat like that of a baboon. Was it a dog or some unidentified animal?"

The animal was later described by eyewitnesses as

being about the size of a large Saint Bernard but with a face and feet like a primate. Wildlife officials refused to come out and examine the creature, so it wasted away on the side of the road. Pictures of the creature floating around on the Internet have sparked rumors that it is everything from a goat-killing chupacabra to a young Bigfoot-type creature to the loup-garou.

Most people who look at the picture pass it off as being a messed-up dog or someone's escaped pet baboon, but one thing is for sure. That picture and stories about it swapped on the Internet have kept the name of the loup-garou alive at a time when other Cajun folk tales seem to be disappearing.

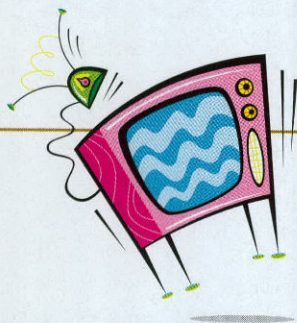
Prime evidence of this came from a student of a teacher friend of mine who teaches in a school on the Texas side of the Sabine. A group of students was talking about seeing the picture and seemed particularly intrigued that the creature was hit less than 30 miles away.

"It was a loup-garou. They live out in the swamps," one of the students said.

As long as stories like this keep being told, the loup-garou will probably live forever. ★

MOST STORYTELLERS DESCRIBE IT AS A MAN WHO TURNS INTO A WOLF AT NIGHT AND STALKS THE UNSUSPECTING VICTIMS WHO DARE TO ENTER THE DARK SWAMPS AND WOODLANDS OF SOUTHERN LOUISIANA AND SOUTHEAST TEXAS.

SIGHTS AND SOUNDS



THE FRONT LINE OF NEWS AND VIEWS



TELEVISION

LOOK FOR THESE STORIES IN THE COMING WEEKS:

Sept. 29 - Oct. 6:

Searching the skies at McDonald Observatory; squirrel sounds; San Antonio's Casa Navarro; outfoxing turkeys; hummingbirds.

Oct. 6 - 13:

Game wardens working with kids in the community; knife sharpening tips; biking trails in state parks; longhorns; Gorman Falls.

Oct. 13 - 20:

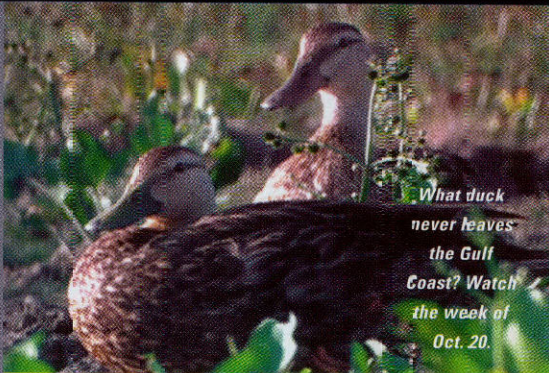
Black bears in West Texas; barn owl sounds; inside the earth at Longhorn Cavern State Park; sailing; dragonflies.

Oct. 20 - 27:

Tracking mottled ducks; fuel for camping; African-American history at Varner-Hogg State Historic Site; traveling the Trans-Pecos.

Oct. 27 - Nov. 3:

Beneath the surface at Sea Center; musical frogs; spending time at Ft. Griffin State Park; game wardens work the wide-open wilderness of West Texas; High Island birds.



What duck never leaves the Gulf Coast? Watch the week of Oct. 20.

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BRYAN-COLLEGE STATION: KAMU, Ch. 15 / Thurs. 7 p.m. / Sun. 5 p.m., 10:30 p.m.

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

DALLAS-FORT WORTH: KERA, Ch. 13 / Sat. 8:30 a.m. Also serving Abilene, Denton, Longview, Marshall, San Angelo, Texarkana, Tyler, Wichita Falls, Sherman

EL PASO: KCGS, Ch. 13 / Sat. 5 p.m. (rotates with other programs; check listings)

HARLINGEN: KMBH, Ch. 60 / Sun. 5:30 p.m. Also serving McAllen, Mission, Brownsville

HOUSTON: KLHT, Ch. 8 / Sun. 5 p.m., Fri. 1 p.m. Also serving Beaumont/Port Arthur, Galveston, Texas City, Victoria

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

LUBBOCK: KTXT, Ch. 5 / Sat. noon

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

PORTALES, N.M.: KENW, Ch. 3 / Sun. 2 p.m. Also serving West Texas/Panhandle area

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

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

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

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ABILENE: KACU-FM 89.7 / 7:06 a.m. & 1:44, 6:01 p.m., KWKC-AM 1340 / 6:28 a.m.

ATLANTA: KAQC Cable Ch. 22 / 8:15 a.m.

ALPINE: KSRC-FM 92.7 / 9 a.m.

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

AUSTIN: KUT-FM 90.5 / 1:04 p.m.

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

BIG SPRING: KBST-AM 1490 / 10:55 a.m., cable ch. 23 / 10:55 a.m., KBST-FM 95.7 / 10:55 a.m.

BRADY: KNEL-AM 1490 / 7:20 a.m. & 8:50 p.m. (7:50 a.m. Sat.), KNEL-FM 95.3 / 7:20 a.m. & 8:50 p.m. (7:50 a.m. Sat.)

BRIDGEPORT: KBQC-FM 98.3 / 8:10 a.m. & 5:15 p.m.

BRYAN: KZNE-AM 1150 / 5:45 p.m.

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

CANYON: KWTS-FM 91.1 / noon hour & 4 p.m. - 7 p.m.

CARTHAGE: KGAS-AM 1590 / 6:46 a.m., KGAS-FM 104.3 / 6:46 a.m.

CENTER: KDET-AM 930 / 12:25 p.m., KDET-FM 100.2 / 12:25 p.m.

COLEMAN: KSTA-AM 1000 / 5:05 p.m.

COLUMBUS: KULM-FM 98.3 / 7:20 a.m.

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

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

CORPUS CHRISTI: KEDT-FM 90.3 / 5:34 p.m., KFTX-FM 97.5 / 5:40 a.m., KBSO-FM 94.7 / 6:50 a.m.

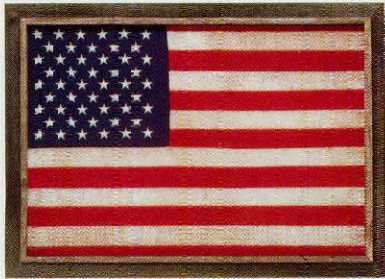
CROCKETT: KIVY-AM 1290 / 8:15 a.m., KIVY-FM 92.7 / 8:15 a.m.

CUERO: KVCO-FM 97.7 / 6:50 a.m.

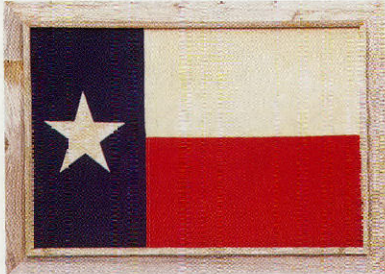
DEL RIO: KWMC-AM 1490 / 5:50 p.m.

DENISON/SHERMAN: KJIM-AM 1500 / 8:55 a.m.

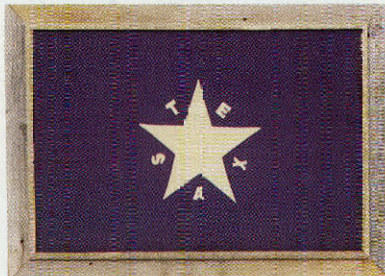
DENTON/DALLAS/FT. WORTH: KNTU-FM 88.1 / 10:30 a.m. & 2:30, 5:50 p.m.



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- DUMAS:** KDDD-FM 95.3 / 10:30 a.m.
KDDD-AM 800 / 10:30 a.m.
- EAGLE PASS:** KINL-FM 92.7 / 7:15 a.m.
- EASTLAND:** KEAS-AM 1590 / 5:51 a.m. & 5:51 p.m., KATX-FM 97.7 / 5:51 a.m. & 5:51 p.m.
- EDNA:** KGUL-FM 96.1 / 6:50 a.m.
- EL CAMPO:** KULP-AM 1390 / 2 p.m.
- EL PASO:** KXCR-FM 89.5 / 12:20 p.m.
- FAIRFIELD:** KNES-FM 99.1 / 6:47 a.m.
- FLORESVILLE:** KWCB-FM 89.7 / 1:30 p.m.
- FORT STOCKTON:** KFST-AM 860 / 7:56 a.m. & 12:50 p.m., KFTS-FM 94.3 / 7:56 a.m. & 12:50 p.m.
- FORT WORTH:** KTCU-FM 88.7 / 8:50 a.m. & 5:50 p.m.
- GAINESVILLE:** KGAF-AM 1580 / 7 a.m.
- GALVESTON:** KGBC-AM 1540 / 11:45 a.m.
- GATESVILLE:** KASZ-FM 98.3 / 7:24 a.m.
- GRANDBURY:** KPIR-AM 1420 / 10 a.m. - 11 a.m.
- GREENVILLE:** KGVV-AM 1400 / 8:15 a.m.
- HALLETTSVILLE:** KHLT-AM 1520 / 6:50 a.m., KTXM-FM 99.9 / 6:50 a.m.
- HASKELL:** KVRP-FM 97.1 / 9:30 a.m. M-F; KVRP-AM 1400 / 9:30 a.m. M-F
- HARLINGEN:** KMBH-FM 88.9 / 4:58 p.m.
- HEREFORD:** KPAN-AM 860 / 2:50 p.m., KPAN-FM 106.3 / 2:50 p.m.
- HILLSBORO:** KHBR-AM 1560 / 9:30 a.m.
- HOUSTON:** KCOH-AM 1430 / Saturday 4:30-6:30 a.m.
- HUNTSVILLE:** KSHU-FM 90.5 / 11:55 a.m., 5:55 p.m.
- JACKSONVILLE:** KEBE-AM 1400 / 7:15 a.m.
- JOURDANTON:** KBUC-FM 95.7 / Sat. noon
- JUNCTION:** KMBL-AM 1450 / 6:46 a.m. & 12:46, 5:46 p.m., KOOK-FM 93.5 / 6:46 a.m. & 12:46, 5:46 p.m.
- KERRVILLE:** KITE-FM 92.3 / 11:51 a.m. & 12:51, 5:40, 8:40 p.m., KERV-AM 1230 / 6:50 a.m. & 12:50, 5:50 p.m., KRVL-FM 94.3 / 6:10 a.m. & 12:50, 5:50 p.m., KRNH-FM 92.3 / 5:31 a.m. & 12:57, 7:35 p.m.
- LAMPASAS:** KCYL-AM 1450 / 7:10 a.m., KACO-FM 101.9 / 7:10 a.m.
- LAREDO:** KHOY-FM 88.1 / 2 p.m. M-F
- LEVELLAND:** KLVV-AM 1230 / 12:05 p.m.
- LUBBOCK:** KJTV-AM 950 / 6:50 a.m.
- MADISONVILLE:** KMVL-AM 1220 / 7:45 a.m., KMVL-FM 100.5 / 7:45 a.m.
- MARBLE FALLS:** KHLB-AM 1340 / 7:20 a.m., KHLB-FM 106.9 / 7:20 a.m.
- MARSHALL:** KCUL-AM 1410 / 6:39 a.m., KCUL-FM 92.3 / 6:39 a.m.
- MCALLEN:** KHID-FM 88.1 / 4:58 p.m.
- MESQUITE:** KEOM-FM 88.5 / 5:30 a.m. & 2:30, 8:30 p.m. M-Th. (5:30 a.m. & 4:45 p.m. Friday)
- MIDLAND/ODESSA:** KCRS-AM 550 / 6:15 a.m. & 5:50 p.m., KOCV-FM 91.3 / 7:37 a.m. Monday-Friday
- MINEOLA:** KMoo-FM 99.9 / 5:15 p.m.
- MONAHANS:** KLBO-AM 1330 / 8:50 a.m.
- NACOGDOCHES:** KSAU-FM 90.1 / 3 p.m.
- NEW BRAUNFELS:** KGNB-AM 1420 / 6:52 a.m.
- OZONA:** KYXX-FM 94.3 / 6:46 a.m., noon & 3:46 p.m.
- PECOS:** KIUN-AM 1400 / 10:30 a.m. & 5:20 p.m.

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OCTOBER HUNTING SEASONS

SEPT. 28-OCT. 27:

Archery season for mule deer, white-tailed deer and Rio Grande turkeys

SEPT. 23-29; OCT. 26-JAN. 22

Duck season in the High Plains Mallard Management Unit

SEPT. 28-OCT. 6:

Pronghorn antelope hunting by permit only

OCT. 1-FEB. 23:

Javelina season in 43 counties

OCT. 1-FEB. 2:

Squirrel season in East Texas

OCT. 19-20:

Youth-only duck season in the High Plains Mallard Management Unit

OCT. 19-20:

Lesser prairie chicken season in eight Panhandle counties, by permit only

OCT. 26-JAN. 19:

Dark goose season in the Eastern Goose Hunting Zone; also, light goose season in the portion that lies in the South Duck Zone

OCT. 26-JAN. 26:

Light goose season in the portion that lies in the North Duck Zone

OCT. 26-27:

Special youth season for white-tailed deer and Rio Grande turkeys

OCT. 26-27:

Youth-only duck season in North and South Duck Zones

OCT. 26-FEB. 9

Dark and light goose hunting in the Western Goose Hunting Zone

OCT. 26-FEB. 23

Statewide quail season

FOR MORE INFORMATION SEE THE TEXAS PARKS AND WILDLIFE DEPARTMENT OUTDOOR ANNUAL OR CALL (512) 389-4505.

SIGHTS & SOUNDS

PLAINVIEW: KKYN-AM 1090 / TBA

ROCKDALE: KRXT-FM 98.5 / 5:04 a.m. & 6:35 p.m.

SAN ANGELO: KUTX-FM 90.1 / 1:04 p.m.

SAN ANTONIO: KSTX-FM 89.1 / 9:04 p.m. Th., KENS-AM 1160 / 7:40 a.m., 12:26 & 5:45 p.m.

SAN AUGUSTINE: KCOT-FM 92.5 / 12:25 p.m.

SEGUIN: KWED-AM 1580 / 7:55 a.m.

SONORA: KHOS-FM 92.1 / 6:22 p.m.

SCHULENBERG: KTXM-FM 99.9 / 6:50 a.m.

STEPHENVILLE: KSTV-FM 93.1 / 5 a.m. - 7 a.m.

SULPHUR SPRINGS: KSST-AM 1230 / 2:50, 3:50 & 11:22 a.m.

TEMPLE: KTEM-AM 1400 / 6:50 a.m.

TEXARKANA: KTXK-FM 91.5 / noon hour

UVALDE: KVOU-AM 1400 / 8:30 a.m.

KVOU-FM 104.9 / 8:30 a.m.

VICTORIA: KVRT-FM 90.7 / 11:30 p.m., KTXN-FM 98.7 / 6:50 a.m.

VICTORIA-GANADO: KZAM-FM 104.7 / 6:50 a.m.

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

YOAKUM: KYKM-FM 92.5 / 6:50 a.m.

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Continued from page 67

OCT. 19: Kayak Demonstrations, Galveston Island SP, Galveston, (409) 737-1222.

OCT. 19: Beach and Bay Tours, Galveston Island SP, Galveston, (409) 737-1222.

OCT. 19-20: Paddle Trail Tours, Lighthouse Lakes Trails, Aransas Pass, (512) 389-4642.

OCT. 19-20: Youth Catch and Release Fishing Event, Sea Center Texas, Lake Jackson, (979) 292-0100.

OCT. 19-20: Surf Fishing Tournament, Matagorda Island SP & WMA, Port O'Connor, (361) 983-2215.

OCT. 19-20: Open House, Sea Center Texas, Lake Jackson, (979) 292-0100.

OCT. 20: Monthly Fun Run, Lake Corpus Christi SP, Mathis, (361) 547-2635.

OCT. 31: Halloween Extravaganza, Lake Texana SP, Edna, (361) 782-5718.



HILL COUNTRY

OCT.: Birdwatching, daily except

when closed for hunting, Pedernales Falls SP, Johnson City, (830) 868-7304.

OCT.: Evening Interpretive Programs, every Saturday, Guadalupe River SP, Spring Branch, (830) 438-2656.

OCT. 4: Range and Wildlife Seminar, Kerr WMA, Hunt, (830) 238-4483.

OCT. 5: Canoe Skills Clinic, Inks Lake SP, Burnet, (512) 793-2223.

OCT. 5: Star Party, Fort McKavett SHS, Fort McKavett, (915) 396-2358.

OCT. 5-6: 11th Annual Texas Wildlife Expo, TPWD Headquarters, Austin, (800) 792-1112.

OCT. 8-10: Texas Monarch Watch Workshop, Bamberger Ranch, Johnson City, (830) 868-4639.

OCT. 12: Beach Sweep, Inks Lake SP, Burnet, (512) 793-2223.

OCT. 18-20: Bike Rides, Garner SP, Concan, (800) 210-0380.

OCT. 19: Gorman Area Tours, Colorado Bend SP, Bend, (915) 628-3240.

OCT. 19: Texas Time Machine, Inks Lake SP, Burnet, (512) 793-2223.

OCT. 19: Community Group Demonstrations, Inks Lake SP, Burnet, (512) 793-2223.

OCT. 19: Concert in the Park, Guadalupe River SP, Spring Branch, (830) 438-2656.

OCT. 19: Evening Interpretive Programs, Guadalupe River SP, Spring Branch, (830) 438-2656.

OCT. 19-20: Music in the Park, Inks Lake SP, Burnet, (512) 793-2223.

OCT. 19-20: Natural and Cultural Programs, Guadalupe River SP,

Spring Branch, (830) 438-2656.

OCT. 19-20: Carroll Abbott Days, Kerrville-Schreiner SP, Kerrville, (830) 257-5392.

OCT. 19-20: Sinkhole Viewing, Devil's Sinkhole SNA, Brackettville, (830) 683-2287.

OCT. 19-20: Annual Lone Star Legacy Festival, Longhorn Cavern SP, Burnet, (877) 441-2283 or (512) 756-4680.

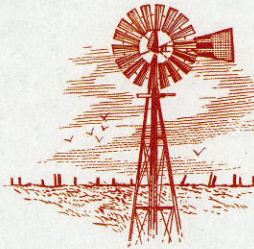
OCT. 19-20: Interpretive Program, Lyndon B. Johnson SP & HS, Stonewall, (830) 644-2252.

OCT. 19-20: Birdwatching, Pedernales Falls SP, Johnson City, (830) 868-7304.

OCT. 19-20: Tours, Guadalupe River SP, Spring Branch, (830) 438-2656.

OCT. 26: Hike the Hill Country, Inks Lake SP, Burnet, (512) 793-2223.

OCT. 27: Stumpy Hollow Nature Hike, Inks Lake SP, Burnet, (512) 793-2223.



PANHANDLE PLAINS

OCT.: Trailway Challenge, daily,

Caprock Canyons SP & Trailway, Quitaque, (806) 455-1492.

OCT.: Picnic Hike with Llamas, by reservation only through Jordan Llamas, San Angelo SP, San Angelo, (915) 651-7346.

OCT. 5: "Indian Summer," Palo Duro Canyon SP, Canyon, (806) 358-6500.

OCT. 5: Cross-Country Race, Copper Breaks SP, Quanah, (940) 839-4331.

OCT. 5: Sun Fun and Star Walk, Copper Breaks SP, Quanah, (940) 839-4331.

OCT. 5: Petroglyph Tour, San Angelo SP, San Angelo, (915) 949-4757.

OCT. 6: NORBA Bike Race, Palo Duro Canyon SP, Canyon, (806) 355-7224.

OCT. 11-13: West Texas Volksmarch, Palo Duro Canyon SP, Canyon, (281) 265-3772.

OCT. 12: Volunteer Day, Caprock Canyons SP & Trailway, Quitaque, (806) 455-1492.

OCT. 12: Cowboy Symposium and Old West Celebration, San Angelo SP, San Angelo, (915) 949-4757.

OCT. 18, 19: Dinner With the Commander, Fort Richardson SP & HS & Lost Creek Reservoir State Trailway, Jacksboro, (940) 567-3506.

OCT. 19: Guided Tours, Caprock Canyons SP & Trailway, Quitaque, (806) 455-1492.

OCT. 19: Palo Duro Trail Run,

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Palo Duro Canyon SP, Canyon, (806) 353-3847.

OCT. 19: Haunted Canyon, Palo Duro Canyon SP, Canyon, (806) 488-2227 Ext. 49.

OCT. 19: Moonlight Ride, Caprock Canyons SP & Trailway, Quitaque, (806) 455-1492.

OCT. 19: Interpretive Program, Lake Colorado City SP, Colorado City, (915) 728-3931.

OCT. 19: Pioneer Day, Abilene SP, Tuscola, (915) 572-3204.

OCT. 19-20: Open House, Lake Brownwood SP, Brownwood, (915) 784-5223.

OCT. 19-20: Art Show and Auction, Lake Arrowhead SP, Wichita Falls, (940) 528-2211.

OCT. 19-20: Open House, Fort Griffin SP & HS, Albany, (915) 762-3592.

OCT. 19-20: Open House, Copper Breaks SP, Quanah, (940) 839-4331.

OCT. 20: Birding Tour, Lake Colorado City SP, Colorado City, (915) 728-3931.

OCT. 26: Foliage Tour, Caprock Canyons SP & Trailway, Quitaque, (806) 455-1492.

OCT. 26: Fall Photography Workshop, Caprock Canyons SP & Trailway, Quitaque, (806) 455-1492.



PINEYWOODS

OCT. 4: Nature Slide Program, Village Creek SP, Lumberton, (409) 755-7322.

OCT. 6, 13, 20: Walk on the Wild Side, Martin Dies, Jr. SP, Jasper, (409) 384-5231.

OCT. 10: Friends Group Meeting, Martin Dies, Jr. SP, Jasper, (409) 384-5231.

OCT. 12, 26: Guided Nature Trail, Hike Village Creek SP, Lumberton, (409) 755-7322.

OCT. 19: Exhibit Fair, Caddo Lake SP & WMA, Karnack, (903) 679-3351.

OCT. 19: Dance, Tyler SP, Tyler, (903) 597-5338.

OCT. 19: Interpretive Activities, Martin Dies, Jr. SP, Jasper, (409) 384-5231.

OCT. 19: Walk for the Park, Atlanta SP, Atlanta, (903) 796-6476.

OCT. 19: Big Fish Tournament, Martin Creek Lake SP, Tatum, (903) 836-4336.

OCT. 19: Interpretive Programs and More, Tyler SP, Tyler, (903) 597-5338.

OCT. 19: Guided Nature Trail Hike, Village Creek SP, Lumberton, (409) 755-7322.

OCT. 19-20: Interpretive Center Grand Reopening, Huntsville SP, Huntsville, (936) 295-5644.

OCT. 19-20: Outdoor Fun, Huntsville SP, Huntsville, (936) 295-5644.

OCT. 19-20: Flora and Fauna, Huntsville SP, Huntsville, (936) 295-5644.

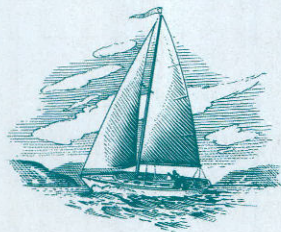
OCT. 19-20: Tours, Starr Family Home SHS, Marshall, (903) 935-3044.

OCT. 20: Nature Slide Program, Village Creek SP, Lumberton, (409) 755-7322.

OCT. 26: 10th Annual Murder on the DisOriented Express, Texas State Railroad SP, Rusk, (800) 659-3484.

OCT. 26: Annual Haunted Hike, Martin Dies, Jr. SP, Jasper, (409) 384-5231.

OCT. 26: Floating The Forks, Martin Dies, Jr. SP, Jasper, (409) 384-5231.



PRAIRIES & LAKES

OCT.: Evenings at the Amphitheater, Stephen F. Austin SP, San Felipe, (979) 885-3613.

OCT.: Guided Nature Tours, call for dates and times, Buescher SP, Smithville, (512) 237-2241.

OCT.: Guided Birding Hike, call for dates and times, Buescher SP, Smithville, (512) 237-2241.

OCT.: Guided Nature Tours, call for dates and times, Bastrop SP, Bastrop, (512) 321-2101.

OCT.: Ranger Talks, call for dates and times, Bastrop SP, Bastrop, (512) 321-2101.

OCT.: Guided Nature Hikes, call for dates and times, Bastrop SP, Bastrop, (512) 321-2101.

OCT.: Guided Birding Hike, call for dates and times, Bastrop SP, Bastrop, (512) 321-2101.

OCT.: Guided Nature Hikes, call for dates and times, Buescher SP, Smithville, (512) 237-2241.

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

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

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

OCT. 1-3: Hunter Education Class, Bastrop SP, Bastrop, (512) 237-2241.

OCT. 5: Sunset Nature Hike, Cooper Lake SP/Doctors Creek Unit, Cooper, (903) 395-3100.

OCT. 5-6, 12-13, 20, 26-27: Inn Tours, Fanthorp Inn SHS, Anderson, (936) 873-2633.

OCT. 6, 13: Kreische House Tours, Monument Hill & Kreische Brewery SHS, La Grange, (979) 968-5658.

OCT. 12: Creatures of the Night, Cooper Lake SP/South Sulphur Unit, Sulphur Springs, (903) 945-5256.

OCT. 14: Chili Lunch, Eisenhower Birthplace SHS, Denison, (903) 465-8908.

OCT. 18-31: Feat of Clay: Texas Pottery and Potters, 1850-1890, Sebastopol House SHS, Seguin, (830) 379-4833.

OCT. 19: Snakes - Our Scaly Skinned Friends, Cedar Hill SP, Cedar Hill, (972) 291-5940.

OCT. 19: Fun Day, Stephen F. Austin SP, San Felipe, (979) 885-3613.

OCT. 19: Musical Dinner Theater, Lake Tawakoni SP, Tyler, (903) 560-1795.

OCT. 19: Book Signing, Dinosaur Valley SP, Glen Rose, (254) 897-4588.

OCT. 19: Canoe Rides, Buescher SP, Smithville, (512) 237-2241.

OCT. 19: Slide Show, Buescher SP, Smithville, (512) 237-2241.

OCT. 19: Unveiling of Markers, Monument Hill & Kreische Brewery SHS, LaGrange, (979) 968-5658.

OCT. 19: Moon Party, Lake Whitney SP, Whitney, (254) 694-3793.

OCT. 19: Birds of Prey Demonstration, Meridian SP, Meridian, (254) 435-2536.

OCT. 19: Native American Display, Buescher SP, Smithville, (512) 237-2241.

OCT. 19: Youth Fishing Tournament, Bastrop SP, Bastrop, (512) 321-2101.

OCT. 19: Hayride, Bastrop SP, Bastrop, (512) 321-2101.

OCT. 19: Kids' Fishing Tournament, Lake Whitney SP, Whitney, (254) 694-3793.

OCT. 19: Nature Hike, Bastrop SP, Bastrop, (512) 321-2101.

OCT. 19: 2nd Annual Wild Game Dinner, Purts Creek SP, Eustace, (903) 425-2332.

OCT. 19: Fuzzy and Furry Things, Cedar Hill SP, Cedar Hill, (972) 291-5940.

OCT. 19: Mountain Bike Instruction and Ride, Cleburne SP, Cleburne, (817) 645-4215.

OCT. 19: Star Show, Dinosaur Valley SP, Glen Rose, (254) 897-4588.

OCT. 19: Archery Tournament, Eisenhower SP, Denison, (903) 465-1956.

OCT. 19: Interpretive Program, Cooper Lake SP/Doctors Creek Unit, Cooper, (903) 395-3100.

OCT. 19: Hike of the Day, Cedar Hill SP, Cedar Hill, (972) 291-5940.

OCT. 19: Texian Days, Fanthorp Inn SHS, Anderson, (936) 873-2633.

OCT. 19: Penn Farm Tour, Cedar Hill SP, Cedar Hill, (972) 291-5940.

OCT. 19: Family Fishing Derby, Fairfield Lake SP, Fairfield, (903) 389-4514.

OCT. 19-20: Interpretive Tours, Dinosaur Valley SP, Glen Rose, (254) 897-4588.

OCT. 19-20: Open House, Eisenhower Birthplace SHS, Denison, (903) 465-8908.

OCT. 19-20: Open House, Cooper Lake SP/Doctors Creek Unit, Cooper, (903) 395-3100.

OCT. 19-20: Open House, Cooper Lake SP/South Sulphur Unit, Sulphur Springs, (903) 945-5256.

OCT. 19-20: Lone Star Legacy Celebration, Bastrop SP, Bastrop, (512) 321-2101.

OCT. 19-20: Waterfowl Viewing, Bonham SP, Bonham, (903) 583-5022.

OCT. 19-20: Raffle, Texas Freshwater Fisheries Center, Athens, (903) 676-BASS.

OCT. 19-20: A Day at the Park, Rusk/Palestine SP, Rusk, (903) 683-5126.

OCT. 19-20: Lone Star Legacy Celebration, Buescher SP, Smithville, (512) 237-2241.

OCT. 20: Cowboy Music and Poetry Gathering, Lake Mineral Wells SP & Trailway, Mineral Wells, (940) 328-1171.

OCT. 20: Open House, Meridian SP, Meridian, (254) 435-2536.

OCT. 20: Inn Tours, Fanthorp Inn SHS, Anderson, (936) 873-2633.

OCT. 20: Bird Walk, Buescher SP, Smithville, (512) 237-2241.

OCT. 20: Mountain Bike Race, Ray Roberts Lake SP/Johnson Branch Unit, Valley View, (940) 637-2294.

OCT. 20: Picnic and Concert, Mother Neff SP, Moody, (254) 853-2389.

OCT. 26: Critters of the Cooper Lake Area, Cooper Lake SP/South Sulphur Unit, Sulphur Springs, (903) 945-5256.

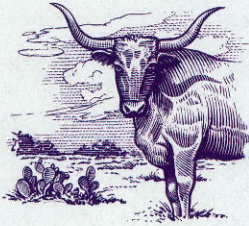
OCT. 26: Penn Farm Tour, Cedar Hill SP, Cedar Hill, (972) 291-5940.

OCT. 26: Neatness of the Night Hike, Cedar Hill SP, Cedar Hill, (972) 291-5940 or (972) 291-6505.

OCT. 26: Storytelling Down in the Holler, Lake Mineral Wells SP & Trailway, Mineral Wells, (940) 327-8950.

OCT. 28: Halloween at the Hatchery, Texas Freshwater Fisheries Center, Athens, (903) 676-BASS.

OCT. 28-30: 4th Annual Haunted Trail and Hayride, Stephen F. Austin SP, San Felipe, (979) 885-3613.



SOUTH TEXAS PLAINS

OCT.: Kiskadee Birding Tours, every Tuesday and Friday, Bentsen-Rio Grande Valley SP, Mission, (956) 585-1107.

OCT. 12: Outdoor Survival and

Wilderness First Aid, Government Canyon SNA, San Antonio, (210) 688-9603s.

OCT. 19: Dia Del Rio Water Celebration, Bentsen-Rio Grande Valley SP, Mission, (956) 585-1107.

OCT. 19-20: Battle of the Bands, Choke Canyon SP/South Shore Unit, Three Rivers, (361) 786-3538.

OCT. 19-20: Birding Tour, Choke Canyon SP/Calliham Unit, Calliham, (361) 786-3868.

OCT. 19-20: Tours and More, Casa Navarro SHS, San Antonio, (210) 226-4801.

OCT. 19-20: Time Flies, Goliad SP, Goliad, (361) 645-3405.

OCT. 26: Halloween Madness, Bentsen-Rio Grande Valley SP, Mission, (956) 585-1107.

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



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State Parks Offer Public Hunts

A number of state parks will offer special permit hunting this fall. As in the past, the specially controlled public hunts are scheduled for Monday through Friday, a slow time at most parks during fall and winter. Most parks will be open on Saturdays and Sundays for camping, picnicking and similar activities.

The following schedule lists the times and dates when public access is restricted. Call the park of your choice directly to make sure it will be open on the day you want to visit. Or call Texas Parks and Wildlife's information line, (800) 752-1112, between 8 a.m. and 5 p.m. Monday-Friday.

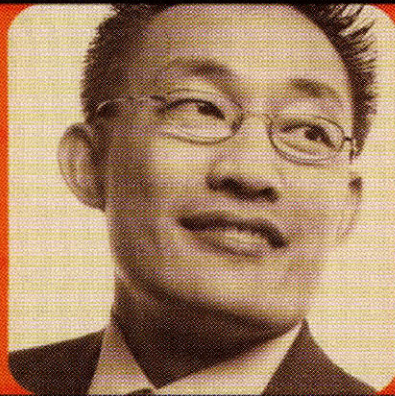
Oct. 4-6
Matagorda Island SP & WMA
(361) 933-2215

Oct. 13-18
Fort Boggy SNA
(903) 536-1523

Oct. 20-25
Devil's Sinkhole SNA
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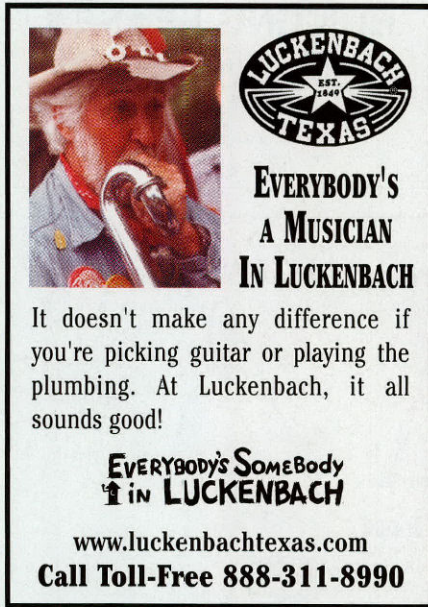


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PARTINGSHOT

A young visitor to last year's Texas Wildlife Expo makes the acquaintance of a camel, part of the State Parks Division's contribution to the annual celebration of the outdoors. This year's Expo will take place Oct. 5 and 6 at Texas Parks and Wildlife Department headquarters in southeast Austin. For more information about Expo, turn to page 18.

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