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# PASSPORT SM

Vol. 4 No. 4 • Dec. 1995 - Feb. 1996

JOURNAL

Your passport to the real Texas.

STARR FAMILY STATE HISTORICAL PARK

## A CHRISTMAS STAR IN A WONDERLAND OF LIGHTS

Millions of tiny white lights sparkle along every roof-angle, window and door on Marshall's historic courthouse then radiate out from the city square to every tree, building, fence and house. The Starr Family Home, two blocks from the square, is a plush Victorian home shimmering with white lights on the house and lawn as it takes part in the annual Christmas Wonderland of Lights.

Visitors, coming to glimpse the elegant mansion with its lavish lights, are greeted by a 10-foot tree on the porch and Christmas trees at every front window. Stepping through the front door, they enter the old home's past. The rooms are aglow with candlelight flickering on pine boughs that drape the mahogany banisters. Handmade decorations of ribbon, lace, velvet, pine cones, nuts and berries trim mirrors and mantels creating the warmest of Christmas scenes.



TPWD STAFF PHOTO

*Guided by costumed docents through the enchantment of Victorian elegance, visitors find mistletoe, cedar, holly and magnolia leaves filling the rooms with fragrant potpourris of scents.*

**TEXAS PARKS AND WILDLIFE**

**Christmas in the Parks...page 3**

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This Christmas season an extra-special treat is planned. A candlelight Christmas dinner will be served at the Starr-Blake Home by hostesses in Victorian dress. Musicians will be playing lutes, violins or harps during dinner and a tour of the mansion completes the evening. The dinner and tour package is set for evenings between Thanksgiving and New Year's with seating at 5 p.m. and 7:30 p.m., priced at \$17.50 per person (tour alone is \$3 per person). Please make reservations by calling 903-935-3044. ♻️

**Call the Marshall Chamber of Commerce at 1-800-953-7868, Monday through Friday, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. for information on the Wonderland Of Lights.**



*"...people doing the work of conservation...park volunteers, park managers, wildlife and fisheries biologists, botanists, historians and restoration artists are the wind beneath the wings of the Texas Conservation Passport program..."*

## ABILENE STATE PARK

# OKIE OKERSTROM

State Park Manager

"Vacations in my family meant putting gear in the car and going camping," Okie said. "But after college I left that life behind for a big city and a corporate career. Then my own kids got to be camping age and I just wanted to bring them home to Abilene."

"Working here feels perfectly natural," she said, "because my family has held many reunions at this very state park." The park is located south of Abilene near the town of Buffalo Gap, a place that was named for a natural pass through a chain of hills. Groves of tall native pecan trees sheltered Comanche people long before they sheltered modern campers.

"At one of our recent park events, two little girls got to roast hot dogs outside for the very first time," Okie said. "They loved it! And, I loved it too!"

## TEXAS STATE PARKS

State parks got started as a family investment in 1924 when Governor Pat Neff proposed that a land donation from his mother serve as the first park. Mrs. Isabella E. Neff's quiet grove of riverbottom pecan trees, near Waco, became the Mother Neff State Park. Today, along with the Abilene park, it is one of 136 Texas state parks that annually welcome millions of visitors and host some of the world's best family reunions, cookouts, camping trips, bike rides, hikes and swimming-pool belly-flops.

Y'all come! ♻️



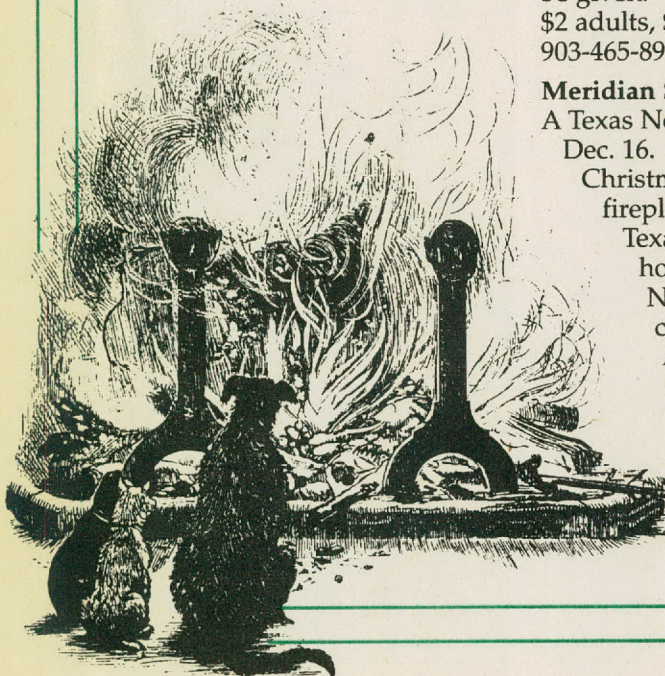
CLEW WELLS

# Christmas in the Parks

## Gulf Coast

### Fulton Mansion SHP

Christmas at the Mansion - Dec. 9. This activity will feature traditional late 19th century decorations including luminarias lighting the Mansion grounds and demonstrations of period crafts such as lace making, tatting and weaving. Other activities include a lecture on the magic lantern by Jack Judson, a visit from Santa Claus and a children's craft area. Christmas music, and hand-made crafts and baked goods for sell. 2-8 p.m., fee \$2 adults, \$1 children, 512-729-0386.



## Hill Country

### Kerrville-Schreiner SP

Christmas by the Campfire - Dec. 16. Gather around an old-fashioned campfire for storytelling and singing. 6-8 p.m., reservations available but not required, hostess K. McCoy, 210-257-5392.

## Prairies and Lakes

**Eisenhower SP** Christmas Valley - Dec. 15-24. Take time to reflect on the magic of the season by driving through the park and enjoying the sights and sounds of Christmas. 6-10 p.m., 903-465-1956.

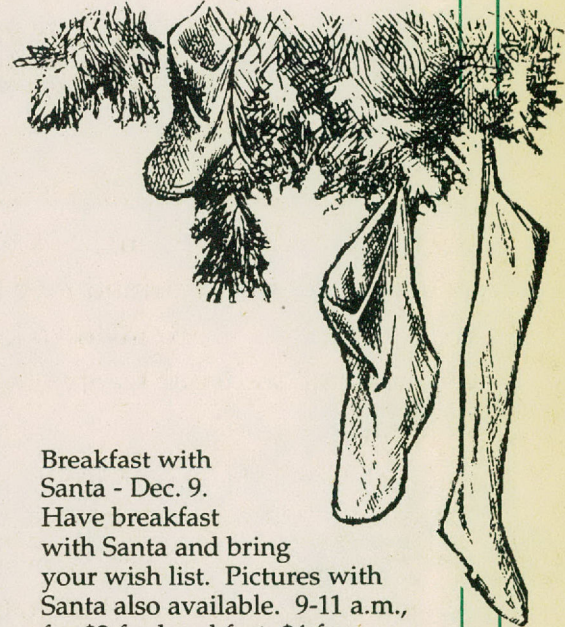
### Eisenhower Birthplace SHP

Home for Christmas - Dec. 10-30. The park will be decorated for the holiday season and tours will be given. 10 a.m.-4:00 p.m., fee \$2 adults, \$1 children, 903-465-8908.

### Meridian SP

A Texas Norwegian Christmas - Dec. 16. Enjoy a winter Christmas in front of an open fireplace with authentic Texas and Norwegian holiday treats.

Norwegian dancers, community choirs, Army Band from Fort Hood and concert by Bob Sawyer starts 7 p.m., fee \$6 per vehicle, 817-435-2536.



Breakfast with Santa - Dec. 9.

Have breakfast with Santa and bring your wish list. Pictures with Santa also available. 9-11 a.m., fee \$2 for breakfast, \$4 for breakfast and picture, reservations required, 817-435-2536.

Forest of Lights - Dec. 9-25. Drive through and enjoy the park adorned in Christmas lights. From dark to daylight, fee \$4 per vehicle or free to TCP members, 817-435-2536.

### Stephen F. Austin SHP

Christmas in the Park - Dec. 22. Join us for caroling and lighting of the park Christmas tree. 7-9 p.m., reservations available but not required, 409-885-3613.

## South Texas Plains

### Goliad SHP

Christmas Concert - Dec. 9. Christmas music sung by the Bee County College Concert Choir and Beeville Community Chorus. 7:30-9 p.m., reservations required, 512-645-3405. ♻️

# EXPLORE THE REAL TEXAS<sup>SM</sup>

## BIRDS

### Big Bend Country

**Hueco Tanks SNA Bird Identification Tour** - Dec. 17; Jan. 21; Feb. 18. 9-10:30 a.m., fee \$4 adults, \$2 children, \$1 TCP members, guide B. Johnson of the El Paso Trans Pecos Audubon Chapter, 915-857-1135.

### Gulf Coast

**Matagorda Island SP & WMA Intracoastal Waterway Birding Tour** - Dec. 1, 8; Jan. 19; Feb. 2. After a short trip across the Espiritu Santo Bay travel by boat down the intracoastal waterway to observe fall birds along the shore. Whooping cranes can be seen in their winter habitat. Bring lunch, insect repellent, and water. TCP required. Not wheelchair accessible. Minimum 10 people, maximum 45. 9 a.m.-5 p.m., fee \$15 per person, reservations required, guide naturalist L. Lewis, 512-983-2215.

**Whooping Crane Tour** - Feb. 25. After a short introduction, the tour group will travel by bus 20 miles to observe whooping cranes in their winter habitat. Bring lunch, insect repellent, and water. TCP required. Not wheelchair accessible. 8 a.m.-4 p.m., fee \$2 per person plus Ferry fee of \$10 adults, \$5 children 12 and under, reservations required, guide naturalist L. Lewis, 512-983-2215.

### Hill Country

**Longhorn Cavern SP Birding** - Feb. 24. Call park for time of event, fee \$2 for TCP members, \$4 for non-TCP members, reservations required, guide biologist N. Damude, 512-756-4680.

### Panhandle Plains

**Big Spring SP Cranefest '96** - Feb. 2, 3. This fun-filled weekend includes a birding trip Friday morning and a banquet that night open to the public. Saturday morning a guided tour of the park and Comanche Trail Park to view birds, plants, and historic rock carvings. Luncheon program then guided bus tour to view cranes and other waterfowl. See eagles, hawks, owls, falcons and vultures by Last Chance Forever. Bring binoculars. Package or individual event tickets are available for meals, tours and activities. Reservations requested, guides J. Karges with Nature Conservancy of Texas and Professor R. Dawkins, for reservations, times, and ticket information call Big Spring Chamber of Commerce at 915-263-7641 or Big Spring SP at 915-263-4931.

**Playa Lakes WMA/Taylor Lakes Unit An Afternoon at the Goose Roost** - Dec. 16. View geese and other waterfowl. Spotting scopes available. Waterfowl biology discussed. Bring binoculars and warm clothing. Participants are free to spend the rest of the afternoon birding at the WMA. TCP required. 1:30-2:30 p.m., guides biologist J. Ray and wildlife technician D. Wright, reservations required and can be made by calling 806-655-3782 by noon Nov. 30, or by sending a post card to P.O. Box 659, Canyon, TX 79015, card must be received by Nov. 30.

### Pineywoods

**Caddo Lake SP & WMA Birding by Feeders** - Feb. 24. Slide presentation on various species of birds attracted by feeders. 7-8 p.m., donations accepted, reservations required, guide conservation specialist J. Thomas, 903-884-3833.

**Jasper SFH Winter Birding** - Dec. 16. 7:30 a.m.-noon, reservations required, guide biologist R. Helton, 409-384-9965 or 409-384-2221.

**Martin Creek Lake SP Boat Tour** - Dec. & Jan. every Saturday and Sunday. Two-hour boat ride on 5,000-acre reservoir to view wildlife, birds and bald eagles. First tour 10 a.m.-noon, second tour 2-4 p.m., fee \$8 adults, \$4 children under 12, TCP members get \$2 discount per family member, senior citizens half price, reservations required, guides park staff, 903-836-4336.

**White Oak Creek WMA Migratory Waterfowl Viewing** - Dec. 16; Jan. 13. Slide presentation followed by observation of waterfowl. Bring binoculars, rubber boots and dress according to the weather. 3 p.m.-dark, donations accepted, reservations required, guide conservation specialist J. Thomas, 903-884-3833.

### Prairies and Lakes

**Alcoa Lake Waterfowl Identification and Birding Tour** - Jan. 20. 8:30-11:30 a.m., reservations required, guide biologist J. Yantis, 409-279-2048.

**Caddo Grasslands WMA Winter Birding** - Feb. 10. 9-11 a.m., reservations required, guide conservation specialist J. Thomas, 903-884-3833.

### Cooper Lake WMA

Those Dusky Ducks - Dec. 9; Jan. 27. Observe waterfowl coming to roost. Bring rubber boots, camera, binoculars and dress according to the weather. 4 p.m.- dark, donations accepted, reservations required, guide conservation specialist J. Thomas, 903-884-3833.

**Eisenhower SP** Eagle Workshop - Jan. 13. 10-11 a.m., reservations required, guide R. Wallace with the Heard Natural Science Museum and Wildlife Sanctuary, 903-465-1956.

**Fairfield Lake SP** Bald Eagle Tour - Dec. 9, 16, 30; Jan. 6, 13, 20, 27; Feb. 3, 10, 17, 24. View a short video, receive an orientation of the park and the bald eagle's importance as an indicator species, then board a tour boat to view the real thing. Dress warmly and bring binoculars. 10 a.m.-noon in Dec. and Jan., 1-3 p.m. in Feb., fee \$15 adults, \$10 children 16 and under, \$5 discount for TCP members, reservations required, guide park manager D. Walsh, 903-389-4514.

**Fort Parker SP** Winter Waterfowl Boat Tour - Dec. 9; Jan. 6; Feb. 10. Board the *Cynthia Ann* and tour Fort Parker Lake and the Navasota River. View wood ducks and other waterfowl. 8 a.m.-noon, fee \$5 per person, reservations required, guide expert birder B. Flatt, 817-562-5751.

**Gus Engeling WMA** Putting the Ducks to Bed - Feb. 3. Wade out into a duck roost to watch mallards and wood ducks settle in for the night. TCP required. 3:30-7 p.m.,

reservations required, guide biologist C. Frentress, 903-928-2251, (see also Schedule Your Own Outings).

**Pat Mayse WMA** Winter Birding - Jan. 20. 9-11 a.m., donations accepted, reservations required, guide conservation specialist J. Thomas, 903-884-3833.

**Ray Roberts Lake WMA** Ducks at Dark - Feb. 10. Tour the Range Creek Wetlands Project and learn about waterfowl management. Rubber boots, camera, binoculars, bird guides, insect repellent and drinking water are recommended. At least one person in party must have TCP. 3-7 p.m., reservations available but not required, guides fish and wildlife technician S. Palmer and biologist S. Jester, 817-591-9115.

## South Texas Plains

**Choke Canyon SP/Calliham Unit** Birding - Dec. 16, 20, 30; Jan. 13, 20, 27; Feb. 3, 10, 17. 8 a.m.-noon, fee \$15 per person for TCP members, \$20 for non-TCP members, includes gift package valued at \$10, reservations required, guide conservation specialist T. Smith, 512-786-3868.

Duck Calling and Identification - Jan. 6. Learn how to use different calls to attract ducks and identify several species. 9 a.m.-noon, fee \$15 per person for TCP members, \$20 for non-TCP members, includes gift package valued at \$10, reservations required, guide conservation specialist T. Smith, 512-786-3868.

# BIRDHOUSE DAY

## Hill Country

**Kerrville-Schreiner SP** Annual Texas Birdhouse Day - Feb. 3. 10 a.m.-1 p.m., reservations requested, guide K. McCoy, call park for more information, 210-257-5392.

## Pineywoods

**Martin Dies, Jr. SP** Birdhouse Day - Feb. 3. Learn about different species of our feathered friends and help to restore and enhance their habitat by building birdhouses for the park and one to take home. Boxes will be pre-cut and ready to assemble. Meet behind The Nature Center in the Walnut Ridge Unit of the park. 9:30-11:30 a.m., fee \$10 per person, registration due by Jan. 26, late registration is \$15 per person after Jan. 26, reservations required, guide conservation specialist C. Lena, 409-384-5231.

## Prairies and Lakes

**Eisenhower SP** Birdhouse Day - Feb. 3. Thanks to dedicated volunteers, the blue bird is on the increase. Bring a hammer and help build your own birdhouse. 10-11 a.m., fee \$5 per person, reservations required, guide interpretive ranger L. Lowe, 903-465-1956.

**Fairfield Lake SP** 5th Annual Birdhouse Day Celebration - Feb. 3. A celebration of our ability to interact with the world of nature. This activity encourages visitors to participate in hands-on habitat improvement to benefit our feathered friends. Activities include monitoring bird houses in use, repairing damaged or deteriorated houses, construction and set-up of new houses, and tours of the park birdwatching trail to view how specific habitat suits specific species of birds. Dress warmly and bring binoculars. TCP members will be entitled to a free Birdhouse Day guide-book. 8 a.m.-5 p.m., guide park manager D. Walsh, 903-389-4514.

## Know before you go!

Texas Conservation Passports are for adults, age 17 and older. Children and young adults do not need to have a Conservation Passport and are not eligible for Passport discounts.

- See Drive Across Texas, Page 10-12, for directions to activities.
- Some of these activities require one Conservation Passport per person age 17 and over.
- Some activities require **reservations**.
- Most activities have a **limit on group size**.
- For **reservations** and information, call the phone number listed with the activity.
- For WMAs, the best time to catch the biologist in the office is on a weekday between 8 to 9 a.m. and 12 to 1 p.m.
- Call WMAs before going to visit to make sure you can have access.
- Abbreviations:

SP = State Park  
SFH = State Fish Hatchery  
SHP = State Historical Park  
SNA = State Natural Area  
WMA = Wildlife Management Area  
TCP = Texas Conservation Passport  
TPWD = Texas Parks & Wildlife Department

## CAVE ADVENTURES

### Hill Country

**Colorado Bend SP Wild Cave Tours** - Dec., Jan. & Feb. every Saturday and Sunday. Discover what speleologists (cavers) experience while exploring the underground world. The crawling tour takes you through several relatively small and progressively more difficult caves. The walking tour takes you to Gorman Cave. Wear old clothes, substantial footwear (feet may get wet) and bring a flashlight. Equipment suggested for crawling tours: strap-on headlight, knee pads and elbow pads. Crawling tour starts 1:30 p.m. Saturdays and is \$15 per person. Walking tour starts 9:15 a.m.

Saturdays and Sundays and is \$8 per person. Resources and weather permitting. Reservations required, maximum 10 people per tour, guide E. Young of the Texas Speleological Association, 915-628-3240, (see also Schedule Your Own Outings).

**Kickapoo Cavern SNA Primitive Tour** of Kickapoo Cavern - Dec. 9, 14, 16; Jan. 4, 6, 18, 20. Flashlight tour of undeveloped cave! TCP required per person 17 years or older. 1-3:30 p.m., call park for tour fee information, reservations required, guide park manager D. Stuart, 210-563-2342, (see also Schedule Your Own Outings).

## HANDS-ON HISTORY

### Gulf Coast

**Matagorda Island SP & WMA History Tour** - Feb. 10. History tour of Matagorda Island will be presented with demonstrations, trip to the Lighthouse and grave sites covering the origins of the island 5,000 years ago to the beginnings of WWII. TCP required. Not wheelchair accessible. 10 a.m.-4 p.m., fee \$2 per person plus Ferry fee of \$10 adults, \$5 children 12 and under, reservations required, guide conservation specialist C. Veatch, 512-983-2215.

### Prairies and Lakes

**Fanthorp Inn SHP Stagecoach Rides** - Dec. 9; Jan. 13; Feb. 10. Tours of the Inn will be given and rides on an authentic replica of an 1850s Concord Stagecoach. Enjoy the music of our dulcimer players. 1-4 p.m., fee \$4 adults, \$2.50 children 12 and under, 409-873-2633.

**Stephen F. Austin SHP History Tour** - Dec., Jan. & Feb. every Saturday. Tour Stephen F. Austin's first colony in Texas. 1-3 p.m., fee \$2 adults, \$1 children, reservations available but not required, guides park rangers, 409-885-3613.

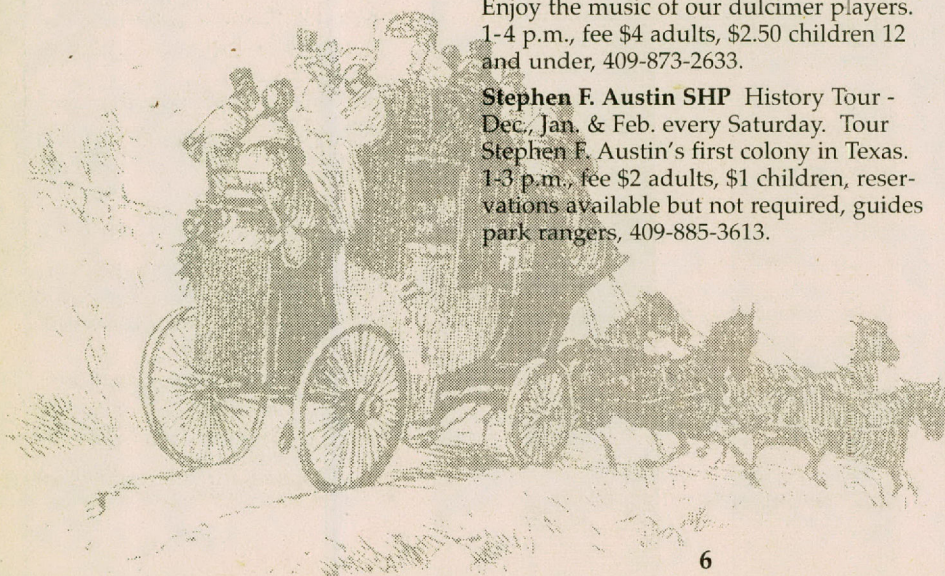
## ARTS & CRAFTS

### Hill Country

#### Landmark Inn SHP

**Grandma's Lost Art** - Jan. 13-14. Two-day workshop teaching the once popular art of tatting. The first day will be a brief introduction on the history of tatting along with learning the basic knots. Second day a review, explanation of principles of the patterns and of hands-on learning. Maximum 10 people. 1-5 p.m. Jan. 13, 9 a.m.-noon Jan. 14, fee \$30 for TCP members, \$35 for non-TCP members, fee includes tatting kit, deposit and application due by Jan. 10, guide W. Moses teaches tatting at the University of Texas, reservations required and can be made by calling the park at 210-931-2133, reservations to stay at Landmark Inn may be made by calling 512-389-8900.

**Soap Making** - Feb. 17-18. Participants are to bring two glass coming ware casserole dishes to serve as molds and two stainless steel or glass bowls. Choose from several 19th century formulas like honey, rosemary, and windsor. This is a 2-day workshop. Maximum 12 people. 1-5 p.m. Feb. 10, 9 a.m.-noon Feb. 11, fee \$25 for TCP members, \$35 for non-TCP members, deposit and application due by Feb. 10, reservations required and can be made by calling the park at 210-931-2133, reservations to stay at Landmark Inn may be made by calling 512-389-8900.



# NATURE OUTINGS FOR WALKERS & HIKERS

## Big Bend Country

**Big Bend Ranch SP** Hiking the Ranch - Jan. 26-28, Feb. 23-25. Three days of hiking including a "walk through time" in the Lower Shutup of the Solitario and the top of Madrid Falls. Includes meals and lodging. Participants must be able to hike up to 12 miles a day in rough desert terrain. TCP required. Starts 8 a.m., fee \$30 per person, reservations required, guide interpretive naturalist D. Alloway, 915-229-3416 (see also Schedule Your Own Outings).

## Gulf Coast

**GCCA/CPL Marine Development Center** Birding Walk & Hatchery Tour/Slide Program - Dec. 9. Guided nature walk around hatchery ponds and hatchery. Slide show presentation and tour of facility. TCP required. 9-11 a.m., reservations required, guide hatchery manager T. Engeling, 512-939-7784.

## Hill Country

**Colorado Bend SP** Gorman Falls Tour - Dec., Jan. & Feb. every Saturday and Sunday. Caravan from park headquarters to the Gorman area of the park and then hike to below the falls. From trail head, it's a 1-1/2-mile round-trip over beautiful hill country terrain. Substantial footwear with rubber soles is recommended. No pets allowed on tour. No restrooms or drinking water available in Gorman Falls area. 10 a.m. & 2 p.m. Saturdays and 10 a.m. on Sundays weather permitting, \$2 adults, \$1 children 6 to 12, under 6 free, activity fee may apply and entrance fee for non-TCP members, guide B. Paddie, 915-628-3240, (see also Schedule Your Own Outings).

**Honey Creek SNA** Lower Edwards Plateau Ecosystem Tour - Dec., Jan. & Feb. every Saturday. Two-mile guided walk through Honey Creek Canyon with an interpretation of cultural, biological, and geological history of the Hill Country. 9-11 a.m., fee \$2 per person, \$5 for family, guide naturalist P. Solis, 210-438-2656.



## DID YOU KNOW?

When you purchase motorboat fuel or fishing and hunting equipment you help support Texas wildlife and sport-fish restoration programs as well as boating-access facilities.

# ROCK ART

## Big Bend Country

**Big Bend Ranch SP** Rock Art Seminar - Dec. 28-30. Visit 5 prehistoric and historic rock art sites that are not open to the general public. Includes handouts, evening programs, lodging, and custom t-shirt. Participants must be able to make strenuous hikes in rough desert terrain. TCP required. Starts 8 a.m., fee \$300 per person, reservations required, guide interpretive naturalist D. Alloway, 915-229-3416 (see also Schedule Your Own Outings).

**Hueco Tanks SNA** Rock Art Tour - Dec. 9; Jan. 13; Feb. 10. Guided tour of ancient Indian rock art. 9-10 a.m., fee \$4 adults, \$2 children, \$1 TCP members, guides volunteers from the El Paso Archeological Society and the Friends of Hueco Tanks, 915-857-1135.

**Seminole Canyon SHP** Pressa Canyon Rock Art Tour - Dec. 30; Jan. 20. Hike the lower canyons and view rock art in the secluded areas of the park. 7:30 a.m. 4:30 p.m., fee \$10 for TCP members, \$20 for non-TCP members, reservations required, guides park staff, 915-292-4464.

# COMEDY

## Prairies and Lakes

**Meridian SP** Mock Wedding - Feb. 24. Comic fundraiser held for enhancing park educational programs. Starts 7 p.m., fee \$2 adults, 50 cents children 12 and under, reservations required, 817-435-2536.

Explore...Continued on page 8

## PARK RESERVATIONS

Campsites, cabins, shelters and group facilities can be reserved for up to eleven months in advance. Reservations **must** be made at least **three days in advance** of your planned stay.

### REGULAR RESERVATION HOURS

Monday through Friday  
8 a.m. to 6 p.m.

### OUR PHONE NUMBERS

To make reservations  
1-512-389-8900

To cancel reservations  
1-512-389-8910

Information 1-800-792-1112

Press 3 for Parks Information and then 3 again for All Other Parks Information.

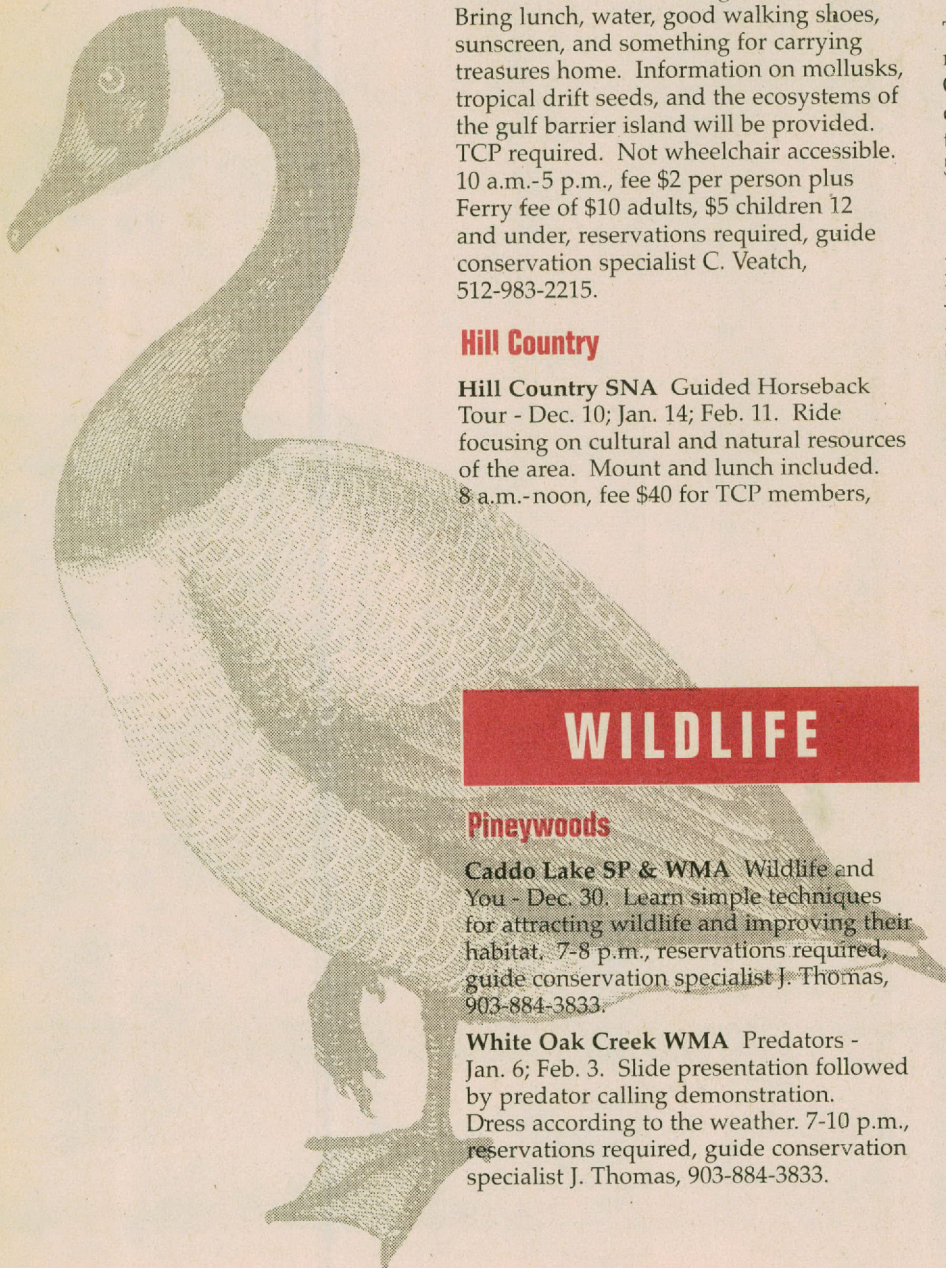
You can still make reservations directly at:

Indian Lodge 915-426-3254

Texas State Railroad 1-800-442-8951



For information on purchasing a  
Texas Conservation Passport call  
1-800-792-1112 8 a.m.-5 p.m.  
Monday - Friday



## OUTDOOR ADVENTURES

### Big Bend Country

**Elephant Mountain WMA** Geology Tour of WMA - Jan. 27. Driving tour to discuss geology of area. Some walking is involved. Must supply own high clearance vehicle. Maximum 20 people. TCP required. 9 a.m.-3 p.m., reservations required, guide professor of geology K. Urbanczyk, 915-364-2228.

### Gulf Coast

**Matagorda Island SP & WMA** Beachcombing and Shelling Tour - Dec. 10; Jan. 27; Feb. 3. After arriving on Matagorda Island, participants will be transported to the Gulf of Mexico beach for 6 hours of beachcombing. Transportation is an open four wheel vehicle so dress according to the weather. Bring lunch, water, good walking shoes, sunscreen, and something for carrying treasures home. Information on mollusks, tropical drift seeds, and the ecosystems of the gulf barrier island will be provided. TCP required. Not wheelchair accessible. 10 a.m.-5 p.m., fee \$2 per person plus Ferry fee of \$10 adults, \$5 children 12 and under, reservations required, guide conservation specialist C. Veatch, 512-983-2215.

### Hill Country

**Hill Country SNA** Guided Horseback Tour - Dec. 10; Jan. 14; Feb. 11. Ride focusing on cultural and natural resources of the area. Mount and lunch included. 8 a.m.-noon, fee \$40 for TCP members,

\$42 for non-TCP members plus \$1 park entrance fee, guide conservation specialist S. Heavey, reservations required and must be made through Running 'R' Ranch, 210-796-3984.

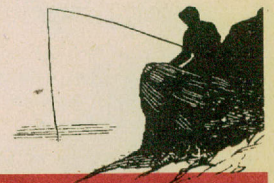
**Longhorn Cavern SP** Sam Bass Treasure Hunt/Mystery Game - Jan. 12, 13. Descend into the depths of Longhorn Caverns to determine if the outlaw Sam Bass actually used the cavern. Participants will follow a set of clues, encounter costumed characters, and search for money bags filled with gold coins. Starts 7 p.m. on Jan. 12, fee depends on lodging accommodations, call park for more information, reservations required, 512-756-4680.

### Pineywoods

**Tyler SP** Orienteering - Feb. 10, 11. Timed contests of map and compass readings sponsored by the North Texas Orienteering Association. Starts 10 a.m. on Feb. 10, and 9 a.m. on Feb. 11, reservations required and can be made by calling 512-389-8900.

### Prairies and Lakes

**Meridian SP** Women's Fishing Retreat - Jan. 27-29. This 3-day event will feature fly fishing, trout fishing and lots of fun. Starts 6 p.m. on Jan. 27, fee \$60 per person includes meals, lodging, prizes and entry fees, reservations required and must be made by Jan. 19, guide interpretive ranger B. Wilson, 817-435-2536.



## WILDLIFE

### Pineywoods

**Caddo Lake SP & WMA** Wildlife and You - Dec. 30. Learn simple techniques for attracting wildlife and improving their habitat. 7-8 p.m., reservations required, guide conservation specialist J. Thomas, 903-884-3833.

**White Oak Creek WMA** Predators - Jan. 6; Feb. 3. Slide presentation followed by predator calling demonstration. Dress according to the weather. 7-10 p.m., reservations required, guide conservation specialist J. Thomas, 903-884-3833.

## KID'S CORNER

### Pineywoods

**Daingerfield SP** Kid's Fishing Day - Dec. 16. Assisted freshwater trout fishing. Rods, reels and bait provided. 9 a.m.-1 p.m., guide park manager K. Ochs, 903-645-2921.

### Prairies and Lakes

**Meridian SP** Kid's Fishing Tournament - Jan. 13. Spend the morning learning the art of fly fishing. The afternoon event will be a trout tournament. 8 a.m.-noon and 1-4 p.m., fee 50 cents for children under 12, \$1 for children 12 to 16, reservations required, guide ranger B. Wilson, 817-435-2536.



# NEW PARK!

Go west to visit the newly opened San Angelo State Park. Four ecological zones overlap in the park providing terrific birdwatching and wildlife viewing. Native American rock art and dinosaur tracks add historical and paleontological attractions, while opportunities for boating, fishing and swimming, camping and hiking provide typical park activities.

But, the park's most spectacular feature is a newly built 15-mile-long hiking-biking-equestrian trail that ranges across high bluffs, through woods and along a river.

Located on O.C. Fisher Reservoir, west of San Angelo, the park is off of FM 2288. For information, call 915-949-4757.

## TEXAS PARKS AND WILDLIFE COLLECTION



# TEXAS PLACES

GIVE MEMORIES THAT WILL LAST FOREVER WITH THESE MINI-VACATIONS.  
YOU WILL RECEIVE A DISTINCTIVE GIFT CERTIFICATE APPROPRIATE FOR HOLIDAY GIFT-GIVING.  
CERTIFICATE MAY ALSO BE SENT, IN YOUR NAME, TO THE PERSON(S) OF YOUR CHOICE.

An entire catalog of exciting nature tours, trips and explorations will be available this spring! To receive your copy of Passport Adventures<sup>SM</sup>, call: 1-800-792-1112 and press the voice-mail option for the Texas Conservation Passport. Or fax your name and address to 1-512-389-8029.

### Romantic weekend for two at the historic Landmark Inn

Enjoy the simplicity and tranquility of bygone years with this three-day/two-night weekend package for two at the historic Landmark Inn in Castroville, on the Medina River. Tour package includes a special gift basket, two nights lodging in this 130-year-old country Inn with continental breakfast in bed, two nights of fine dining in Alsatian restaurants, a guided tour of this state historical park's grounds and a walking tour of historic Castroville. (Shown inset, below left.)

4013 **\$399.00** for two (plus tax)

Available year round Thursday through Sunday only (closed Tuesday and Wednesday).

### Deluxe Photo Safari at the 74 Ranch Hunting Resort

This one-of-a-kind tour is for the serious amateur photographer who would like the unique opportunity to photograph abundant, trophy-class wildlife in a natural habitat. This all-inclusive, three-day/two-night tour features the famous 74 Ranch Hunting Resort's spectacular wildlife, including many exotic big game species. You will enjoy first-class lodging accommodations, deluxe meals, and unlimited access to the 74 Ranch's lodge facilities. Your professional guide will escort you to your own blind or stand for special photography sessions (two morning and two late-afternoon). During the day you can relax and enjoy the many amenities available at the 74 Ranch, such as fishing and trap shooting, or enjoy a driving tour of their 27,000 acres.

4014 **\$490.00** Per Person (plus tax)

(\$100.00 per additional person/double occupancy)  
Available March through September.

#### CONDITIONS:

Tax and gratuity are not included. All tours are subject to availability and advance reservations are required. Reservations are made through the tour provider (phone numbers are furnished with Gift Certificate). It is recommended that reservations be made at least 30 days in advance. Gift Certificate is refundable to the original purchaser, less a \$50.00 handling charge, if request is received in writing before March 31, 1996. The Gift Certificates are valid until December 31, 1996.

### Family Naturalist Tour in the Big Thicket

One of our newest state parks, Village Creek sits nestled in the heart of what remains of the Big Thicket, just North of Beaumont. View tall pines and hardwood forests while you enjoy a fully outfitted, naturalist-guided, one-day canoe trip on a pristine float stream. Your private cabin sits on the banks of Village Creek overlooking snow white sand bars and abundant wildlife. All meals are included in this three-day/two-night vacation. Each evening your guide will prepare a campfire meal and later, while relaxing around a campfire, you'll learn about the natural and cultural history of this remarkable region. A four-hour guided nature hike with a park naturalist is also included. (Shown below.)

4015 **\$675.00** for two (plus tax)

(\$90.00 for each additional person - maximum 6)



Village Creek State Park

To order a Mini-Vacation, please call:  
**1-800-786-8644**

## HILL COUNTRY

### Colorado Bend SP

In Lampasas and San Saba counties on the Colorado River, about 10 miles above Lake Buchanan, near the community of Bend. Bend is north of Llano via State Highway 16 or west of Lampasas via U.S. Highway 183/190. Paved access to Bend via Ranch Roads 501, 580 or 581. From Bend there are approximately 4 miles of unpaved road to the park entrance, 915-628-3240.

### Granger WMA

In Williamson County. From Taylor, take State Highway 95 north to Circleville and turn east on F.M. 1331 then approximately 6 miles to the Wilson Fox Park/Granger Dam road. Corps of Engineers headquarters has area maps (with registration boxes marked) at the north end of the dam road, 512-859-2668.

### Guadalupe River SP

In Kendall and Comal Counties, 30 miles north of San Antonio on State Highway 46 between Boerne and U.S. Highway 281, 210-438-2656.

### Hill Country SNA

In Bandera and Medina counties, 10 miles southwest of Bandera. From Bandera, take State Highway 173 south a 1/4-mile to Ranch Road 1077 (also marked as "Dixie Dude Ranch Road"); go 10 miles to the park entrance, the last 1.5-mile stretch is not paved, 210-796-4413 (park is closed Tuesdays and Wednesdays).

### Honey Creek SNA

Access through Guadalupe River State Park, see above, 210-438-2656.

### Kerrville-Schreiner SP

In Kerr County 3 miles southeast of Kerrville; on both sides of State Highway 173 on the Guadalupe River, 210-257-5392.

### Kickapoo Cavern SNA

Access by Texas Conservation Passport only. Everyone over 17 years of age or older required to have a Passport. In Edwards and Kinney counties, 40 miles west of Uvalde on U.S. Highway 90, then 22.5 miles due north of Bracketville on Ranch Road 674; park entrance is on west side of road, 210-563-2342.

### Landmark Inn SHP

In Castroville on U.S. Highway 90 about 25 miles west of San Antonio, 210-931-2133.

### Longhorn Cavern SP

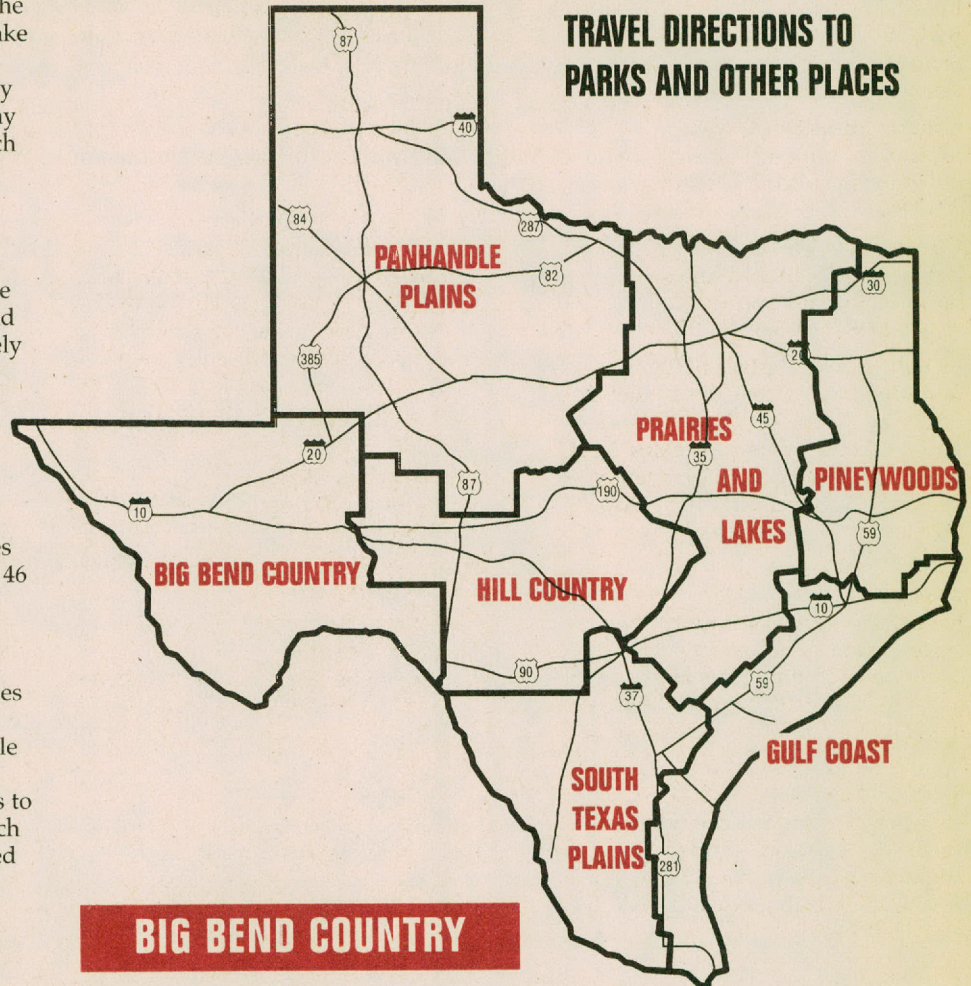
In Burnet County, about 5 miles south of Burnet on U.S. Highway 281, 512-756-4680.

### Walter Buck WMA

In Kimble County, on the South Fork of the Llano River. Take State Highway 377 south of Junction, the WMA entrance is 3 miles past the city limits sign, 915-446-3994.

# DRIVE ACROSS TEXAS

## TRAVEL DIRECTIONS TO PARKS AND OTHER PLACES



## BIG BEND COUNTRY

### Big Bend Ranch SNA

In Brewster and Presidio counties, north of Lajitas on F.M. 170, 915-229-3416.

### Davis Mountains SP

In Jeff Davis County, about 4 miles northwest of Fort Davis, via State Highway 118, 915-426-3337.

### Devils River SNA

In Val Verde County, about 45 miles north of Del Rio and 22 miles off U.S. Highway 277, 210-395-2133.

### Elephant Mountain WMA

In Brewster County about 26 miles south of Alpine on the east side of State Highway 118, 915-364-2228.

### Hueco Tanks SHP

In El Paso County, approximately 32 miles east of El Paso on Ranch Road 2775, just north of U.S. Highway 62-180, 915-857-1135.

### Seminole Canyon SHP

In Val Verde County. Take U.S. Highway 90 west from Del Rio to Comstock. Nine miles west of Comstock to park entrance. Just east of the Pecos River High Bridge, 915-292-4464.

## SOUTH TEXAS PLAINS

### Choke Canyon SP/Calliham Unit

In McMullen and Live Oak counties, about 70 miles south of San Antonio. On the north side of Highway 72, about 8 miles west of Three Rivers, 512-786-3868.

### Goliad SHP

One-half mile south of Goliad in Goliad County. From the junction of U.S. Highway 59 and 183 go south on U.S. Highway 183. Park is on west side of road, 512-645-3405.

## PRAIRIES AND LAKES

### Alcoa Lake

In Milam County. Meet at road side park at the intersection of F.M. 1786 and State Highway 79, 5 miles west of Rockdale, 409-279-2048.

### Caddo Grasslands WMA

In Fannin County 15 miles north of Honey Grove, off F.M. 100, 903-884-3833.

### Cooper Lake WMA

In Hopkins County 12 miles north of Sulphur Springs on State Highway 154, 903-884-3833.

### Eisenhower Birthplace SHP

In northern Grayson County. Off U.S. Highway 75, exit 66/Spur 503 to the right and into Denison, 4th stop light turn right onto Hull St., turn left onto Crockett Ave., turn left onto Nelson St., turn left again onto Lamar Ave., 903-465-8908.

### Eisenhower SP

In northern Grayson County 5 miles northwest of Denison. Take U.S. Highway 75A (now State Highway 91) north to F.M. 1310, turn northwest and travel about 2 miles to Park Road 20, 903-465-1956.

### Fairfield Lake SP

In eastern Freestone County near Fairfield. From I.H. 45 take U.S. Highway 84 east to F.M. 488, go north to F.M. 2570, then go east to Park Road 64, 903-389-4514.

### Fanthorp Inn SHP

In Grimes County on State Highway 90, 10 miles east of Navasota, 409-873-2633.

### Fort Parker SP

In Limestone County between Mexia and Groesbeck, off State Highway 14, 817-562-5751.

### Fossil Rim Wildlife Center

In Somervell County 60 miles southwest of the Dallas/Fort Worth metroplex. Just off U.S. Highway 67, approximately 3 miles southwest of Glen Rose. Turn south onto County Road 2008 at the Fossil Rim sign. Go 2 miles to the stonework entrance on the right, 817-897-2960.

### Gus Engeling WMA

In Anderson County, 21 miles northwest of Palestine; or 38 miles southeast of Corsicana on U.S. Highway 287, 903-928-2251.

### Lake Somerville SP/ Nails Creek Unit

Located in Burleson County northwest of Brenham. Nails Creek Unit is located on F.M. 180, 15 miles off U.S. Highway 290, 409-289-2392.

### Meridian SP

In Bosque County, 3 miles southwest of Meridian off State Highway 22, 817-435-2536.

### Pat Mayse WMA

In northwestern Lamar County, approximately 12 miles northwest of Paris on F.M. 79 north off Loop 286, 903-884-3833.

### Ray Roberts Lake/Isle Du Bois SP

In Denton County, on F.M. 455 between Pilot Point and Sanger, 2 miles east of the Ray Roberts Lake Dam, 817-686-2148.

### Richland Creek WMA

In Freestone and Navarro Counties, about 28 miles east of Corsicana, or about 31 miles northwest of Palestine on U.S. Highway 287, 903-928-2251, 903-928-2251.

### Stephen F. Austin SHP

In Austin County. From I.H. 10 exit F.M. 1458 north, 2 miles turn left on Park Road 38, 409-885-3613.

### Washington-on-the-Brazos SHP

In Grimes County, 21 miles northeast of Brenham. From Brenham, take Highway 105 to F.M. 912, 409-878-2214.

## GULF COAST

### Atkinson Island WMA

Off Morgan's Point on the Houston Ship Channel; accessed by boat only, 409-736-2551.

### Candy Cain Abshier WMA

In far southwestern Chambers County at Smith Point; from I.H. 10, take State Highway 61 south; turn south again on F.M. 562, go to Smith Point, 409-736-2551.

### Fulton Mansion SHP

In Aransas County, off State Highway 35, 3 miles north of Rockport, at the corner of Henderson Street and Fulton Beach Road, 512-729-0386.

### GCCA/CPL Marine Development Center

In Corpus Christi, from I.H. 37 take South Padre Island Drive exit (Highway 358) to Waldron Road and turn right. Drive 4 to 5 miles until road dead ends. Stop at gate, 512-939-7784.

### Matagorda Island SP

In Calhoun County, about 50 miles southeast of Victoria; park headquarters, dock and information center at Port O'Connor, 512-983-2215.

### Varner-Hogg Plantation SHP

In Brazoria County, north of West Columbia off F.M. 2852, 409-345-4656.

### Welder Flats Coastal Preserve

In Calhoun County at the junction of the Victoria Barge Canal with the Gulf Intracoastal Waterway. Boat access only, 512-576-0022.

## PANHANDLE PLAINS

### Big Spring SP

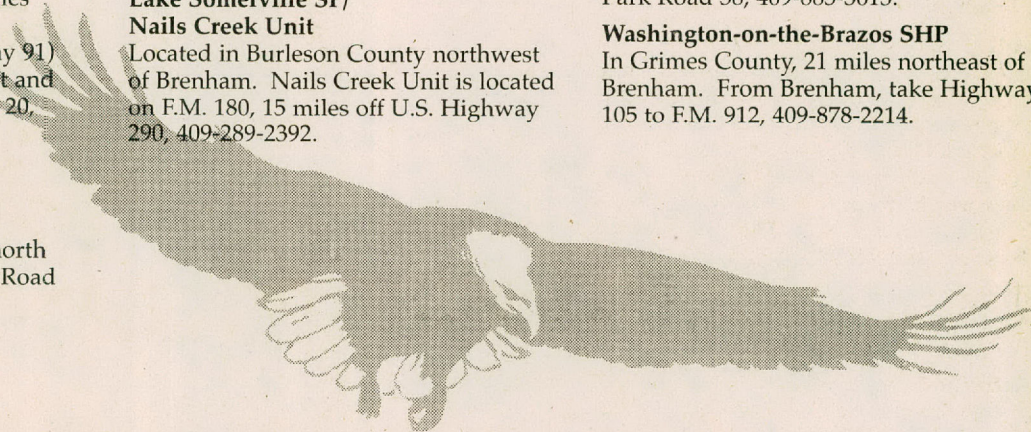
In Howard County 36 miles east of Midland, or 100 miles west of Abilene. From Midland, take I.H. 20 east to Big Spring, take Business 20 exit eastbound, turn right onto F.M. 700, park is located on the right, 915-263-4931.

### Lake Rita Blanca SP

In Hartley County 1.4 miles west of U.S. 87 on F.M. 281, follow F.M. 281 to the lake entrance, then proceed .4 miles south, 806-655-3782.

### Playa Lakes WMA/Taylor Lakes Unit

In Donley County 5-1/2 miles southeast of Clarendon on U.S. Highway 287, 806-655-3782.





## Tour Texas

### Roads of Texas

Newly revised-1995. A road atlas and more, containing maps showing interstates and backroads, picnic grounds, parks where Texas history was made, little airports, country churches, remote cemeteries, ghost towns and quiet streams. Forward by Leon Hale. 11 1/4" x 15 1/2", 170 pages, soft cover. 1019 \$14.95

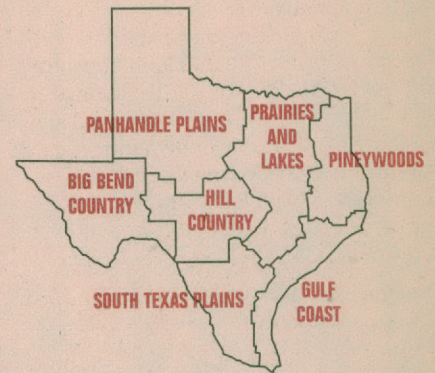
### Tours of Texas State Parks Video

Reporter Bob Phillips traveled a half-million miles on Texas highways and visited 22 state parks to highlight the spectacular landscapes protected by Texas Parks and Wildlife. This tremendously popular video features segments from the award-winning Texas Hill Country Reporter TV show. 88 minutes. 6018 \$19.95

Call 1-800-786-8644 to order.

## DRIVE ACROSS TEXAS

Continued from page 11



### PINEYWOODS

#### Caddo Lake SP/WMA

In Harrison County, 15 miles northeast of Marshall. Take State Highway 43 north to F.M. 2198, turn east and travel about 3/4 mile to Park Road 2, 903-679-3351.

#### Daingerfield SP

In Morris County. From Mt. Pleasant, exit on Ferguson Road. Follow State Highway 49 to the park, about 18 miles from I.H. 30, 903-645-2921.

#### Jasper SFH

In Jasper County west of Jasper on F.M. 1747; 1-mile from the intersection of State Highway 63 and F.M. 1747, 409-384-2221.

#### Martin Creek Lake SP

In Rusk County south of Tatum. In Tatum take State Highway 43 west toward Henderson for 3.5 miles and turn left on County Road 2183 to the park entrance, 903-836-4336.

#### Martin Dies, Jr. SP

In Jasper County between Woodville and Jasper on U.S. Highway 190, 409-384-5231.

#### Starr Family SHP

In Harrison County on the corner of Travis and Grove Streets in Marshall, 903-935-3044.

#### Tyler SP

In Smith County 2 miles north of I.H. 20 on Farm Road 14 north of Tyler, 214-597-5338.

#### White Oak Creek WMA

In Morris County 3 miles west of Naples on State Highway 77, 903-884-3833. ♻️

## TEXAS TRAVEL COUNSELORS

...are waiting for your call!

Would you love to get back to nature, but you also want air-conditioning or heating, a shower and a bed? Where to stay? Call on a helpful Texas Travel Counselor for that information.

After checking a map and locating a city near your destination, call the number below and ask for a list of possible accommodations in the area. In addition, they have late breaking news about points of interest, attractions, routes and road conditions AND (as if that wasn't enough!) they will send you a copy of the *Texas State Travel Guide*, *Official Texas Map*, *Texas Events Calendar* and the *Texas Accommodations Guide!*

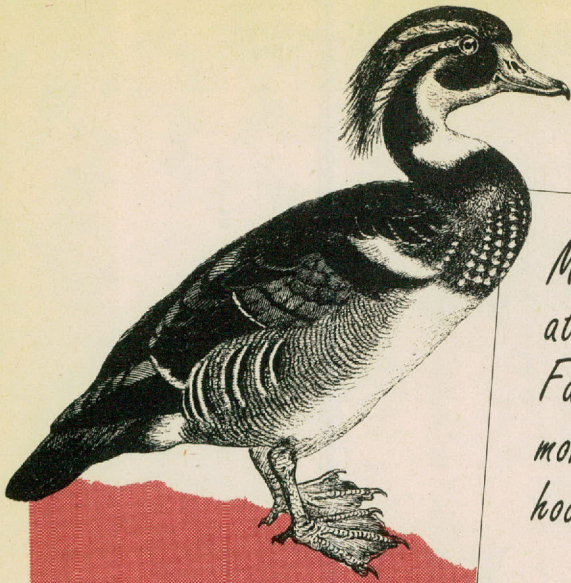
Open almost every day from 8 a.m. to 9 p.m.

(Closed New Year's Day, Thanksgiving Day, Christmas eve and Christmas Day)

1-800-452-9292

A service of the Texas Department of Transportation which operates eleven Travel Information Centers.





*Migrating waterfowl stop over at Onion Creek in McKinney Falls park, and on winter mornings I sometimes see hooded mergansers, pintails and wood ducks.*

*Ned Ochs, Park Manager  
McKinney Falls State Park*



## PASSPORT VALUES<sup>SM</sup>

**Fossil Rim Wildlife Center** Passport members receive discounts on admission to the Scenic Drive Tour, overnight accommodations at The Lodge which is a luxurious bed and breakfast, and the three-day/two-night wildlife safari adventure at the Foothills Safari Camp. Open year-round. Call 817-897-2960 for more information.

**Longhorn Cavern State Park** With each current TCP, you can purchase a Longhorn Cavern tour ticket for \$5, discounted from the regular \$6.50 price. For children age 5 through 12, the ticket price is \$4, and children age 4 and under are free. Call 512-756-6976 for recorded information on times and tours.

**Running 'R' Ranch** in Bandera offers Passport members discounts on its horseback rides. When you take advantage of this special offer, you'll have the

opportunity to explore the **Hill Country SNA** during your ride. For more information, call Charles "Doo" Robbins at 210-796-3984.

**Star Ranch Kitchen<sup>TM</sup>** Passport members receive a ten percent discount on campfire suppers from Star Ranch Kitchens. Pre-cooked meals include Campfire Stew, Chili Cookoff, Enchilada Casserole, Texas Grubsteak and others. Buy them in personal-serving sizes for microwave cooking or in aluminum trays holding nearly seven pounds for group meals. Of course the crafty campfire cook knows to simply open the package, pour it into an iron kettle and put it on the flames for heating. The meals are perfect for camping since they do not need refrigeration and heat-up in minutes. For information and an order brochure call 1-800-882-6325, ext. 2.



**Texas Conservation Passport Journal** is your passport to the real Texas.

Texas Conservation Passports cost \$25 each and give you:

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- a discount on your subscription to *Texas Parks & Wildlife* magazine,
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Please send your comments, complaints and suggestions to:

**Texas Conservation Passport**  
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Austin, TX 78744  
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If you would care to use any of our published information contact us. We are:

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# SCHEDULED HUNT DATES FOR 1995-96 PUBLIC HUNTS ON STATE PARK LANDS

A few lucky hunters will take to the parks this winter to participate in carefully controlled public hunts. Unlike the typical park visitor, these hunters will be situated outside the camping and picnic areas.

Most of the parks listed below will remain open for camping, fishing and picnicking on weekends.

Public hunts have been intentionally scheduled for low-use, weekdays at these parks. While the hunts are in progress, the parks will be off-limits to other visitors for safety reasons. Please check the schedule printed here before heading out to these parks.

You can always call directly to the park of your choice

before you hit the road to make sure that it will be open for general park activities. Or, call the Texas Parks and Wildlife's toll-free automated Information Line 800-792-1112 between 8 a.m. and 5 p.m. Monday - Friday and select the "Park Information" option.

The state park hunts are allotted by random computer selection in early fall. It's too late to apply to the drawing for this year's park hunts. For information and a public hunt application, write to Public Hunts, Texas Parks and Wildlife Department, 4200 Smith School Road, Austin, Texas 78744.

## Atlanta 903-796-6476

10:00pm Dec. 4 - 2:00pm Dec. 7  
10:00pm Dec. 11 - 2:00pm Dec. 14  
10:00pm Dec. 18 - 2:00pm Dec. 21

## Brazos Bend 409-553-3243

10:00pm Dec. 3 - 2:00pm Dec. 8  
10:00pm Dec. 10 - 2:00pm Dec. 15

## Caprock Canyons 806-455-1492

10:00pm Dec. 5 - 2:00pm Dec. 8  
10:00pm Jan. 2 - 2:00pm Jan. 5  
10:00pm Jan. 9 - 2:00pm Jan. 12

## Choke Canyon (NS) 512-786-3868

The NORTH SHORE OF CHOKE CANYON will be closed the month of October.

## Colorado Bend 915-628-3240

10:00pm Nov. 28 - 2:00pm Dec. 1  
10:00pm Dec. 3 - 2:00pm Dec. 8  
10:00pm Dec. 10 - 2:00pm Dec. 15  
10:00pm Dec. 26 - 2:00pm Dec. 29  
10:00pm Dec. 31 - 2:00pm Jan. 5  
10:00pm Jan. 7 - 2:00pm Jan. 12  
10:00pm Jan. 14 - 2:00pm Jan. 19  
10:00pm Jan. 21 - 2:00pm Jan. 26  
10:00pm Aug. 18 - 2:00pm Aug. 23  
10:00pm Aug. 25 - 2:00pm Aug. 30

## Davis Mountains\* 915-426-3337

12:00pm Dec. 13 - 12:00pm Dec. 17  
12:00pm Dec. 20 - 12:00pm Dec. 24  
\*ONLY THE PRIMITIVE AREAS WILL BE CLOSED THE REST OF THE PARK WILL BE OPEN.

## Devils River 210-395-2133

8:00am Oct. 16 - 8:00am Oct. 21  
8:00am Dec. 4 - 8:00am Dec. 7  
8:00am Jan. 15 - 8:00am Jan. 20

## Enchanted Rock 915-247-3903

10:00pm Dec. 10 - 2:00pm Dec. 15  
10:00pm Dec. 31 - 2:00pm Jan. 5  
10:00pm Jan. 7 - 2:00pm Jan. 12

## Fairfield Lake 903-389-4514

10:00pm Nov. 5 - 1:00pm Nov. 10

## Guadalupe River 210-438-2656

10:00am Jan. 3 - 2:00pm Jan. 5  
10:00am Jan. 8 - 2:00pm Jan. 12  
10:00am Jan. 17 - 2:00pm Jan. 19  
10:00am Jan. 22 - 2:00pm Jan. 26  
The park will be OPEN from 2:00pm Fri. Jan 12 through 10:00am Wed. Jan 17 in honor of Martin Luther King's day on Monday Jan. 15.

## Hill Country 210-796-4413

Noon Nov. 8 - Noon Nov. 10  
Noon Nov. 15 - Noon Nov. 17  
8:00am - 10:00pm Nov. 30  
Noon Dec. 6 - Noon Dec. 8  
Noon Dec. 13 - Noon Dec. 15  
8:00am - 10:00pm Dec. 21  
Noon Dec. 27 - Noon Dec. 29  
Noon Jan. 3 - Noon Jan. 5  
Noon Jan. 10 - Noon Jan. 12  
8:00am - 10:00pm Jan. 18  
Noon Jan. 24 - Noon Jan. 26  
8:00am - 10:00pm Feb. 1  
Noon Feb. 7 - Noon Feb. 9  
Noon Apr. 9 - Noon Apr. 11  
Noon May 7 - Noon May 9

## Huntsville 409-295-5644

8:00am Jan. 8 - Noon Jan. 12  
8:00am Jan. 22 - Noon Jan. 26

## Inks Lake/Longhorn Caverns\*

10:00am Dec. 27 - 2:00pm Dec. 29  
10:00am Dec. 11 - 2:00pm Dec. 15  
10:00am Dec. 18 - 2:00pm Dec. 22  
10:00am Jan. 1 - 2:00 pm Jan. 5

\*ONLY THE TRAIL WILL BE CLOSED THE REST OF THE PARK WILL BE OPEN.

## Kickapoo Cavern 210-563-2342

### Devil's Sinkhole

8:00am Sept. 26 - 10:00pm Dec. 6  
8:00am Dec. 15 - 10:00pm Jan. 31  
Both parks have limited access. Arrangements can be made through Kickapoo Cavern for camping during this period.

## Lake Houston

8:00am Dec. 4 - 8:00am Dec. 16

## Lake Mineral Wells

8:00am Jan. 8 - 2:00pm Jan. 12  
8:00am Jan. 15 - 2:00pm Jan. 19  
All shelters, electric & premium sites will remain open. Other areas in the park will be affected.

## Lake Somerville Trailway 409-289-2392

Dec. 12 - Dec. 14  
Dec. 19 - Dec. 21  
Jan. 16 - Jan. 18  
Jan. 23 - Jan. 25

Flagg Pond will be open the entire first split. 40 primitive site will be closed from Dec. 10 - Jan. 25. The trailway will be closed on the Lee County side only. The seven miles of trailway on the Burleson County side will remain open.

## Lost Maples

10:00pm Dec. 31 - 2:00pm Jan. 5  
10:00pm Jan. 7 - 2:00pm Jan. 12  
10:00pm Jan. 14 - 2:00pm Jan. 19

## Pedernales Falls 210-868-7304

10:00pm Nov. 5 - 2:00pm Nov. 10  
10:00pm Nov. 12 - 2:00pm Nov. 17  
10:00pm Nov. 19 - 2:00pm Nov. 22  
10:00pm Nov. 26 - 2:00pm Dec. 1  
10:00am Dec. 26 - 2:00pm Dec. 29

## Possum Kingdom 817-549-1803

10:00pm Dec. 31 - 8:00am Jan. 5  
10:00pm Jan. 7 - 8:00am Jan. 12  
10:00pm Jan. 14 - 8:00am Jan. 19  
10:00pm Jan. 21 - 8:00am Jan. 26

## Seminole Canyon 915-292-4464

10:00pm Dec. 3 - 2:00pm Dec. 8  
10:00pm Dec. 10 - 2:00pm Dec. 15  
10:00pm Jan. 7 - 2:00pm Jan. 12  
10:00pm Sept. 10 - 8:00am Sept. 16

## Village Creek 409-755-7322

8:00am Oct. 17 - 8:00am Oct. 20  
8:00am Oct. 24 - 8:00am Oct. 27

## Walter Buck WMA 915-446-3994

8:00am Oct. 4 - noon Oct. 6  
8:00am Oct. 11 - noon Oct. 13  
8:00am Oct. 18 - noon Oct. 20  
8:00am Nov. 8 - noon Nov. 16  
8:00am Nov. 18 - noon Nov. 19  
8:00am Nov. 25 - noon Nov. 26  
8:00am Dec. 2 - noon Dec. 10  
8:00am Apr. 10 - noon Apr. 12  
8:00am Apr. 17 - noon Apr. 19  
8:00am Apr. 24 - noon Apr. 26  
8:00am May 1 - noon May 3

## NATURE NOTES

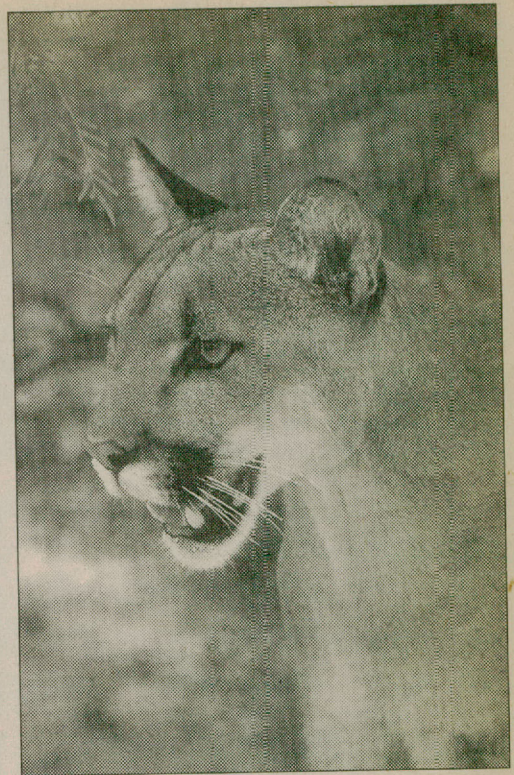
# MOUNTAIN LION

*Felis concolor*

Retiring and shy by nature, and nocturnal by habit, Texas mountain lions are seldom seen by humans. Adult lions, while ranging over an area estimated at 150 to 200 square miles, prefer rocky overhangs in precipitous canyons, escarpments and rimrocks or, if these habitats are not available, dense brush.

Living in remote hills and woods, the mountain lion feeds primarily on white-tailed and mule deer, occasionally taking smaller mammals like javelina and even skunks. About every two years the lioness delivers two or five kittens. These young animals have distinctive spots that gradually fade during the first year as the cat matures into the long-bodied, long-tailed, lithe adult.

Although it's a rare event, hikers, hunters and birdwatchers occasionally encounter one of these elusive cats.



J. WHITCOMB

For more information call the Non-game and Urban Wildlife Program at 1-800-792-1112

## TEXAS OUTDOOR CONNECTION<sup>SM</sup> New On-Line System to Simplify Passport Purchase

In the coming year, Texas Conservation Passport sales will be automated statewide with a new system called TEXAS OUTDOOR CONNECTION. Small computer terminals, designed to accept credit cards and to sell, not only Conservation Passports, but also hunting and fishing licenses and stamps are already being tested in 13 locations.

By June 1996 these will be placed in approximately 3000 retail locations such as Wal-Mart, sporting goods stores and convenience stores. You just tell the clerk you want to buy a Conservation Passport, they link to a statewide database, type in your information and print your license or Passport on the spot!

If you live near one of the test stores you can try it out now. Test Stores: Alpine, Morrison Tru-Value. Austin, TPWD Headquarters, McBride's Gun Shop. Balch Springs, Kmart #3321. Corpus Christi, Maverick Market #3093. Dallas, The Gun & Tackle Store. Fort Worth, TPWD Regional Law Enforcement Office. Groves, Foret's Bait and Tackle. Houston, Oshman's (S. Post Oak) Oshman's (Gessner). Mineral Wells, Lake Mineral Wells State Park. San Antonio, Super Kmart #4941. Tyler, The Sportster, Inc.

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