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TEXAS CONSERVATION PASSPORT

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Texas Vegetation

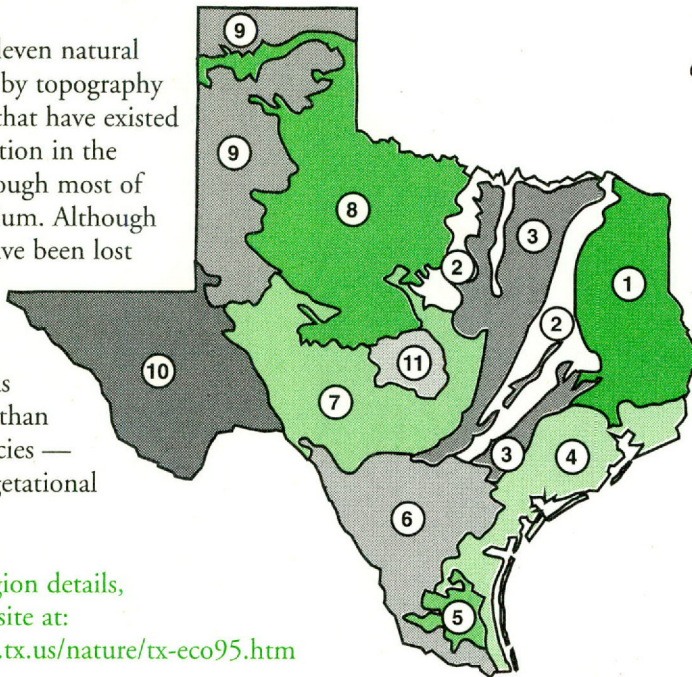
TEXAS IS AN ECO-CROSSROADS

In this issue of the millennial series on Texas in A.D. 1000, the dramatic extremes of native vegetation take center stage. Driving 773 miles across Texas from the Pineywoods to the Big Bend takes you out of the southern forest regions across prairies and into deserts and mountains. Eastern species meet western species with wide prairies in between.

On a trip from the Panhandle to Galveston your journey begins on North America's Great Plains, a topographic and vegetative landscape that sweeps down the front range of the Rocky Mountains and into the Texas High Plains. From there, you traverse mixed or mid-grass prairies and reach the southern edge of the Great Plains near Austin and San Antonio — along the Balcones Escarpment. Continuing a southeastern route, you cross Blackland Prairie before reaching the Coastal Prairies and Marshes.

There are eleven natural regions defined by topography and vegetation that have existed with some variation in the boundaries, through most of the last millennium. Although many species have been lost since the beginning of European settlement, Texas still hosts more than 5,500 plant species — a treasure of vegetational diversity.

For Natural Region details,
check our Web site at:
www.tpwd.state.tx.us/nature/tx-eco95.htm



Natural Regions of Texas

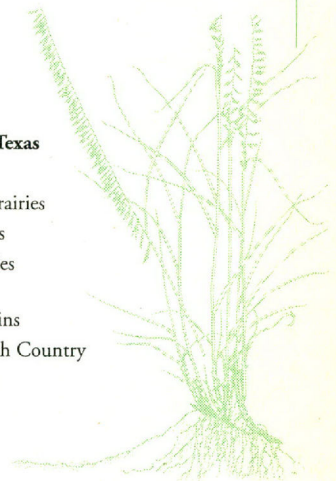
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© TPWD, LEROY WILLIAMSON

Goose Island's Big Tree

This Texas-sized live oak is over 1,000 years old. Its trunk is 35 feet in circumference, its height is 44 feet and it has a crown spread of 89 feet. The champion tree is protected by the staff at Goose Island SP, who assure that the dead limbs are regularly trimmed and arrange for treatments to prevent insect damage.



Sideoats grama



WIND BENEATH OUR WINGS



WILDLIFE DIVISION

William E. (Bill) Armstrong

Wildlife Biologist

"I started working for TPW in 1968 at the Matador WMA, investigating the ways that livestock grazing systems influence quail habitat and, consequently, quail population numbers," Bill said. "In 1973, I moved over here to the Kerr WMA.

"On the Kerr area we've found a grazing system that closely reproduces the impacts that buffalo had on native prairie grasses. We move one herd of cattle among many pastures, as if they were a large herd of buffalo continually grazing in new areas.

"Fire naturally refashions both grasslands and brush cover in a dynamic process so we've learned to use prescribed burns to maintain a vegetative balance. Weeds come back first after a fire and there is a stable progression as differing plant species reestablish themselves. Cattle and fire are then reapplied to restart the process.

"The Kerr area demonstrates the possibilities of an integrated Edwards Plateau land management system that favors the land, wildlife, and livestock. So, about 60 to 70 times a year, I lead technical assistance seminars for interested landowners.

"On the WMAs, we are the guys who can learn from our mistakes by keeping one foot in the research world and one foot in the world of practical, economic land management."



Prescribed Burns

Over thousands of years Texas' native vegetation has been shaped and reshaped by fire. How the fire got started is being argued by experts.

Did lightning strike the spark or did Native Americans start the burn?

What we do know is that fire is a useful environmental management tool to improve range.

For example, in the Hill Country juniper (cedar) trees compete with grassland for ecological niches. Because juniper is a fire intolerant tree, prescribed burns can help keep it in check.

Why prescribed?

Because wind speed and relative humidity determine whether a fire will burn hot or cool, and move fast or slow — these factors are taken into account when prescribing a burn.

VISITING KERR WMA

Follow a self-guided, four-mile paved driving tour which includes wayside exhibits describing the vegetation management in process. Or, participate in a four-hour technical seminar on land management that begins with a two-hour slide talk followed by a two-hour demonstration out in the pastures. The program is designed for Hill Country landowners and is open to the public. For dates and times call: 830-238-4483.

Vegetation Conservation on Public Lands

By the 1920s, most of the more than 20 million acres of natural Texas grasslands had been obliterated by cultivation. The drought of the 1930s reduced crop lands to dry, blowing dust. But the seeds of an ambitious recovery program began in 1933 with a federal law aimed at conserving grasslands. Today there are nearly 118,000 acres of National Grasslands in Texas and more than 2,000 acres of relict prairies and restored native grasslands in state parks, wildlife management areas and on private lands. Although only a few examples are listed here, all TPW public lands have a conservation mission.

TALL GRASS PRAIRIE

Remnants of native tall grass prairie containing wild foxglove, Indian plantain, wild phlox, big and little bluestem grass are being protected at Cedar Hill SP near Dallas. The small parcels add up to 50 acres and survived because they were used as hay meadows, never plowed and seldom grazed.

THE BIG THICKET

A dense tangle of wilderness that once spread over 3.5 million acres in southeast Texas but today is less than 300,000 acres has been called the "biological crossroads of North America." Village Creek SP contains cypress and tupelo swamps, sloughs and baygalls that reflect the annual rainfall of about 80 inches.

The L.B.J. National Grassland in Wise and Montague counties is in the Cross Timbers region. It has pastures of little bluestem, phlox and Indian paintbrush as well as nearly 400 small ponds that help control runoff and retain surface water for wildlife. Find out more about the National Grasslands on the Internet at: www.fs.fed.us/grasslands/

LOST MAPLES

Relict stands of bigtooth or canyon maple trees survive in the protected canyons of the Sabinal River on margin of the Edwards Plateau. The species grows today in the Rocky Mountains and the small population at Lost Maples SP is believed to have survived from a time when the climate was cooler.

LOBLOLLY PINE

Pollen records indicate that loblolly pine trees have been in the area around Bastrop SP for over 18,000 years. The "lost pines" are isolated from the main East Texas Pineywoods by almost 100 miles of rolling, post oak woodland and are the most westerly stand of loblolly pines in the state.

Earth Day

BIG BEND COUNTRY

Fort Leaton SHP Earth Day - April 22. Join the staff and other volunteers on a workday of picking up trash and litter along one of America's most scenic drives. Transportation, refreshments and equipment will be provided. 9 a.m.-3 p.m., 915-229-3613.

GULF COAST

Brazos Bend SP Earth Day Celebration - April 22. A full day of educational programs and games, booths, demonstrations and hands-on activities for the kids. Many local, state and national environmental and conservation organizations will attend. 9 a.m.-5 p.m., 979-553-5101.

HILL COUNTRY

Colorado Bend SP Earth Day Event - April 22. On Saturday the Gorman Conference Area will be open to the public. Tours of Gorman Falls, Gorman Creek Springs, and Gorman Cave will be given to the public. Various other opportunities to experience the outdoor sporting world will be available. 8 a.m.-5 p.m., fees free to TCP members, \$3 non-members, \$2 senior citizens, free to children 12 and under, 915-628-3240.





EXPLORE THE REAL TEXAS



Texas History

Living History

GULF COAST

Varner-Hogg Plantation SHP Living History Day - April 15. Step back in time and enjoy events like story telling, lace making, tatting, spinning, old-fashioned children's games, horse rides, militia, food and much more. 11 a.m.-5 p.m., fees free to TCP members, \$4 non-members, \$3 senior citizens, free to children 12 and under, 979-345-4656.

PINEYWOODS

Jim Hogg SHP Civil War Reenactment Encampment - May 13. See a small Civil War encampment that features period costumes, accouterments

and weaponry. Special canon firing demonstrations and talks on various Civil War topics. 9 a.m.-4 p.m., fees free to TCP members, \$1 non-members, free to children 12 and under, 903-683-4850.

PRAIRIES AND LAKES

Confederate Reunion Grounds SHP Living History Days - June 3-4. Experience the way life was at home and on the battlefield during the Civil War. A learning experience with public participation. 8 a.m.-5 p.m., fees \$3 adults, free to children 12 and under, 254-562-5751.

BIG BEND COUNTRY

Fort Leaton SHP Remembrances Gathering Oral History - April 15. See an exhibit of Glen Burgess' historic photographs and view slides of the silver mine in Shafter. Learn about the rich cultural history of the Big Bend area from John Klingemann and how to gather oral histories and use them in the stewardship of cultural resources. 11:30 a.m.-4 p.m., call for more information, 915-229-3613.

GULF COAST

San Jacinto Battleground SHP Battle of San Jacinto Reenactment - April 29. See a thrilling reenactment of the battle that won Texas independence from Mexico. Bring a picnic lunch and plan to spend the entire day back in 1836. 10 a.m.-5 p.m., call for more information, reservations available but not required, 281-479-2431.

PANHANDLE PLAINS

Copper Breaks SP Buffalo Soldiers - April 27, 28, 29. In a community outreach effort there will be a classroom program at Vernon ISD on the buffalo soldiers and a short program at the park headquarters on April 29. 8:30 a.m.-1 p.m., fees \$2 adults, \$1 senior citizens, reservations available but not required, 940-839-4331.

San Angelo SP Longhorn and Bison Seminar - April 15; May 6; June 24. Learn about the history of the longhorns and bison and other interesting facts from a park naturalist. 1-3:30 p.m. In addition to the park entrance fee the event fees are: \$1 TCP members, \$2 non-members, \$1 children 12 and under, 915-949-4757.

PRAIRIES AND LAKES

Monument Hill & Kreische Brewery SHP Kreische Brewery Tours - April; May & June. Every Saturday and Sunday take a guided, walking tour with a trained docent through the ruins of one of the first breweries in Texas. Learn how German immigrant, Heinrich Kreische, built and operated his 19th century brewery. 2-3 p.m., fees free to TCP members, \$2 non-members, \$1 children 12 and under, reservations available but not required, 979-968-5658.

Kreische House Tours - April 2, 16; May 7, 21; June 4, 18. Take a guided, walking tour with a trained docent through the 19th century home of German immigrant, Heinrich Kreische. Witness his craftsmanship and learn of the Kreische family history. 1:30-4:30 p.m., fees free to TCP members, \$2 non-members, \$1 children 12 and under, reservations available but not required, 979-968-5658.

Historic Textiles

HILL COUNTRY

X Bar Ranch Wool Country Tour - May 3-11. Stay at the X Bar Ranch and learn how woolen textiles are produced. See how the sheep are raised and shorn. Then take a tour with the wool as it makes its way to the Eldorado Woolen Mill where it is cleaned, spun and woven into the finished product. Call for more information, reservations required, 888-853-2688.

PRAIRIES AND LAKES

Washington-on-the-Brazos SHP A Stitch in Time - April 8, 9. Explore home textile production and handiwork of early Texas. Demonstrations of spinning, weaving, quilting and other fancywork. 9 a.m.-4:30 p.m., fees \$4 adults, \$2 children 12 and under, 936-878-2214.



Art

HILL COUNTRY

Kerrville-Schreiner SP Nature Art - June 24. Let your imagination go wild and try your hand at becoming an enviro-artist by using completely organic items. Starts at 9:00 a.m., call for more information, 830-257-5392.



Birds



GULF COAST

Fennessey Ranch Spring Migration Trip - April 8, 29. Annual Fennessey birding tour that racks up 100 or more species including Henslow sparrows, purple gallinules, crested caracara, anhingas, swallow-tailed kite and many more. The tour is led by an ornithologist and will cover the habitats of woodlands, river bottoms, coastal grasslands and wetlands. Lunch is included in price. 7:30 a.m.-2:30 p.m., fees \$40 TCP members, \$44 non-members, reservations required, 361-529-6600.

Goose Island SP Guided Bird Walks - April & May. If you are a beginner or advanced bird watcher come with us for a guided bird walk and identify the birds in the park. 7:30 a.m.-till, call for more information, 361-729-2858.

HILL COUNTRY

Kerrville-Schreiner SP Birds of the Texas Hill Country - May 13. Discover the variety of birds that abound in the Hill Country, including the endangered black-capped vireo and the golden-cheeked warbler. 7:30 p.m., call for more information, 830-257-5392.

PANHANDLE PLAINS

Fort Griffin SHP Birding Day - April 13. Go on a bird walk with the Abilene Audubon Society and learn to identify birds, how to attract birds with feeders and bird calls. 9 a.m.-5 p.m., call for more information, reservations available but not required, 915-762-3592.

PINEYWOODS

Martin Dies, Jr. SP Birds of the Big Thicket - April 22. Join us at the amphitheater behind the Nature Center for a color slide presentation on birds of the area. 7-8 p.m., 409-384-5231.

The Great Texas Birding Classic - April 7-16
The biggest, longest and wildest birdwatching tournament in the U.S.!

For more information, visit our Web site:
www.tpwd.state.tx.us/gtbc
or call 1-888-TX-BIRDS

Birding Boat Tour - May 13. Take a guided boat tour on the Neches and Angelina Rivers into the Angelina/Neches WMA to view birds found in the bottomland hardwoods habitat. Arrive early to participate in a guided birding hike at 7 a.m. on the island hiking trail. 8 a.m.-noon, fees \$10 adults, \$5 children 12 and under, reservations required, 409-384-5231.

SOUTH TEXAS PLAINS

Choke Canyon SP/Calliham Unit Bird Identification Tour - April 8, 22. Take a guided walk on the nature trail and identify birds and waterfowl in the park. 8-10 a.m., 361-786-3868.

Bus Tours

SOUTH TEXAS PLAINS

Bentsen-Rio Grande Valley SP Kiskadee Bus Tour - April; May & June. Tours are held every Tuesday and Friday. A bus tour to some of the best birding hot spots in Texas. Bring a sack lunch, binoculars, bird book and comfortable shoes. 7:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m., fees \$25 per-person, reservations required, 956-519-6448.

Bats

HILL COUNTRY

Old Tunnel WMA Flying With the Freetails - June 1, 3, 8, 10, 15, 17, 22, 24, 29. Bat emergence observation with interpretation by wildlife biologist. First come first served. Approx. one hour prior to sunset, fees free to TCP members, \$5 non-members, \$3 senior citizens, \$2 children 6-16 years of age, free to children 5 and under, 830-644-2478.

PANHANDLE PLAINS

Copper Breaks SP Bats - May 27. Join us for a program about the bats of Copper Breaks SP and learn how efforts are being made to preserve the bats at the park. Program begins at 7:30 p.m., fees \$2 adults, \$1 senior citizens, reservations available but not required, 940-839-4331.

Biking

PANHANDLE PLAINS

Caprock Canyons SP & Trailway Family Bike Ride - May 6. Join the Lion's Club of Plainview for a bike ride starting at the South Plains trailhead/parking area. Ride down the scenic Caprock through the historic railroad tunnel to Monk's Crossing. There will be about 8 rest stops along the picturesque 17-mile ride. Ride begins at 9 a.m., call for prices, 806-455-1492.

SOUTH TEXAS PLAINS

Choke Canyon SP/South Shore Unit Bicycle, Run or Walk - April 22. The paved road on top of the dam will be open all day for bicycling, walking or running the 16-mile total trip. 6 a.m.-3 p.m., fees \$3 adults, \$2 senior citizens, free to children 12 and under, reservations available but not required, 361-786-3538.

Kids' Corner

HILL COUNTRY

Kerrville-Schreiner SP Texas Folk Toys - May 13, 27. Play with toys from yesteryear and reminisce of your childhood. Program presented by the Institute of Texan Cultures. Starts at 9 a.m., call for more information, 830-257-5392.

PRAIRIES AND LAKES

Palmetto SP Palmetto's Wild Outdoor Adventure and Ecology Program - June 5-8, 12-15. An exciting, fun and educational day program where 8 to 12-year-old children participate in hands-on activities throughout the park with an experienced and certified science teacher. Activities that promote awareness and appreciation of the environment are planned. Children can enroll for one or two weeks. Camping and program packages are available. 8:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m., call for prices and more information, reservations required, 830-672-3266.



Celebrations

GULF COAST

San Jacinto Battleground SHP 10th Annual Monumental Bug Bash - May 7. The Bay Area Volkswagen Club hosts their annual car show. Oodles and oodles of BUGS are featured. If you have an old VW or just want to come and see some, bring a picnic lunch and plan to spend the day. 8 a.m.-3 p.m., call for more information, 281-479-2431.

San Jacinto Monument SHP San Jacinto Day Ceremony - April 21. The ceremony is held to honor the members of the Texas army who gave their lives for the independence of Texas from Mexico. 10:30-11:30 a.m., call for more information, 281-479-2431.

HILL COUNTRY

X Bar Ranch Memorial Day Weekend - May 26-29. Join us for hiking on the nature trails, horseback riding, mountain biking, birding, wildlife viewing, stargazing, a night safari and much more. Visit the Eldorado Woolen Mill, Texas Forts Trail and the Sonora Caverns. Call for times and prices, reservations required, 888-853-2688.

PANHANDLE PLAINS

Abilene SP Annual Pioneer Day - June 10. Join your family and friends in some good old-fashioned fun and games including sack races, buffalo chip and water balloon tosses, and chicken and pig relay races. Call for more information, reservations available but not required, 915-572-3204.

SOUTH TEXAS PLAINS

Goliad SHP Cinco De Mayo - May 5. Ceremonies honoring General Ignacio Zaragoza will begin with an open-air mass beginning at 10 a.m. by the Zaragoza Birthplace. Dignitaries from Texas and Mexico will be present. 10 a.m.-1 p.m., call for more information, 361-645-3405.

Story & Song

HILL COUNTRY

Garner SP Garner State Park Songwriters Festival - May 17-20. Join us for 4 days of fun and enjoy the talents of some well-known songwriters like Sonny Throckmorton, Johnny Duncan, Bruce Channey and Rock Killorge. There will be open mike sessions, and arts and crafts for all. Call for tickets and more information, fees \$5 adults, free to children 12 and under, 830-232-6132.

Kerrville-Schreiner SP Music in the Park - June 24. Join us along the banks of the Guadalupe River for an entertaining evening of live music by local musicians. 7:30 p.m.-till, call for more information, 830-257-5392.

X Bar Ranch X Bar Dinner Series - June 24. Enjoy the evenings of dining and entertainment as voices of the frontier come alive telling stories of the past. Call for more information, reservations required, 888-853-2688.

PANHANDLE PLAINS

Copper Breaks SP Storytelling - May 20. Join storyteller Tom Medley as he shares his exciting and funny tales with you. The fun begins at 7:30 p.m., fees \$2 adults, \$1 senior citizens, reservations available but not required, 940-839-4331.

Campfire Gatherings

HILL COUNTRY

Kerrville-Schreiner SP Cowboyography 101 - June 10. Explore the real life of the cowboy through humor, stories (most are true) and a little music. Starts at 7:30 p.m., call for more information, 830-257-5392.

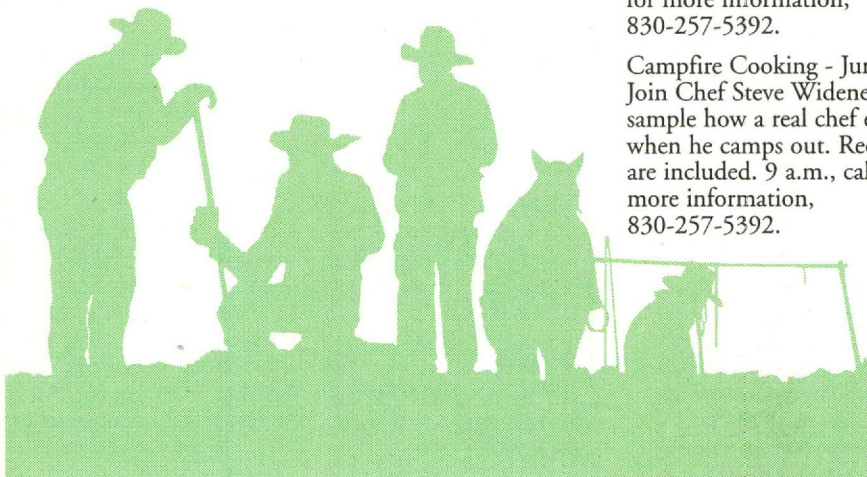
Campfire Cooking - June 10. Join Chef Steve Widener and sample how a real chef eats when he camps out. Recipes are included. 9 a.m., call for more information, 830-257-5392.

HILL COUNTRY

X Bar Ranch Ranch Living - June 5-11. Learn what it is like to be a part of ranch living. Spend time marking calves and vaccinating cattle and observe other ranch work being done. Enjoy the Eldorado Rodeo and Schleicher County Days during the weekend. Lodging and some meals available. Call for more information, reservations required, 888-853-2688.

PINEYWOODS

Martin Dies, Jr. SP Big Thicket Tales, Unsolved Mysteries and Ghost Stories - May 27. Join us around the campfire at the amphitheater for an evening of story telling. Bring you lawn chairs or share a wooden bench. 7:30-8:30 p.m., 409-384-5231.





Trail Rides

BIG BEND COUNTRY

Big Bend Ranch SP Over Fifty Trail Ride - April 17-19. Three-day trail ride for guests fifty years of age and over. Explore Big Bend Ranch with professional guides from the back of gentle trail horses. Visit springs, historical sites and see spring wildflowers. Price includes guides, horses, tack, meals and lodging. 2 p.m. on April 17 till 5 p.m. April 19, fees \$485 per-person reservations required, 281-486-8070.

Spring Trail Rides - April 21-23. Explore Big Bend Ranch with professional guides on sound, gentle trail horses. Visit springs, historical sites and see spring wildflowers. Price includes guides, horses, tack, meals and lodging. 2 p.m. April 21 till 5 p.m. April 23, fees \$485 per-person, reservations required, 915-229-3416.

Moonlight Trail Rides - April 14-16. Moonlight rides with professional guides on sound, gentle trail horses. Price includes guides, horses, tack, meals and lodging. 2 p.m. April 14 till 5 p.m. April 16, fees \$485 per-person, reservations required, 281-486-8070.

Longhorn Cattle Drive - April 7-9. The park longhorn herd must be gathered, branded and vaccinated. Twenty lucky people get to help. Three days of riding, gathering, driving and working Big Bend Ranch's famous longhorn herd. Price includes horses, tack, chuck wagon meals, lodging and evening entertainment. 8 a.m. April 7 till 5 p.m. April 9, fees \$641 TCP members, \$650 non-members, reservations required, 915-229-3416.

Black Gap WMA Horseback Riding - April 1-30. Go horseback riding on the designated trail through the scenic canyon and the Rio Grande. Camping is allowed along the river, call for more details, 915-376-2216.

PANHANDLE PLAINS

Caprock Canyons SP & Trailway Panhandle Trail Riders Benefit Ride - May 27. Enjoy the scenic beauty of Caprock Canyons on a trail ride with the Panhandle Trail Riders. The ride will end with an authentic chuck wagon supper and cowboy entertainment. Call for times and prices, reservations required, 806-622-2982.

Fort Griffin SHP Historic Trail Ride - April 1-2. Go on an overnight trail ride, approximately 25 miles, through pastureland, visiting numerous historical sites in and around Fort Griffin. 8 a.m. on April 1 till 12 noon on April 2, call for prices and more information, reservations required, 915-762-3592.



Stargazing

PANHANDLE PLAINS

Big Spring SP Stargazing - June 10. Watch the sunset from atop the bluff. Talk to amateur astronomers from local astronomy clubs and observe the stars and the solar system. 9 p.m.-midnight, fees free to TCP members, \$2 adults, \$1 senior citizens, free to children 12 and under, 915-263-4931.

Caprock Canyons SP & Trailway Stargazing Party - May 27. Join the Fort Worth Sidewalk Astronomers for a dark sky viewing to explore the galaxy. Enjoy the stunning view of star clusters, nebulas and the moon. Telescopes will be provided. All you need is your curiosity. Begin viewing at dusk, 806-455-1492.

Copper Breaks SP Starwalk - April 8; May 6; June 3. Take a tour of the night sky with a volunteer. Learn about the constellations, stars and planets over the park. It will be a naked-eye observation. Sunset - till, fees \$2 adults, \$1 senior citizens, free to children 12 and under, 940-839-4331.

Volunteer Work and Play

PANHANDLE PLAINS

Copper Breaks SP Great Texas Trash-Off - April 1. Volunteers pitch in to pick up trash along the park road frontage, campground and trails. Volunteers are admitted free and will see a flintknapping demonstration of the ancient art of making stone tools. 10 a.m.-4 p.m., flintknapping demo starts at 7 p.m., fees \$2 adults, \$1 senior citizens, free to children 12 and under, reservations available but not required, 940-839-4331.

National Trails Day and Free Fishing Day - June 3. Volunteers help to repair the trails in the park. After repairing the trails the volunteers are treated to a starwalk at sunset. 10 a.m.-4 p.m., reservations available but not required, 940-839-4331.



Outdoor Challenges, Skills & Adventures

BIG BEND COUNTRY

Big Bend Ranch SP Desert Survival Workshop - May 12-15. Three-day workshop on desert survival strategies including water acquisition, primitive firemaking and cooking, shelter construction, signaling, solar and stellar navigation, plant uses and first aid. Lots of field-work and hands-on exercises. Price includes meals, lodging, course materials and evening programs. 8 a.m. May 12 till 5 p.m. May 15, fees \$341 TCP members, \$350 non-members, reservations required, 915-229-3416.

PRAIRIES AND LAKES

Cedar Hill SP USARA Adventure Series Race - June 24. Race involves 2-person teams completing kayaking, mountain biking, trail running and special challenges. Divisions include all male, all female, co-ed and seniors. Course generally consists of 2 miles of kayaking, 12 miles of mountain biking and 5 miles of trail running. Call for more information, reservations required, 972-291-3900.



Trains

PINEYWOODS

Texas State Railroad SHP Starlight Steam Train Excursion - May 27. Sit back and enjoy a romantic evening steam train excursion. The beauty of the East Texas Pineywoods is enhanced as the evening sun fades and the stars begin to glitter through forest canopy. 6-10 p.m., fees \$15 adults, \$10 children 12 and under, reservations required, 800-442-8951.

fees \$15 adults, \$9 children 3-12, reservations required, 1-903-683-2561 or 800-442-8951.

The Railroads Go to War - May 6, 7. Steam trains played a major roll in our U.S. Military history. Living history camps will be set up to display all military periods that used steam trains. The 50-mile steam train excursions will be turned into troop transports, soldiers will be riding with passengers and telling their stories. A Big Band swing concert will be held on Saturday night. 9 a.m.-10 p.m., fees \$15 adults, \$10 children 12 and under, 800-442-8951.

Steam Train Excursions - April 13, 14, 20, 21, 27, 28. Students and teachers enjoy a historic and educational trip back in time as they travel through the East Texas Pineywoods on turn-of-the-century steam trains. 10:30 a.m.-noon, fees \$8 adults, \$4 children 12 and under, reservations required, 800-442-8951.

Steam Engine Shop Tour - June 3. Visit one of the nations best known steam engine restoration shops. See steam engines, passenger coaches, business coaches and other historic railroad equipment. 3-4 p.m., reservations available but not required, 800-442-8951.

Boxcars, Bar-B-Q and the Bridge - June 2, 3, 9, 10, 16, 17, 23, 24, 30. Special package of a steam train excursion, Bar-B-Q and an original theater production performed in the historic Cherokee Theater. 11 a.m.-4 p.m., call for more information, reservations required, 800-933-2381 or 800-442-8951.

School Steam Train Excursions - May 4, 5, 18, 19. Students and teachers enjoy a historic and educational trip back in time as they travel through the East Texas Pineywoods on turn-of-the-century steam trains. 10:30 a.m.-noon, fees \$8 adults, \$4 children 12 and under, reservations required, 800-442-8951.

Dogwood Railroad Excursions - April 7. Enjoy the beautiful East Texas dogwoods as you relax on a 50-mile steam train excursion through the rolling Pineywoods and hardwood creek bottoms. 11 a.m.-3 p.m.,

Wildflowers

PANHANDLE PLAINS

Copper Breaks SP Wildflowers - May 13. Walk with a resource specialist and learn about the wildflowers and other plants in the park. 7-8 p.m., fees \$2 adults, \$1 senior citizens, reservations available but not required, 940-839-4331.

Cooper Lake SP/Doctors Creek Unit Wildflowers of the Blackland Prairie May 13. Take a walk along the Shoreline nature trail and learn to identify the many species of wildflowers. Hear how the Indians used many of these for medicinal purposes. 3-4 p.m., 903-395-3100.

PRAIRIES AND LAKES

Cedar Hill SP Prairie Wildflower Hike - April 8, 15; May 13, 20. Join a park ranger for an off-trail guided hike through rare and vanishing tall grass prairie. Observe beautiful wildflowers and animals up-close while learning about the prairie's natural history. Binoculars, field guides and long pants recommended. 9-11:30 a.m., 972-291-3900.

Washington-on-the-Brazos SHP Wildflower Walks - April 1, 2, 8, 9, 15, 16, 22, 23, 29, 30. Enjoy the spectacular beauty and color of Texas' wildflowers. Learn the myths and legends that surround these harbingers of spring. Call for more information, 936-878-2214.



Lantana



SCHEDULE YOUR OWN OUTINGS

PLEASE CALL THE PARKS OR WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT AREAS LISTED HERE FOR INFORMATION ABOUT FACILITIES, ACTIVITIES AND RESERVATIONS.

Atkinson Island WMA

Unvegetated beach areas. No facilities, accessible by boat only, 409-736-2551.

Big Bend Ranch SP Hiking, backpacking, and back country camping are available north of Highway 170. TCP or daily entrance fee is acceptable for both north and south of Highway 170. For information call Big Bend Ranch Complex office at 915-229-3416 from 8 a.m.-5 p.m.

Candy Cain Abshier WMA Area primarily for birdwatching and nature study. No facilities, 409-736-2551.

Davis Mountains SP Experience backcountry hiking in the Davis Mountains, 8 to 10-mile trail climbs to a spectacular overlook with a 360° panorama. TCP or \$5 activity fee per person. Reservations not required, 915-426-3337.

Devils River SNA Choice of two tours given upon request by reservation only. Fee of \$10 per-person plus TCP is required of individuals 17 years and older. Tour A will include a visit to an archeological pictograph site and Indian shelter which will involve some hiking. Tour B is a scenic drive through Dolan Creek Canyon and a visit to the springs on the Devils River. Primitive camping available. Group barracks lodging for 10 people and dining hall facility available for rent. Call 830-395-2133 for tour reservations, 512-389-8900 for facility reservations.

Granger WMA Approximately 35 miles of trails crisscross the Blackland Prairie accessible by entering at TPW registration boxes 17 around Granger Lake. Tall prairie grasses, fishing and birding (see if you can spot a ringnecked pheasant) await the adventurous hiker and mountain biker. Pick up

area maps at Corps of Engineers headquarters at the dam, 512-859-2668.

Gus Engeling WMA Two interpretive, walking nature trails and one driving wildlife demonstration tour are open throughout the year except during special permitted hunts, 903-928-2251.

Hill Country SNA Go on scenic trails on horseback at Hill Country SNA. Horses and lunch on the trail provided. Travel to historic Castroville to overnight at the rustic Landmark Inn SHP with dinner at the Alsatian Inn restaurant and continental breakfast at Landmark in the morning. Fee of \$175 for two persons, double occupancy, includes trail ride, dinner and accommodations. Reservations subject to availability of rooms and trail conditions, 830-796-4413; or trail riding only at Running 'R' Ranch, call for TCP member discounts on horseback rides, 830-796-3984.

Kickapoo Cavern SNA Birdwatching and nature tours upon request. Primitive cavern tour by special arrangement. Groups encouraged, bunkhouse lodging for 14 people, and kitchen available. Please make reservations at least one week in advance. TCP required per-person (17 years or older) to enter park, 830-563-2342.

Lower Neches WMA/Bessie Heights Unit Accessible by boat only. No facilities, 409-736-2551.

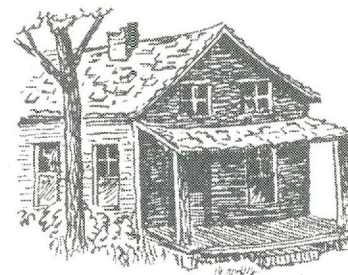
Monument Hill/Kreische Brewery SHP Hear stories of how Texas heroes came to be buried on Monument Hill. Witness the breath-taking view of La Grange and the Colorado River from the bluff at Monument Hill. Take a guided tour through the park

to see the Kreische homestead and the ruins of the 19th century brewery. Tours available by reservation to groups of 10 or more, 979-968-5658.

Richland Creek WMA Six miles of driving and walking trails open except during special permitted hunts. Observe wading birds from shallow water marsh compartments on the 4,000-acre north unit between April and August. No facilities, 903-389-7080.

Walter Buck WMA Activities coordinated through South Llano River SP, 915-446-3994.

Welder Flats Coastal Preserve This area is entirely submerged land, so access is by boat. ALL shoreline area is privately owned and is NOT part of the preserve. Please do not trespass on private land and do not disturb the whooping cranes, 361-576-0022.



Open House

PANHANDLE PLAINS

Lake Brownwood SP 3rd Annual Open House - May 5-6. Join us as we celebrate open house with booths and exhibits including buffalo soldiers, muzzle-loading, archery and more. 8 a.m.-5 p.m., 915-784-5223.

Wildlife

BIG BEND COUNTRY

Elephant Mountain WMA The Desert Bighorn in Texas - May 6. Learn about the natural history, biology and re-introduction efforts of the Desert Bighorn in Texas. View the sheep in their natural habitat. 8 a.m.-noon, reservation required, 915-364-2228.

HILL COUNTRY

Kerrville-Schreiner SP Reptiles of the Texas Hill Country - June 17. Learn about some of the most misunderstood animals in the world. There will be live specimens to see. 9 a.m., call for more information, 830-257-5392.

Project Wild - June 3. Join us for active and educational games that all members of the family can enjoy. Learn what happens to deer populations by becoming one, are you predator or prey? Starts at 9 a.m., call for more information, 830-257-5392.

Critters of the Texas Hill Country - May 27. Do Jack-apes really exist? View some of the common and not so common critters that inhabit this area. Starts at 7:30 p.m., call for more information, 830-257-5392.

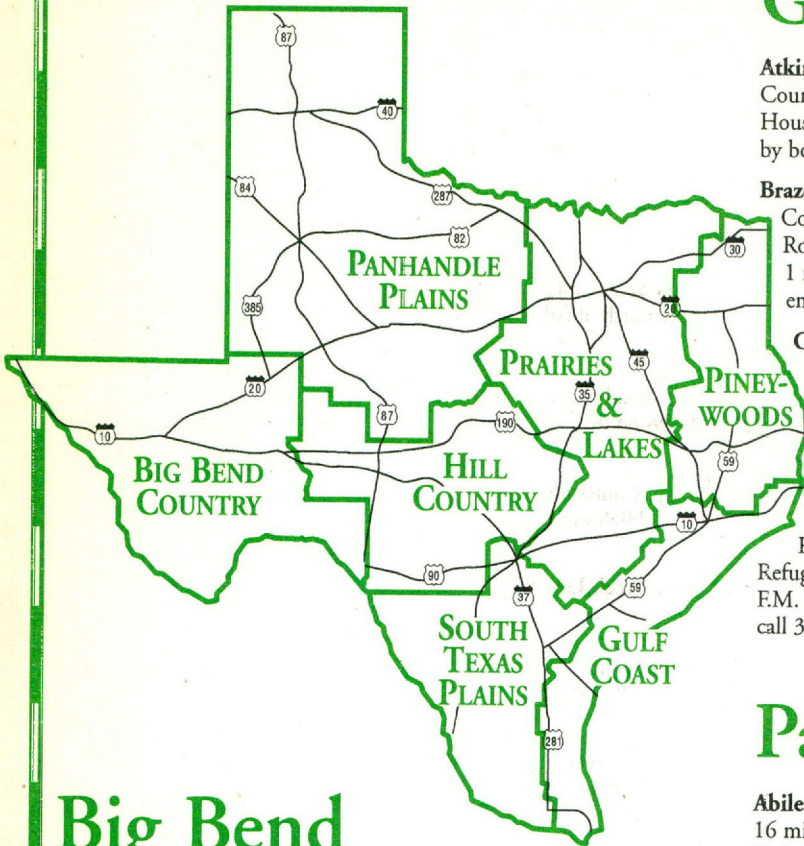
PINEYWOODS

Martin Creek Lake SP Open House - June 3. Enjoy a day at the park for our 3rd annual open house offering free day-use for all day-users (does not apply to campers). 6 a.m.-10 p.m. 903-836-4336.



DRIVE ACROSS TEXAS

— TRAVEL DIRECTIONS TO PASSPORT PLACES



Gulf Coast

Atkinson Island WMA In Harris County, off Morgan's Point on the Houston Ship Channel; accessed by boat only, 409-736-2551.

Brazos Bend SP In Fort Bend County, 10 miles west of Rosharon on F.M. 1462 then 1 mile north on F.M. 762 to entrance, 979-553-5111.

Candy Cain Abshier WMA In Chambers County, approximately 23 miles south of Anahuac on F.M. 562, to Smith Point, 409-736-2551.

Fennessey Ranch In Refugio County, between Refugio and Bayside off F.M. 2678. For detailed directions call 361-529-6600.

Goose Island SP In Aransas County, 10 miles north of Rockport on State Highway 35 to Park Road 13 east for 2 miles east park entrance, 361-729-2858.

San Jacinto Battleground SHP In Harris County, 22 miles east of downtown Houston off State Highway 225 east, then north on State Highway 134 to park entrance, 281-479-2431.

Sea Center Texas In Brazoria County, in the city of Lake Jackson at 300 Medical Drive, 409-292-0100.

Welder Flats Coastal Preserve In Calhoun County, at the junction of the Victoria Barge Canal and the Gulf Intracoastal Waterway. Boat access only, 361-576-0022.

Big Bend Country

Big Bend Ranch SP In Brewster and Presidio counties, 4 miles southeast of Presidio on F.M. 170; entrance at Fort Leaton SHP, 915-229-3416.

Black Gap WMA In Brewster County, 58 miles south of Marathon on U.S. Highway 385 to F.M. 2627, then east on F.M. 2627 for 18 miles, 915-837-3251.

Davis Mountains SP In Jeff Davis County, about 4 miles northwest of Fort Davis, via State Highway 118 to entrance, 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 to entrance, 830-395-2133.

Elephant Mountain WMA In Brewster County, approximately 26 miles south of Alpine on the east side of State Highway 118, to entrance, 915-364-2228.

Fort Leaton SHP In Presidio County, 4 miles southeast of Presidio on the River Road to F.M. 170, to entrance, 915-229-3613.

Franklin Mountains SP In El Paso County, in the city of El Paso, west on I.H. 10, exit on the Canutillo/Transmountain Road exit, go east on Transmountain Road for 3.8 miles to park entrance, 915-566-6441.

Hueco Tanks SHP In El Paso County, approximately 32 miles east of El Paso, via U.S. Highway 62/180 north on Ranch Road 2775 to entrance, 915-857-1135.

Seminole Canyon SHP In Val Verde County, 9 miles west of Comstock on U.S. Highway 90 to entrance, 915-292-4464.

Panhandle Plains

Abilene SP In Taylor County, 16 miles southwest of Abilene off F.M. 89 to entrance, 915-572-3204.

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.

Caprock Canyons SP & Trailway In Briscoe County, 3 miles north of Quitaque. Take State Highway 86 to Quitaque, then take F.M. 1065 to the park, 806-455-1492.

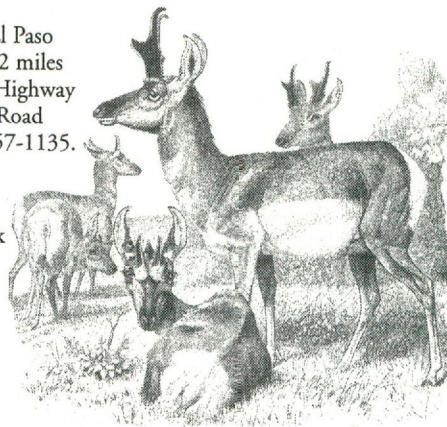
Copper Breaks SP In Hardeman County, 12 miles south of Quanah or 11 miles north of Crowell on State Highway 6, to park entrance, 940-839-4331.

Fort Griffin SHP In Shackelford County, about 15 miles north of Albany on U.S. Highway 283 to park, 915-762-3592.

Lake Arrowhead SP In Clay County, about 20 miles southeast of Wichita Falls on U.S. Highway 281, to F.M. 1954 for 8 miles to park entrance, 940-528-2211.

Palo Duro Canyon SP In Armstrong and Randall counties, 12 miles east of Canyon on State Highway 217. From Amarillo, south on Ranch Road 1541, to State Highway 217 east for 8 miles, to park entrance, 806-488-2227.

San Angelo SP In Tom Green County, 1 mile west of San Angelo, on the O.C. Fisher Reservoir, via either U.S. Highway 87 or 67 to F.M. 2288 to park entrance, 915-949-4757.





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.

Garner SP In Uvalde County, 31 miles north of Uvalde and 7 miles north of Concan on U.S. Highway 83, to park road 29 to entrance, 830-232-6132.

Granger WMA In Williamson County, approximately 7 miles east of Granger on F.M. 971 to entrance, 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 to entrance, 830-438-2656.

Honey Creek SNA Access through Guadalupe River SP, see above, 830-438-2656.

Hill Country SNA In Bandera and Medina counties, 10 miles southwest of Bandera on State Highway 173 south to Ranch Road 1077 (also marked as "Dixie Dude Ranch Road"), to park entrance, 830-796-3984.

Inks Lake SP In Burnet County, 9 miles west of Burnet on State Highway 29, east on Park Road 4 and go 3 miles to park entrance, 512-793-2223.

Kerr WMA In Kerr County, 14 miles west of Hunt, accessed off F.M. 1340, to entrance, 830-238-4483.

Kerrville-Schreiner SP In Kerr County, 3 miles southeast of Kerrville on State Highway 173 to entrance, 830-257-5392.

Kickapoo Cavern SP In Edwards and Kinney counties, 40 miles west of Uvalde on U.S. Highway 90, then 22.5 miles due north of Brackettville on Ranch Road 674; park entrance is on west side of road, 830-563-2342.

Longhorn Cavern SP In Burnet County, about 5 miles south of Burnet on U.S. Highway 281 to entrance, 512-756-4680.

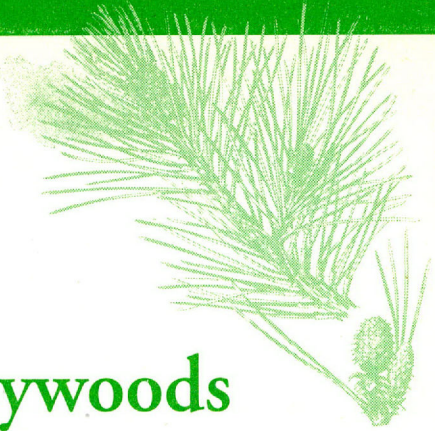
Old Tunnel WMA In Kendall County, from Fredericksburg, take U.S. Highway 290 east 1 mile to Old San Antonio Road (also Grapetown exit). Head south on Old San Antonio Road 10 miles to the WMA on the left. From Comfort, take Ranch Road 473 north (go past Sisterdale turnoff) 12 miles to the WMA on the right, 830-644-2478.

Walter Buck WMA In Kimble County, on the south fork of the Llano River, approximately 3 miles south of Junction on State Highway 377 to entrance, 915-446-3994.

X Bar Ranch In Schleicher County, 20 miles southwest of Eldorado on F.M. 2129. Office is in Eldorado across from the courthouse on U.S. Highway 277, 915-853-2688.



Pineywoods



Atlanta SP In Cass County, 2 miles north of Atlanta on U.S. Highway 59; to F.M. 96 west for 7 miles, then north on F.M. 1154 to Park Road 42 to entrance, 903-796-6476.

Jim Hogg SHP In Cherokee County, 2 miles northeast of Rusk off U.S. Highway 84 to entrance, 903-683-4850.

Martin Creek Lake SP In Rusk County, 3.5 miles southwest of Tatum, on State Highway 43 to County Road 2183 south to park entrance, 903-836-4336.

Martin Dies, Jr. SP In Jasper County, 17 miles east of Woodville on U.S. Highway 190 to entrance, 409-384-5231.

Texas State Railroad SHP In Anderson County, in the city of Palestine 2 miles east of Loop 256 on U.S. Highway 84 to Palestine train station. In Cherokee County, 2 miles west of Rusk via U.S. Highway 84 to Rusk train station, 903-683-2561.

Tyler SP In Smith County, 2 miles north of I.H. 20 on Farm Road 14, 903-597-5338.

Village Creek SP In Hardin County, 10 miles north of Beaumont in the city of Lumberton. From U.S. Highway 69 north, take Mitchell Road exit to Village Creek Parkway and go approximately 2 miles, turn east onto Alma Drive to park entrance, 409-755-7322.

South Texas Plains

Bentsen-Rio Grande Valley SP In Hidalgo County, 3 miles south of Mission on F.M. 2062 to entrance, 956-585-1107 or 956-585-0902.

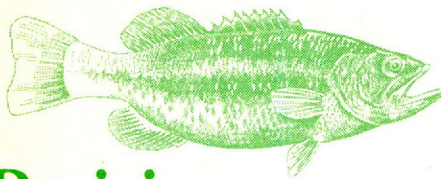
Choke Canyon SP/Calliham Unit In McMullen and Live Oak counties, about 70 miles south of San Antonio. On the north side of State Highway 72, about 8 miles west of Three Rivers, 361-786-3868.

Choke Canyon SP/South Shore Unit In Live Oak County, about 70 miles south of San Antonio, off State Highway 72, just west of Three Rivers to park entrance, 361-786-3538.

Goliad SHP In Goliad County, 1/4 mile south of Goliad on U.S. Highway 183/77A, to park entrance, 361-645-3405.

Abbreviations

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



Prairies and Lakes

Fishing

GULF COAST

Cedar Hill SP In Dallas County, approximately 15 miles southwest of Dallas on Joe Pool Lake and 2 miles northwest of Cedar Hill on F.M. 1382 south, to park entrance, 972-291-3900.

Cooper Lake SP & WMA/South Sulphur Unit In Hopkins County, 12 miles north of Sulphur Springs on State Highway 154/19; turn west onto F.M. 71 for 5 miles, then north on F.M. 3505 to entrance, 903-945-5256.

Cooper Lake SP/Doctor's Creek Unit In Delta County, 2 miles south of Cooper, on the northern shore of Cooper Lake, on State Highway 154, turn west onto F.M. 1529 to entrance, 903-395-3100.

Fort Parker SP In Limestone County, between Mexia and Groesbeck, off State Highway 14 to entrance, 254-562-5751.

Fossil Rim Wildlife Center In Somervell County, 3 miles southwest of Glen Rose; go south on County Road 2008 for 2 miles to entrance, 254-897-2960.

Gus Engeling WMA In Anderson County, 21 miles northwest of Palestine on U.S. Highway 287 to entrance, 903-928-2251.

Monument Hill/Kreische Brewery SHP In Fayette County, 1 mile south of La Grange off U.S. Highway 77 to spur 92, to entrance, 979-968-5658.

Palmetto SP In Gonzales County, 6 miles south of Luling on U.S. Highway 183 to entrance, 830-672-3266.

Purtis Creek SP In Henderson and Van Zandt counties, 3 miles north of Eustace off F.M. 316 to entrance, 903-425-2332.

Richland Creek WMA In Freestone and Navarro counties, about 28 miles east of Corsicana, along U.S. Highway 287 to entrance, 903-928-2251.

Texas Freshwater Fisheries Center In Henderson County, 5 miles east of Athens, take State Highway 31 to F.M. 2495 next to Lake Athens, 903-676-2277.

Washington-on-the-Brazos SHP In Washington County, 21 miles northeast of Brenham on State Highway 105, then turn onto F.M. 912 to entrance, 936-878-2214.

CCA/CPL Marine Development Center Texas Gulf Coast Roundup - March 11, 25; April 8; May 6. Join the Texas Parks and Wildlife staff and anglers to collect fish for the hatchery program, aquariums, education and research. The fishing event is open to all fisherman, bank, wade, pier and boaters. Must be 21 years of age to participate. 6 a.m.-2 p.m., for locations and more information call, 361-939-7784.

PANHANDLE PLAINS

Lake Arrowhead SP Rough Fish Contest - June 3. Fishing contest for ages 17 and up. Prizes will be awarded in 3 categories. Call for more information. 9 a.m.-4:30 p.m., fee \$1 per-person, 940-528-2211.

Kid Fish Contest - June 3. Kids from age 5 to 16 can enter the fishing contest. Prizes awarded in each age group. Call for more information. 1-4 p.m., 940-528-2211.

PINEYWOODS

Martin Creek Lake SP Kids Fish - June 10. Bring the kids, their rod and reel and bait, for this catch and release fishing day. Registration starts at noon at the pier area. Noon-3 p.m., 903-836-4336.

Martin Dies, Jr. SP Tenth Annual Kids Fish Flop Tournament - June 3. Kids fishing tournament. Open to children 16 years and under. Prizes will be awarded in three categories: 6 and under, 7 through 11, and 12 through 16. Tournament desk located at the Walnut Ridge boat ramp. 8 a.m.-noon, 409-384-5231.

Tyler SP First Annual Kid Fish - June 10. Kids from toddler to 12 years old can enter the fishing contest. Prizes awarded in each age group. Call for more information, 903-597-5338.

PRAIRIES AND LAKES

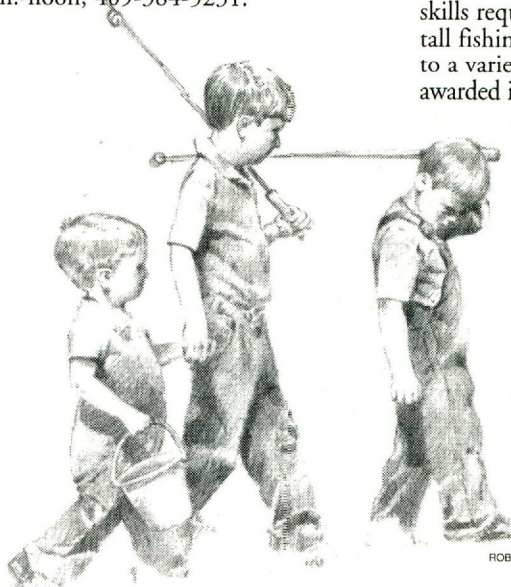
Cooper Lake SP/South Sulphur Unit Annual Kid Fishing Day - June 3. For kids 12 years of age and younger. Bring your fishing equipment and try your skill at fishing. A limited number of rods and reels and bait will be available. 9-11 a.m., reservations available but not required, 903-945-5256.

Purtis Creek SP Kids' Fish and Play Day - June 3. Fishing contest for kids 16 years and younger. Games for everyone and a free hot dog lunch. 8 a.m.-noon, 903-425-2332.

Texas Freshwater Fisheries Center National Fishing Week - June 3. Kids are invited to a fun day of fishing and learning about fish. Children enter free. 9 a.m.-4 p.m., 903-676-2277.

Share Lunker/Angler Recognition/Outdoor Writer Field Day - May 25-26. Join us as we recognize top anglers in Texas and compete in the Outdoor writer tournament. Area vendors will provide items for sale from boats to bait. 3-9 p.m. on May 25, 5 a.m.-noon on May 26, 903-676-2277.

Washington-on-the-Brazos SHP Children's Fishing Derby - May 13, 20. Children ages 4-12 learn and practice the skills required to become great tellers of tall fishing tales. Children are introduced to a variety of species and prizes are awarded in numerous categories. 8:30 a.m.-noon, fees \$2 children 12 and under, reservations required, 936-878-2214.



ROB FLEMING



Hikes, Walks & Runs

BIG BEND COUNTRY

Big Bend Ranch SP Exploring Big Bend Ranch - April 28-30. Go on this 3-day field trip by van and hiking to see Big Bend Ranch's many natural and cultural resources. Guests will visit spring, rock art sites and observe spring wildflowers. Price includes guide, back-country transportation, lodging and meals. 8 a.m. April 28 till 5 p.m. April 30, fees \$341 TCP member, \$350 non-member, reservations required, 915-229-3416.

Franklin Mountains SP Guided Tours - April 1, 2, 15, 16. Go on a guided tour and learn about the flora and fauna of the Franklin Mountains. 8-10 a.m., fees \$1 TCP members, \$4 non-members, free to children 12 and under, 915-566-6441.

GULF COAST

Brazos Bend SP Weekend Nature Programs - April 1-30; May 6-28; June 3-25. Every weekend we offer free nature related programs ranging from guided nature hikes to slide shows to live animal presentation. Call park for more details, 979-553-5101.

HILL COUNTRY

Colorado Bend SP Gorman Falls Hike - April; May & June. Every Saturday & Sunday. Caravan from park headquarters to the Gorman area of the park and then hike to below the falls. From trail-head it is a 1-1/2 mile round-trip hike over beautiful Hill Country terrain. No pets allowed on tour. No restrooms or drinking water available. 10 a.m. and 2 p.m. on Saturdays. 10 a.m. on Sundays, weather permitting. Fees \$3 adults, \$2 children 12-6, 915-628-3240.

Honey Creek SNA Guided Tour - April 1, 8, 15, 22, 29; May 6, 13, 20, 27; June 3, 10, 17, 24. Every Saturday join us for a leisurely 1-mile hike along Honey Creek Canyon with interpretation of the environmental and cultural history of the Edwards Plateau and the Texas Hill Country. Meet at the Rust Visitor Center at Guadalupe River State Park. 9-11 a.m., fees \$2 per-person or \$5 per-family, 830-438-2656.

PANHANDLE PLAINS

Big Spring SP 3rd Annual Master the Mountain - April 15. Join us on the 5K and 10K run and walk races. Races are challenging due to steep terrain at the park. Participants enjoy running on the park road, which follows the edge of a 200-foot bluff at the northern limit of the Edwards Plateau. Race time 9 a.m., call for prices and more information, 915-263-4931.

Nature Walks and Sunset Tales - June 3, 10, 17, 24. Take a nature walk with a guide and discover century-old rock carvings on Scenic Mountain. Learn about local flora and fauna. Hear tales of treasure, cowboy, Indians, hauntings and more. Listen to a storyteller as you watch the sunset atop the bluff. 8-10 p.m., fees free to TCP members, \$2 non-members, free to children 12 and under, 915-263-4931.

San Angelo SP Dino Walk - April 8; May 13; June 17. Hike back in time to see tracks left over 200 million years ago by Permian period vertebrates. The hike is 3 miles total. Meet at the North Concho River Park. 1-3:30 p.m. In addition to the park entry fee, the tour fees are \$1 TCP members, \$2 non-members, \$1 children 12 and under, reservations available but not required, 915-949-4757.

Macey's Ridge Hike - May 27. Five-mile hike, with moderate to rough terrain, to Macey's Ridge where an early pioneer was killed. Meet at North Concho River Park. 9 a.m.-noon. In addition to park entry fee, the event fees are, \$1 TCP members, \$2 non-members, \$1 children 12 and under, reservations available but not required, 915-949-4757.

PINEYWOODS

Martin Dies, Jr. SP Walk on the Wildside - April 2, 9, 23; May 7, 14, 28; June 4, 11, 25. Go on a guided interpretive hike featuring Big Thicket ecosystems and related resources along the hiking trails in the Hen House Ridge or Walnut Ridge Units. 9-10 a.m., 409-384-5231.

Village Creek SP Guided Nature Trail Hike - April 1, 8, 29; May 6, 20, 27; June 3, 10, 24. Two-hour, 2-mile guided hike through remnants of old Texas Big Thicket. Exploring upland pine forests, mixed pine-hardwood forest, and bottomland forests with cypress/tupelo swamps. Topics covered include plants and animals found in the park. 9-11 a.m., reservations available but not required, 409-755-7322.

PRAIRIES AND LAKES

Cooper Lake SP/Doctors Creek Unit Guided Nature Hike - April 15; June 10. Take a guided hike along the Shoreline nature trail. Learn to identify the plants, trees and wildlife of the area. 2-3 p.m., reservations available but not required, 903-395-3100.

Creatures of the Night - May 27. Take a guided hike along Coyote Run Nature Trail in search of creatures that roam the night. 8:30-9:30 p.m., reservations available but not required, 903-395-3100.



Cooper Lake SP/South Sulphur Unit Flora and Fauna of the Area - May 6. Take a guided hike along the nature trail. Learn to identify plants, trees and wildlife of the area. 9-10 a.m., 903-945-5256.

Sunset Nature Hike - May 20. As the sun sets, take a guided hike along the nature trail in search of wildlife of the area. 6-7 p.m., 903-945-5256.

Identifying the Trees of Northeast Texas - April 29. Take a walk along Coyote Run Nature Trail and learn to identify the trees of the area. Hear interesting facts and other common names of these trees. 2-3 p.m., 903-945-5256.

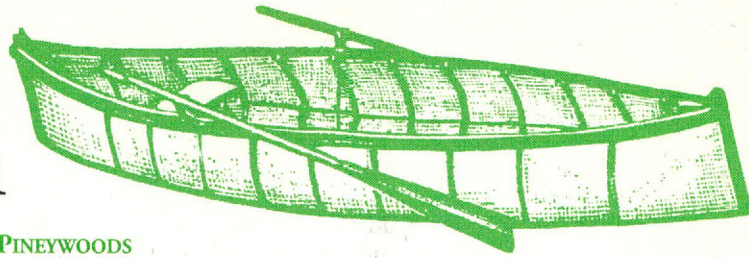
Walk on the Wildside - April 8. Take a guided hike along Coyote Run Nature Trail. Learn how to identify flora and fauna of the area. Hear interesting facts about plants, trees and wildlife. 9-10 a.m., reservations available but not required, 903-945-5256.

Creatures of the Night - June 17. Take a guided hike along Coyote Run Nature Trail in search of creatures that roam the night. 9-10 p.m., reservations available but not required, 903-945-5256.

Fort Parker SP Volksmarch - April 8-9 Explore the park trails through recreational walking. There will be a 10K walk where anyone can walk for free or if credit is wanted, a fee is required. 7 a.m.-3 p.m., regular park entry fee of \$2 per-person will apply, 254-562-5751.



Splish Splash



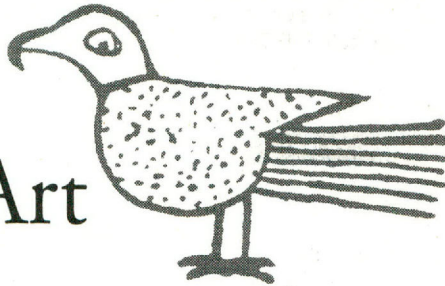
HILL COUNTRY

Inks Lake SP Devil's Waterhole Canoe Tour - April 13, 27; May 11, 18, 25; June 1, 8, 15, 22, 29. Take a guided canoe tour and explore the geological and natural features of Inks Lake with an emphasis placed on local birds and geological rock formations. 4-6 p.m., fees \$5 TCP members, \$6 non-members, \$5 senior citizens, \$5 children 12 and under, reservations available but not required, 512-793-2223.

PINEYWOODS

Martin Dies, Jr. SP Floating the Forks - April 15; May 20; June 17. Go on a guided canoe trip down the Angelina and Neches Rivers through the Angelina/Neches/Dam B WMA from historic Bevilport to the Walnut Ridge Unit of the park. For the novice as well as experienced canoeist. 8 a.m.-1 p.m., fees \$20 if you bring your own canoe, \$25 if we provide the canoe, \$7.50 for third person in canoe, reservations required, 409-384-5231.

Rock Art



BIG BEND COUNTRY

Seminole Canyon SHP Fate Bell Cave Dwelling Tour - April; May & June. Every Wednesday thru Sunday. Take a walking, guided tour to one of North America's oldest cave dwellings whose walls are covered with Pecos River-style pictographs, some 4,000 years old. Tours start at 10 a.m. and 3 p.m., fees \$3 per-person, \$1 children 6-12, reservations available but not required, 915-292-4464.

Panther Cave Boat Tour - April 8; June 17. Weather permitting this remote tour begins at the park headquarters, then you are shuttled to the back of the park where you will hike for 1/2 mile to meet the boat to Panther Cave. This site contains some of the best-preserved Lower Pecos River-style pictographs in the state. Shuttles leave throughout the day beginning at 8:30 a.m. and ending at 2 p.m., fees \$20 TCP members, \$25 non-members, reservations required, 915-292-4464.

White Shaman Tour - April 1, 8, 15, 22, 29; May 6, 13, 20, 27; June 3, 10, 17, 24. Guided hiking tour on the Galloway White Shaman Preserve. A 2-hour tour into the Pecos River canyon to view the White Shaman. This pictograph, done in Pecos River-style, has great detail. 12:30-2:30 p.m., fees \$10 adults, free to children 12 and under, reservations available but not required, 1-888-525-9907, 915-292-4464.

Upper Canyon Tour - April 9; May 13; June 18. Tour includes hiking in the upper canyon in the closed area of the park. Hikers will be able to view a combination of rock art and original 1882 railroad sites. 8:30 a.m.-noon, fees \$8 TCP members, \$10 non-members, reservations required, 915-292-4464.

Presa Canyon Tour - April 22. Weather permitting, go on an all-day hike, in the lower canyons, to view the rock art sites in the closed area of the park. 8:30 a.m.-5 p.m., fees \$15 TCP members, \$20 non-members, reservations required, 915-292-4464.

PANHANDLE PLAINS

San Angelo SP Petroglyph Tour - April 22; May 20; June 10. Visit the site of a Native American village and see Native American rock art. Less than a 100 yard walk. Meet at South Shore entrance to park. 1-3:30 p.m., in addition to the park entry fee the event fees are, \$1 TCP members, \$2 non-members, \$1 children 12 and under, reservations available but not required,

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Texas Parks and Wildlife

To manage and conserve the natural and cultural resources of Texas for the use and enjoyment of present and future generations.

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PASSPORT VALUES

Ruckers Refuge and Guesthouse Birdwatching, photography, stargazing, nature walks and enjoying nature at its best await TCP members (10 percent discount) in a new, unique and fully furnished hide-away house in the Davis Mts. near Ft. Davis and McDonald Observatory. Call Sid or Shirley for a brochure and more information at 915-426-3552.

Fossil Rim Wildlife Center TCP members qualify for discounts on admission to the Scenic Wildlife Drive. Enjoy a 9-mile drive among friendly giraffes, antelopes, zebras and many other animals from around the world. Open year-round. Call 254-897-2960 for more information.

Longhorn Cavern State Park With each current TCP, you can purchase a Longhorn Cavern tour ticket for \$7, discounted from the regular

\$8 price. For children age 5 through 12, the ticket price is \$4.50, and children age 4 and under are free. Call 512-756-6976 for recorded information on times and tours.

Running 'R' Ranch, Bandera Offers TCP 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 830-796-3984.

X Bar Ranch near Sonora gives TCP members a discount on lodging. Hike, go mountain biking, ride horses or relax at this fifth-generation family ranch. Lodging in private houses or cabins. Plenty of wildlife viewing and other activities. For reservations, information and directions call toll free 888-853-2688. Web site: www.xbarranch.com E-mail: xbar@compuserve.com

TEXAS PARKS AND WILDLIFE

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SUBSCRIPTIONS

Texas Parks & Wildlife magazine offers a reduced rate of \$8 for one year to all TCP members. To subscribe at this special rate have your TCP member number handy and call 800-937-9393.

ON RADIO

Passport To Texas takes you on a 90-second radio journey into the Texas outdoors. Look for station listings: www.passporttotexas.com



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ONLINE

Make state park reservations via our Web site:
www.tpwd.state.tx.us

ON THE PHONE

Park reservations or cancellations
512-389-8900
Monday thru Friday 9 a.m.-8 p.m.
Saturday 9 a.m.-12 p.m.
Voice Mail: 24 hours a day
Indian Lodge 915-426-3254
Texas State Railroad 800-442-8951

Wildlife Management Areas call individual areas on a weekday, 8-9 a.m. and 12-1 p.m., to make sure you can have access. Each event listing includes the phone number.

TCP MEMBERSHIPS

A Gold Texas Conservation Passport is a \$50 annual membership with a vehicle pass good for 12 months from the month of purchase.

It gives you:

- Free entrance at parks where entrance fees are charged and one free tour every time you visit one of our historical parks. Parks charging both an entrance fee and an historical tour fee may offer either: free entrance or one free tour, but not both. Hueco Tanks SHP gives one free entry per TCP.
- Includes subscription to the quarterly *Texas Conservation Passport Journal*.
- Special access to restricted Wildlife Management and State Natural Areas and trips to private Texas ranches.

It's easy to join, ask for the Gold Texas Conservation Passport at:

- Your nearest Texas State Park
- Any Texas Parks and Wildlife regional law enforcement office

- Your nearest license retailer
- Call toll-free 800-895-4248, listen to the menu and press the extension for License Sales.

The Gold Texas Conservation Passport includes both a gold windshield decal and a paper license. The Gold decal is available **ONLY** at state parks.

- The gold windshield decal is your vehicle pass and must be permanently attached to the vehicle windshield in order to receive the free entrance benefit when entering Texas State Parks by vehicle.
- You must keep the paper license to show to the proper authorities (if necessary) when you enter Texas State Parks regardless of whether you enter in a vehicle or on foot, by bicycle, motorcycle, airplane or boat. It is your proof of purchase and not an entry permit.
- If you plan to use more than one vehicle or if you plan to use alternate means of transportation in addition to your vehicle, you will need duplicate gold windshield decals.

For member assistance and information, call 800-792-1112, listen to the menu and press the extension for Texas Conservation Passport.



F from the Canyon

PANHANDLE PLAINS

Palo Duro Canyon SP Easter Sunrise Service - April 23. Canyon Ministerial Alliance will be hosting a non-denominational Easter sunrise service in the Pioneer Amphitheater. Park fees will be waived for the event only. 7-8 a.m., 806-488-2227.

Nature Hike - April 15, May 27, June 24. Join us for an enjoyable nature hike in the canyon. We will travel 2.5 miles on the Givens, Spicer and Lowry Running Trail and discuss canyon ecology, geology and history. Bring good hiking shoes, water and the whole family. 9 a.m.-noon, 806-488-2227.

Palo Duro Pioneers - June. Children of all ages are invited to join us for an hour of adventure and learning. Each week we will feature a different activity, game or project to help us study canyon geology, ecology and history. 2-3 p.m., 806-488-2227.

"Texas" - June. Join us for the 34th season of the world famous musical drama, "Texas." Set in the beautiful outdoors, this grand production tells the story of the life and struggles of early Texas pioneers. 8:30-11 p.m., call for prices, reservations available but not required, 806-655-2181.

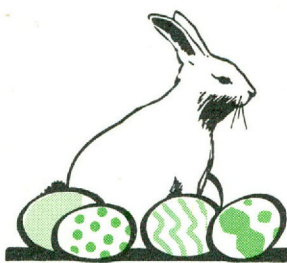


Worship Service - June 4, 11, 18, 25. The sky is our ceiling and the four corners of the earth are our walls. Come to an all-faith worship service at Palo Duro Canyon on Sunday mornings. Meet at the Cottonwood Day-use area. In case of bad weather meet at the Old West horse stables. Starts at 9 a.m., 806-488-2227.

Easter

PANHANDLE PLAINS

Copper Breaks SP Easter Sunrise Service - April 23. Join us for an Easter sunrise service lead by Rev. John Spangler. The service will be held at park headquarters. Start at sunrise, fees will apply to those who visit the park afterwards, reservations available but not required, 940-839-4331.



PINEYWOODS

Atlanta SP Easter Egg Hunt - April 22. Children ages 0-12 can go on an Easter egg hunt. 2-3 p.m., 903-796-6476.

PRAIRIES AND LAKES

Cooper Lake SP/Doctors Creek Unit Easter Egg Hunt - April 22. Bring your basket and join us for prize eggs and lots of fun. There will be two age groups, 0-5 and 6-10 years old. 2-3 p.m., reservations available but not required, 903-395-3100.

Cooper Lake SP/South Sulphur Unit Annual Easter Egg Hunt - April 22. Bring your basket and join us for prize eggs and lots of fun. There will be two age groups, 0-5 and 6-10. 2-3 p.m., 903-945-5256.

It's time for the
Great Texas Birding
Classic! See page 5.
THE GREAT TEXAS
BIRDING CLASSIC

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