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TEXAS CONSERVATION PASSPORT

# JOURNAL

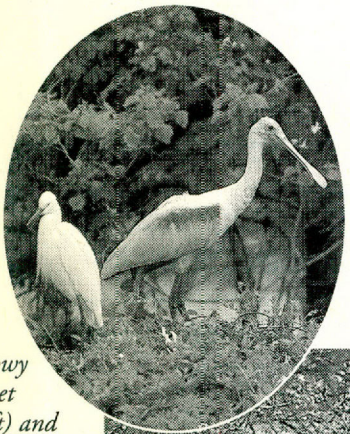
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## Beguiling Birds, Bewitching Bats



Snowy Egret (left) and Roseate Spoonbill



Fledgling birders only need a pair of field glasses to get started, while avid birders frequently carry cameras and scopes on tripods.



Birds do it! Bats do it! Even people with RVs do it ... flock to Texas state parks in spring! When birds and bats migrate to and through Texas each spring, so do folks with binoculars, bird lists and "scopes."

The Mexican free-tailed bats overwinter down south, but seek Texas in the summer. On warm evenings, millions can be seen streaming out of caves, tunnels, some highway bridge spans and even the occasional porch overhang on an adobe building (ramadas). Learning that bats feed on mosquitos, moths and other flying insects has led to public fascination and appreciation of the role they play in our ecological systems.

Birds provide an opportunity for some serious Texas bragging. Some of our feathered friends live here year-round, while others pass through seasonally along the north-south flyways. Whether visitors or residents, 620 species have been documented in Texas; more than have ever been counted in any other state. Four of the top 12 birding destinations for North America are also in Texas – the Trans-Pecos, the Rio Grande Valley, the Gulf Coast and High Island near Galveston.

So grab your field glasses and head for the hills, the woods, the desert or the shore – the birds are out there waiting for you!

**THE FIFTH ANNUAL  
GREAT TEXAS BIRDING CLASSIC  
APRIL 20-29, 2001**  
A Team Birding Competition  
For information: 1-888-892-4737  
[www.tpwd.state.tx.us/gtbc](http://www.tpwd.state.tx.us/gtbc)

For the listing of birding and bat viewing events, see pages 2-3.





# WIND BENEATH OUR WINGS

WILDLIFE DIVISION

## Tim Lawyer

Natural Resources Specialist

Edwards Plateau Regulatory District and Old Tunnel WMA



"Dallas was my childhood home, but I have always enjoyed hunting, fishing and camping," Tim said, "so I went to Texas A&M for a degree in Wildlife Ecology."

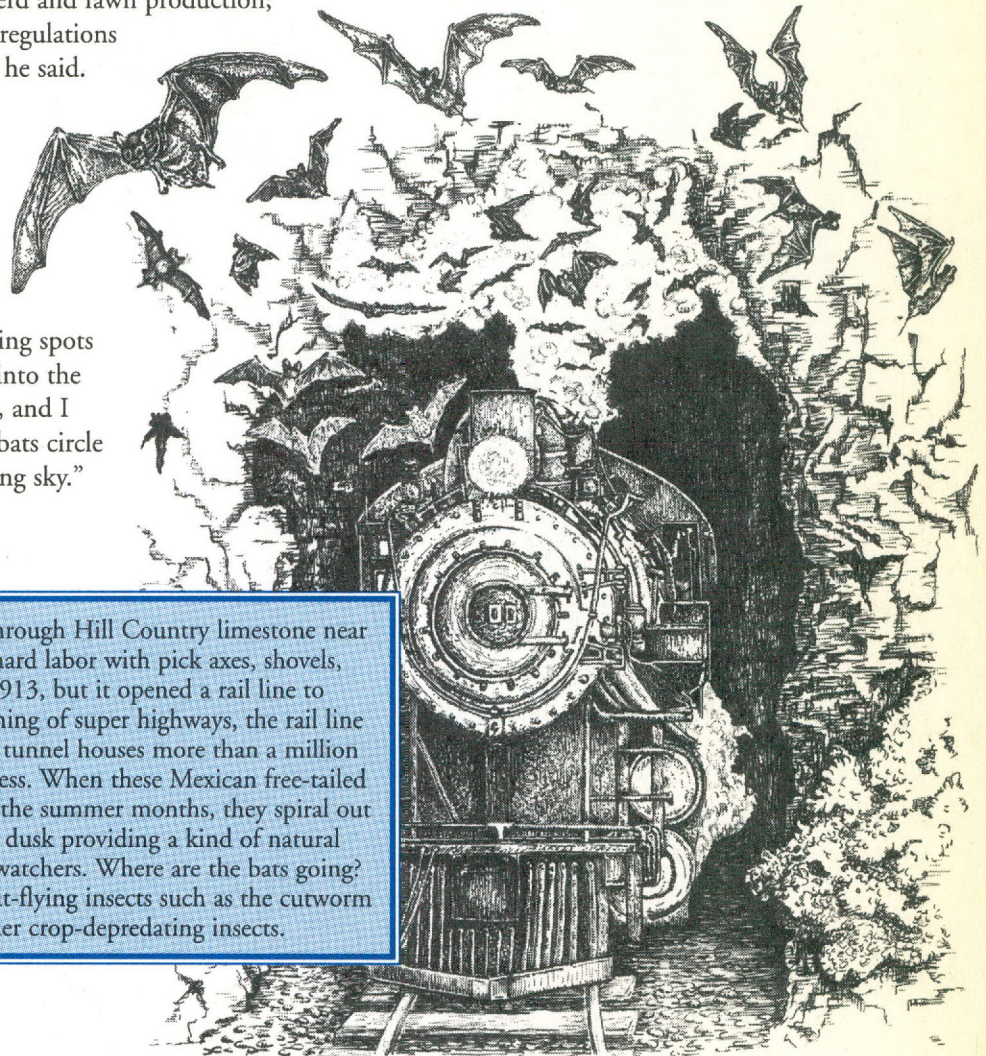
"Luckily I got jobs right away that gave me hands-on experience working with wildlife habitat and population management before coming to Texas Parks and Wildlife in 1990."

Tim began as a TPW fish and wildlife technician in Gonzales and about two years later he was promoted to wildlife biologist to manage the Lake Ray Roberts WMA, as well as handling regulatory responsibilities in five counties. "I conducted white-tailed deer surveys documenting population density, sex ratios in the herd and fawn production; the data is used to formulate hunting regulations such as season length and bag limits," he said.

"When I transferred to the Hill Country, I inherited the Old Tunnel WMA with its colony of Mexican free-tailed bats." The colony takes flight every evening at dusk during June to October, and public viewing of the bat flight has become such a popular event that bleachers and viewing spots were constructed above the entrance into the tunnel. "People get excited about bats, and I love being able to tell the story while bats circle overhead silhouetted against the evening sky."

### HILL COUNTRY

**Old Tunnel WMA** Flying with the Free-tails - June. Every Thursday and Saturday. Bat emergence observation with interpretation. First come first served. Special group tours available by request, call for times, fees free to TCP members, \$5 non-members, \$3 senior citizens, \$2 children 6-16, free to children 5 and under, 830-644-2478.



Digging a railroad tunnel through Hill Country limestone near Fredericksburg required hard labor with pick axes, shovels, scrapers and mules in 1913, but it opened a rail line to San Antonio. With the coming of super highways, the rail line was abandoned. Today the tunnel houses more than a million bats in its cool, quiet darkness. When these Mexican free-tailed bats are in residence during the summer months, they spiral out of the tunnel each day at dusk providing a kind of natural entertainment for wildlife watchers. Where are the bats going? They go out to feed on night-flying insects such as the cutworm moth, as well as other crop-depredating insects.





# EXPLORE THE REAL TEXAS

## Birds

### BIG BEND COUNTRY

**Davis Mountains SP** Bird Banding - April & May. Join us as we collect birds off the mist-nets and band them. Learn how to determine the ages and the names of the birds. 8-11 a.m. Call for dates, 915-426-3337.

**Hueco Tanks SHP** Bird Identification Tours - April 15; May 20; June 17. Observe some of the over 200 species of birds which visit the area. Your guide is Bob Johnson, volunteer bird expert of the Trans-Pecos Audubon Society. 8-10 a.m. April 15, 7-9 a.m. May 20 and June 17, reservations available but not required, 915-849-6684.

### GULF COAST

**Fennessey Ranch** Spring Migration Birding Count - April 7, 21, 28. An ornithologist will lead us through an array of habitats that are ideal for migrant birds. Last year we counted over 100 species in one day. Lunch provided on the banks of the Mission River. 7:30 a.m.-2:30 p.m., fees \$41 TCP members, \$44 non-members, reservations required, 361-529-6600.

**Goose Island SP** Guided Bird Walks - April. Every Wednesday through Saturday; May 2-5. 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.

**Matagorda Island SP & WMA** Migratory Bird Tour - April 21, 22; May 5. Join us for a guided tour of the north end of the island to observe shorebirds, herons, egrets and migrating birds. Aplomado falcons, black-shouldered kites, white-tailed hawks can also be viewed. Bring good walking shoes, water and

binoculars for this great birding adventure. 8 a.m.-3 p.m., fees, in addition to the ferry fee, are \$2 TCP members, \$8 non-members, \$4 children 12 and under, reservations required, 361-983-2215.

**Sea Rim SP** Birding Field Trip - April 21. Birding excursion in search of neotropical migrants, swallows and shore birds. 7:30 a.m.-noon, 409-971-2559.

### HILL COUNTRY

**Kickapoo Cavern SP** Birding at Kickapoo - April; May & June. Friends/volunteers will present brief program on birds at the park and management of the endangered black-capped vireo on this short nature and birding hike. Call for times and dates, fees \$5 adults, \$3 children 12 and under; reservations required, 830-563-2342.

**Pedernales Falls SP** Bird Watching - April; May & June. View birds daily year-round from a covered blind. Viewing area has bird feeders and baths and is maintained daily. 830-868-7304.

### PANHANDLE PLAINS

**Caprock Canyons SP & Trailway** Birding 101 - May 5; June 16. Join us for a short lesson about how to identify birds then test your skills. Bring your binoculars and bird book. 9-10 a.m., reservations available but not required, 806-455-1492.

Evening Birding - April 7. Join us for a short discussion about bird identification and some common species you might expect, then take a leisurely walk around Lake Theo scouting for birds. This is for both the beginning birder and the expert. 6:30-dark, 806-455-1492.

**Copper Breaks SP** Owl Calling - April 7. Volunteer Greg Mucciolo will call up screech, great horned and barn owls, weather permitting. Dark, after flintknapping demonstration, fees \$2 adults, \$1 senior citizens; reservations available but not required, 940-839-4331.

### PINEWOODS

**Martin Dies, Jr. SP** Birding Boat Tour - May 5. 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.

### PRAIRIES AND LAKES

**Stephen F. Austin SHP** Birds of the Brazos Hike - April 7, 14, 21. We will hike the trails along the Brazos River and the upland areas of the park to identify native bird species. Join us as we look for several species of woodpecker and raptors common to the park as well as some species that might be lost. New birders welcome. 10 a.m.-2 p.m., 979-885-3613 x27.

### 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.-3:30 p.m., fees \$25 per person, reservations required, 956-519-6448.

## Bats

### BIG BEND COUNTRY

**Fort Leaton SHP** Ice Cream and Bats - June 22. Eat ice cream as you wait for the bats to emerge from the ramadas. There will be a presentation on bat biology. 8-10:30 p.m., fees free to TCP members, \$2 adults, \$1 senior citizens, \$1 children 12 and under, 915-229-3613.

### HILL COUNTRY

**Devil's Sinkhole SNA** Sinkhole Bat Flight Tour - May & June. Peer down more than 150 feet into the depths of Devil's Sinkhole if you dare! Short program on the cavern and bats provided. A spectacular flight of bats will be observed just after sunset. Liability release required. Call for dates, 1 1/2 hours before sunset till dark, fees \$4 TCP members, \$8 non-members, \$4 children 12 and under; reservations required, 830-563-2342.

**Kickapoo Cavern SP** Bat Flights at Stuart Bat Cave - May & June. Observe an estimated 500,000 bats emerge from Stuart Bat Cave in the evening. A program will be given regarding bats, the environment and the resources of the park. Call for dates, one hour before sunset till dark, fees \$5 adults, \$3 children 12 and under; reservations required, 830-563-2342.

### PANHANDLE PLAINS

**Caprock Canyons SP & Trailway** Bat Tour - May 19. Learn about the history of the area as Queen of the Valley Tours takes us down the Trailway to Clarity Tunnel. We will arrive in time to learn a little about bats before their evening flight. Return time depends on bat flight, but it will be late. 7-10:30 p.m., fees \$8 TCP members, \$10 non-members, \$8 senior citizens, \$8 children 12 and under, reservations required, 806-455-1492.





# Caving

## HILL COUNTRY

**Colorado Bend SP** Walking Cave Tour - April; May & June. Every Saturday and Sunday weather and resources permitting. Discover what speleologists (cavers) experience while exploring Gorman Cave. Two-and-a-half-mile hike over Hill Country terrain to and from cave. Good flashlight and walking shoes needed. 9:15 a.m.-12:15 p.m., fees \$10 per person, no children under 6, reservations recommended, 915-628-3240.

**Crawling Cave Tour** - April 7, 14; May 5, 12; June 2, 9. Discover what speleologists (cavers) experience while exploring the underground world. Tour two relatively small and progressively more difficult caves; tight crawl spaces for up to 75 feet at a time. No children under 6. Headlamp/flashlight required; good hiking shoes, elbow and kneepads, and gloves highly recommended; helmets provided. 1:30-5:30 p.m., fees \$15 per person, reservations available but not required, weather and resources permitting, 915-628-3240.

**Kickapoo Cavern SP** Wild Cave Tour - April; May & June. Hike across fields of loose boulders into the heart of the Great Kickapoo Cave. Primitive tours led by volunteer cavers using only flashlights and headlamps. Two-hour tours end near the 80-foot twin columns, the largest known cave formation in Texas, and then retrace the path. Participants must sign a liability release, wear good hiking boots and bring headlamps and flashlights for each person. Call for times, fees \$5 adults, \$3 children 12 and under; reservations required, 830-563-2342.

**Longhorn Cavern SP** Cave Geology Program - April. Every Thursday. Let geologist Al Gerow take you into an underground wonder. Tour is rich in history, entertainment and education. 3-5 p.m., fees \$10 per person; space limited, reservations recommended, 877-441-2283 or 512-756-4680.

# Rock Art

## BIG BEND COUNTRY

**Hueco Tanks SHP** Pictograph Tours - April; May & June. Every Saturday and Sunday. Tours also available Wednesday through Friday by advance request. Discover unique rock formations, wildlife, plant life and the history of this desert oasis on a 2-hour guided tour to view prehistoric and historic pictographs. First tour 10 a.m., second tour 2 p.m. in April, first tour 9 a.m., second tour 11 a.m. in May and June, reservations recommended, 915-849-6684.

**Seminole Canyon SHP** White Shaman Tour - April; May & June. Every Saturday. 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, 888-525-9907.

**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, tours are subject to cancellation, 915-292-4464.

**Upper Canyon Tour** - April 22; June 10. 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. 8:30-11:30 a.m., fees \$8 TCP members, \$10 non-members, reservations required, tours subject to cancellation, 915-292-4464.

**Presa Canyon Tour** - April 21. 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 \$20 TCP members, \$25 non-members, reservations required, tour subject to cancellation, 915-292-4464.

**Panther Cave Boat Tour** - June 9. This remote tour begins at the park headquarters, then you are shuttled to the back of the park where you will hike for half a mile to meet the boat to Panther Cave. This site contains some of the best-preserved Lower Pecos 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, tour subject to cancellation, 915-292-4464.

## PANHANDLE PLAINS

**San Angelo SP** Petroglyph Tour - April 7, 14; May 5; June 2. 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. 10-11:30 a.m., fees \$1 TCP members, \$2 non-members, \$1 senior citizens, 50 cents students 13-18, free to children 12 and under, reservations available but not required, 915-949-8935.

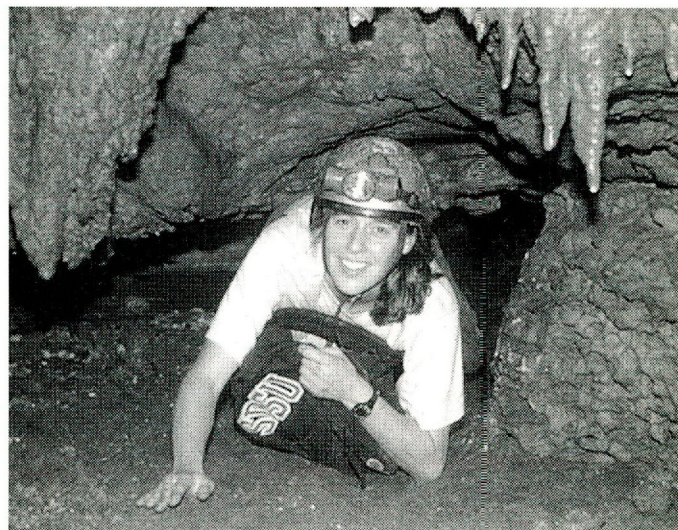
# Canoe Trips

## HILL COUNTRY

**Inks Lake SP** Devil's Waterhole Canoe Tour - April 12, 26; May 10, 17, 24, 31; June 7, 14, 21, 28. 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 21; May 19; June 16. Go on a half-day guided canoe trip on the Angelina and Neches Rivers. Paddle through the Angelina/Neches/Dam B WMA from historic Bevilport to the Walnut Ridge Unit of the park. For the novice or experienced canoeer. 8 a.m.-2 p.m., fees \$20 if you bring your own canoe, \$25 if we provide the canoe, \$7.50 third person in canoe, \$5 children 12 & under as third person in canoe, 409-384-5231.



*Crawling Cave Tour at Colorado Bend SP*





# Celebrations

## GULF COAST

**Lake Texana SP** Flag Retirement Ceremony - June 16. Ceremony will be held in honor of Flag Day. Numerous United States and Texas flags will be retired. If you have a flag that needs to be retired, please call Mark Stewart at the park. 7-8 a.m., 361-782-5718.

**San Jacinto Monument SHP** San Jacinto Day Celebration - April 21. A traditional San Jacinto Day ceremony will be conducted at the San Jacinto Monument at 10:30 a.m., followed by a reenactment of the famous 1836 battle, which won Texas' independence from Mexico at 1:30 at the San Jacinto Battleground. Living historians in authentic period attire will depict members of the Texian Army under General Sam Houston, and Mexican soldiers of the army under General Antonio Lopez de Santa Anna. Cannon and musket fire will fill the air with the sights and sounds of April 21, 1836! Food and drinks will be available. 10:30 a.m.-3:30 p.m., 281-479-2431.

**Sea Center Texas** 5th Anniversary Celebration - March 10. Our new Flower Garden aquarium exhibit will be unveiled and youth will be able to participate in a miniature golf game that represents the water cycle. Nature and birding presentations will be available at the wetland walkway throughout the day. 10 a.m.-5 p.m., events are free but donations are appreciated, 979-292-0100.

**Gordon's Birthday Party** - May 19. Join us in celebrating Gordon the grouper's 16th birthday. Kids of all ages are invited to explore coastal mystery boxes and make a fish print. Visitors are sure to have lots of fun and photo opportunities. 10 a.m.-noon, events are free but donations are appreciated, 979-292-0100.

## HILL COUNTRY

**X Bar Ranch** Memorial Day Weekend - May 25-28. Join us for hiking on the nature trails, horseback riding, mountain biking, birding, wildlife viewing, stargazing, fun ranch excursions and a night safari. Visit the Eldorado Woolen Mill, Texas Forts Trail and the Sonora Caverns. Lodging, camping and meals available. Call for times and fees; reservations required, 888-853-2688.

## PANHANDLE PLAINS

**Copper Breaks SP** Copper Breaks Day - May 28. Join us for our annual family picnic and games day hosted by Quanah Chamber of Commerce. Fishing tournament, washers, horseshoes and volleyball are just some of the activities planned for the day. 8 a.m., fees \$2 adults, \$1 senior citizens; reservations available but not required, 940-839-4331.

**Palo Duro Canyon SP** Worship Service - June. 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.

## PRAIRIES AND LAKES

**Sebastopol SHP** May Day - May 5. We will chase the "winter blues" away with a May Day event complete with a May Pole, music, dancers, games, craft and food demonstrations and much more. 9:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m., 830-379-4833.

**Eisenhower Birthplace SHP** Memorial Day Celebration - May 28. The Denison Chamber of Commerce will sponsor a Memorial Day parade in downtown Denison. After the parade the park's friends group, U.S. for Ike, will sponsor a hot dog picnic at the park. 2-4 p.m., fees free to TCP members, \$2 non-members, \$1 children 12 and under; reservations available but not required, 903-465-8908.

# Earth Day and Arbor Day

## GULF COAST

**Brazos Bend SP** 11th Annual Earth Day Celebration - April 21. We will have booths, exhibits and hands-on activities from local, state and national conservation and environmental organizations. There will also be games, educational programs, guided hikes and live animal demonstrations. A full day of family fun geared at protecting the earth. Check our Web site for more information at [www.bbspvo.org](http://www.bbspvo.org). 9 a.m.-5 p.m., 979-553-5101.

**Lake Texana SP** Earth Day Activities - April 22. Ray Olachia will put on a Native American tool demonstration. We will also be planting trees in various

locations around the park. 10 a.m.-5 p.m., 361-782-5718.

## HILL COUNTRY

**Colorado Bend SP** Earth Day Celebration - April 21. Self-guided tours to Gorman Falls, tours to Gorman Springs, hourly guided tours to Gorman Cave, birding tours, slide presentations on caves and their exploration, Native American presentations, rope climbing demonstrations, squeezebox demonstrations (simulates cave crawling in tight spaces), and more. 9 a.m.-5 p.m., fees \$10 per person for cave tour, \$3 per person for falls tour, falls tour free to children 12 and under; reservations available but not required, 915-628-3240.

# National Trails Day

## HILL COUNTRY

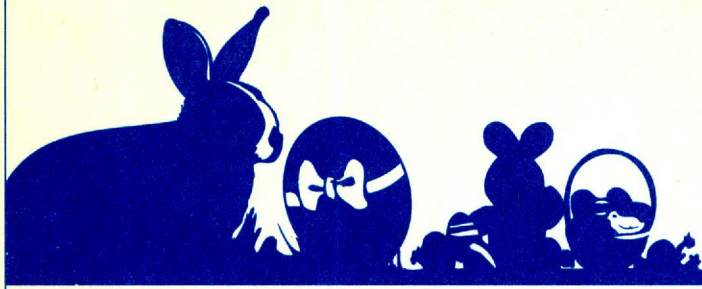
**X Bar Ranch** National Trails Day - June 2. Trails take us to backcountry wild places and bring us to quiet places in our hearts. So get out to do your part in helping maintain and develop new trails. Earn free access, passes and discounts to the ranch for volunteering on National Trails Day. Call for more information. Reservations required, 888-853-2688.

## PANHANDLE PLAINS

**Caprock Canyons SP & Trailway** National Trails Day Hike - June 2. Break away from the Trails Day celebration in Quitaque for a nature hike down the Trailway. We will meet in front of the fire station in town and walk to the Trailway from there. Hike will end in time for the parade! 9-10 a.m., reservations available but not required, 806-455-1492.

**Copper Breaks SP** National Trails Day Observance - June 2. Trail work day on the park's 10-mile Big Loop Trail. The hike, bike and equestrian trail has 9.5 miles of multi-use trails and a half-mile pedestrian interpretive walk. 9 a.m.-4 p.m., fees \$2 adults, \$1 senior citizens; reservations available but not required, 940-839-4331.





## Easter

### GULF COAST

**Lake Texana SP** Easter Day Activities - April 15. Morning sunrise services will be held at the pavilion and an afternoon Easter egg hunt will be held for children 12 and under. Sunrise services from 6:30-7:30 a.m., arrive early for the Easter egg hunt from 2-2:30 p.m., 361-782-5718.

### PANHANDLE PLAINS

**Copper Breaks SP** Easter Sunrise Service - April 15. Join us for an Easter sunrise service lead by Rev. John Spangler. The service will be held at park headquarters, weather permitting. Start at sunrise, fees (apply to those who visit the park afterwards) \$2 adults, \$1 senior citizens; reservations available but not required, 940-839-4331.

**Palo Duro Canyon SP** Sunrise Service - April 15. Experience Easter at Palo Duro Canyon. This beautiful non-denominational service will begin at sunrise at the Pioneer Amphitheater and will feature music and guest speakers. Park entrance fees will be waived for those planning to only attend the service. Dress is casual and visitors are encouraged to dress warmly, 806-488-2227.

### PRAIRIES AND LAKES

**Cooper Lake SP/Doctors Creek Unit** Easter Egg Hunt - April 14. Bring your basket and join us for lots of fun and prize eggs. 2-3 p.m., reservations available but not required, 903-395-3100.

**Cooper Lake SP/South Sulphur Unit** Easter Egg Hunt - April 14. Bring your basket and join us for lots of fun and prize eggs. 2-3 p.m., reservations available but not required, 903-945-5256.

**Eisenhower Birthplace SHP** Easter Egg Hunt - April 15. Hunt Easter Eggs on the historic grounds of the park. All ages welcome. 1-2:30 p.m., fees waived for the event, 903-465-8908.

**Fanthorp Inn SHP** Easter Sunrise Service - April 15. Brief, non-denominational Easter service on the south lawn followed by coffee, pastries and fellowship, 7-8 a.m., 936-873-2633.

**Monument Hill & Kreische Brewery SHP** Easter Egg Hunt - April. Spend the afternoon hunting eggs and picnicking in the park. Call for date and time, fees \$2 park admission for persons 13 and over, free to children 12 and under; reservations available but not required, 979-968-5658.

Easter Sunrise Services - April 15. Enjoy traditional Easter services on the bluff at Monument Hill. Witness the beautiful sunrise as it begins life to a wonderful Easter Sunday. 6 a.m., reservations available but not required, 979-968-5658.

**Purtis Creek SP** Easterfest - April 14. Join us for a day of fun hosted by the Friends of Purtis Creek. There will be an egg hunt, games, prizes and refreshments. 1-3 p.m., 903-425-2332.

## Go Fishing!

### BIG BEND COUNTRY

**Black Gap WMA** Fishing on the Rio Grande - April; May & June. Riverside fishing and primitive camping in 25 camps along the river. TCP required. Call for more information during regular business hours, 915-376-2216.

### GULF COAST

**Sea Center Texas** Fishing at Sea Center on National Fishing Day - June 2. This event is open to guests 16 years old and younger. Pack your sunscreen, hat and fishing gear for a morning of fishing at our marine fish hatchery and visitor education center in Lake Jackson. Anglers must bring own gear and bait. Volunteers and staff will be on hand to assist first-time anglers. Limit three fish per child. 8-10 a.m., events are free but donations are appreciated, 979-292-0100.

### PANHANDLE PLAINS

**Caprock Canyons SP & Trailway** Free Fishing Day - June 2. Enjoy fishing in Lake Theo on the day that no fishing license is required. Park entrance fee still applies, 806-455-1492.

**Copper Breaks SP** Free Fishing Day - June 2. No fishing license will be required to fish in state park waters today. Call for more information, 940-839-4331.

### PINEYWOODS

**Martin Dies, Jr. SP** 11th Annual Kid's Fish Flop Tournament - June 2. Kid's 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.

### PRAIRIES AND LAKES

**Cooper Lake SP/South Sulphur Unit** Kid's Fishing Day - June 2. Bring your fishing gear and join us at Honey Creek Fishing Pier for lots of fun and prizes. For children 12 and younger. 9-11 a.m., reservations available but not required, 903-945-5256.

**Purtis Creek SP** Fish and Play Day - June 2. The Friends of Purtis Creek will host a morning of education and fun. There will be a fishing contest, games, wildlife exhibition and a free hot dog lunch. 8 a.m.-noon, 903-425-2332.

**Washington-on-the-Brazos SHP** Children's Fishing Derby - May 12, 19. Kids ages 5-12 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. Tackle and bait provided. 8:30 a.m.-noon, fees \$2 children 12 and under, reservations required, 936-878-2214.

## Hunts

### GULF COAST

**Fennessey Ranch** Wild Boar Safari May 12. Hunters are placed in ground brush blinds at daylight to hunt Russian boar. Lunch is provided. 4,000 acres makes this hunt run with a 95 percent success rate. Bring your ice chest to pack home your meat. Daylight-dark, fees \$210 TCP members, \$215 non-members, reservations required, 361-529-6600.





# Hikes, Walks & Runs

## BIG BEND COUNTRY

**Balmorhea SP** Tour Phantom Cave Springs and San Solomon Cienega - April; May & June. By reservation only. Tour Phantom Cave Springs four miles west of the park to view birds of the Chihuahuas Desert and then the birds of San Solomon Cienega at the park. Also view two species of endangered fish. Call for times; fees \$5 TCP members, \$7 non-members, 915-375-2370.

**Franklin Mountains SP** Guided Tours - April 7, 8, 21, 22; May 5, 6, 19, 20; June 2, 3, 16, 17. Guided tours of the West Cottonwood Springs and other trails. 8-10 a.m., fees \$3 per person; reservations available but not required, 915-566-6441.

## GULF COAST

**Matagorda Island SP & WMA** Beach Combing and Shelling Tour - May 6; June 8, 10. On the island, ride in an open vehicle to the Gulf of Mexico beach for the day. Guide will inform you about mollusks, tropical drift seeds and the ecosystems of a gulf barrier island as you comb the beach for shells. Bring lunch for picnicking on the beach. 8 a.m.-5 p.m., fees, in addition to the ferry fee, are \$2 TCP members, \$8 non-members, \$4 children 12 and under, reservations required, 361-983-2215.

## HILL COUNTRY

**Colorado Bend SP** Gorman Falls Tour - April; May & June. Every Saturday and Sunday weather and resources permitting. Guided tour to beautiful Gorman Falls, a 65-foot waterfall in a Hill Country setting. One-and-a-half-mile scenic round-trip hike. Saturdays 10 a.m.-noon and 2-4 p.m., Sundays 10 a.m.-noon, fees \$3 adults, \$2 children 6-12, free for children 5 and under, 915-628-3240.

**Honey Creek SNA** Guided Tour - April; May & June. Every Saturday. Join us for a leisurely 2-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 SP. 9-11:30 a.m., 830-438-2656.

**Inks Lake SP** Stumpy Hollow Mystery Hike - April; May & June. Every Saturday. Join a ranger and solve the mysteries of Stumpy Hollow where you will find convoluted rocks, pockets of crystals, bushes that tickle your tongue, white cotton that magically turns into purple paint, and more! Meet at park headquarters, 10:30-11:30 a.m., reservations available but not required, 512-793-2223.

## PANHANDLE PLAINS

**Caprock Canyons SP & Trailway** Wildflower Walk - April 21. Take a walking tour to see Mother Nature's landscape painting of wildflowers. We will identify and discuss wildflowers, grasses and other vegetation. 9-10 a.m., 806-455-1492.

Upper Canyon Hike - May 19. Upper Canyon Loop is about a 6-mile round-trip. We will have a great view of the entire park after we pass Fern Cave. This hike is only for those in good physical condition. Bring lots of water and a sack lunch. 9 a.m.-1 p.m., reservations available but not required, 806-455-1492.

**Palo Duro Canyon SP** River Walk - April 21; June 2, 23. Join us for a shady 2-mile hike on the Paseo Del Rio Trail. We will cover stream ecology, plants, wildlife, geology and history. This easy trail is appropriate for all ages. The use of cameras and binoculars will be encouraged but not required. 9-11 a.m., 806-488-2227.

Nature Challenge - May 5; June 9, 30. Take a moderately difficult 2.5-mile hike on the Givens, Spicer and Lowry running trails. Topics will include history, plants, geology and wildlife. Wear comfortable shoes and bring your own water. 9 a.m.-noon, 806-488-2227.

Sunset Hike - May 27; June 5, 19, 26. Enjoy a spectacular Panhandle sunset in the canyon on this guided hike on one of our many park trails. We will discuss canyon plants, animals and geology. Please bring plenty of water, comfortable shoes and sun protection. 6-8 p.m., 806-488-2227.

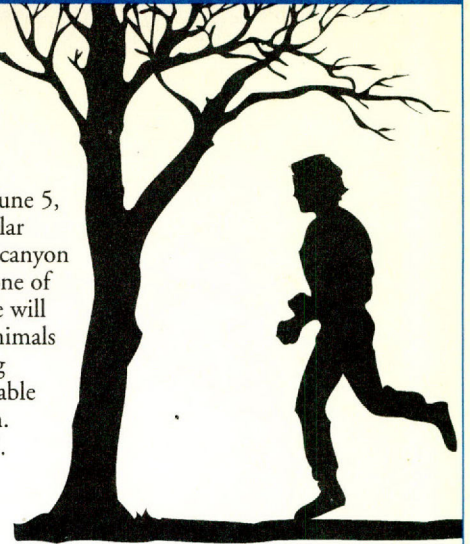
Family Nature Hike - April 7; May 19; June 16. Join us for an informative 2-mile hike on the Sunflower Trail and learn about geology, history, wildlife and plants. This shaded hike will be conducted at a moderate pace suitable for the whole family. 2-4 p.m. on April 7, 9-11 a.m. on May 19 and June 16, 806-488-2227.

**San Angelo SP** Dinosaur Walk - April 14, 28; May 12, 26; June 9, 23. Take a 3-mile hike back in time to see tracks left by Permian period vertebrates. Meet at the North Concho River Park. 3-4:30 p.m., fees \$1 TCP members, \$2 non-members, \$1 senior citizens, 50 cents students 13-18, free to children 12 and under, reservations available but not required, 915-949-8935.

Llama Treks - April; May & June. Hike and picnic in the park with a llama to carry your equipment and lunch. View dinosaur tracks, longhorn and bison herds, mysterious 1800s gravesite, wildflowers and birds along the trail. Length of hike is adjustable on moderate terrain. Half or all day, fees \$35-50 adults, group rates available, by reservation only, Jordan Llamas, 915-651-7346.

## PINEYWOODS

**Martin Dies, Jr. SP** Walk on the Wildside - April 1, 8, 15, 29; May 6, 13, 27; June 3, 10, 24. Guided interpretive hike featuring Big Thicket ecosystems and related resources along hiking trails in the Hen House Ridge or Walnut Ridge Units. 9-10:30 a.m., 409-384-5231.



**Village Creek SP** Guided Nature Trail Hike - April 14, 28; May 12, 26; June 16, 30. Hike through the remnants of the "Old Texas Big Thicket" on this 2-hour 2-mile hike. 9-11 a.m., reservations available but not required, 409-755-7322.

## PRAIRIES AND LAKES

**Cooper Lake SP/Doctors Creek Unit** Wildflowers of the Blackland Prairie - May 26. Take a hike along Shoreline Nature Trail and learn to identify the wildflowers of the area. 10-11 a.m., reservations available but not required, 903-395-3100.

Guided Nature Hike - April 7; May 12; June 9, 23. Take a hike along Shoreline Nature Trail and learn to identify the plants and animals of the area. 2-3 p.m., reservations available but not required, 903-395-3100.

**Cooper Lake SP/South Sulphur Unit** Guided Nature Hike - April 28; May 5; June 16. Take a hike along Coyote Run Nature Trail and learn to identify the plants and animals of the area. 10-11 a.m., reservations available but not required, 903-945-5256.

**Lake Mineral Wells SP & Trailway** Wildflower Walk - May 5. Join us for a walk in the park to observe and identify wildflowers. We will stop and identify plants and learn about the plant's nature, folklore and other interesting facts. First tour 9-10:30 a.m., second tour 2-3:30 p.m., reservations required, 940-328-1171.





# History Tours

*Island Assault Living History Program*

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## BIG BEND COUNTRY

**Magoffin Home SHP** Stories of Spirits - April 14; May 12; June 9. Historical tour includes stories of spirits and odd events at the home and how they relate to the Magoffin family. 10-11:30 a.m., \$3 adults, \$1 students, no children under 12, reservations encouraged, 915-533-5147.

## GULF COAST

**Matagorda Island SP & WMA** History Tours - April 29; May 12; June 9. Guided tour of the island covering its origins through WWII. Visit the lighthouse and gravesites, and explore the Native American presence along the Texas coast. 10 a.m.-3 p.m., fees in addition to the ferry fee are \$2 TCP members, \$8 non-members, \$4 children 12 and under, reservations required, 361-983-2215.

## HILL COUNTRY

**National Museum of the Pacific War (Admiral Nimitz Museum)** Island Assault 1944-May 26-27; June 30. Museum Living History Detachment will demonstrate weapons, uniforms, equipment and tactics used in World War II in the Pacific including tanks, machine guns and an operational flame thrower on a recreated island battlefield. Visitors can follow authentically dressed and equipped World War II Marines on a tour of a recreated Pacific War battlefield and experience a combined arms attack on a Japanese pillbox. Four 1-hour shows per-day. 10:30 a.m., 12:30 p.m., 2:30 p.m., 4 p.m., fees \$2 adults, \$1 students, 210-822-2378 or 830-997-4379.

**X Bar Ranch** Back to Blanket Tour - May 3-5. Witness the full process of woolen products being produced. See how the sheep are raised and shorn while staying at the X Bar Ranch. From there take a tour with the wool as it makes its way to the Eldorado Woolen Mill where it

is cleaned, spun and woven into beautifully finished product. Call for times and fees; reservations required, 888-853-2688.

## PRAIRIES AND LAKES

**Fanthorp Inn SHP** Guided Tours - April; May & June. Every weekend. Discover what travel and accommodations were really like in 1850s Texas. 9 a.m.-3:30 p.m., fees free to TCP members, \$3 non-members, \$1.50 children 12 and under, 936-873-2633.

**Monument Hill & Kreische Brewery SHP** Kreische House Tours - April 1, 8; May 6, 13; June 3, 10. Take a tour guided by a trained docent. See the 1850s 3-story home of master stonemason H. L. Kreische. Learn the interesting family history of this German immigrant and see his architectural accomplishments and his craftsmanship in the home he built for his family. 1:30-4 p.m., fees free to TCP members, \$2 non-members, \$1 children 12 and under; reservations available but not required, 979-968-5658.

**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. and 3:30-4:30 p.m., fees free to TCP members, \$2 non-members, \$1 children 12 and under; reservations available but not required, 979-968-5658.

**Historic and Scenic Tour** - April; May & June. Hear stories of Texas heroes at Monument Hill while enjoying the breath-taking view of La Grange and the Colorado River from the bluff. View the ruins of the Kreische Brewery and the Kreische Homestead. Fees \$3.50 per person, available by reservation only to groups of ten or more, 979-968-5658.



# Preserving The Past

## BIG BEND COUNTRY

**Fort Leaton SHP** "Remembrances" A Forum for Gathering Oral History - April 21. Celebrate the rich cultural history of the Big Bend area as Evelyn Dorsey gathers oral histories. She will show you how to gather and use them in the stewardship of cultural resources. 11 a.m.-4 p.m., reservations required, 915-229-3613.

**Magoffin Home SHP** Spring Tea - May 6. Formal seated tea is served in historic Magoffin Home. There will be two seatings, the first at 1 p.m. and the second seating at 3 p.m., fees \$10 per person, reservations required, 915-533-5147.

## HILL COUNTRY

**Landmark Inn SHP** Castro's Texas Land Grants - April 19. Historian Jesus Frank de la Teja looks at the various land grants of the Texas Republic and Castro's Colony. 7:30-8:30 p.m., fees \$1.50 TCP members, \$2 non-members, reservations required, 830-931-2133.

## PANHANDLE PLAINS

**Palo Duro Canyon SP** Canyon Heritage - June 6. Bring the whole family to the Lone Star Interpretive Theater for a program featuring a living historian. Experience the beautiful costumes and historical entertainment of Palo Duro Canyon's rich history and tradition. 7-8 p.m., 806-488-2227.

## PRAIRIES AND LAKES

**Washington-on-the-Brazos SHP** A Country Fair - June 9-10. Join in an old-fashioned country fair at Barrington Living History Farm. Food, games, demonstrations of the latest in agriculture (1850) and competitions-all the things that make a fair great. 9 a.m.-4:30 p.m., fees \$4 adults, \$2 students, 936-878-2213.

**Lessons from Lydia** - April 7-8. Learn household hints from the original Lydia Maria Child at Barrington Living History Farm. "The Frugal Housewife" and other works placed Mrs. Child at the forefront of a domestic revolution. Explore how women's lives changed as attitudes changed in the 19th century. 9 a.m.-4:30 p.m., fees \$4 adults, \$2 students, 936-878-2213.





# Stargazing

## PANHANDLE PLAINS

**Caprock Canyons SP & Trailway** Dark Sky Viewing - June 16. Come see the stars up close! The Fort Worth Sidewalk Astronomers will present a program about the stars, the night sky and constellations and then let you look through their telescopes and ask questions. 8:30 p.m., 806-455-1492.

**Copper Breaks SP** Night Sky Tour - April 28. Celebrate National Astronomy Day by taking a naked-eye tour of the night sky over the park, weather permitting. Members of the Texas Astronomical Society will have telescopes and binoculars available for use. Sunset-till, fees \$2 adults, \$1 senior citizens, free to children 12 and under, 940-839-4331.

Starwalk - May 26; June 23. Take a naked-eye tour of the

night sky over the park, weather permitting. Members of astronomical societies will have telescopes and binoculars available for use afterwards. Sunset-till, fees \$2 adults, \$1 senior citizens, free to children 12 and under, 940-839-4331.

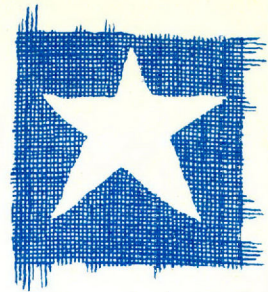
**Fort Griffin SHP** Stargazing Party - May 19. View the West Texas night sky through large telescopes. See the moons of Jupiter, the rings of Saturn and many other fascinating stellar objects. Dusk-dawn, fees \$2 adults, \$1 senior citizens, free to children 12 and under; 915-762-3592.

## PRAIRIES AND LAKES

**Dinosaur Valley SP** Star Party - April 21. Take a stellar adventure as you transverse the universe and explore the mysteries of the starry night on this voyage of discovery to view the

stars of Texas shining bright. Telescopes will be provided. 7:30 p.m., 254-897-4588.

**Lake Mineral Wells SP & Trailway** Stargazing-Beginning Astronomy - June 16. Join park interpreter David Owens and Astronomer Michael Hibbs at the park for a stargazing program. This event will familiarize participants with constellations of the season, and specific stars and objects of interest. The program will start with a slide presentation followed by telescope observation. Several telescopes will be provided, but participants are encouraged to bring telescopes and a lawn chair. Program starts at sunset, 940-328-1171.



# Lone Star Legacy Events

## HILL COUNTRY

**Garner SP** Songwriter Festival - May 19. Singer songwriters from all over the country converge on this weekend to share songs and stories. This event also includes some more famous songwriters like Sonny Throckmorton, Johnny Duncan, Bruce Channell and many more. 10 a.m.-midnight, donations accepted for our Lone Star Legacy fund, 830-232-6132.

## PANHANDLE PLAINS

**Lake Brownwood SP** 4th Annual Open House - May 4-5. Education Day for area schools on Friday. There will be outdoor exhibits and division displays. Buses will be arriving throughout the day. Schools may call park to schedule time of arrival. Park is open to the general public on Saturday. Donations will be accepted for our Lone Star Legacy fund. 9 a.m.-5 p.m., 915-784-5223.

## PINEYWOODS

**Texas State Railroad SHP** Steam Engine Shop Tours - June 2, 16. Tour one of the nation's best known steam engine restoration shops. You'll see restoration in progress on 100-year-old steam train equipment. Train engineers will describe the work it takes to keep a steam railroad line in operation, plus you will see and touch over 60 pieces of historic rolling stock. 3-4 p.m., tour is free but donations will be accepted for the park's Lone Star Legacy fund; reservations required, 903-683-2561 outside Texas or 800-442-8951.

# In Balance With NATURE

## BIG BEND COUNTRY

**Barton Warnock Environmental Education Center** Desert Garden Tours - April; May & June. Guided tours through the Warnock Center's 2.5 acres of desert garden. Discover how plants have adapted to survive the harsh conditions of the Chihuahuan Desert and how the first inhabitants of the Big Bend area used these plants for food, shelter and medicine. Call for dates and times, fees free to TCP members, \$3 adults, \$2 senior citizens, \$1 children 12 and under; reservations required, 915-424-3327.

Desert Landscaping I - April 7. Learn the basics of desert landscaping, concept, design and theory, starting with mapping

out of the physical properties of the landscape to drawing bubble diagrams defining space, views and traffic patterns. 2-4 p.m., fees free to TCP members, \$3 adults, \$2 senior citizens, \$1 children 12 and under; 915-424-3327.

Desert Landscaping II - April 21. We will develop a plant list based on native and desert adapted plants. We will discuss the concept of xeriscaping, watering and irrigation systems. 2-4 p.m., fees free to TCP members, \$3 adults, \$2 senior citizens, \$1 children 12 and under; 915-424-3327.

Desert Landscaping III - April 28. We will cover special topics such as fountains and

ponds, cultural landscaping, wildscaping and the care and maintenance of the landscape. 2-4 p.m., fees free to TCP members, \$3 adults, \$2 senior citizens, \$1 children 12 and under; 915-424-3327.

**Eisenhower Birthplace SHP** Children's Spring Flower-Planting Class - April 21. Children 5-12 will learn about flowers that attract hummingbirds and butterflies. They will be able to plant their own plants and flowers and take them home. There will be a \$5 fee per child for cost of materials. 1-3:30 p.m., fees free to TCP members, \$2 adults, \$1 children 12 and under; reservations required, 903-465-8908.





# DRIVE ACROSS TEXAS

— TRAVEL DIRECTIONS TO PASSPORT PLACES

## Big Bend Country

**Balmorhea SP** In Reeves County, 4 miles west of Balmorhea on State Highway 17 to park entrance, 915-375-2370.

**Barton Warnock Environmental Education Center** Located in Lajitas. Part of the Big Bend Ranch SP, 915-424-3327.

**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.

**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.

**Magoffin Home SHP** In El Paso County, in the city of El Paso, east on I.H. 10, exit on Cotton Street; turn right on Myrtle Street,

left on Octavia Street, left on Magoffin Street, home is on the right, 915-533-5147.

**Prude Ranch** In Jeff Davis County, approximately six miles west of Fort Davis, on State Highway 118, 512-389-8198.

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

## Gulf Coast

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

**Battleship Texas SHP** In Harris County, 22 miles east of downtown Houston off State Highway 225 east, then north on State Highway 134 to park entrance, 281-479-4414.

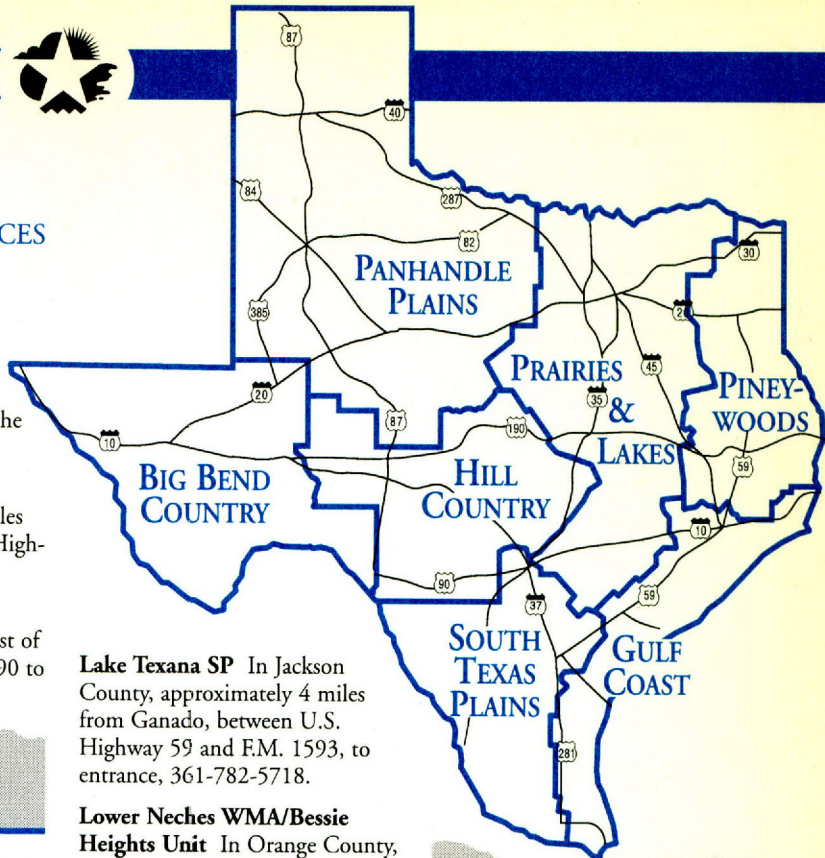
**Brazos Bend SP** In Fort Bend County, 10 miles west of Rosharon on F.M. 1462 then 1 mile north on F.M. 762 to entrance, 979-553-5101.

**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.

**Fulton Mansion SHP** In Aransas County, 3 miles north of Rockport off State Highway 35, at the corner of Henderson Street and Fulton Beach Road, 361-729-0386.

**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.



**Lake Texana SP** In Jackson County, approximately 4 miles from Ganado, between U.S. Highway 59 and F.M. 1593, to entrance, 361-782-5718.

**Lower Neches WMA/Bessie Heights Unit** In Orange County, 5 miles west of Bridge City on F.M. 1442, then southwest on Bessie Heights Road to entrance, 409-736-2551.

**Matagorda Island SP & WMA** In Calhoun County, about 50 miles southeast of Victoria. Park headquarters, dock and information center at Port O'Connor, 361-983-2215.

**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, 979-292-0100.

**Sea Rim SP** In Jefferson County, 10 miles west of Sabine Pass on State Highway 87 to entrance, 409-971-2559.

**Texas Baptist Encampment** In Matagorda County, in the city of Palacios, go south on State Highway 35 (1st Street) to Dunson Avenue, 512-389-8198.

**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.

## 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.

**Devil's Sinkhole SNA** In Edwards County, about 135 miles northwest of San Antonio; contact Kickapoo Cavern SP for directions at 830-563-2342.

**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.

**Honey Creek SNA** Access through 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.





**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.

**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.

**Landmark Inn SHP** In Medina County, in the city of Castroville one block west of the Medina River bridge at the corner of Florence and U.S. Highway 90 to entrance, 830-931-2133.

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

**National Museum of the Pacific War (Admiral Nimitz Museum)** In Gillespie County, in the city of Fredericksburg at the corner of East Main and Washington Streets, 830-997-4379.

**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.

**Pedernales Falls SP** In Blanco County, 9 miles east of Johnson City on F.M. 2766 to entrance, 830-868-7304.

**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.

## 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.

**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.

**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.

## Pineywoods

**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.

**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.

## Prairies and Lakes

**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.

**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.

**Dinosaur Valley SP** In Somervell County, 4 miles west of Glen Rose on F.M. 205/Park Road 59, 1 mile to headquarters, 254-897-4588.

**Eisenhower Birthplace SHP** In Grayson County, in the city of Denison, at the corner of Lamar Avenue and Day street, 903-465-8908.

**Fanthorp Inn SHP** In Grimes County, 10 miles east of Navasota on State Highway 90 in the town of Anderson, 936-873-2633.

**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.

**Lake Mineral Wells SP** In Parker County, 4 miles east of Mineral Wells on U.S. Highway 180 to entrance, 940-328-1171.

**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.

**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.

**Sebastopol SHP** In Guadalupe County, in the city of Seguin, turn south at State Highway 46 and go 1 mile to U.S. Highway 90A (Court Street); turn east and go 1 mile to the park entrance, 830-379-4833.

**State Fair Coliseum** In Dallas County, in the city of Dallas, 2 miles east of downtown at the corner of South Fitzhugh Avenue and Lagow Street inside Fair Park, 512-912-7113.

**Stephen F. Austin SHP** In Austin County, 3 miles east of Sealy off I.H.10, take exit F.M. 1458 north, go 2 miles, turn left on Park Road 38 to entrance, 979-885-3613.

**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.

## 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/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.

**Freeman Coliseum** In Bexar County, in the city of San Antonio, at the corner of East Houston Street and Coca Cola Place, 512-912-7113.



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# Trains

## PINEYWOODS

**Texas State Railroad SHP** School Steam Train Excursions - April 12, 19, 20, 26, 27; May 3, 4, 10, 11, 17, 18. Special excursions are conducted for students of all ages. Tours leave from the Rusk station on April 12, 26 and 27; May 10 and 11; and from the Palestine station on April 19 and 20; May 3, 4, 17 and 18. The special day includes a 1 1/2-hour steam train trip and engine cab tour. The park provides a beautiful setting for an afternoon picnic. 10:30 a.m.-noon, fees \$8 adults, \$4 children 12 and under; reservations required, 903-683-2561 outside Texas or 800-442-8951.

**Starlight Excursion** - May 26. 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 the forest canopy. 6-10 p.m., fees \$15 adults, \$9 children 12 and under, reservations required, 903-683-2561 outside Texas or 800-442-8951.

**Anniversary Celebration** - May 12. Celebrate the 25th anniversary of the park, the 1927 Texas & Pacific 610 steam engine, American Freedom train and the 100th anniversary of the 201 steam engine. The day will be filled with special excursions, tours of the 610 steam engine, the re-dedication of the 201 steam engine, living history reenactors, a TPW art show and an evening WWII swing concert. 11 a.m.-4 p.m., fees \$15 adults, \$9 children 12 and under, reservations required, 903-683-2561 outside Texas or 800-442-8951.

**Dogwood Steam Train Excursions** - April 6, 7, 8. Enjoy the beautiful East Texas dogwoods, redbuds, jasmine and plum trees as you relax on a 50-mile steam train excursion through the rolling Pineywoods and hardwood creek bottoms. The April 6 tour leaves from the Rusk station only. 11 a.m.-4 p.m., fees \$15 adults, \$9 children 12 and under, reservations required, 903-683-2561 outside Texas or 800-442-8951.

# Story & Song

## HILL COUNTRY

**X Bar Ranch Dinner Series** - June 30. Enjoy the first evening of a three-part series of dining and entertainment on the scenic X Bar Ranch. The history and music of the Old West have influenced the cowboy duo Pards, featuring Roger Banks and Hayden Whittington. They sing authentic trail songs from the late 1800s to the harmony of Western movies, and recite humorous poetry rustled from some of the best cowboy poets today. Call for times, fees \$11 adults, \$8 children 12 and under; reservations required, 888-853-2688.

## PANHANDLE PLAINS

**Palo Duro Canyon SP** "Texas" - June. Every Thursday through Tuesday. Join us for the 36th 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. Pre-show meal and entertainment are also available. 8:30-11 p.m., call for prices, park admission is free to theater patrons after 5:30; reservations available but not required if not sold out, 806-655-2181 or 806-488-2227.

## PRAIRIES AND LAKES

**Lake Mineral Wells SP & Trailway** Cowboy Campfire-

Music and Poetry - May 27; June 23. Enjoy a peaceful evening of cowboy music, poetry and stories around a campfire. Learn and experience the cow camp lifestyle through the poetry of old-time cowboys. Bring a lawn chair. 8-10 p.m., 940-328-1171.

**Old Time Music and Cowboy Poetry Gathering** - April 28. Enjoy a peaceful afternoon of old time music, stories and cowboy poetry. Along with the main stage features there will be storytellers, living history characters, demonstrations of chuck-wagon cooking and more. Bring a lawn chair. Starts at noon, call for more information, 940-328-1171.

# Outdoor Challenges, Skills & Adventures

## BIG BEND COUNTRY

**Big Bend Ranch SP** Desert Survival Workshop May 4-6. Internationally renowned 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 fieldwork and hands-on exercises. Price includes meals, lodging, fieldwork, course materials and evening programs. 8 a.m. May 4 till 5 p.m. May 6, fees \$341 TCP members, \$350 non-members; reservations required, 915-229-3416.

**Hueco Tanks SHP** Bouldering Tours, April; May & June. Every Saturday and Sunday. Tours also available Wednesday through Friday by advance request. Test your skills in a vast variety of bouldering areas. First tour 10 a.m.-noon, second tour 2-4 p.m. in April, first tour 9-11 a.m., second tour 11 a.m.-1 p.m. in May and June, reservations recommended, 915-849-6684.

## PANHANDLE PLAINS

**Big Spring SP** 4th Annual Master the Mountain - April 21. 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., fees \$10 for participants; call for more information, 915-263-4931.

**Copper Breaks SP** Smilin' Sunshine Adventure - June 9. A challenging race on the park's 10-mile trail system. Disciplines include mountain biking, kayaking, trekking and basic land navigation in the rugged Copper Breaks region. Race starts at 8 a.m., prior registration required through Rattlesnake Racing to participate in event. Call or go to [www.rattlesnakeracing.com/](http://www.rattlesnakeracing.com/) for registration fees and more information. Spectator fees \$2 adults, \$1 senior citizens; reservations available but not required, 940-256-0769 or 940-839-4331.

## PRAIRIES AND LAKES

**Lake Mineral Wells SP & Trailway** Kids Wilderness Survival - April 21; May 26; June 30. This 2 1/2-hour course is a fun way for kids to learn what to do if they become lost. The course includes interactive games, demonstrations and a hike on the nature trail. The course requires kids to be accompanied by a parent, guardian or youth group leader. 9 a.m.-noon, reservations required, 940-328-1171.

## SOUTH TEXAS PLAINS

**Choke Canyon SP/South Shore Unit** Run, Walk, or Bicycle Across Dam - April 21. You can ride your bike across the dam to North Shore and back, a total of 16 miles. All roads paved and considered beginner mountain bike. Also open for all persons wanting to run or walk. 8 a.m.-3 p.m., reservations available but not required, 361-786-3538.





# Ranger Talks

## BIG BEND COUNTRY

**Fort Leaton SHP** The Beautiful Solution to Affordable Housing - April 1. Lunch will be served between presentations given by Simone Swan and park staff. Ms. Swan has traveled extensively and studied adobe architecture as a way to provide affordable housing for all. 11 a.m.-4 p.m., fees free to TCP members, \$2 adults, \$1 senior citizens, \$1 children 12 and under; reservations required, 915-229-3613.

## GULF COAST

**Brazos Bend SP** Nature Programs - April; May & June. Every weekend. At least six free nature programs offered ranging from live animals and slide shows to guided hikes. Check Web site [www.bbspvo.org](http://www.bbspvo.org) or call for more information, 979-553-5101.

**Lake Texana SP** Weekend Nature Programs - April; May & June. A variety of nature programs are presented most weekends. Call park for more information, 361-782-5718.

## PANHANDLE PLAINS

**Caprock Canyons SP & Trailway** Evening Interpretive Presentation - April 21; June 30. Join us for a beautiful canyon sunset at the interpretive amphitheater followed by a slide show. Topic may vary from wildflowers to wildlife. 8-9:30 p.m. on April 21, 8:30-10 p.m. on June 30, 806-455-1492.

**Edible and Useful Native Plants** - May 5. Did you ever wonder what the berries on that plant might taste like or if they're poisonous? Join us for a program about the plants of Caprock Canyons. 7-8:30 p.m., 806-455-1492.

## PRAIRIES AND LAKES

**Copper Breaks SP** Flintknapping - May 19. Park ranger Bob Hopkins demonstrates the ancient art of making stone tools using traditional materials

and methods. 8-9 p.m., fees \$2 adults, \$1 senior citizens; reservations available but not required, 940-839-4331.

## Palo Duro Canyon SP

**Palo Duro Pioneers** - June. Every Saturday. 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.

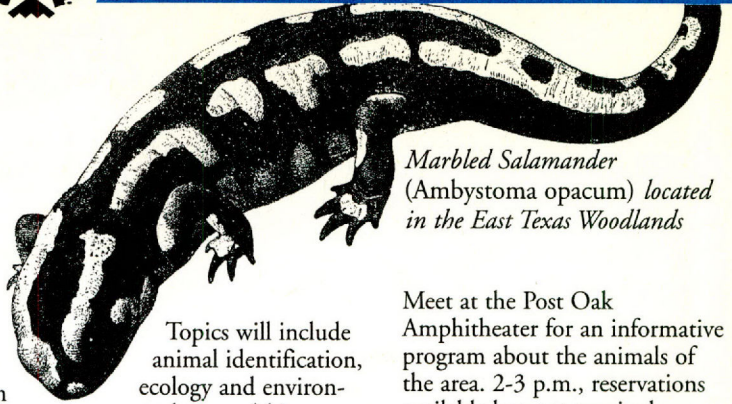
**Trail Talk** - May 26; June 22. Come to the Lone Star Interpretive Center for a discussion on the many wonderful trails at the park suitable for all activity levels. Learn trail ethics and survivorship. 8-9 p.m. on May 26, 9-10 p.m. on June 22, 806-488-2227.

**Night Noises** - April 14; June 8, 27. Ever wonder what makes those scary sounds you hear at night? Join us at the Lone Star Interpretive Center as we uncover this mystery of the night noises. An optional hike will immediately follow the program. 6-7 p.m. on April 14, 9-10 p.m. on June 8 and 27, 806-488-2227.

**Canyon Chat** - June 1. Learn how the canyon was formed and what animals live inside as we explore the mysteries of the canyon. This pictorial tour at the Lone Star Interpretive Theater will include geology, plants, history and wildlife. 9-10 p.m., 806-488-2227.

**Wildflower Safari** - April 28; June 15. Meet at the Lone Star Interpretive Center for a pictorial journey among some of the many beautiful wildflowers that are found in Palo Duro Canyon. Topics will include flower identification, plant uses and Native American legends. 7-8 p.m. on April 28, 9-10 p.m. on June 15, 806-488-2227.

**Canyon Critters** - May 12, 28; June 13, 29. Come to the Lone Star Interpretive Theater and learn all about the delightful animals that live in the canyon.



*Marbled Salamander (Ambystoma opacum) located in the East Texas Woodlands*

Topics will include animal identification, ecology and environmental stewardship.

6-7 p.m., 10-11 a.m. on May 28, 806-488-2227.

## PINEYWOODS

**Martin Dies, Jr. SP** Campfire Programs - April 14; May 26. Interpretive topics and sites vary and are announced in monthly park program flyers. Call for more information, 409-384-5231.

**Village Creek SP** Slide Presentation - April 6; May 4, 18; June 8, 22. Program on various nature topics. 7-8 p.m., reservations available but not required, 409-755-7322.

## PRAIRIES AND LAKES

**Cooper Lake SP/Doctors Creek Unit** Critters of the Cooper Lake Area - April 21.

Meet at the Post Oak Amphitheater for an informative program about the animals of the area. 2-3 p.m., reservations available but not required, 903-395-3100.

## Cooper Lake SP/South

**Sulphur Unit** Poisonous Plants and Venomous Animals - May 19. Meet at the South Sulphur Amphitheater for an informative program about poisonous plants and venomous animals. 2-3 p.m., reservations available but not required, 903-945-5256.

**Lake Mineral Wells SP & Trailway** Night Sounds - May 19; June 9. Listen to the sounds of a Texas summer night. Actual and recorded sound of the insects, birds, frogs and mammals will be heard and identified with slides of the animals. Bring a lawn chair. 9-10 p.m., 940-328-1171.

# Volunteer Work and Play

## GULF COAST

**Matagorda Island SP & WMA** Beach Cleanup - April 28. A beach cleanup is part of the state-wide Texas Trash-off. Ferry fare is free to anyone who participates in the cleanup effort. Reservations are required for the ferry boat, 2-hour shifts 8 a.m.-5 p.m., 361-983-2215.

**Volunteer Work Day** - April 7. Join the volunteers on the island for work and fun. Volunteers will help repair bunkhouse, interpretive and camp areas. Lunch will be provided and camping is available. A night trip to the Lighthouse will be provided for volunteers camping on the island. 8 a.m.-5 p.m., reservations required, 361-983-2215.

## PANHANDLE PLAINS

**Caprock Canyons SP & Trailway** Volunteer Day - April 7. Join Caprock Partner's Foundation for hard work and lots of fun. Call for the list of projects and sign up for the one you will enjoy. We will work until 12:30 p.m., then meet for a potluck lunch. 9 a.m., 806-455-1492.

**Copper Breaks SP** Great Texas Trash Off - April 7. 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. 9 a.m.-4 p.m., fees \$2 adults, \$1 senior citizens, free to children 12 and under, reservations available but not required, 940-839-4331.





## SCHEDULE YOUR OWN OUTINGS

PLEASE CALL THE PARKS OR WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT AREAS LISTED HERE FOR INFORMATION ABOUT FACILITIES, ACTIVITIES AND RESERVATIONS. FOR TRAVEL DIRECTIONS SEE PAGES 10-11.

**Atkinson Island WMA** (Gulf Coast)  
Unvegetated beach areas. No facilities, accessible by boat only, 409-736-2551.

**Big Bend Ranch SP** (Big Bend Country)  
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** (Gulf Coast)  
Area primarily for birdwatching and nature study. No facilities, 409-736-2551.

**Davis Mountains SP** (Big Bend Country)  
Experience backcountry hiking in the Davis Mountains, 8- to 10-mile trail climbs to a spectacular overlook with a 360° panorama. Primitive camping available. Reservations not required, 915-426-3337.

**Devils River SNA** (Big Bend Country)  
Choice of two tours given upon request by reservation only. Fee of \$10 per person in addition to the \$3 per-person park entrance fee for 13 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** (Hill Country) Approximately 35 miles of trails crisscross the Blackland Prairie accessible by entering at TPW registration boxes 1-7 around Granger Lake. Tall prairie grasses, fishing and birding (see if you can spot a ring-necked pheasant) await the adventurous hiker and mountain biker. Pick up area maps at Corps of Engineers headquarters at the dam, 512-859-2668.

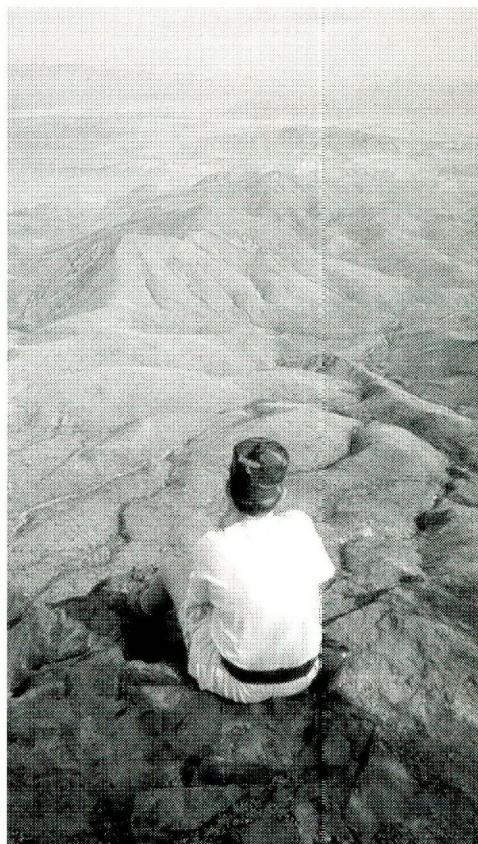
**Gus Engeling WMA** (Prairies and Lakes)  
Two interpretive, walking nature trails and one driving wildlife demonstration tour are open throughout the year except during special permitted hunts, 903-928-2251.

**Kickapoo Cavern SNA** (Hill Country)  
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/Nelva Stark Unit** (Gulf Coast) Birdwatching and nature trail with parking area, call for travel directions, 409-736-2551.

**Richland Creek WMA** (Prairies and Lakes)  
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** (Hill Country)  
Activities coordinated through South Llano River SP, 915-446-3994.



Big Bend Country

### Texas Conservation Passport Journal

April 2001 - June 2001  
Vol. 10, No. 2

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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Please send your comments,  
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4200 Smith School Road  
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FAX: 512-389-8029  
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# Photography

## BIG BEND COUNTRY

**Big Bend Ranch SP** Spring Photo Tour - April 27-29. Photograph the plants, animals and the spectacular scenery in areas of the Big Bend not accessible to the average visitor. Call for times, fees \$341 TCP members, \$350 non-members; reservations required, 915-229-3416.

## GULF COAST

**Fennessey Ranch** Photography Seminar - April 14. Full day workshop, led by professional photographer Sean Fitzgerald, designed to improve your wildlife pictures. Tips on composition, techniques and equip-

ment. Opportunities to shoot deer, coyotes, wild hogs, birds, bobcats and wildflowers from African-style brush blinds built on watering holes, fresh water marshes and game trails. 7 a.m.-dusk, fees \$145 TCP members, \$155 non-members; reservations required, 361-529-6600.

**Fulton Mansion SHP** Photography in the 19th Century - April 28. Capture your community through photographs. Learn more about the history of photography and preservation of old photographs. Noon-4 p.m., 361-729-0386.

# Becoming an Outdoors-Woman

## BIG BEND COUNTRY

**Prude Ranch** Becoming an Outdoors-Woman Workshop - April 6-8. Have fun while you learn basic skills that will enhance your enjoyment of the outdoors in this three-day weekend workshop. Call for more information. 10 a.m. April 6 thru 1:30 p.m. April 8. Fees \$160 adults, reservations required, 512-389-8198.

## GULF COAST

**Texas Baptist Encampment** Becoming an Outdoors-Woman Workshop - May 11-13. Have fun while you learn basic skills that will enhance your enjoyment of the outdoors in this three-day weekend workshop. Call for more information. 10 a.m. May 11 thru 1:30 p.m. May 13. Fees \$160 adults, reservations required, 512-389-8198.

## TEXAS PARKS AND WILDLIFE

### At Your Service

#### 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.

#### ON RADIO

**Passport To Texas** takes you on a 90-second radio journey into the Texas outdoors. Look for station listings: [www.passporttotexas.com](http://www.passporttotexas.com)



Funded in part by The DOW Chemical Company and the Sport Fish & Wildlife Restoration Program in Texas.

#### ONLINE

Make state park reservations via our Web site:  
[www.tpwd.state.tx.us](http://www.tpwd.state.tx.us)

#### 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.

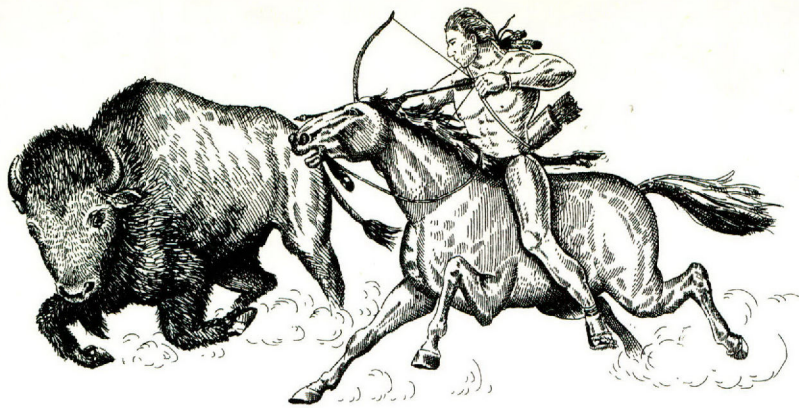
- The gold windshield decal is your vehicle pass and must be permanently attached to the vehicle windshield in order to receive the free entrance benefit when entering Texas State Parks by vehicle.
- You must keep the paper license to show to the proper authorities (if necessary) when you enter Texas 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.

#### 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





Support Bluebonnets Year Round!



1-800-792-1112  
www.conservation-plate.org

## Wild and Woolly West

### BIG BEND COUNTRY

**Big Bend Ranch SP** Longhorn Cattle Drive - April 20-22. City slicker type of roundup. No experience necessary. Chuck wagon cooking. Sleep under the stars or in the bunkhouse. Price includes horse rental, meals and lodging. Call for times, fees \$641 TCP members, \$650 non-members, \$650 senior citizens, \$650 children 12 and under, reservations required, 915-229-3416.

Spring Trail Ride - April 6-8, 9-10, 13-15. 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. Call for times, fees \$495 per person, reservations required, 281-486-8070.

**Black Gap WMA** Trail Ride - April; May & June. Ride to the Maravillas Canyon and the Rio Grande. Negative proof of Coggins test required for all riding stock. TCP required. Call for more information during business hours, 915-376-2216.

### PANHANDLE PLAINS

**Caprock Canyons SP & Trailway** Panhandle Trail Riders Benefit Ride - May 25-26. Join the Panhandle Trail Riders for a weekend of fun, entertainment, food and adventure. Bring your own horse or mule or rent one in Quitaque. Call for times and fees, reservations required, 806-622-2982.

**San Angelo SP** Longhorn and Bison Seminar - April 21; May 19; June 16. Park naturalist will inform you about the history and other facts about the bison and longhorns in the park. Meet at the South Shore entrance to the park. 10-11:30 a.m., fees

\$1 TCP members, \$2 non-members, \$1 senior citizens, 50 cents students 13-18, free to children 12 and under, reservations available but not required, 915-949-8935.

### PRAIRIES AND LAKES

**Fanthorp Inn SHP** Stagecoach Days - April 14; May 12; June 9. The inn comes alive as poets, cowboys and musicians entertain guests. Visitors have the opportunity to experience the rolling rhythm of 1850s travel as they ride our replica stagecoach. 11 a.m.-3 p.m., fees \$1 TCP members, \$4 non-members, \$2.50 children 12 and under; 936-873-2633.

**State Fair Coliseum** 16th Annual Texas Black Invitational Rodeo - May 26. Over 300 African American cowboys and cowgirls compete in traditional rodeo events as the cultural entertainment educates the audience. There will be special exhibits and demonstrations by the Texas Buffalo Soldiers. Proceeds benefit the African American Museum in Dallas, Texas. 2-4:30 p.m. and 8-10:30 p.m., call for fees; reservations available but not required, 214-565-9026 x311.

### SOUTH TEXAS PLAINS

**Joe Freeman Coliseum** 2001 Southwestern Tour-San Antonio Cowboys of Color Rodeo - June 23. African American, Hispanic, Native American and European cowboys and cowgirls compete for cash prizes in rodeo events while cultural entertainers educate the audience about minority contributions to the settling of Texas. There will be special exhibits and demonstrations by the Texas Buffalo Soldiers Regiment. Proceeds benefit the National Cowboys of Color Museum in Fort Worth, Texas. 2-4:30 p.m. and 8-10:30 p.m., call for fees; reservations available but not required, 817-922-9999.

### TEXAS PARKS AND WILDLIFE

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