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Winter

The Passport

Texas Conservation PassportSM News

APR 08 1993

Winter 1992/1993

Where'd All These Fish Come From?

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Some amazing things are being done in Texas Parks and Wildlife Department fish hatcheries and research stations, and your Texas Conservation Passport is your ticket to get a first-hand look at this finny revolution.

From millions of red drum for Texas bays, to a more catchable (call them dumb) largemouth bass, to the endangered and odd-looking paddlefish, the department's fish research and production centers are dedicated to improving the state's fishery resources — especially for anglers.

If you're fascinated with the state's coastal bays and the popular red drum (redfish), a tour of the **GCCA/CPL Marine Development Center** at Corpus Christi is a must. This remarkable facility, completed in 1982, is the world's first and only saltwater redfish production hatchery. It produces an average of 15-20 million redfish

fingerlings a year to augment wild populations in the bays and Gulf of Mexico.

When you visit, biologist Robert Vega will show you how they use manipulations of light in indoor spawning buildings to "trick" mature reds into spawning year-round. At the proper time, the tiny redfish fry are stocked into outdoor ponds where they grow to stocking size of about 2 inches in length.

Farther inland, the **A. E. Wood State Fish Hatchery** at San Marcos is the department's most modern freshwater hatchery. Its computer-controlled indoor raceways allow year-round production of a variety of fish, including Florida-strain largemouth bass, smallmouth bass, catfish and even the endangered paddlefish.

Fishery technician Kathy Ramos will explain how hatchery operators pump fresh water from the San Marcos River and "blend" it with holding pond

water to achieve perfect temperature for fish spawning in the raceways — all done by automation. The A.E. Wood facility design is the blueprint for future hatchery construction and upgrading of old hatcheries in Texas.

In a scenic Hill Country setting near Ingram, the **Heart O' the Hills Research Station** is the TPWD's primary freshwater fishery research center. All sorts of interesting fish species have been studied here, including South American peacock bass, Nile perch from Africa and a host of lesser-known varieties. The station recently has been experimenting with largemouth bass, attempting to produce a more "catchable" fish for special applications such as kids' fishing tournaments.

Dick Luebke, director of the station and your tour guide, will explain how actual fishing experiments in several stocked ponds resulted in the collection of "catchable" bass. Luebke believes the offspring of these easily-caught fish will be genetically predisposed to be more catchable than their kin in the wild.

One of the department's most popular fishery programs is the annual wintertime stocking of hatchery-reared rainbow trout. Enjoy the thrill of catching these beauties at the trout-fishing extravaganza at **Blanco State Park**. You can watch hatchery crews stock the fish, then try your hand at catching them. Fishing gear and bait will be provided, and your catch will be cleaned and wrapped. Also, you can learn more about the trout program

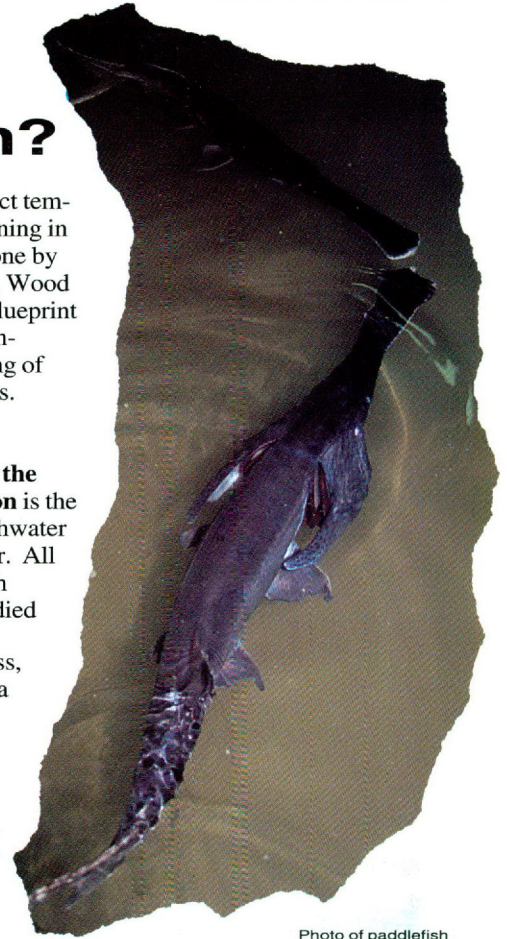


Photo of paddlefish by Leroy Williamson

From the Director

The holiday season is traditionally one of the most enjoyable of the year for my family, and I'm sure for yours as well. It's a time to enjoy gifts given and received, friends and relatives reunited, and all the other activities that go along with Christmas and New Year's celebrations.

Join us in celebrating the traditions of Texas' rich and diverse heritage by visiting the special holiday season activities we have planned for Conservation Passport holders.

These special events reflect the cultural diversity of Texas, from a Victorian open house at **Starr Family SHP** in Marshall, to a traditional Hill Country Christmas at the **Sauer-Beckmann Living History Farm** at **Lyndon Baines Johnson SHP** in Stonewall, to the *Las Posadas* procession at **Indian Lodge** in **Davis Mountains SP**.

Please turn to the back page of this newsletter for a listing of these special celebrations.

Andy Sansom
Executive Director

How to use this Newsletter

Starting on page 2 you will find a calendar of Conservation Passport activities listed in chronological order. When you see an interesting activity that fits your schedule, turn to the map on the centerfold to determine its general location. Once you find the area, consult the accompanying listing for information on how to get there. **Most of the activities require advance reservations, and before visiting any area it's a good idea to call ahead** for local weather conditions or other factors that might affect your outing. Telephone numbers are found in the calendar.

Continued on page 6

Calendar of Texas Conservation Passport Activities

Please note:

- These interpretive tours require one Conservation Passport per person age 17 and over.
- All activities require **reservations** unless noted otherwise.
- Most activities have a **limit on group size**.
- For **reservations** and information, call the phone number listed with the activity. For WMAs, the best time to catch the biologist in the office is on a weekday between 8 to 9 a.m. and 12 to 1 p.m.
- For site location information, see the "Site Location Index." Sites are listed in alphabetical order.
- Abbreviations:
SP= State Park
SHP= State Historical Park
SNA= State Natural Area
WMA= Wildlife Management Area



Aquatic Ecology/
Fisheries Tour



Bird watching



Bus Tour



Cultural Tour

New



Habitat Restoration



Horseback Tour



Mountain Bike Ride



Nature Tour (Walking)



Photography Tour

New





Waterfowl Tour





Wildlife Tour


December


Dec. 2: Las Palomas WMA & Lower Rio Grande NWR,  wildlife corridor slide show & tour, guide G. Waggerman, area manager, 8 a.m. - noon, 512/383-8982


Dec. 5: Big Bend Ranch SNA,  Big Bend Ranch bus tour with chuck wagon lunch, guide D. Alloway, exhibits technician, 8 a.m. - 5 p.m., additional fee required, 915/229-3613


Dec. 5: Choke Canyon SP/ Calliham Unit,  wildlife photo safari, guide L. Ditto, USFWS Santa Ana/LRGV project leader, 1 p.m. - 5 p.m., 512/786-3868


Dec. 5: Heart of the Hills Research Station,  fisheries research station tour, guide inland fisheries research director D. Luebke, 10 a.m. - noon, 512/866-3356


Dec. 5: Honey Creek SNA,  Lower Edwards Plateau ecosystem tour, guide P. Solis, naturalist, 9 a.m. - 11 a.m., no reservations, 512/438-2656


Dec. 5: Matagorda Island SP/ WMA,  whooping crane tour, guide R. Gallagher, park superintendent, 8 a.m. - 5 p.m., additional fee required, 512/983-2215


Dec. 5: Pedernales Falls SP,  Twin Falls nature trail walk, guide B. McDaniel, park superintendent, 9:30 a.m. - 10:30 a.m., no reservations, 512/868-7304


Dec. 9: Bentsen-Rio Grande Valley SP,  bird watching & nature study tour, guide R. Ortiz, park superintendent, 10 a.m. - noon, 512/585-1107


Dec. 12: Cedar Hill SP,  Penn Farm walking tour, guide R.J. Bohls, park ranger, 9 a.m. - 11:15 a.m., reservations available but not required, additional fee required, 214/291-3900


Dec. 12: Colorado Bend SP,  prescribed burning for habitat management, guide M. Wagner, resource specialist, 10 a.m. - 3 p.m., 915/628-3240


Dec. 12: GCCA-CPL Marine Development Center,  slide show & hatchery tour, guide R. Vega, conservation scientist, 9 a.m. - 11 a.m. or 2 p.m. - 4 p.m., 512/939-8745


Dec. 12: Honey Creek SNA,  Lower Edwards Plateau ecosystem tour, guide P. Solis, naturalist, 9 a.m. - 11 a.m., no reservations, 512/438-2656


Dec. 12: Pedernales Falls SP,  Twin Falls nature trail walk, guide B. McDaniel, park superintendent, 9:30 a.m. - 10:30 a.m., no reservations, 512/868-7304


Dec. 18: Barton Warnock Environmental Education Center,  desert survival workshop, guide D. Alloway, exhibits technician, 10 a.m. - 4:30 p.m., reservations available but not required, 915/424-3327


Dec. 19: A.E. Wood State Fish Hatchery,  birding/nature tour and tour of the hatchery, guide K. Ramos, fish & wildlife technician, 7 a.m. - 10 a.m., 512/353-0572


Dec. 19: Big Bend Ranch SNA,  Big Bend Ranch bus tour with chuck wagon lunch, guide D. Alloway, exhibits technician, 8 a.m. - 5 p.m., additional fee required, 915/424-3327


Dec. 19: Dundee State Fish Hatchery,  birding & nature tour, guide A. Barkoh, biologist, 7 a.m. - 10 a.m., 817/586-1576


Dec. 19: GCCA-CPL Marine Development Center,  birding & nature tour, guide R. Vega, conservation scientist, 7 a.m. - 10 a.m., 512/939-8745

Dec. 19: Honey Creek SNA,  Lower Edwards Plateau ecosystem tour, guide P. Solis, naturalist, 9 a.m. - 11 a.m., no reservations, 512/438-2656

Dec. 19: Jasper State Fish Hatchery,  birding and nature tour, guide R. Helton, biologist, 7 a.m. - 10 a.m., 409/384-2221

Dec. 19: Kickapoo Cavern SNA,  Kickapoo Cavern tour, guide D.K. Stuart, park superintendent, 4 p.m. - 6 p.m., 512/563-2342

Dec. 19: Matagorda Island SP/ WMA,  whooping crane tour, guide R. Gallagher, park superintendent, 8 a.m. - 5 p.m., additional fee required, 512/983-2215

Dec. 19: Pedernales Falls SP,  Twin Falls nature trail walk, guide B. McDaniel, park superintendent, 9:30 a.m. - 10:30 a.m., no reservations, 512/868-7304

Editor's Note:

Check the Outdoor Datebook section of *Texas Parks & Wildlife* magazine for any updates to this schedule. As a Passport holder, you'll receive a 20 percent discount on the magazine's regular subscription price. To take advantage of the special offer of \$8 per year, call toll-free in Texas, 1-800-937-9393.

Dec. 19: Possum Kingdom State Fish Hatchery, birding & nature tour, guide G. Alexander, biologist, 7 a.m. - 10 a.m., 817/779-2301

Dec. 19: San Angelo State Fish Hatchery, birding & nature walking tour, guide H. Cruz, fish & wildlife technician, 7 a.m. - 10 p.m., 915/653-2977

Dec. 19: Tyler State Fish Hatchery, birding & nature walking tour, guide D. Campbell, biologist, 7 a.m. - 10 a.m., 903/592-7570

Dec. 26: Honey Creek SNA, Lower Edwards Plateau ecosystem tour, guide P. Solis, naturalist, 9 a.m. - 11 a.m., no reservations, 512/438-2656

Dec. 26: Pedernales Falls SP, Twin Falls nature trail walk, guide B. McDaniel, park superintendent, 9:30 a.m. - 10:30 a.m., no reservations, 512/868-7304

Jan.: Eisenhower SP, annual bald eagle count, guide Lynn Nymeyer, USFWS biologist, date & time will be set in Dec., 903/465-1956

Jan. 2: Big Bend Ranch SNA, Big Bend Ranch bus tour with chuck wagon lunch, guide D. Alloway, exhibits technician, 8 a.m. - 5 p.m., additional fee required, 915/229-3613

Jan. 2: Honey Creek SNA, Lower Edwards Plateau ecosystem tour, guide P. Solis, naturalist, 9 a.m. - 11 a.m., no reservations, 512/438-2656

Jan. 2: Pedernales Falls SP, Twin Falls nature trail walk, guide B. McDaniel, park superintendent, 9:30 a.m. - 10:30 a.m., no reservations, 512/868-7304

Jan. 6: Las Palomas WMA & Lower Rio Grande NWR, wildlife corridor slide show & tour, guide G. Waggener, area manager, 8 a.m. - noon, 512/383-8982

Jan. 9: Blanco SP, rainbow trout extravaganza: fish for trout, have fish cleaned & attend a trout seminar (fishing license & trout stamp required to fish), guide D.R. Terre, conservation scientist, 8 a.m. - 3 p.m., 512/353-0072

Jan. 9: GCCA-CPL Marine Development Center, slide show & hatchery tour, guide R. Vega, conservation scientist, 9 a.m. - 11 a.m. or 2 p.m. - 4 p.m., 512/939-8745

Jan. 9: Honey Creek SNA, Lower Edwards Plateau ecosystem tour, guide P. Solis, naturalist, 9 a.m. - 11 a.m., no reservations, 512/438-2656

Jan. 9: Kickapoo Cavern SNA, Kickapoo Cavern tour, guide D.K. Stuart, park superintendent, 4 p.m. - 6 p.m., 512/563-2342

Jan. 9: Pedernales Falls SP, Twin Falls nature trail walk, guide B. McDaniel, park superintendent, 9:30 a.m. - 10:30 a.m., no reservations, 512/868-7304

Jan. 12: Lake Colorado City SP, wildlife calling and viewing session, guide M. Fambro, park manager, 7 p.m. - 9 p.m., reservations available but not required, 915/728-3931

Jan. 13: Bentsen-Rio Grande Valley SP, bird watching & nature study tour, guide R. Ortiz, park superintendent, 10 a.m. - noon, 512/585-1107

Jan. 13: Lake Livingston SP, bird watching for bald eagles, guide C. Boyd, biologist, 9 a.m. - 5 p.m., no reservations, 409/365-2201

Jan. 16: Big Bend Ranch SNA, Big Bend Ranch bus tour with chuck wagon lunch, guide D. Alloway, exhibits technician, 8 a.m. - 5 p.m., additional fee required, 915/424-3327

Jan. 16: Cedar Hill SP, Penn Farm walking tour, guide R.J. Bohls, park ranger, 9 a.m. - 11:15 a.m., reservations available but not required, Additional fee required, 214/291-3900

Jan. 16: Honey Creek SNA, Lower Edwards Plateau ecosystem tour, guide P. Solis, naturalist, 9 a.m. - 11 a.m., no reservations, 512/438-2656

Jan. 16: Pedernales Falls SP, Twin Falls nature trail walk, guide B. McDaniel, park superintendent, 9:30 a.m. - 10:30 a.m., no reservations, 512/868-7304

Jan. 23: Gus Engeling WMA, putting the ducks to bed, guide C. Frentress, waterfowl biologist, 3 p.m. - 7 p.m., 903/928-2251

Jan. 23: Honey Creek SNA, Lower Edwards Plateau ecosystem tour, guide P. Solis, naturalist, 9 a.m. - 11 a.m., no reservations, 512/438-2656

Jan. 23: Kickapoo Cavern SNA, bird banding observation & birding tour, guide D.K. Stuart, park superintendent, 9 a.m. - afternoon, 512/563-2342

Jan. 23: Pedernales Falls SP, Twin Falls nature trail walk, guide B. McDaniel, park superintendent, 9:30 a.m. - 10:30 a.m., no reservations, 512/868-7304

Jan. 27: Lake Livingston SP, bird watching for bald eagles, guide C. Boyd, biologist, 9 a.m. - 5 p.m., no reservations, 409/365-2201

Jan. 30: Honey Creek SNA, Lower Edwards Plateau ecosystem tour, guide P. Solis, naturalist, 9 a.m. - 11 a.m., no reservations, 512/438-2656

Jan. 30: Pedernales Falls SP, Twin Falls nature trail walk, guide B. McDaniel, park superintendent, 9:30 a.m. - 10:30 a.m., no reservations, 512/868-7304

■ A wealth of desert flora can be seen on guided tours at Big Bend Ranch State Natural Area, and it's no less spectacular in winter.

Photo by Glen Mills



Site Location Index

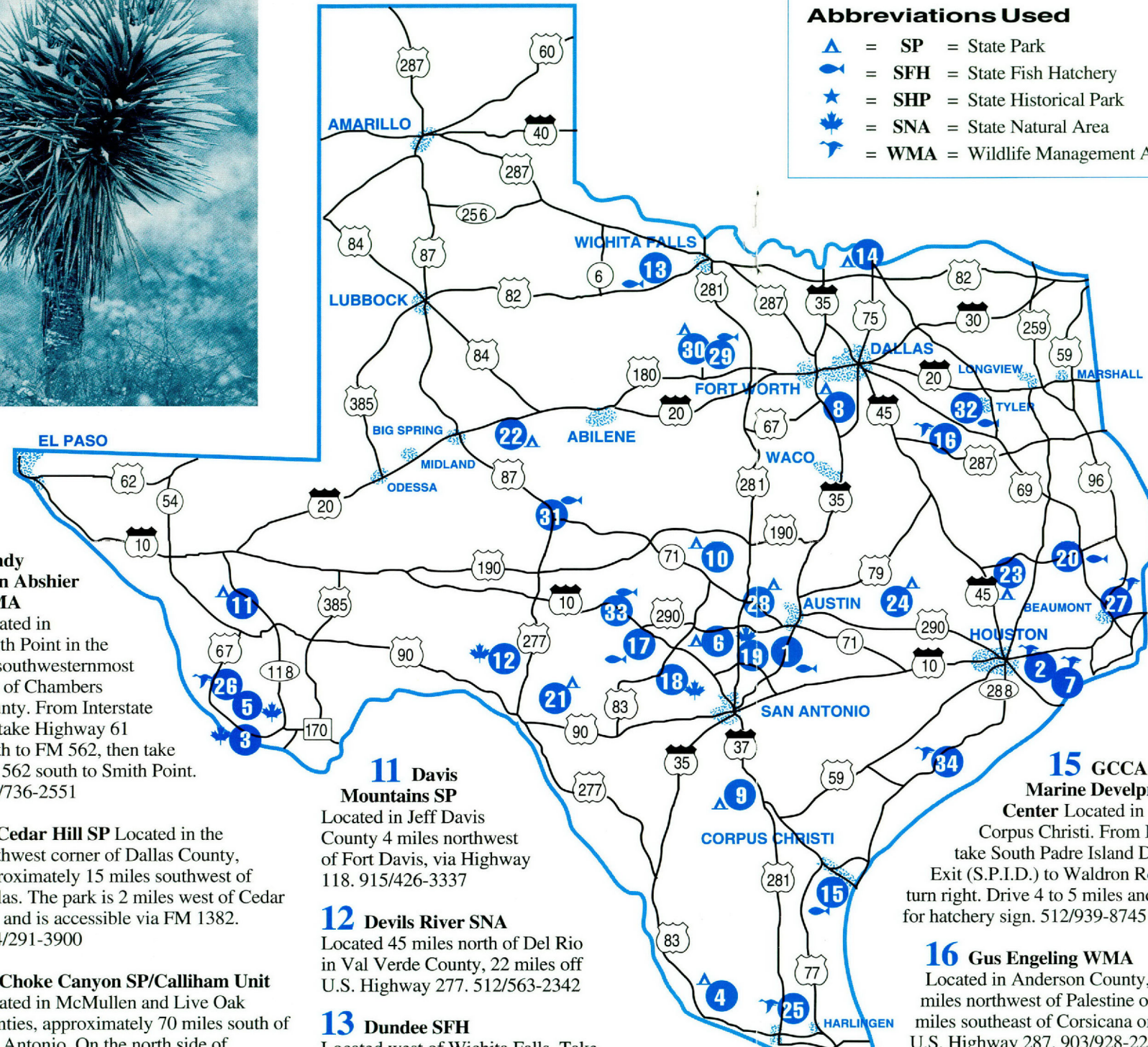
- 1 A.E. Wood SFH**
Located in San Marcos, off IH 35. Take Seguin exit (Texas 123 which has hatchery sign) and go to FM 621 (Staples Rd.). The hatchery is on your left. 512/353-0572
- 2 Atkinson Island WMA**
Located between Chambers and Harris Counties on the Houston Ship Channel, off Morgan's Point. Accessed by boat only from Morgan's Point and Crauley's Bait Camp. (The Harris County side of the island is the only portion owned by the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department.) 409/736-2551
- 3 Barton Warnock Environmental Education Center**
Located in Lajitas. Part of the Big Bend Ranch SNA. 915/424-3327
- 4 Bentsen-Rio Grande Valley SP**
Located in southwestern Hidalgo County near Mission. Take U.S. Highway 83 to Mission, continue west to the exit on Loop 374, then south on FM 2062 to the park. 512/585-1107
- 5 Big Bend Ranch SNA**
Located north of Lajitas on Highway 170 in Brewster and Presidio counties. 915/424-3327
- 6 Blanco SP**
Located in Blanco County, approximately 14 miles south of Johnson City, on the west side of Highway 281. 512/353-0072 (for activity info.), 512/833-4333 (for park info.)

- 7 Candy Cain Abshier WMA**
Located in Smith Point in the far southwesternmost part of Chambers County. From Interstate 10, take Highway 61 south to FM 562, then take FM 562 south to Smith Point. 409/736-2551
- 8 Cedar Hill SP** Located in the southwest corner of Dallas County, approximately 15 miles southwest of Dallas. The park is 2 miles west of Cedar Hill and is accessible via FM 1382. 214/291-3900
- 9 Choke Canyon SP/Calliham Unit**
Located in McMullen and Live Oak counties, approximately 70 miles south of San Antonio. On the north side of Highway 72, approximately 8 miles west of Three Rivers. 512/786-3868
- 10 Colorado Bend SP**
Located in Lampasas and San Saba counties on the Colorado River approximately 10 miles above Lake Buchanan. Paved access is available to the small community of Bend from U.S. Highway 281 and U.S. Highway 183 at Lampasas via FM 580. From Bend there are approximately 4 miles of unpaved road to the entrance of the park. 915/628-3240

- 11 Davis Mountains SP**
Located in Jeff Davis County 4 miles northwest of Fort Davis, via Highway 118. 915/426-3337
- 12 Devils River SNA**
Located 45 miles north of Del Rio in Val Verde County, 22 miles off U.S. Highway 277. 512/563-2342
- 13 Dundee SFH**
Located west of Wichita Falls. Take Highway 277 to Dundee, once in Dundee turn north on FM 2846, go about 5 miles and take a left on FM 1180. The hatchery is 3 miles down, right next to Diversion Lake. 817/586-1576
- 14 Eisenhower SP**
Located in northern Grayson County near Denison. The park is 5 miles northwest of Denison. Take U.S. Highway 75A to FM 1310 and travel 1.8 miles to Park Road 20. 903/465-1956

Abbreviations Used

- ▲ = SP = State Park
- 🐟 = SFH = State Fish Hatchery
- ★ = SHP = State Historical Park
- 🌵 = SNA = State Natural Area
- 🦋 = WMA = Wildlife Management Area



- 15 GCCA-CPL Marine Development Center** Located in Corpus Christi. From IH 37 take South Padre Island Drive Exit (S.P.I.D.) to Waldron Rd. and turn right. Drive 4 to 5 miles and look for hatchery sign. 512/939-8745
- 16 Gus Engeling WMA**
Located in Anderson County, 21 miles northwest of Palestine or 38 miles southeast of Corsicana on U.S. Highway 287. 903/928-2251
- 17 Heart O' the Hills Research Station**
Located in Kerr County. From Kerrville, take Highway 27 to Ingram, go past Ingram to FM 479 and go 2 miles past the FM 479 intersection. Location is on the left side of Highway 27. 512/866-3356
- 18 Hill Country SNA**
Located in Bandera and Medina counties 10 miles west of Bandera. From Bandera, take Highway 173, take FM 1077 southwest 11 miles to the park entrance. 512/796-4413

- 19 Honey Creek SNA**
Located 30 miles north of San Antonio in Comal County, reached via Guadalupe River State Park from Park Road 31 off Highway 46. Thirteen miles east of Boerne or 8 miles west of the intersection of U.S. Highway 281 and State Highway 46. The park entrance is 3 miles off Highway 46 on Park Road 31. 512/438-2656
- 20 Jasper SFH**
Located west of Jasper on FM 1747, 1 mi. from the intersection of Hwy 63 and FM 1747. 409/384-2221
- 21 Kickapoo Cavern SP**
Located in Edwards and Kinney counties northwest of Uvalde, 23 miles north of Brackettville. From U.S. Highway 90 take FM 674 north for 23 miles to park entrance. 512/563-2342
- 22 Lake Colorado City SP**
Located in Mitchell County, 5 miles west of Colorado City on IH- 20, exiting on FM 2836 and turning south for 6 miles to the park entrance. 915/728-3931
- 23 Lake Livingston SP**
Located in Polk County, 75 miles north of Houston. Take FM 1988 out of Livingston, then FM 3126 to the park. 409/365-2201
- 24 Lake Somerville SP/ Nails Creek Unit**
Located in Burleson County northwest of Brenham. Nails Creek Unit is located on FM 180, 15 miles off U.S. 290. 409/289-2392
- 25 Las Palomas WMA/Lower Rio Grande Valley Units**
Eight tracts located in Cameron, Hidalgo, Starr and Willacy counties. 512/383-8982
- 26 Las Palomas WMA/Ocotillo Unit**
Located in southwestern Presidio County, 36 miles northwest of Presidio or 1 mile northwest of Ruidosa on FM 170. 915/229-3190
- 27 Lower Neches WMA/ Bessie Heights Unit**
Located in Orange County, approximately 6 miles west of Bridge City and 2 miles north of Neches River in Bessie Heights Oil Field. Accessible by watercraft only. 409/736-2551

- 28 Pedernales Falls SP**
Located in eastern Blanco County near Johnson City. The park entrance is 9 miles east of Johnson City on FM Road 2766, or by traveling west of Austin for 32 miles on U.S. Highway 290, then north on FM 3232 for 7 miles. 512/868-7304
- 29 Possum Kingdom SFH**
Located off Hwy 180, 10 mi. north of Brad, about 30 miles west of Mineral Wells and 1.5 mi. from Morris Shepard Dam (Possum Kingdom Dam), which is located off Hwy 16 north. 817/779-2301
- 30 Possum Kingdom SP**
Located in Palo Pinto County west of Fort Worth near Caddo. Take U.S. Highway 180 to Caddo then 17 miles north on Park Road 33. 817/549-1803
- 31 San Angelo SFH**
Located in San Angelo, off the intersection Bus. 87 and South Chadbourne. Hatchery is located by the Air Force Base. 915/653-2977
- 32 Tyler SFH**
Located in Tyler off 31 West, (watch for hatchery sign), approximately 2.5 mi., pass the loop and turn left on the Greensboro Rd. (Spur 164), sign says "Hatchery 1 mile." 903/592-7570
- 33 Walter Buck WMA**
Located on the South Fork of the Llano River in Kimble County, 5 miles southwest of Junction or 3 miles south of the Junction city limits sign on State Highway 377 to the WMA entrance. 915/446-3617
- 34 Welder Flats Coastal Preserve**
Located in Calhoun County at the junction of the Victoria Barge Canal with the Gulf Intracoastal Waterway. Boat access only. 512/729-2315

The Passport

The Passport is published quarterly for Texas Conservation Passport holders by the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department. For information on purchasing or renewing a Texas Conservation Passport, call 1-800-792-1112, 8 a.m. - 5 p.m. Monday - Friday.

For address changes, please send your mailing label and your new address to:
Texas Conservation Passport
/o Marketing and Tourism
4200 Smith School Road
Austin, Texas 78744

February

Continued from page 3

Feb.: Eisenhower SP, mountain bike workshop & race, guide Mark Niemi, rider & shop owner, date & starting time will be determined in early Jan., 903/465-1956

Feb. 3: Las Palomas WMA & Lower Rio Grande NWR, wildlife corridor slide show & tour, guide G. Waggener, area manager, 8 a.m. - noon, 512/383-8982

Feb. 6: Big Bend Ranch SNA, Big Bend Ranch bus tour with chuck wagon lunch, guide D. Alloway, exhibits technician, 8 a.m. - 5 p.m., additional fee required, 915/229-3613

Feb. 6: Heart O' the Hills Research Station, fisheries research station tour, guide inland fisheries research director D. Luebke, 10 a.m. - noon, 512/866-3356

Feb. 6: Honey Creek SNA, Lower Edwards Plateau ecosystem tour, guide P. Solis, naturalist, 9 a.m. - 11 a.m., no reservations, 512/438-2656

Feb 6: Kickapoo Cavern SNA, Kickapoo Cavern tour, guide D.K. Stuart, park superintendent, 4 p.m. - 6 p.m., 512/563-2342

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Feb. 10: Bentsen-Rio Grande Valley SP, bird watching & nature study tour, guide R. Ortiz, park superintendent, 10 a.m. - noon, 512/585-1107

Feb. 13: GCCA-CPL Marine Development Center, slide show & hatchery tour, guide R. Vega, conservation scientist, 9 a.m. - 11 a.m. or 2 p.m. - 4 p.m., 512/939-8745

Feb. 13: Honey Creek SNA, Lower Edwards Plateau ecosystem tour, guide P. Solis, naturalist, 9 a.m. - 11 a.m., no reservations, 512/438-2656

Feb. 13: Lake Colorado City SP, night time wildlife viewing, guide M. Fambro, park manager, 6:30 p.m. - 8 p.m., reservations available but not required, 915/728-3931

Feb. 13: Pedernales Falls SP, Twin Falls nature trail walk, guide B. McDaniel, park superintendent, 9:30 a.m. - 10:30 a.m., no reservations, 512/868-7304

Feb. 14: Hill Country SNA & Running R Ranch, interpretive horseback riding tour w/ mount & lunch provided, guide S. Heavey, park superintendent, 9 a.m. - noon, additional fee required, 512/796-4413

Feb. 20: Big Bend Ranch SNA, Big Bend Ranch bus tour with chuck wagon lunch, guide D. Alloway, exhibits technician, 8 a.m. - 5 p.m., additional fee required, 915/424-3327

Feb. 20: Cedar Hill SP, Penn Farm walking tour, guide R.J. Bohls, park ranger, 9 a.m. - 11:15 a.m., reservations available but not required, Additional fee required, 214/291-3900

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Feb. 27: Pedernales Falls SP, Twin Falls nature trail walk, guide B. McDaniel, park superintendent, 9:30 a.m. - 10:30 a.m., no reservations, 512/868-7304



Give the Conservation Passport This Christmas

state's natural and cultural resources — a perspective unavailable anywhere else. The expert-guided outings are fun as well as educational. And free entry into state parks, state historical parks, and discounts on camping and subscriptions to *Texas Parks & Wildlife* magazine are icing on the cake.

Consider giving the Texas Conservation Passport. It's a gift that will be appreciated all year. For more information, call 1-800-792-1112, Monday through Friday, 8 a.m. - 5 p.m.

All These *Fish*

Continued from page 1 in a special seminar conducted by fishery biologist David Terre. Remember that you must have a valid fishing license and trout stamp to fish.

Bird watching also is a featured attraction during December on the state fish hatcheries. Outings are scheduled at hatcheries in **San Angelo, Corpus Christi, San Marcos, Graford, Dundee** and **Tyler**.

Self-Guided Tours with the Texas Conservation Passport

Tours

- Dates closed to visitation must be observed.
- Unless otherwise noted, these areas are open every day of the week for day-use only, from daylight to sunset.
- "No facilities" indicates that the site has no recreational facilities, potable water or restroom facilities. Some sites noted "no facilities" have an office with a restroom, but those offices are seldom staffed because the staff is out on the site.
- It is strongly recommended that you call before traveling to the area.

Abbreviations Used

SP = State Park
SNA = State Natural Area
WMA = Wildlife Management Area

Atkinson Island WMA -
Unvegetated beach areas. No facilities. 409/736-2551

Big Bend Ranch SNA -
Conservation Passport required north of Highway 170 where hiking and backpacking are available. South of Highway 170, either the Conservation Passport or the daily entrance fee is acceptable. For information call the Barton Warnock Environmental Education Center, 915/424-3327.

Candy Cain Abshier WMA - Area primarily for bird watching and nature study. No facilities. 409/736-2551

Davis Mountains SP Primitive Area - All visitors must register at the Davis Mountains SP headquarters and sign a primitive area use agreement. 915/426-3337


Gus Engeling WMA - Closed for public hunts until January 10. Two interpretive walking nature trails. One self-guided 10-mile driving tour is open in March and April to view flowering dogwoods; one driving wildlife demonstration tour is open in spring and summer. 903/928-2251

Las Palomas WMA/ Lower Rio Grande Valley Units - Units of Las Palomas open September 1 - April 30 are: Adams, Anacua, Baird, Carricitos, Champion, Longoria (west side only), Penitas and Taormina. No facilities. 512/383-8982

Las Palomas WMA/ Ocotillo Unit - Closed during white-winged dove hunting season. No facilities. 915/229-3190

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

Walter Buck WMA - Non-consumptive activities coordinated through South Llano River SP. Area closed Oct. 1 - Dec. 15, for public hunts. 915/446-3617


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. 512/729-2315 

Tours by Request

Colorado Bend SP, wildlife viewing at baited area, park superintendent R. Basse, predawn to noon or until dusk if others not waiting to use the blinds, additional fee, reservations available but not required, 915/628-3240

Devils River SNA, guided tour of archaeological pictograph sites and natural sites upon request, Fridays-Sundays, groups encouraged, bunkhouse lodging for 10 people and kitchen available, 512/395-2133

Kickapoo Cavern SNA, bird watching and nature tours upon request, primitive cavern tour by special arrangement, groups encouraged, bunkhouse lodging for 12 people and kitchen available, please make reservations at least two weeks in advance, 512/563-2342

Lake Somerville SP/ Nails Creek Unit, guided nature study of the Somerville Trailway and the Flag Pond area, guide park superintendent Brent Leisure, four-hour tour, 409/289-2392 

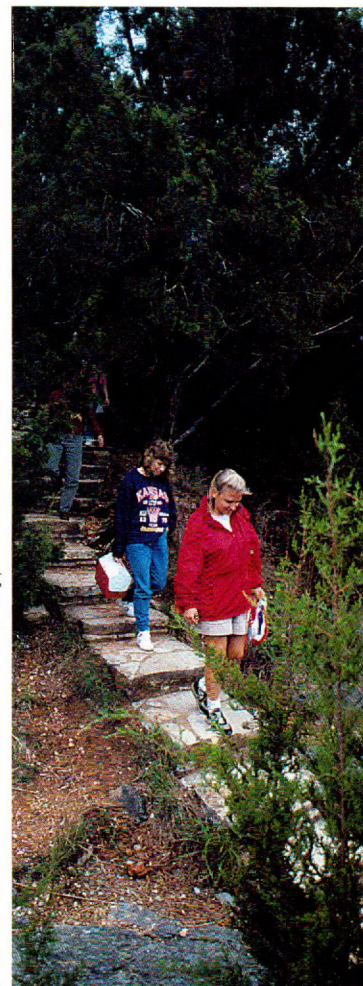


Photo by Glen Mills

■ Step into the great outdoors on one of the guided nature walks offered at Pedernales Falls State Park.

Special Activities



If you wonder what it takes to run a state park, this is the tour for you. Take the park management tour at **Pedernales Falls SP**. It's offered weekdays from 9 to 10:30 a.m. Call 512/868-7304 for reservations.



Possum Kingdom SP has an ongoing wildlife photo contest for Conservation Passport holders. The best photo of the year will be featured in The Passport newsletter. For more information call 817/549-1903.



Running R Ranch in Bandera offers Passport holders discounts on its horseback rides. When you take advantage of this special offer, you'll have the opportunity to explore the **Hill Country SNA** during your ride. For more information, call Charles "Doo" Robbins or Jo Cubbison, 512/796-3984.



Texas Parks & Wildlife Department
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The PassportSM

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Don't Forget To *Renew* Your Texas Conservation Passport


Have you checked the expiration date on your Texas Conservation Passport? All Conservation Passports are valid for a year, expiring at the end of the month of purchase. In other words, if yours was purchased during December 1991 it's valid through December 31, 1992.

The expiration date is stamped on the front of your

Conservation Passport card, and also on the mailing label of this newsletter. Your Conservation Passport number is listed first and the expiration month and year follow.

You can obtain your new Conservation Passport at any state park, TPWD Regional Law Enforcement Office, TPWD Headquarters in Austin, Whole

Earth Provision Company in Austin, Dallas or Houston, or at REI in Austin. Or if you wish, you can send a check to TPWD Headquarters, License Sales, 4200 Smith School Road, Austin, TX 78744.

Please include the member number from your current Conservation Passport. 



Christmas Events, *continued from page 1*

Please call for further information. Some events have an additional fee.

Eisenhower SP near Denison - Christmas in the Park, Dec. 12, 7 p.m., 903/465-1956.

Fulton Mansion SHP in Rockport - Victorian Open House, Dec. 10 & 11, 7-9 p.m., 512/729-0386.

Goliad SHP in Goliad - Bee County College Choir, Dec. 6, 3 p.m.; 512/645-3405.

Indian Lodge in Fort Davis - A Children's Breakfast with Santa, Dec. 5; Lodge Open House, Dec. 10; La Posada, Dec. 19; Gourmet Christmas Buffet, Dec. 20, 915/426-3254.

Landmark Inn SHP in Castroville - Saint Nickolas Day, Dec. 4, 5:30-8:30 p.m., 512/538-2133.

Lyndon B. Johnson SHP in Stonewall - Christmas tree lighting by Lady Bird Johnson at a living history farm, Dec. 20, 6 p.m., 512/644-2252.

Monument Hill/Kreische Brewery SHP in La Grange - Christmas Open House, Dec. 13, 1:30-4 p.m., 409/968-5658.

Sebastopol House SHP in Seguin - Christmas Past Celebration, Dec. 13, 6-8 p.m., 512/379-4833.

Starr Family SHP in Marshall - Candlelight tours of Maplecroft Mansion on weekends, Nov. 29 thru Dec. 28, 5-9 p.m., 903/935-3044.

Varner-Hogg Plantation SHP in West Columbia - Christmas in the Country, Dec. 12, 10 a.m.-6 p.m., 409/345-4656. 