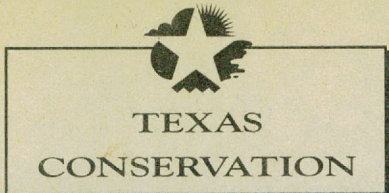


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# PASSPORT SM

Vol. 2 No.4 • Dec. 1993 - Feb. 1994

JOURNAL

Government Publications  
Texas State Documents

Texas Parks & Wildlife Department

FEB 16 1994



## HILL COUNTRY STATE NATURAL AREA

### Explore The Hill Country!

Depository  
Dallas Public Library

Christmas Events on Pages 8 & 9

Ride it on horseback! Hike it! Bike it! Backpack on all 34 miles of trails! No matter how you do it, just do it! Experience primitive camping at the Hill Country State Natural Area!

After a short 60-mile drive west of San Antonio and a 10-mile drive south of Bandera, you arrive on a gravel road that ends at the park.

Horse trails crisscrossing the undeveloped area can be hiked and biked too, but there are no hookups, no water and only composting or chemical toilets. Fire rings with dead wood are placed at major camping junctions to serve as natural campfire gathering spots. But visitors must bring their own water and containerized cook stoves.

Lose yourself amid rolling hills, limestone scarps and oak-covered stream banks. It's quiet. It's so quiet you can hear breezes in the trees overhead, streams gurgling a few yards from your campsite and the calling of a distance owl.

Looking up on a clear, cold night, you see a brilliant array of stars in a sky so dark you can make out all six stars in the Pleiades constellation.

*Horseback outings in the Hill Country on page 3*

## The New Look

Your Passport Journal has a new look. We're using earth friendly paper and ink and we've added more pages with...

**People in Action!** Preserving and protecting wild creatures...

**Weekend outings!** Horseback riding in the Hill Country...

**Hands-on workshops!** Learning how to build minnow traps...

**Face-to-face experiences with nature!** Calling and photographing foxes on a winter night... Examining saltwater fish hauled onto the deck of a boat.

**Come visit us and explore the real Texas!**

## Inside the issue

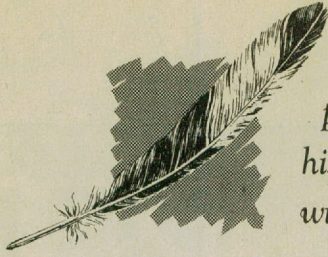
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*Llama prove to be great pack animals for carrying water into the Hill Country SNA.*

S. Heavey



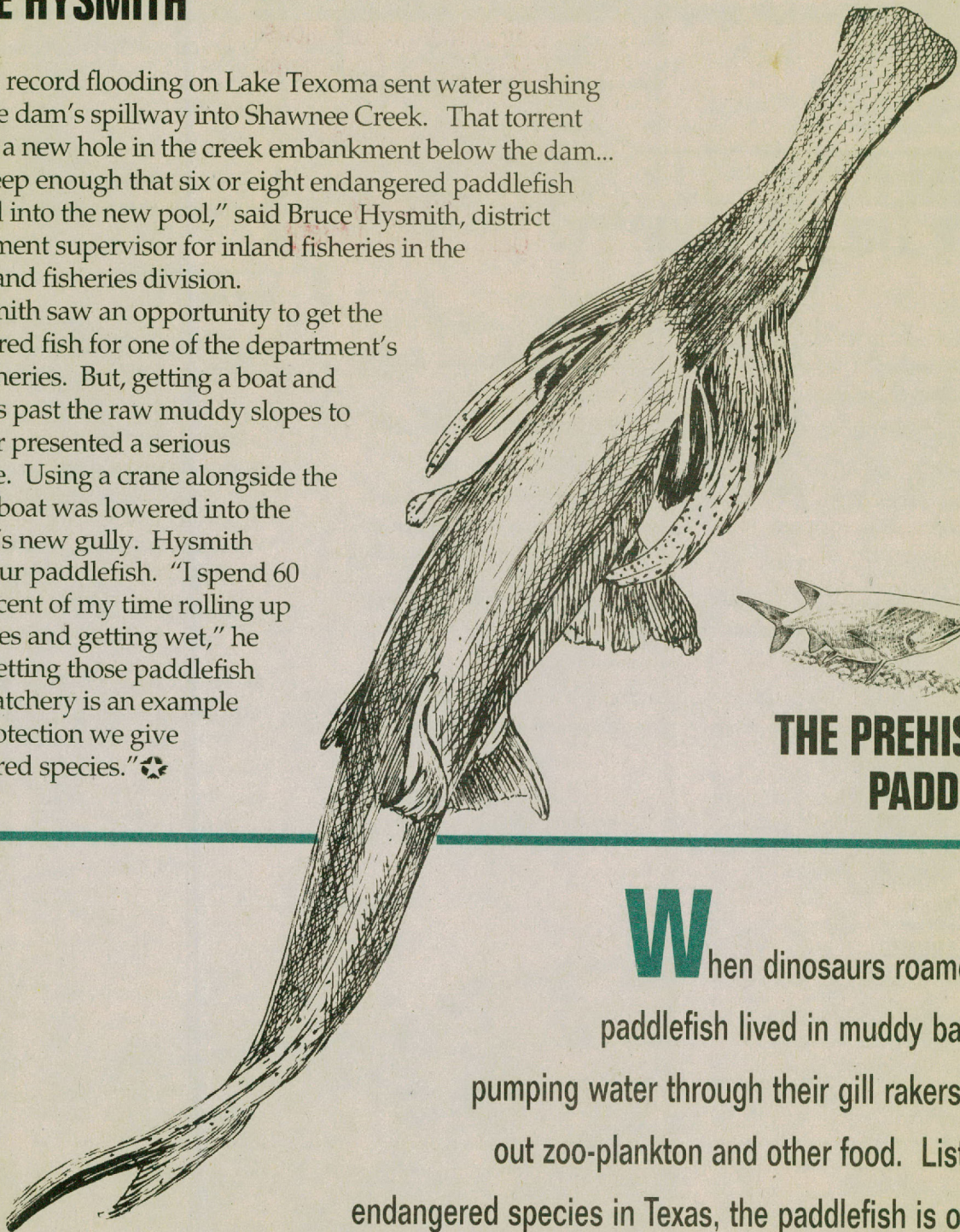


“... people doing the work of conservation... park volunteers, park managers, wildlife and fisheries biologists, botanists, historians and restoration artists are the wind beneath the wings of the Texas Conservation Passport program...”

## BRUCE HYSMITH

“In 1990, record flooding on Lake Texoma sent water gushing down the dam’s spillway into Shawnee Creek. That torrent dredged a new hole in the creek embankment below the dam... a hole deep enough that six or eight endangered paddlefish migrated into the new pool,” said Bruce Hysmith, district management supervisor for inland fisheries in the wildlife and fisheries division.

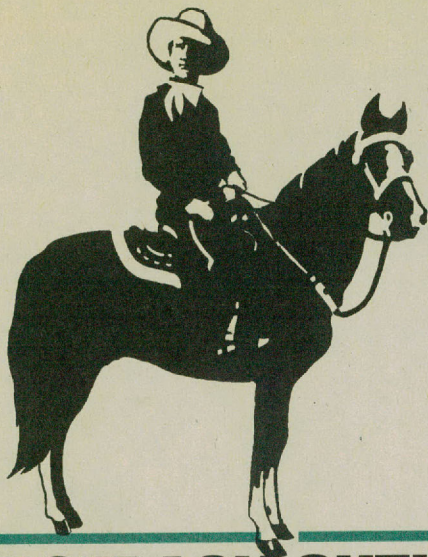
Hysmith saw an opportunity to get the endangered fish for one of the department’s fish hatcheries. But, getting a boat and biologists past the raw muddy slopes to the water presented a serious challenge. Using a crane alongside the banks, a boat was lowered into the spillway’s new gully. Hysmith netted four paddlefish. “I spend 60 to 70 percent of my time rolling up my sleeves and getting wet,” he said. “Getting those paddlefish for the hatchery is an example of the protection we give endangered species.” ♻️



## THE PREHISTORIC PADDLEFISH

**W**hen dinosaurs roamed Texas, paddlefish lived in muddy backwaters pumping water through their gill rakers to strain out zoo-plankton and other food. Listed as an endangered species in Texas, the paddlefish is one of the oldest surviving animal species in North America.





## ▶ KNOW BEFORE YOU GO

Hill Country SNA is the largest equestrian-use park in Texas, so be prepared to share trails and give the right-of-way to horses. Pack-it-in, pack-it-out is the trash policy. You must bring your drinking water. Equestrian camping areas have drinking water for horses, small corrals and plenty of shade. There are 10 drive-in tent sites with fire rings and picnic tables. For more information write to Superintendent, Route 1, Box 601, Bandera 78003 or call 210/796-4413.

# HORSEBACK OUTINGS

## Austin/San Antonio/Hill Country

### Hill Country SNA

Take guided horseback trips into remote hills and wild valleys with panoramic views of the 5400 acre park; experience country quiet and babbling brooks. Trips go out the 2nd Sunday of every month, lunch and mount provided. 8 a.m. - 12:30 p.m., \$38.50+tax, reservations required, guide park manager S. Heavey, contact Running 'R' Ranch, 210-796-3984. (See discount notice below.)

### Pedernales Falls SP

Friday Evening Horseback Rides - Dec. 3, 10, 17, Jan. 14, 21, 28, Feb. 4, 11, 18, 25. Trail side pause for hot chocolate while you snuggle with your honey, gaze at stars or just tell a few 'good ones.' Approximate time will be determined when making reservation, \$22.50 per mount, half required for deposit, reservations required - books up quickly, make reservations early, guide S. Heald of S&K Horse Stables, 512-479-9443.

Saturday Horseback Ride and Picnic - Dec. 4, 11, 18, Jan. 15, 22, 29, Feb. 5, 12, 19, 26. Guided horseback ride with a picnic and hot chocolate provided at the rest stop. Approximate time will be determined when making reservation, \$45.00 per mount, half required for deposit, reservations required, guide S. Heald of S&K Horse Stables, 512-479-9443. ♻️



## DISCOUNTS & DEALS

### Texas Wildlife Viewing Guide

A field guide to 142 of the best viewing areas in Texas. Available at Texas Parks and Wildlife Department, 4200 Smith School Road, Austin, Tx 78744, the \$9.50 price includes the tax. Also available at selected state parks and outdoor recreation stores.

### Weekends Away: Camping and Cooking in Texas State Parks

An up-to-date field guide to Texas State Parks describing parks, listing facilities, providing location, address and telephone numbers. Also featuring: camping tips, campfire how-tos, campfire cooking and 175 easy recipes. Available at major bookstores, selected state parks and outdoor recreation stores.

### Fossil Rim Wildlife Center

Texas Conservation Passport holders receive discounts on entrance rates, overnight lodging and the three-day, two-night adventure at Fossil Rim Safari Camp. Call 817-897-2960 for details and a list of activities.

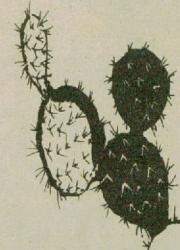
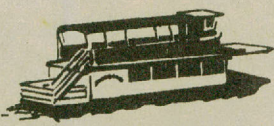
### Longhorn Cavern State Park

With your current Conservation Passport you can purchase a Longhorn Cavern tour ticket for \$4, discounted from the regular \$6 price. For children age five through twelve, the ticket price is \$4 and children age four and under are free. Call 512-756-976 for recorded information on times and tours.

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 about the rides, call Charles "Doo" Robbins or Jo Cubbison, 210-796-3984. ♻️



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



## ECOTOURISM

### ECOTOUR OUTINGS FOR WALKERS & HIKERS

#### Austin/San Antonio/Hill Country

**Pedernales Falls SP**  
Nature Tour - Dec. 11, 18. Quarter mile interpretive walk providing historical and ecological information. 10 a.m.-11:30 a.m., guide naturalist R. Rylander, 210-868-7304.

**Kerrville-Schreiner SP**  
Know Your Native Plants - Feb. 26. 9 a.m.-noon, reservations available but not required, guides E. Bettinger and D. Mattiza, 210-257-5392.

#### Dallas/Pineywoods

**Caddo Grasslands WMA**  
Nature Walk At Wildlife Management Area - Dec. 13, Jan. 23, Feb. 20. 1 p.m.-2 p.m., reservations required, guide conservation specialist J. Thomas, 903-884-3833.

**Caddo Lake WMA**  
Nature Walk at Wildlife Management Area - Jan. 29. 1 p.m.-2 p.m., reservations required, guide conservation specialist J. Thomas, 903-884-3833.

**Pat Mayes WMA**  
Nature Walk At Wildlife Management Area - Dec. 12, Jan. 22, Feb. 19. 1 p.m.-2 p.m., reservations required, guide conservation specialist J. Thomas, 903-884-3833.

### ECOTOURS BY BOAT

#### Dallas/Pineywoods

**Caddo Lake WMA**  
Boat Tour of Wildlife Management Area - Dec. 11. Leave state park and travel by boat to wildlife management area. 1 p.m.-3 p.m., additional fee \$7 for adults \$4 for children, reservations required, guide naturalist D. Lomax, 903-679-3743.

**Fairfield Lake SP**  
Bald Eagle Boat Tour - Dec. 11, 18, Jan. 1, 8, 15, 22, 29, Feb. 5, 12, 19, 26. View a video then board a pontoon boat for a tour of Fairfield Lake for wildlife viewing including the wintering bald eagles. 10 a.m.-around noon, adults \$8, children 12 and under \$4, reservations required, guide conservation specialist D. Walsh, 903-389-4514.

#### Corpus Christi/Lower Gulf Coast

**Univ. of Texas Coastal Studies Lab South Padre Island**  
Marine Life Tour - Jan. 7, Feb. 4. Slide presentation on the Laguna Madre marine life and ride the research vessel Laguna Madre. 10 a.m.-noon, reservations required, guide marine biologist T. Warren, 210-350-4490 or 210-350-4491.

**Martin Creek Lake SP**  
Boat tour of wildlife and wintering eagles - Come and enjoy plenty of waterfowl, birdlife and wildlife on this scenic tour of a 5,000 acre reservoir. Dress according to weather and bring binoculars and zoom lenses for cameras. Nov. through Jan. Saturday and Sundays. 10 a.m.-noon and 2 p.m.-4 p.m. each day, reservations required, additional fee of \$8 per adult, \$4 per children ages 6-12, \$4 per senior citizens, passport holders will get a \$2 discount per family member, group rates are available, guide B. Townsend, 903-836-4336.

### RUGGED ECOTOURS-CAVES IN THEIR NATURAL STATE

#### Austin/San Antonio/Hill Country

**Kickapoo Cavern SNA**  
Primitive Tour of Kickapoo Cavern - Dec. 11, 16, 18, Jan. 8, 22, Feb. 5, 19. Undeveloped Hill Country cave tour. Participants need to be in relatively good physical condition, bring flashlight, drinking water and shoes designed for rough terrain. 4 p.m.-6 p.m., reservations required, guide park manager D. Stuart, 210-563-2342.





# F O R T H E B I R D S

## Houston/Upper Gulf Coast

### J.D. Murphree WMA

Canvasback Ducks on Lost Lake - Dec. 11. 6 a.m.-10 a.m., reservations required, guide biologist J. Sutherlin, 409-736-2551.

### Jasper SFH, Martin Dies, Jr. SP and Sam Rayburn Dam

Birdwatching - Dec. 11. Develop bird identification skills and compile seasonal checklist. Participants will car pool to the three locations. 8 a.m.-1 p.m., reservations required, guide biologist R. Helton, 409-384-9965 or 409-384-2221.

### Martin Dies, Jr. SP

Birdhouse Day - Feb. 19. Learn who goes in and who stays out of artificial nest sites for Bluebird and Woodducks. 9 a.m.-11 a.m., reservations available but not required, guide conservation specialist C. Lena, 409-383-4343 or 409-384-5231.

## Austin/San Antonio/Hill Country

### A.E. Wood SFH

Birdwatching and Hatchery Tour - Dec. 11, Feb. 26. Walking interpretive birdwatch and hatchery tour. 7 a.m.-10 a.m., reservations required, guide fish health specialist K. Ramos, 512-353-0572.

### Kerrville-Schreiner SP

Birdhouse Day Extravaganza - Feb. 5. 8 a.m.-noon, reservations available but not required, guides Hill Country birding authorities Art and Hannah Richards, 210-257-5392.

### Pedernales Falls SP

Birdwatching - Dec. 12, 19, 26, Jan. 2, 9, 16, 23, 30, Feb. 6, 13, 20, 27. Birding observation and identification. 7:30 a.m.-11 a.m., additional fee \$5 per person, reservations required, guide ornithologist R. Rylander, 210-868-7304.

## Dallas/Pineywoods

### Cedar Creek Island WMA

Birdwatching - Feb. 13. 10 a.m.-noon, reservations required, guide conservation specialist J. Thomas, 903-884-3833.

### Fort Parker SP

Migratory Waterfowl Viewing - Dec. 11, Jan. 15, Feb. 12. Ride the Cynthia Ann pontoon tour boat to see migratory waterfowl on all parts of Fort Parker Lake and adjacent ponds. Bring binoculars, field guides, and dress according to the weather. 8 a.m.-noon, additional fee of \$5 per person, reservations required, guide experienced birder B. Flatt, 817-562-5751.

### Gus Engeling WMA

Putting The Ducks To Bed - Jan. 22. Fieldtrip to marsh to witness ducks coming to roost. 3 p.m.-7 p.m., reservations required, guide biologist C. Frentress, 903-928-2251.

### Lake Tawakoni SNA

Bird and Nature Tour - Jan. 29, Feb. 26. 10 a.m.-2 p.m., reservations required, guide park ranger R. Cadena, 903-425-2332.

## Corpus Christi/Lower Gulf Coast

### GCCA/CPL Marine Development Center

Birding Walk & Hatchery Tour/Slide Program - Dec. 11, Jan. 8, Feb. 12. Guided nature walk around hatchery ponds and hatchery, slide show presentation and tour of facility. 9 a.m.-11 a.m., reservations required, guide hatchery manager T. Engeling, 512-939-7784.

### Las Palomas WMA

Birdwatching - Jan. 12, Feb. 16. Meet at Bentsen State Park for a birding walk, then car pool to various units of the Las Palomas WMA for continued birding and wildflower walk. 8 a.m.-5 p.m., reservations required, guide biologists G. Waggerman and S. Benn, 210-383-8982.

## TEXAS BIRDHOUSE DAY

Fighting mosquitos and other insects at your house? Call in the birds by building a birdhouse. "Bluebirds feed almost exclusively on arthropods during the nesting season and they love birdhouses," according to park superintendent Dennis Walsh at Fairfield Lake State Park.

The first Saturday in February is Birdhouse Day in Texas; that's **February 5** in 1994. While winter temperatures dominate the northern states, Texans are out in force cleaning up old birdhouses and setting up new ones in preparation for the March return of cavity-nesting birds.

Purple martins, ash-throated flycatchers, house wrens, Carolina wrens, Bewick's wrens, Woodpeckers, tree swallows, and bluebirds want old logs, rotted trees and other 'holes' for spring nesting. But, where birds find dead logs attractive as spring domiciles, humans find the same log an unattractive part of 'old brush.' So, in recent years, growing suburban construction has cleared away acres and acres of natural nesting grounds.

How to help? Put up a birdhouse and invite the cavity nesters to call your yard home. Look for Birdhouse Day activities at your state parks.



Continued from page 5

**Houston/Upper Gulf Coast**

**Martin Dies, Jr. SP**

Fishing Clinic for Kids - Dec. 11. Learn basic fishing skills. 10 a.m.-noon, reservations available but not required, guide two time world champion professional angler A. Thomasson-Wilson, 409-383-4343.

Trot & Drop - Dec. 18. Learn to build your own trotlines for catfishing! 9 a.m.-noon, additional fee of \$1 per person, reservations

required, guide conservation specialist C. Lena, 409-383-4343 or 409-384-5231.

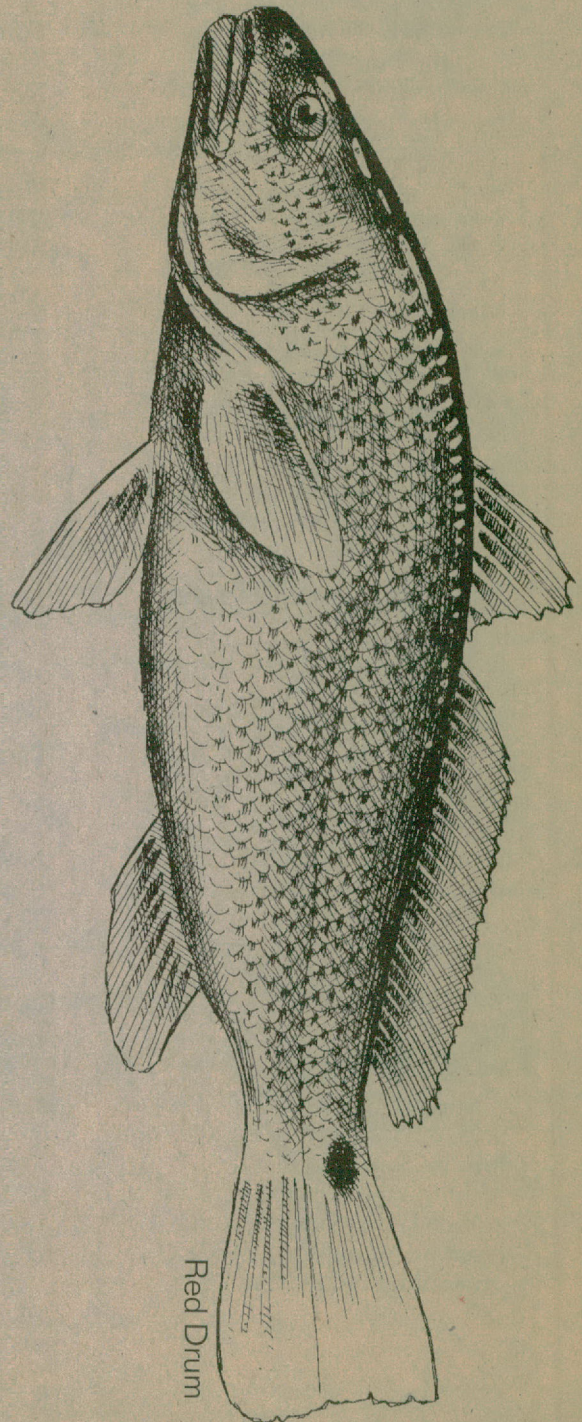
No Hook, Line or Sinker - Jan. 8. Learn to build your own Minnow/Perch trap. 9 a.m.-noon, additional fee of \$2 per person, reservations required, guide conservation specialist C. Lena, 409-383-4343 or 409-384-5231.

**NATURE NOTES**

**FISH DU JOUR**

**"We haul in a net and see what comes up," according to Tom Warren, fisheries biologist at the Brownsville Field Station. "People love to crawl around on the deck of our research vessel, Laguna Madre, and check out the incredible diversity of sea life we haul out of the bay," he said. Tom's activity, scheduled for Jan. 7 and Feb. 4, takes place at the University of Texas Coastal Studies Lab on South Padre Island. "This is a very little known facility, off the beaten track, but the folks who make it out here love the program and the boat ride," he said.**

(See page 4, Ecotours by Boat)



Red Drum



# SKINNING & TANNING SKILLS

## Houston/Upper Gulf Coast

Martin Dies, Jr. SP

Skinning - Feb. 5. Learn to tan non-game and game animal skins for keep-sake or rug making. 9 a.m.-noon, additional fee of \$1 per person, reservations available but not required, guide conservation specialist C. Lena, 409-383-4343 or 409-384-5231.

Tug and Yank - Jan. 22. Proper skinning skill and wild game preparation for cooking. 9 a.m.-10 a.m., reservations available but not required, guide conservation specialist C. Lena, 409-383-4343 or 409-384-5231.



**DID YOU KNOW?**

Campers at Cedar Hill State Park shower with solar heated water.

# PHOTOGRAPHY

## Dallas/Pineywoods

Caddo Lake WMA

Photography Tour - Feb. 26. 1 p.m.-2 p.m., reservations required, guide conservation specialist J. Thomas, 903-884-3833.



L. Williamson

# MARBLEIZED PAINTING

## Austin/San Antonio/Hill Country

Landmark Inn

A historic skills development class - Jan. 22-23. Marbleizing is an historic painting technique used to make low-cost wood look, either like a more expensive wood with a distinctive grain or like marble. It created a faux, but a fashionable, look to furniture, doors and mantles in turn-of-the-century homes. Participants should bring a wood box or small shelf that has already been stripped, sanded and filled for

painting. The class will apply a historic base-coat the first day and a marbled finish the second. Bring scrap wood for a testing surface. Stay overnight at the Inn (\$55 + tax). Workshop fee is \$35 for Passport holders; \$45 for others and must be paid when reservations are made. Deadline for rooms at the Inn is Jan. 3. Class is limited to 12 participants, guide conservation specialist J. Secrist, 210-538-2133.

# CALLING ALL PREDATORS

## Fort Worth/Cattle Country

Lake Colorado City SP

Wildlife Predator Calling - Jan. 8, Feb. 19. Using tape recorded animal calls, visitors will wait in a pickup truck and the ranger will spot wildlife with red filter lights. Expect to see fox, raccoon, and possibly coyote; on rare occasions bobcats

show up. Activity takes place at night during winter months so warm clothes are necessary. Binoculars are advised. Starts at 8 p.m., reservations required, guide park manager M. Fambro, 915-728-3931. ♻️

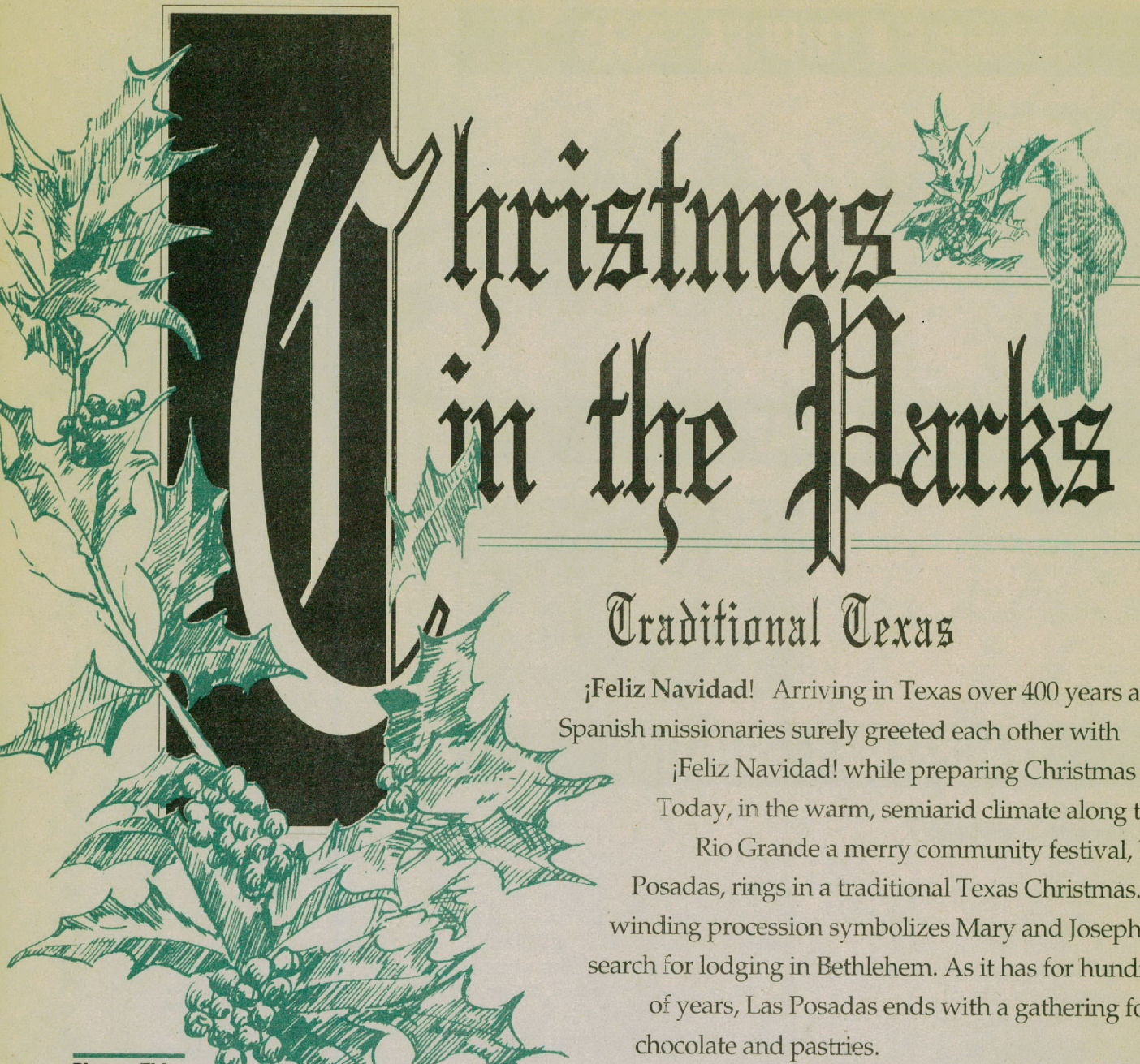
## Know before you go!

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

- Some of these activities 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.
- See Drive Across Texas, Page 10, for directions to activities.
- Abbreviations:

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





# Christmas in the Parks

## Traditional Texas

¡Feliz Navidad! Arriving in Texas over 400 years ago, Spanish missionaries surely greeted each other with ¡Feliz Navidad! while preparing Christmas mass. Today, in the warm, semiarid climate along the Rio Grande a merry community festival, Las Posadas, rings in a traditional Texas Christmas. A winding procession symbolizes Mary and Joseph's search for lodging in Bethlehem. As it has for hundreds of years, Las Posadas ends with a gathering for hot chocolate and pastries.

A mere 160 years ago, while Anglo settlers in eastern Texas hailed 'Merry Christmas,' the bright winter greeting **Froehliche Weihnachten!** rang out in German settlements along the Pedernales River in the Hill Country. But in 1830s Texas, the Anglos, feasting on mutton and pork roast, drinking ales of every type and shooting guns in the air on midnight of Christmas eve, knew nothing of Christmas trees. Their German neighbors decorated trees with bird food and berries, bringing an ancient tradition of a winter tree to Texas.

Adopting the humble German tree in the 1850s, upper-class English Victorians refashioned it with elaborate paper decorations, embroidered ornaments, cookies and cornucopias. That cross-cultural 'traditional' Christmas tree with images of snow and horse sleighs arrived in Texas some time during the 1870s.

### Picture This:

### Christmas Lights

*How do they do it? How do photographers capture that fantastic picture of dazzling Christmas lights? You know the one, it wins contests and shows up on giant posters at camera shops. Award-winning photographer Leroy Williamson, gives you his professional tips and tricks in 'Picture This: Christmas Lights.' Find his article in the December issue of Texas Parks & Wildlife magazine on sale at news stands now.*



All of us at Texas Parks and Wildlife want to thank you for your support of the Conservation Passport. We wish you and your family the happiest of holidays and look forward to seeing you during the new year.



### Dallas / Pineywoods

#### Starr Family State Historical Park

Candlelight tours of the Maplecroft mansion as part of Marshall's Wonderland of Lights - Dec. 10, 11, 17, 18. White lights bathe the mansion grounds, while the interior boasts pine boughs, velvet ribbons, and trees adorned with antique ornaments. Admission for Starr home tours is \$2 for adults and \$1 for children. Call 903/935-3044 for more information.

#### Eisenhower SP

A Texas Christmas - Dec. 11. Caroling, poetry, and a visit from a special guest! 7:30 p.m.-9 p.m., reservations required, guide park ranger L. Lowe, 903-465-1956

#### Old Fort Parker SHP

Christmas at Old Fort Parker - Dec. 11-12. Enjoy a living history Christmas at an 1835 rendezvous and celebration. Will have 300 pre 1840 reenactors, music, spinners, story tellers, black smith, flint knappers, hawk and knife throwing contest, authentic black powder demonstrations and much more. Call 817-729-5253 for more information.

#### Maxey House SHP

Christmas Gala - Dec. 12. For more information call 903-785-5716.

### Corpus Christi / Lower Gulf Coast

#### Fulton Mansion SHP

A Visit From Saint Nicholas - Dec. 11. Decorations in the tradition of the 1870s - 1880s, activities include craft tables to make corn husk dolls and other period decorations; docent gift shop; hear a harp inside and choirs outside; enjoy sampling refreshments of the time period; and expect a visit from Santa Claus. Noon - 4 p.m., cost \$5 for a family of 5 or less and \$2 for individuals, 512-729-0386.

### Austin / San Antonio/Hill Country

#### Sebastopol House SHP

A Taste of Christmas Past - Dec. 12. Sample Victorian recipes as you enjoy caroling, old-fashioned decorations, and luminarias. For fee information call 210-379-4833.

#### Monument Hill/Kreische

Brewery A Kreische Christmas - Dec. 12. open house, refreshments, and musical performances around a German-style Christmas tree. 409-968-5658

#### LBJ State Historical Park

The Annual Christmas Tree Lighting - Dec. 19. Featuring bus tours through the park, Hill Country Holiday at Sauer-Beckmann Living History Farm, choirs and more. Dress for indoor/outdoor activities. Free, for more information call 210-644-2252.

### El Paso / Big Bend Country

#### Indian Lodge

Lodge Open House - Dec. 11. with local choirs, baked goods, and a ginger bread village (no charge); Las Posadas - Dec. 18. (portraying Mary and Joseph's search for lodging) winds through the lodge (no charge); Annual Gourmet Christmas Buffet - Dec. 19, 25 (costs \$9.75 for adults and \$3.75 for children). Call 915-426-3254 for more information. ♻️



Starr Family Mansion





## EL PASO / BIG BEND COUNTRY

**Big Bend Ranch SNA** In Brewster and Presidio Counties, north of Lajitas on F.M. 170. 915-424-3327.

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

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

**Indian Lodge/Davis Mountains SP** In Jeff Davis County near the city of Fort Davis. The park is approximately 4 miles northwest of Fort Davis, via State Highway 118 in Davis Mountains State Park.

## FORT WORTH / CATTLE COUNTRY

**Lake Colorado City SP** In Mitchell County, 5 miles west of Colorado City on I.H. 20, exiting on F.M. 2836 and turning south for 6 miles to the park entrance. 915-728-3931.

## AUSTIN / SAN ANTONIO / HILL COUNTRY

**A.E. Wood SFH** In San Marcos, off I.H. 35; take State Highway 123 (Seguin exit) and go south to F.M. 621 (Staples Rd.). The hatchery is on the left. 512-353-0572.

**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 R.R.s 501, 580 or 581. From Bend there are approximately 4 miles of unpaved road to the park entrance. 915-628-3240.

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

**Honey Creek SNA** Access through Guadalupe River State Park, see above. 210-438-2656.

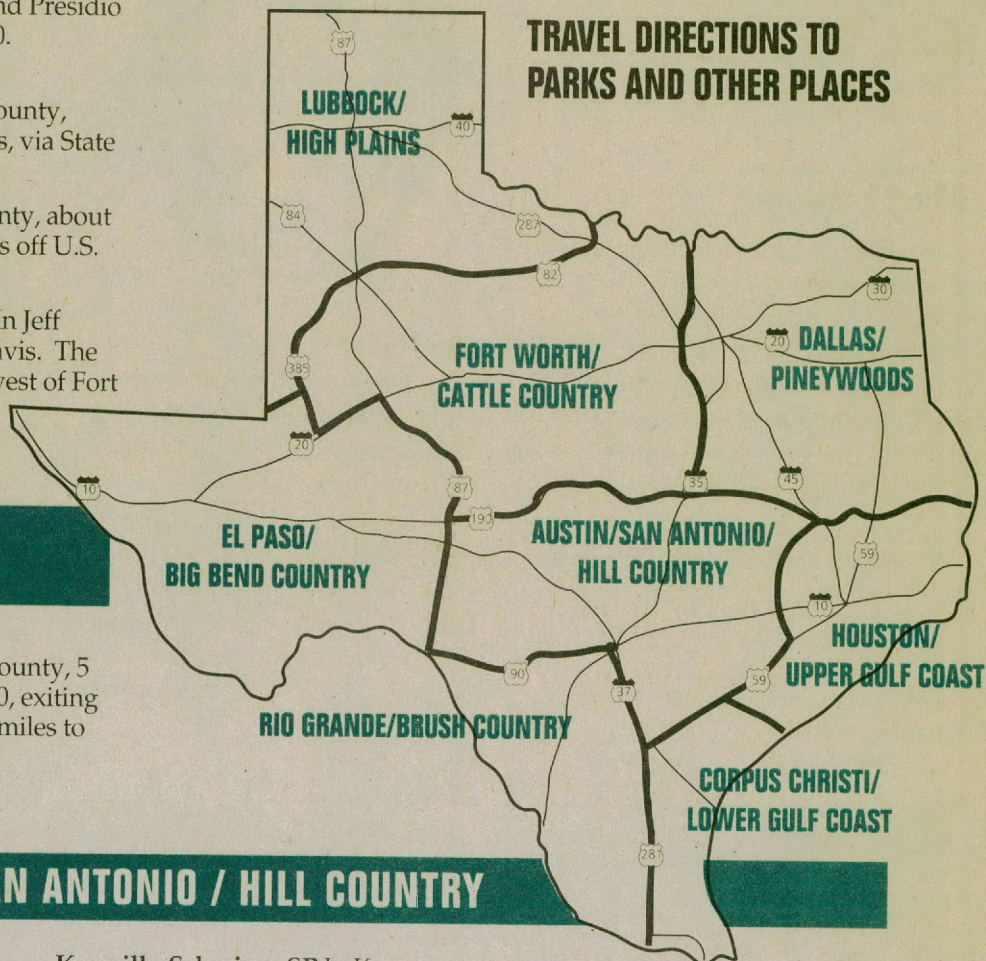
**Kerrville-Schreiner SP** In Kerr County, 3 miles southeast of Kerrville; on both sides of State Highway 173 on the Guadalupe River. 210-257-5392.

**Kickapoo Cavern SNA** Access by Texas Conservation Passport only. Everyone age 17 and over is required to have a Passport. In Edwards and Kinney Counties, 40 miles west of Uvalde on U.S. Highway 90, then 22.5 miles due north of Bracketville on R.R. 674; park entrance is on west side of road. 210-563-2342.

**Longhorn Cavern SP** In Burnet County, go about 6 miles south of Burnet on U.S. Highway 281, then turn west on P.R. 4. 512-756-4680.

**Lyndon B. Johnson SHP** In Gillespie County, off U.S. Highway 290. 512-644-2252.

## TRAVEL DIRECTIONS TO PARKS AND OTHER PLACES



**Monument Hill/Kreische Brewery SHP** In Fayette County, off U.S. Highway 77 in La Grange, Tx. 409-968-5658.

**Pedernales Falls SP** In eastern Blanco County, 9 miles east of Johnson City on F.M. 2766; or, about 32 miles west of Austin off U.S. Highway 290, then north on F.M. 3232 for 7 miles. 210-868-7304.

**Sebastopol SHP** In Seguin, 34 miles east of San Antonio on I.H. 10. In 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. 210-379-4833.

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



## CORPUS CHRISTI / LOWER GULF COAST

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

**GCCA/CPL Marine Development Center** In Corpus Christi. From I.H. 37 take South Padre Island Drive Exit (S.P.I.D.) to Waldron Road and turn right. Drive 4 to 5 miles and look for hatchery sign. 512-939-8745.

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

**UT Coastal Studies Lab South Padre Island** In Cameron County take Route 100 to Port Isabel, cross bridge to Padre Island. At end of bridge turn right, go to Isla Blanca County Park, enter park. Approximately 50 yards turn left, then the first right.

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

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

**J.D. Murphree WMA** In Jefferson County, on southwestern city limits of Port Arthur; Off State Highway 73 near the Taylor Bayou Bridge. Look for brown highway sign. 409-736-2551.

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

**Martin Dies Jr., SP** In Jasper County, between Woodville and Jasper on U.S. Highway 190. 409-384-5231.

## DALLAS / PINEYWOODS

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

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

**Cedar Creek Island WMA** In Kaufman and Henderson Counties, 25 miles southwest of Canton, on State Highway 198. 903-884-3833.

**Eisenhower SP** In northern Grayson County, 5 miles northwest of Denison. Take U.S. Highway 75A north to F.M. 1310, turn northwest and travel about 2 miles to P.R. 20. 903-465-1956.

**Fairfield Lake SP** In eastern Freestone County near Fairfield; from I.H. 45 take U.S. Highway 84 east to F.M. 488, go north to F.M. 2570 then go east to P.R.64. 903-389-4514.

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

**Welder Flats Coastal Preserve** In Calhoun County at the junction of the Victoria Barge Canal and the Gulf Intracoastal Waterway. Boat access only. 512-576-0022.

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

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

**Lake Tawakoni SP** In Hunt County east of Dallas. From the end of F.M. 2475 to White Deer Landing Road to park entrance. 903-425-2332.

**Old Fort Parker SHP** In Limestone County, between Groesbeck and Mexia, one mile off Highway 14 on Park Road 35. 817-729-5253.

**Sam Bell Maxey SHP** In Lamar County, at the corner of Church and Washington streets in Paris. 903-785-5716.

**Starr Family SHP** In Harrison County, on the corner of Travis and Grove streets in Marshall. 903-935-3044.

## HOUSTON / UPPER GULF COAST

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

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

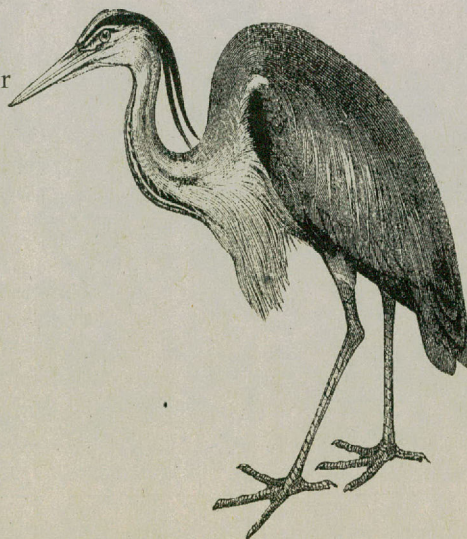
**J.D. Murphree WMA** In Jefferson County, on southwestern city limits of Port Arthur; Off State Highway 73 near the Taylor Bayou Bridge. Look for brown highway sign. 409-736-2551.

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

**Martin Dies Jr., SP** In Jasper County, between Woodville and Jasper on U.S. Highway 190. 409-384-5231.

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

**Welder Flats Coastal Preserve** In Calhoun County at the junction of the Victoria Barge Canal and the Gulf Intracoastal Waterway. Boat access only. 512-576-0022.



## RIO GRANDE / BRUSH COUNTRY

**Bentsen Rio-Grande Valley SP** In southwestern Hidalgo County near Mission, take U.S. Highway 83 to Mission, continue west to the exit on Loop 374, then south on F.M. 2062 to the park. 512-585-1107.

**Las Palomas WMA**

**Lower Rio Grande Valley Units** Twelve tracts located in Cameron, Hidalgo, Starr and Willacy Counties. 210-383-8982.

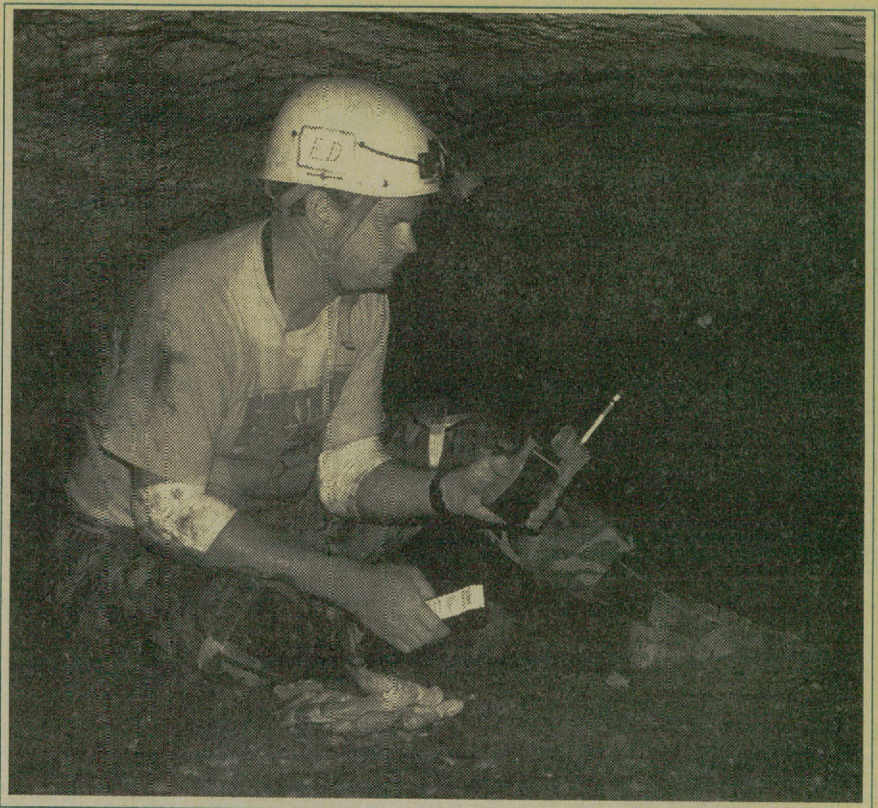
**Ocotillo Unit** In southwestern Presidio County, about 36 miles northwest of Presidio, or 1 mile northwest of Ruidosa on F.M. 170. 915-837-2051.

**Penitas Unit** In southeastern Hidalgo County, 8 miles west of Mission and 2 miles southeast of LaJoya on the Old Military Road. 210-585-1107. ♻️



## KUDOS TO VIPs

Above or below ground, Volunteers In Parks make it happen! Thanks to the Texas Speleological Association (TSA) for assisting Bob Burnett (Texas Parks & Wildlife's Cave Manager and Regional Resource Specialist) with the first "Wild Caving" Passport tours at Colorado Bend State Park. We couldn't do it without you!



▲ *TSA's Ed Young monitors air quality as Passport members explore one of the many caves at Colorado Bend State Park.*

▼ *Along with adventurous Passport holders, and TPWD's J. D. Taylor, Rob Trippet and Bob Burnett, this "Wild Caving" tour included TSA volunteers: Alvis Hill and Ed Young. (Not pictured: Butch Fralia and Keith Heuss of TSA.)*



M. Gonzalez



## SCHEDULE YOUR OWN OUTINGS

**NOTE:** Be sure to read the article on page 14 for information on State Park accessibility during the winter months.

**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.

**Colorado Bend SP** Wildlife viewing at baited area, predawn to noon or until dusk if others not waiting to use the blinds, additional fee, reservations available but not required, limited number of blinds make it necessary to accept reservations only in person at park headquarters, 915-628-3240.

**Davis Mountains SP** Experience back country hiking in the Davis Mountains, 8-10 mile trail climbs to a spectacular overlook with a 360 panorama, reservations not required, 915-426-3337.

**Devils River SNA** Guided tour of archaeological pictograph sites and natural sites upon request, Fridays-Sundays, groups encouraged, primitive camping and bunkhouse lodging for 10 people and kitchen available, Conservation Passport is required, 210-395-2133.

**Gus Engeling WMA** 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.

**Honey Creek SNA** Lower Edwards Plateau ecosystem tour, guide naturalist P. Solis, 9 a.m.-11 a.m., no reservations, 210-438-2656.

**Kickapoo Cavern SNA** Bird watching 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, Conservation Passport is required, 210-563-2342.

**Las Palomas WMA/Lower Rio Grande Valley Units** Units of Las Palomas open for birding or wildlife viewing on your own September 1 - April 30 are: Adams, Anacua, Baird, Carricitos, Champion, Longoria (west side only), Penitas and Taormina. No facilities. 210-383-8982.

**Las Palomas WMA/Ocotillo Unit** No facilities. 915-837-2051.

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

**Walter Buck WMA** Activities coordinated through South Llano River SP. 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. ♻️

## CAMPING CORNER

Cold weather and backpacking just go together! Here are a couple of great trails:

**Caprock Canyons SP**, in the Lubbock/High Plains Country, has 64 miles of all weather trails and 30 miles of natural soil trails. MUST carry water. Fires in containerized stoves only. Some restroom facilities on about half of the trails. Winter temperatures range between 60 and 30 degrees in the daytime to 45 and 20 degrees at night. It gets cold! Telephone: 806-455-1492.

**Inks Lake SP**, in the Austin/San Antonio/Hill Country, has 7-1/2 miles of scenic trails called Pecan Flats Hiking Trail. MUST carry water. Fires in containerized stoves only. Chemical toilets available. Winter Temperatures range between 65 for a daytime high and 32 for a nighttime low. Very nice! Telephone: 512-793-2223. ♻️

## TEXAS COUNTRY REPORTER

Your favorite state park is on TV!  
Look for Texas Country Reporter  
in your weekend TV listings.

### December

25/26 Palo Duro

### January

01/02 Monahans

08/09 Mother Neff

15/16 Enchanted Rock

22/23 Ft. Griffin

29/30 Davis Mountains/  
Indian Lodge

### February

05/06 LBJ

12/13 Brazos Bend

19/20 Lubbock Lake  
Landmark

26/27 Goliad

## GEOLOGY:

### What is the oldest rock formation in a state park?

About 1 billion years ago, wind, water and volcanic action were eroding the basement rock of Texas. Some of that very old rock got thrust up creating the batholith exposed at **Enchanted Rock State Natural Area**. It dates from the **Precambrian Era**.



# STATE PARKS CLOSED TO GENERAL ACCESS ON SELECTED DAYS

## PARKS WILL BE OPEN ON WEEKENDS

As in past years, certain State Parks will be closed on selected days to conduct resource-management and maintenance activities. You should be aware of this so you don't arrive at a park and find that it's closed. Most of the State Park closures begin on a Sunday night at 10 P.M. and include weekdays only. All State Parks are open on weekends.

Natural-resource managers are working to protect park ecosystems. To do this, they use various tools, including hunting and prescribed burning. Hunting helps reduce problems associated with animal overpopulation. For example, too many white-tailed deer can result in severe damage to natural vegetation and upset the ecological balance between plants and animals resulting in harm to themselves and other wildlife species. Hunting is

also used to remove non-native species such as feral (wild) hogs which can multiply rapidly and, if left unchecked, do serious harm to plant life and to other species such as ground-nesting birds. Another resource-management activity is prescribed burns. These controlled fires do the work that wildfires used to do. Burning can help restore the landscape to its native state and provide better habitat for wildlife.

The list below shows the dates that selected State Parks will be closed to general access.

If you need additional information, call the park or call Texas Parks and Wildlife's toll-free automated Information Line 1-800-792-1112 between 8 A.M. and 5 P.M. Monday-Friday. Choose the "Park Information" option. If you prefer to dial direct, call 1-512-389-4890.

### State Parks

#### Atlanta, 903-796-6476

10:00 p.m. December 6, 1993 to  
2:00 p.m. December 9, 1993;  
10:00 p.m. December 13, 1993 to  
2:00 p.m. December 16, 1993;  
10:00 p.m. December 20, 1993 to  
2:00 p.m. December 23, 1993.

#### Caprock Canyons, 806-455-1492

10:00 p.m. December 14, 1993 to  
2:00 p.m. December 17, 1993;  
10:00 p.m. January 4, 1994 to 2:00  
p.m. January 7, 1994;  
10:00 p.m. January 11, 1994 to 2:00  
p.m. January 14, 1994.

#### Colorado Bend, 915-628-3240

10:00 p.m. December 5, 1993 to  
2:00 p.m. December 10, 1993;  
10:00 p.m. December 12, 1993 to  
2:00 p.m. December 17, 1993;  
10:00 p.m. January 2, 1994 to 2:00  
p.m. January 7, 1994;  
10:00 p.m. January 9, 1994 to 2:00  
p.m. January 14, 1994;  
10:00 p.m. January 16, 1994 to 2:00  
p.m. January 21, 1994;  
10:00 p.m. January 23, 1994 to 2:00  
p.m. January 28, 1994.

#### Devil's River, 210-395-2133

10:00 p.m. December 5, 1993 to  
8:00 a.m. December 15, 1993.

#### Devil's Sinkhole, 210-563-2342

10:00 p.m. January 9, 1994 to 2:00  
p.m. January 14, 1994;  
10:00 p.m. January 23, 1994 to 2:00  
p.m. January 28, 1994.

#### Enchanted Rock, 915-247-3903

10:00 p.m. December 5, 1993 to  
2:00 p.m. December 10, 1993;  
10:00 p.m. January 2, 1994 to 2:00  
p.m. January 7, 1994;  
10:00 p.m. January 16, 1994 to 2:00  
p.m. January 21, 1994.

#### Guadalupe River, 210-438-2656

10:00 p.m. January 2, 1994 to 2:00  
p.m. January 7, 1994;  
10:00 p.m. January 9, 1994 to 2:00  
p.m. January 14, 1994;  
10:00 p.m. January 16, 1994 to 2:00  
p.m. January 21, 1994.

#### Honey Creek, 210-438-2656

5:00 p.m. January 2, 1994 to 2:00  
p.m. January 7, 1994;  
5:00 p.m. January 9, 1994 to 2:00  
p.m. January 14, 1994;  
5:00 p.m. January 16, 1994 to 2:00  
p.m. January 21, 1994.

#### Huntsville, 409-295-5644

10:00 p.m. January 9, 1994 to 2:00  
p.m. January 14, 1994;  
10:00 p.m. January 16, 1994 to 2:00  
p.m. January 21, 1994.

#### Kickapoo Caverns, 210-569-2342

10:00 p.m. December 5, 1993 to  
2:00 p.m. December 8, 1993.

#### Lost Maples, 210-966-3413

10:00 p.m. December 5, 1993 to  
2:00 p.m. December 10, 1993;  
10:00 p.m. December 12, 1993 to  
2:00 p.m. December 17, 1993;

10:00 p.m. January 2, 1994 to 2:00  
p.m. January 7, 1994;  
10:00 p.m. January 9, 1994 to 2:00  
p.m. January 16, 1994;  
10:00 p.m. January 16, 1994 to 2:00  
p.m. January 21, 1994;  
10:00 p.m. January 23, 1994 to 2:00  
p.m. January 28, 1994.

#### Pedernales Falls, 210-868-7304

10:00 p.m. January 2, 1994 to 2:00  
p.m. January 7, 1994;  
10:00 p.m. January 9, 1994 to 2:00  
p.m. January 14, 1994;  
10:00 p.m. January 16, 1994 to 2:00  
p.m. January 21, 1994;  
10:00 p.m. January 23, 1994 to 2:00  
p.m. January 28, 1994.

#### Poosum Kingdom, 817-549-1803

10:00 p.m. January 2, 1994 to 8:00  
a.m. January 7, 1994;  
10:00 p.m. January 9, 1994 to 8:00  
a.m. January 14, 1994;  
10:00 p.m. January 16, 1994 to 8:00  
a.m. January 21, 1994;  
10:00 p.m. January 23, 1994 to 8:00  
a.m. January 28, 1994.

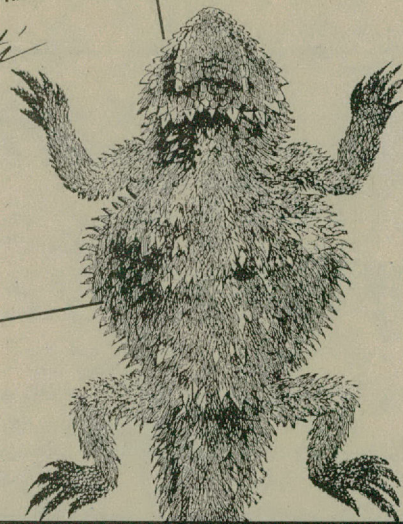
#### Seminole Canyon, 915-292-4464

10:00 p.m. January 2, 1994 to 2:00  
p.m. January 7, 1994;  
10:00 p.m. January 9, 1994 to 2:00  
p.m. January 14, 1994;  
10:00 p.m. January 16, 1994 to 2:00  
p.m. January 21, 1994;  
10:00 p.m. January 23, 1994 to 2:00  
p.m. January 28, 1994.





Saw a horned lizard in Menard County. It's a threatened species so it's good to know a few are still around.  
 Diane Michaelis  
 Park Clerk, So. Llano River S.P.



## NATURE NOTES

### A HORNY TOAD IS REALLY A FAT LIZARD WITH SPINES!

Lizards are long-bodied, lizards are lithe, lizards are graceful – except for that crazy cousin, the horned lizard. He's a fat creature that really looks like a toad! Texans even named the guy horny toad; 20 to 30 years ago Texas kids used to find the critter in their front yards. But, no more. Horned lizards just seemed to disappear one day. Two of the species, the mountain short-horned lizard and the Texas horned lizard, are now protected by law. That means they cannot be captured, killed, owned or sold. Look, but don't touch the Texas horny toad! For information, contact the Horned Lizard Conservation Society, P.O. Box 122, Austin TX 78767.

The Texas Conservation Passport Journal is published quarterly for Texas Conservation Passport holders by the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department.

Emily Carter, Editor  
 Dawn Dittman, Marketing Director  
 Linda Adkins, Creative Director  
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- Guided access to WMAs and other undeveloped lands

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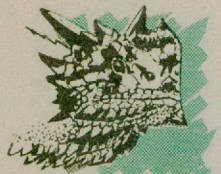


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## LAST CHANCE FOREVER

The American bald eagles (*Haliaeetus leucocephalus*), the ones on the dollar bill, migrate south for the winter and some of them settle down in Texas. These birds eat fish. So look for them along the banks of lakes, especially warm-water lakes near power generating plants where fish stay near the surface. Or, go on the Bald Eagle Boat Tour at Fairfield Lake State Park and see America's national bird in a wilderness setting. By the way, eagles aren't bald. The Old English word 'balde' means white and describes the color of the eagle's head plumage. The bald eagle is an endangered species protected by law. Last Chance Forever, Inc., The Bird of Prey Conservancy provides public education and rehabilitation for injured birds. For more information write:

8403 Castle Creek,  
San Antonio, TX 78218.

*The gift you give to Texas and to the future is unmeasurable...Thank you.*