

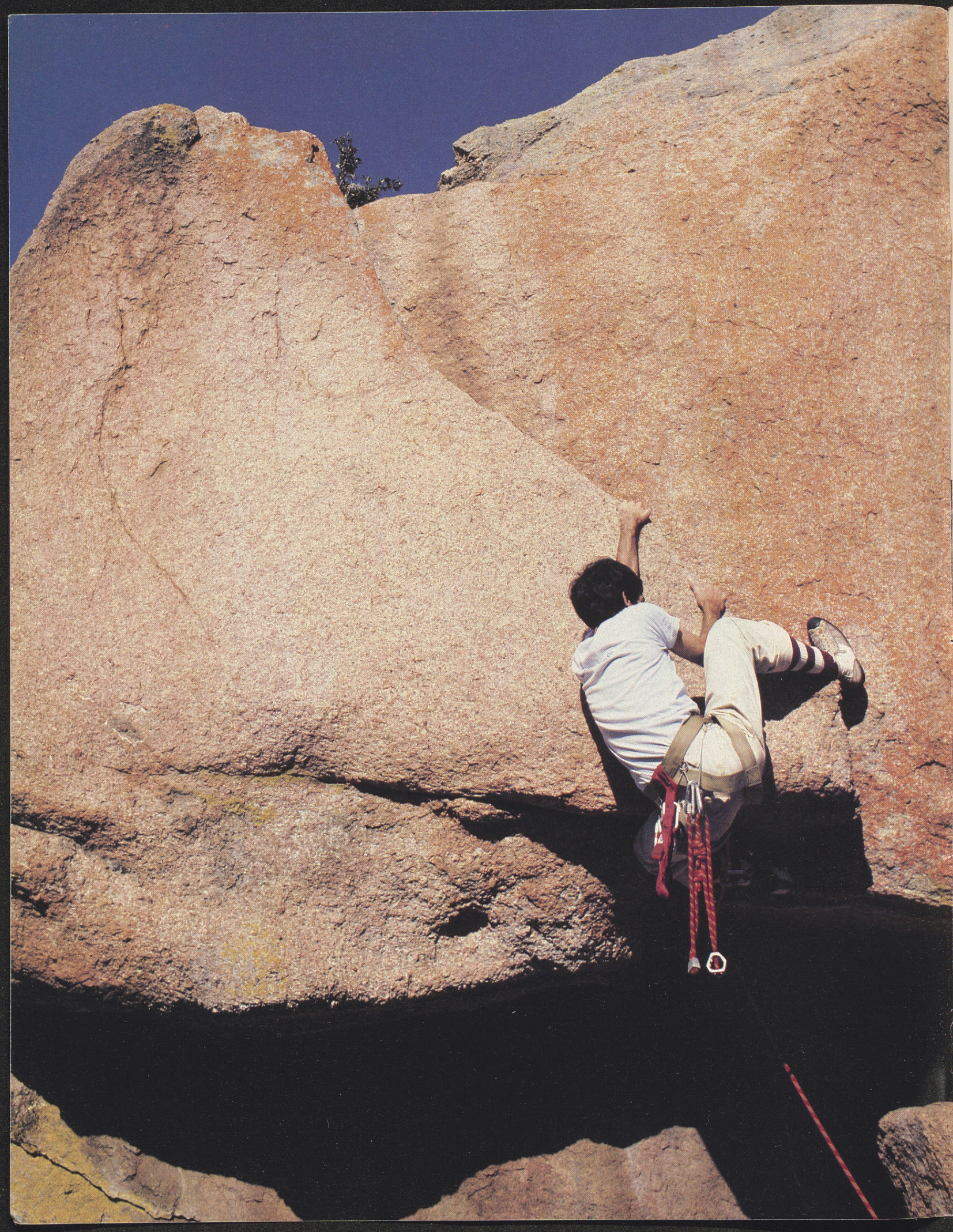
# TEXAS

PARKS & WILDLIFE

20

May 1984

SPECIAL SUPPLEMENT  
A Guide to the State Parks of Texas



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Dedicated to the conservation and enjoyment of Texas wildlife, parks, waters and all outdoors.

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**Front Cover:** Relive the days of steam railroading in turn-of-the-century coaches with a trip aboard the Texas State Railroad, one of the most unusual state parks. For a complete list of parks and their facilities, turn to page 17. Photo by Bill Reaves.

**Inside Front:** It was a banner day for rock climbers when Enchanted Rock State Natural Area reopened this spring. Photo by Bill Reaves.

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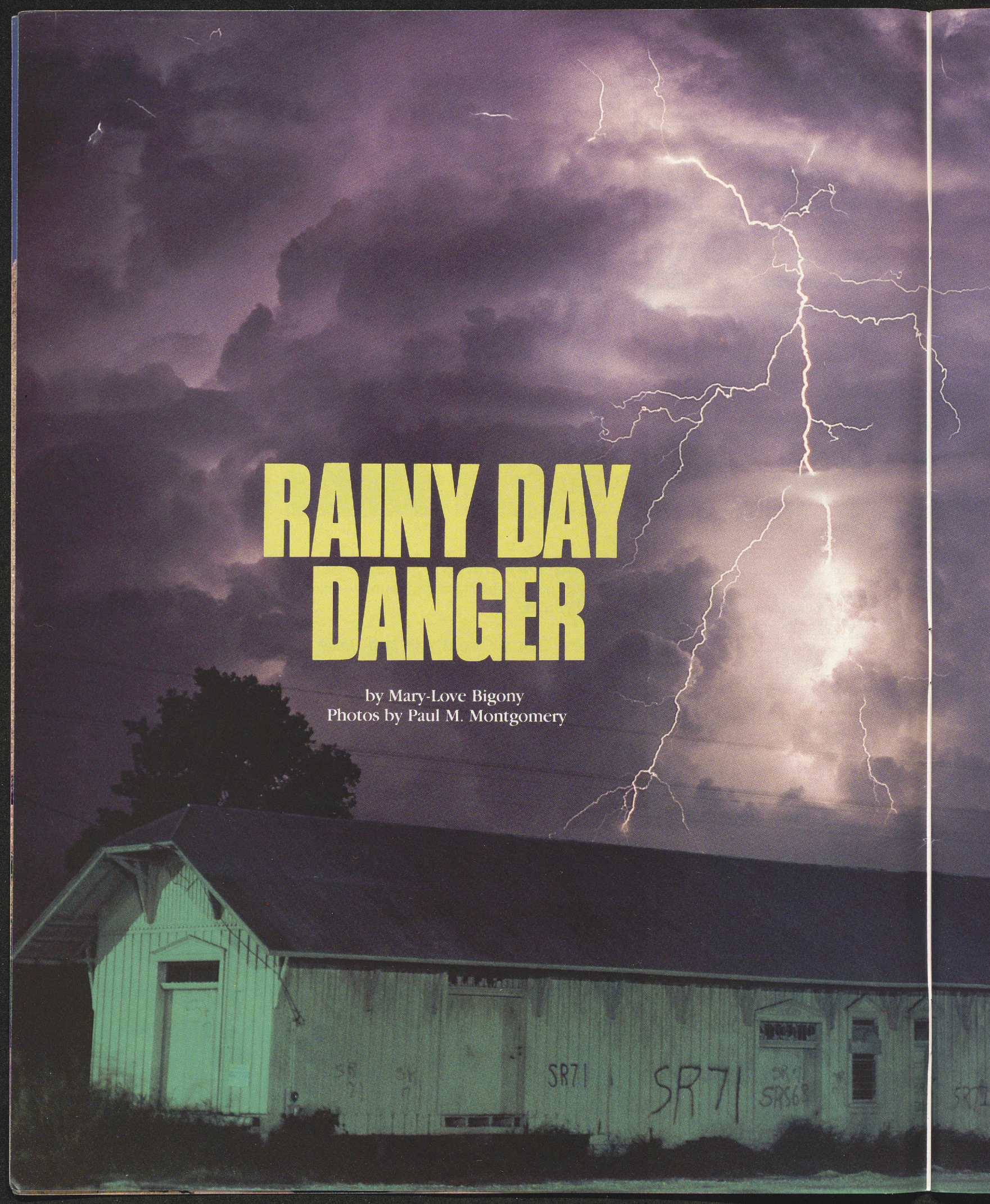
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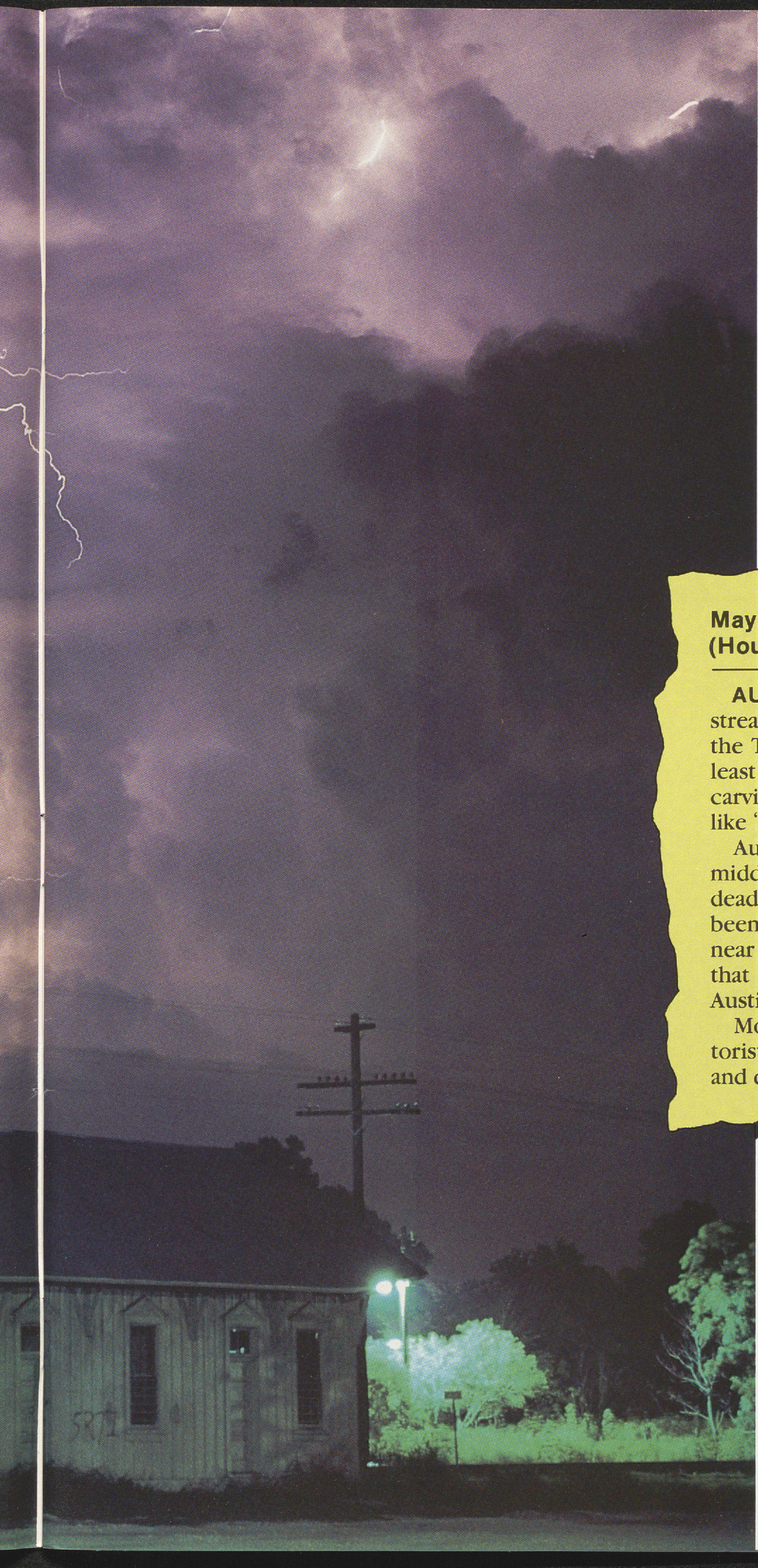
Trapped young tarpon enabled biologists to collect more than 200 for tagging, transplant stocking and research studies.

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# RAINY DAY DANGER

by Mary-Love Bigony  
Photos by Paul M. Montgomery



**I**t's the rainy season again in Texas, and unfortunately a news item similar to this one could appear in the state's newspapers before the year is over. No part of Texas is immune to the danger of flash floods.

The 13 people who died in Austin's 1981 flood were in a city with emergency services, but that didn't save them when they tried to drive through rapidly flowing water or when the flood invaded their homes. If such a tragedy can befall people in a city, the danger to campers, hikers and others who are outdoors and isolated is magnified at least tenfold.

Spring is the wettest season of the year in most of the state, although summer is the rainy season in the Trans-Pecos and High Plains. Most Texans know how suddenly a rainstorm can

**May 26, 1981  
(Houston) Post News Services**

**AUSTIN**—Flash floods turned gentle streams into torrents that swept through the Texas capital early Monday, killing at least 10 people, leaving four missing and carving a path of destruction that looked like “a week of hurricanes.”

Austin Police Lt. R.R. Roundtree said at midday that eight people were confirmed dead. Later, he said two more bodies had been found. Four of the victims died in or near Shoal Creek, a usually quiet stream that cuts through a residential section of Austin and empties into Town Lake.

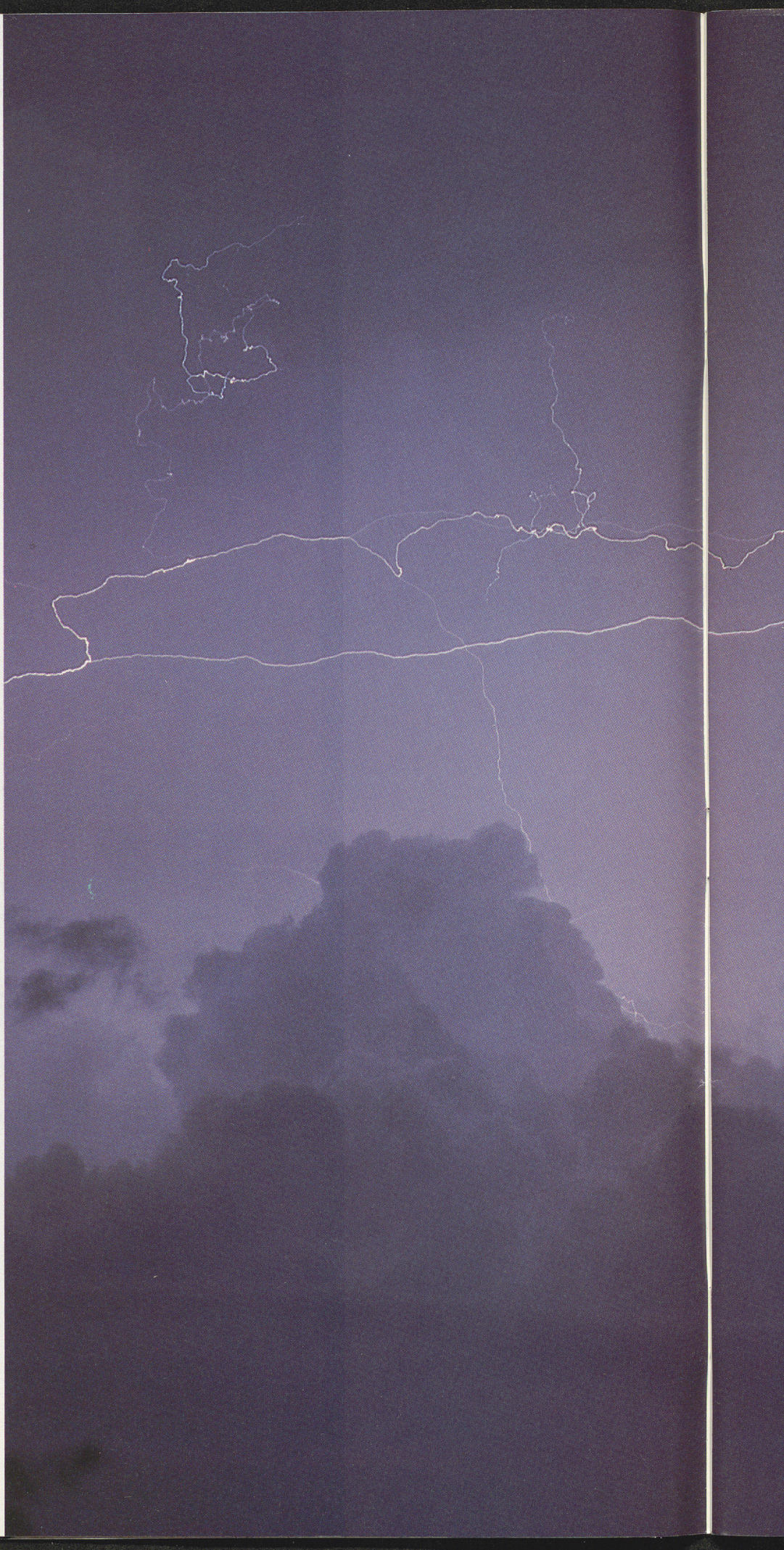
Most of the other deaths involved motorists who got stranded in rising water and drowned.

materialize at these times of year. If a moderate volume of rain is spread over a large area, the effects usually are considered beneficial. But when heavy rains fall on a small area of land, or when the ground is already saturated, a severe thunderstorm can cause flash flooding—a dangerous rise in the water level of a stream or over a land area in a very short time. Since the ground can't absorb most of the water, it bursts out of the watershed of a river

or creek as runoff. This can happen almost without warning, and often in a matter of minutes. Flash flooding can begin even before the rain stops falling. Such was the case with Austin's normally docile Shoal Creek.

Every part of Texas has been struck by violent flash floods that have taken grievous tolls of human lives and property. Dry Trans-Pecos gulches can become raging torrents and quiet streams in the High Plains can explode from their banks. George W. Bomar's book, "Texas Weather," relates case after case of disastrous flash floods. In June 1965, rainfall as heavy as eight inches in two hours battered the town of Sanderson in the Trans-Pecos. Two creeks filled to capacity and at dawn a 15-foot wall of water crashed through the town, killing 26 people. In April 1966, a week of heavy rains swelled rivers and streams in North Texas. Some 23 inches of rain fell at Glade-water in 2½ days. By the time it was over, 33 people had drowned in North Texas, including 14 in the Dallas-Fort Worth area. A wall of water crashed through Palo Duro Canyon in the High Plains on May 26, 1978, when 10 inches of rain in less than two hours filled the canyon. Four people died and 15 were injured. The catastrophe that still stands as the greatest high-intensity rainfall in U.S. weather history happened in 1921 in Thrall: 36.4 inches in 18 hours. That enormous flood left 215 people dead.

**T**he tales could go on and on. The point is that flash flooding can happen—and has happened—in every part of Texas. But no part of the country is as susceptible to flash floods as the Balcones Escarpment—the Texas Hill Country—with its network of creeks and narrow waterways. Heavy rains falling upstream of their watersheds can create monstrous floods that roll boulders, tear out trees and kill. In August 1978, 30 inches of rain in 24 hours caused the Guadalupe River to crest 63 feet above normal stream level. Massive cypress trees were yanked from the ground and campsites near the Guadalupe and Medina Rivers were underwater in seconds. Eight people drowned. Guadalupe River State Park was later developed on part of the site of this flood, and examples of the destruction the



water wrought still can be seen.

That event alone illustrates the enormous danger flash floods pose to campers and outdoor recreationists. In the case of state parks, campers should never fail to heed warnings by park employees that flash flooding is imminent. But a great deal of camping in Texas is in spots where there are no park superintendents or rangers to issue alerts, and campers near small streams have been swept away and drowned when it didn't even rain at their campsite.

The biggest mistake anyone can make is to underestimate the power of a flash flood. Hikers and campers should carry and use a weather radio during the rainy seasons, and learn the terms used in forecasts:

**FLASH FLOOD WATCH** means that heavy rains occurring or expected to occur may soon cause flash flooding in certain areas. When a flash flood watch is issued, be alert to the possibility of a flood emergency which will require immediate action.

**FLASH FLOOD WARNING** means that flash flooding is occurring or imminent on certain streams or designated areas and immediate action should be taken.

By the time a flash flood warning is issued, you will have only minutes or seconds to escape. It usually will be too late for lengthy decision making, so planning should be done during the watch stage. Remember that floodwaters rise very rapidly—be ready to move at a moment's notice. Procrastination might cost you your life, since rising water can cut off your escape route.

Never try to drive over a flooded



*Hail (above) is an occasional product of thunderstorms. Gentle streams can become violent after heavy rains (below).*

road. Remember the Austin flood victims. If your car does stall in high water, don't waste time trying to get it started; get out of it and go to higher ground. Save yourself, not the car. Floodwaters can sweep away the car and its occupants, and survival is extremely unlikely when that happens. Nor should you cross flowing water on foot when the water is above your knees. Be especially careful at night, when danger is harder to recognize. Once you've made it to a safe place, stay there. Continue to listen to the radio, and remember that even after the watch or warning is issued, and flash flooding has ended, general flooding still can happen.

Lightning is another deadly component of spring and summer thunderstorms. Nationwide, the average an-



nual death toll from lightning is greater than from tornadoes or hurricanes. In Texas, an average of six people a year die from lightning and nearly a dozen are seriously injured. But most of these casualties wouldn't have happened if the victims had known when and where lightning is likely to strike. It's general knowledge that lightning is apt to strike the tallest object in the area, since it acts as a lightning rod. But height is relative; a short tree standing by itself in a field is as likely to be struck as the tallest skyscraper in Dallas or Houston.

The majority of lightning fatalities are campers, hikers, farmers, athletes and people on the beach. People who are determined not to let a thunderstorm ruin their outing are asking for trouble. Remember that the frequency of the lightning strokes correlates with the severity of the thunderstorm. When a storm starts brewing, get indoors. The best way to deal with severe weather is to avoid it. If there's not a house or building nearby, the next best place to be is in a car. If lightning strikes it, the electricity travels from one area to another on the car's metal body.

If you can't make it to a building or a car, take every possible precaution. Never stand under a tall, isolated object, such as a tree. Stay at least as far

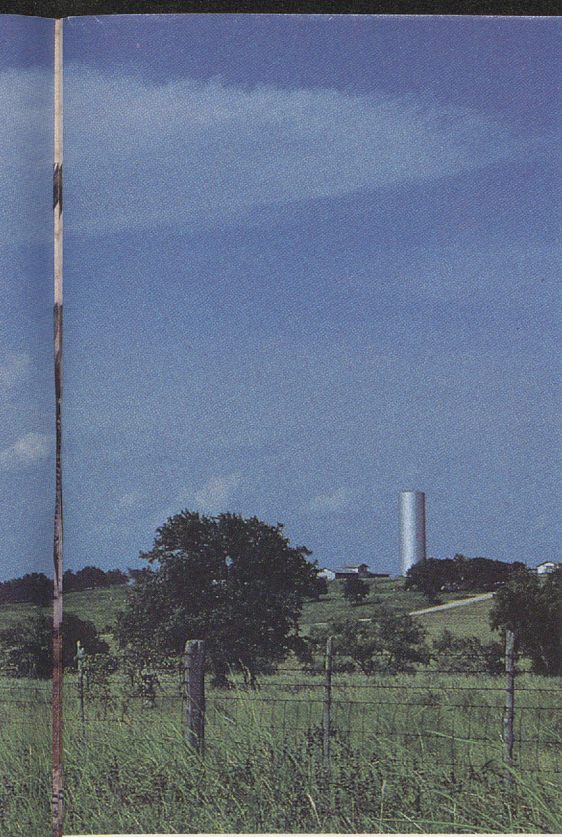
away from a potential lightning rod as the height of that object; for example, at least 50 feet from a 50-foot tree. Better yet, get in a low area under a thick growth of smaller trees. Or find a ravine or valley, but not one with standing water or extremely wet soil, which could be a conductor for electricity. Other possible refuges during an electrical storm are caves, ditches and canyons.

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*Anvil clouds (above) are distinctly shaped cumulonimbus clouds, which can produce lightning, heavy rain and hail. The Hill Country is more susceptible to flash floods than any part of the nation, as illustrated by a swollen Barton Creek in 1981 (below).*







But sometimes there may be no building, no car and no cave or ditch in which to protect yourself. If you are completely exposed and feel your hair standing on end or your skin begin to tingle, lightning may be about to strike you. Immediately squat on the balls of your feet and wrap your arms around your knees to keep as small an area of

degree cone; in other words, the horizontal distance between the lightning conductor (the wire) and any part of the boat must be less than the height of the conductor above the boat's deck. If the top of the lightning rod is not high enough, extend it by lashing a pole to it. A sailboat's mast is an excellent support for a lightning rod.



*Cumulonimbus clouds and streak lightning are signs for outdoorsmen to take shelter.*

your body as possible from touching the ground. Don't lie flat, and try not to project yourself above the surrounding landscape. A couple of other things to remember if you're stranded outdoors during a thunderstorm: stay as far away from water as possible, and get away from metal objects. If you're in a group, spread out from others so that if lightning strikes, fewer people will be hurt.

One of the worst places to be during a thunderstorm is in a boat on the open water. If your boat doesn't have a lightning rod you can rig one, and should do so as soon as you sense that a storm is brewing if you can't get to shore immediately. The object of a lightning rod is to run a metal line between the highest point on the boat and the water. Heavy copper wire works best, but any type of metal is better than nothing. Make sure the top of the lightning rod is high enough to blanket the entire boat within a 45-

Ground the conducting wire in the water by attaching a metal plate at least one foot square to it. Don't touch the conducting wire during the storm, and keep it away from any part of the boat that is an electrical conductor. And never make simultaneous contact with two places on the boat that are potential electrical conductors.

Lightning dangers should never be minimized, but an encouraging note is that more people struck by lightning live to tell about it than die from being hit. And according to the National Weather Service, a person who appears to have been killed by lightning often can be revived by immediate mouth-to-mouth resuscitation, cardiac massage and prolonged artificial respiration.

Rainy days can be beneficial and even beautiful. But sometimes they also are fraught with danger, especially for people outdoors. Be careful. And above all, never underestimate their power. \*\*



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# killdeer she's got a great act

by Ilo Hiller

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Widespread, numerous and noisy describe the killdeer, *Charadrius vociferus*, a conspicuous, easy-to-identify member of the plover family. It is one of the noisiest of American birds, which accounts for the "vociferus" part of its name.

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**A**lthough the killdeer is classed as a migratory species, this bird is a year-round resident of Texas, choosing a variety of habitats as home. It is found throughout the state, with the possible exception of the Panhandle during frigid winter weather. It thrives in open or semiopen areas and is at home in dry or wet locations. An arid mesa or canyon can be as appealing as a home near a river or by a lakeshore. Plains and prairies, whether grassy or bare, and fields or pastures, whether cultivated or fallow, attract the birds as often as the marshes, beaches, bays and lagoon flats of the coast. Killdeer also manage to live side-by-side with man, using airports, golf courses and lawns as foraging areas. Pebbled rooftops serve as well for nest sites as dry gravel beds along creeks and rivers.

When spring rolls around, the birds pair off to search for a nesting site. An ideal one, of course, would be near water, but the birds are adaptable and manage under less-than-ideal conditions. After choosing the best possible location, they find a shallow depression that can be lined with bits of grass, weeds, bark, shells or rocks to

*The female killdeer quickly goes into her broken-wing act whenever danger threatens.*



form a crude nest. The building materials selected from the area help the nest blend into the surroundings. The female then lays four light buff or chocolate-colored eggs, blotched with black and dark brown spots.

Both nest and eggs blend into the surroundings, but the birds take no chances, guarding the nest constantly throughout the 26- to 28-day incubation period. If the nest is threatened, the female is a master at the art of subterfuge. Imitating a severely injured bird, she flutters a few feet from the nest, falls flat on the ground as though hopelessly wounded and utters pitious cries. If approached, she recovers

enough to move farther from the nest, but continues to drag one or both wings on the ground as if broken. She may even roll over and gasp and pant as if completely exhausted by her efforts. Throughout the performance she continues to cry pitifully as if in pain. By spreading her tail feathers and throwing her body from side to side, she exposes a golden-red rump patch that may look like blood to the enemy.

The male also may get into the act, flying around the intruder at a safe distance, screaming protests. Working as a team they continue the performance until the intruder is lured away from the nest.

Another diversion the birds use is the false nest act. When feeding birds are approached, one will move away, completely ignoring the enemy, and settle into a depression with all the motions associated with covering a nest of eggs. As the enemy draws near, the bird glides off to expose the empty depression. To add insult, the bird also makes a cry that sounds like a chuckle. If the enemy continues to follow, the false nest act will be repeated until the follower gets tired of looking into empty depressions and goes away.

Once the eggs hatch, the parents must transfer their protection to the young, which follow them around on long, slender legs. At the first cry of



alarm, the chicks flatten themselves on the ground with their necks outstretched. Motionless they blend into their surroundings and seem to disappear. Instinctively they seem to realize that the slightest movement could be their last. They remain in this motionless position until their parents return and voice an all-clear signal.

If a curious animal that appears to

offer no threat to the birds happens into the area, the killdeer may gang up on it. The first one to spot it will fly almost into the animal's face while uttering loud, shrill cries. This scolding attracts others who join in just as noisily as the first. The intruder usually is intimidated by this pandemonium and retreats to more congenial surroundings. These noisy outcries alert other

*Throughout the 26- to 28-day incubation period, the parents guard the nest, luring danger away. The chicks follow the adults within a short time after hatching, but must continue to be protected.*

birds in the area to the presence of possible danger—a situation that may not be too popular when the intruding animal happens to be a hunter.

The flight of the killdeer is swift, but erratic, and it seldom flies for long periods. While on the ground, the bird usually walks, but it can run with astonishing speed. When feeding, the bird runs four or five steps, stops, bobs, takes a few more steps, stops and bobs again. At each stop, it raises its head high and checks its surroundings. This vertical movement of its head and the flashing of its black and white throat bands may startle insects into moving and betraying their location to the feeding bird. A quick jab of the beak may produce a beetle, grasshopper, earthworm, snail, spider or even a few seeds.

Its control of many insects pests makes the killdeer a beneficial bird to have around, and its antics make it an entertaining bird to watch. \* \*





## BRAUNIG

# Freshwater Redfish

by Jim Cox

If you absolutely, positively had to catch a redfish before nightfall, where would you go? Port O'Connor perhaps, or the Lower Laguna Madre, or the Port Aransas jetties?

**W**hile those locations might well pay off, one of the state's best red drum fisheries is located more than 100 miles inland. Nestled just off Loop 410 on San Antonio's southeast side, Lake Victor Braunig can claim the distinction of being the world's best freshwater producer of introduced redfish.

That claim must be qualified by the fact that Texas is the only state that has experimented to any great degree with freshwater introductions of the popular saltwater species. But even skeptics who doubted the future of such a program have been converted after viewing the results.

One such convert is Elroy Krueger, a longtime San Antonio area fishing guide and tackle shop owner. He admits he was less than excited eight years ago when the first 2,000 reds were brought from the Parks and Wildlife Department's Palacios Research Station and stocked in the 1,350-acre power plant lake, but now he's an unabashed cheerleader. "Stocking redfish has been a tremendous thing for this lake," said Krueger. "Reds add a completely different dimension to fishing here."

Krueger points out that since most Braunig redfish are caught by trolling or fishing with live bait, they are available for a wider range of the angling public than is the sometimes recalcitrant largemouth bass. "It's pretty easy for a whole family to go fishing for

redfish and have some success," explained Krueger. "With a little good advice and the proper tackle it's not hard at all to catch a good string of redfish and hybrid stripers."

The blossoming fishery at Lake Braunig was made possible by break-

throughs in culturing techniques pioneered by Dr. Connie Arnold of the University of Texas and by biologists of Texas Parks and Wildlife Department. These techniques were refined into a production-line program at the department's Palacios Fisheries Research Station. In short, mature redfish are induced to spawn by controlling light and water temperature conditions in indoor tanks. This is the same regimen employed at the department's new John Wilson Saltwater Fish Hatchery at Corpus Christi, but currently all reds produced at that facility are being used to stock coastal bays.

The most immediate thing noted about the first redfish stocked in 1976 at Braunig was their growth rate. The translocated fish grew significantly faster than their saltwater counterparts, possibly owing to the tremendous forage base of tilapia and shad at Braunig and also the year-round warmth of the power plant-heated water.

Several of the original stockers eventually grew past the 20-pound mark and were caught by anglers. However, due to the relatively small numbers stocked, not many in that age class remain. Most of the larger fish being taken are from the 1980 stocking, now in the 15-pound range, and the 1981 stockers that have grown into the 10-pound-plus category.

*Guide Elroy Krueger displays several healthy saltwater redfish stocked in Braunig.*



BILL REAVES



LIHR/JENSON  
RESEARCH TEAM

ELROY'S FIS  
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Redfish angling success at Braunig is geared closely to the fish's seasonal movements. Krueger calls May the prime month for catching the larger reds. "May is usually the time when the fish start schooling up and suspending in the deeper areas of the main channel," he said. "For some reason, larger fish seem to move out there first." He said a client's typical daily catch during May 1983 was eight to 12 fish averaging between 10 and 12 pounds. The fish usually school during that period at 20- to 25-foot depths over 40 to 50 feet of water.

The daily limit on redfish in freshwater lakes is 10, with a possession limit of 20. Only redfish 16 inches or longer may be retained.

Oddly, redfish continue striking throughout the hottest days of summer, although their location shifts.

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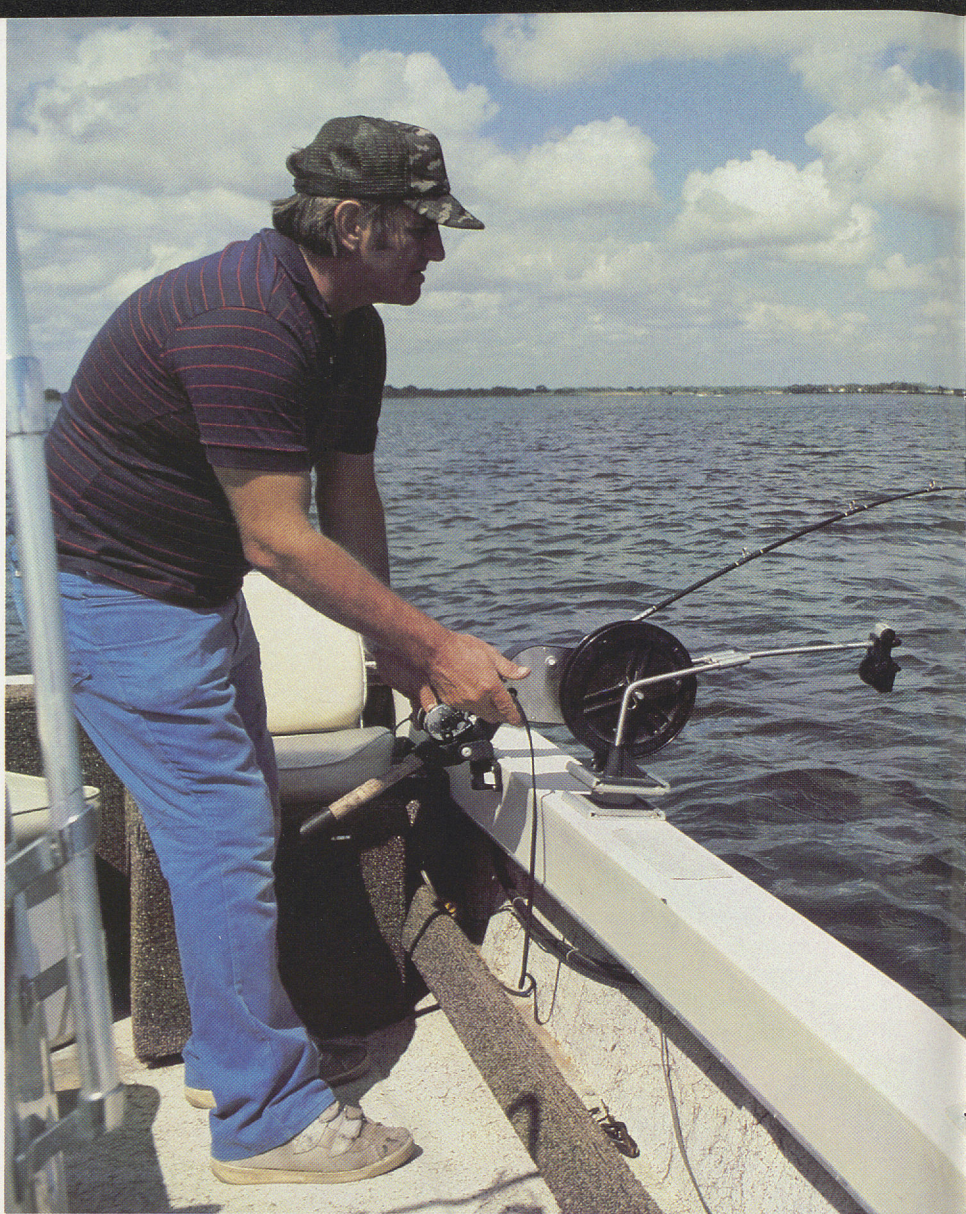
*A downrigger allows precision trolling at the proper depth to intercept cruising schools of redfish.*

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"During June through August, the reds stay close to the bottom on points in about 15 to 17 feet of water," Krueger said. After that they respond to cooler fall temperatures by dispersing.

Bank fishermen and waders catch some reds during the cooler months when the fish venture close to shore, but the most effective year-round techniques require some sort of boat. In terms of effectiveness, a downrigger is the implement of choice for redfish trolling. Downriggers are large winch devices that employ heavy, keeled weights to carry the angler's line down to the desired depth for trolling. The fishing line is clipped to the weight before the device is lowered. When a fish strikes, the line snaps free and the angler plays the fish to the boat.

Krueger has a downrigger attached to each side of his 21-foot boat, and he uses a chart recorder to track the fish and maintain the lures at proper depths. When deploying a downrigger, Krueger casts the lure behind the boat before attaching the line to the weight in order to make the lure trail some 30 to 40 feet behind the weight. A variety of artificials work on redfish in this situation, but the favorites are small bucktail jigs or plastic grubs in bright reds, oranges and brown hues.





Gold metal spoons similar to the variety used by coastal wadefishermen for redfish also are effective when downrigged, Krueger said. Crankbait-style lures also work on downriggers, but they must be the shallow or surface-running style rather than the diving variety, since the downrigger dictates the proper depth for the lure.

While downriggers are de rigueur for Braunig trolling, the more traditional methods also work when proper gear is used. Trollers use large, deep-diving crankbaits with plastic grub trailers to get down to the deep-schooling reds. A five-foot trailer line is attached to one of the hook eyes on the crankbait. The other end typically has a large, single hook dressed with a twist-tail grub body. Similar to downrigging, the trailer lure needs no weight

or diving lip since its depth is determined by the leading crankbait, Krueger noted.

**L**ike other game fish, reds are sometimes unpredictable. Bass fishermen have caught them accidentally on a number of different lures and catfish anglers have caught them on shrimp intended for that species, also numerous at Braunig. Lines live-baited with small tilapia have taken their share of redfish at times.

In appearance, the freshwater reds from Braunig appear to be slightly stockier than bay fish, and their coloration seems to have a darker gold cast. When hooked, Braunig reds fight with the long-winded determination that has endeared the species to coastal anglers. The fish can be handled on

lighter tackle at Braunig than on the coastal flats because they tend to dive deep rather than taking off in a drag-testing run as they often do in shallow bay areas. Krueger believes light line, in the 10- to 14-pound range, increases strikes when downrigging, but heavier monofilament is necessary when trolling with deep-diving crankbaits. The drag must be set correctly, Krueger warns, because the larger reds can snap 20-pound line if the angler doesn't yield some line on the fish's initial run.

Krueger's success at catching redfish at Braunig is well-documented, and it has ranged from good to almost unbelievable. However, statistics on overall fishing success indicate it's not just professional guides who score consistently. Although final analysis is not yet completed, projection from a



department creel census showed over 8,000 pounds of redfish were caught in 1983. Add to this the lake's standing as a producer of trophy largemouth bass, a prolific producer of catfish and an occasional hybrid striper and you have an urban-area fishery possibly unmatched anywhere in the state.

The brief history of Braunig's rise as a fishing lake was reviewed recently by Bob Kemp, director of the depart-

ment's Fisheries Division, before a gathering of the Texas Outdoor Writers Association in Austin. He noted that the 20-year-old reservoir, controlled by the San Antonio River Authority, was lagging in popularity during the early 1970s despite its convenient location for San Antonio area fishermen. "In fact, attendance was not sufficient to pay concessionaires' salaries the year around, so the lake was closed during the slower winter months," said Kemp. "We decided the lake was not reaching its potential, even though we had stocked large-mouth bass, crappie and catfish."

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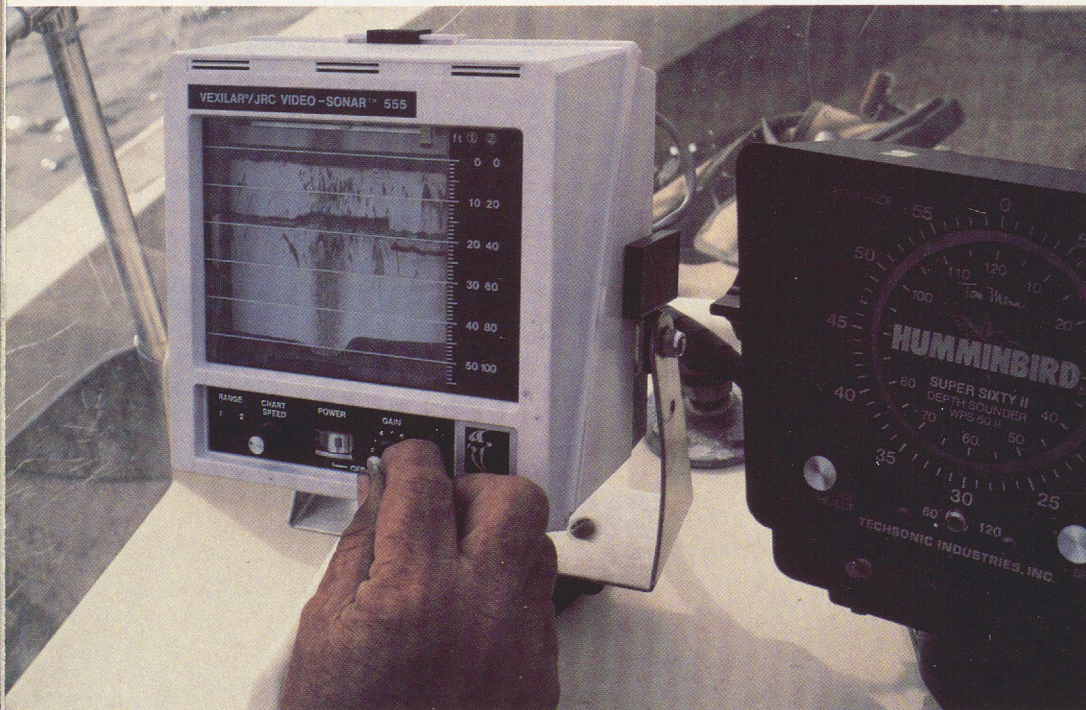
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A chart recorder depthfinder is ideal for locating schools of redfish. It also marks the depth of the downrigger weight to assure you the lure is being trolled at the right depth.

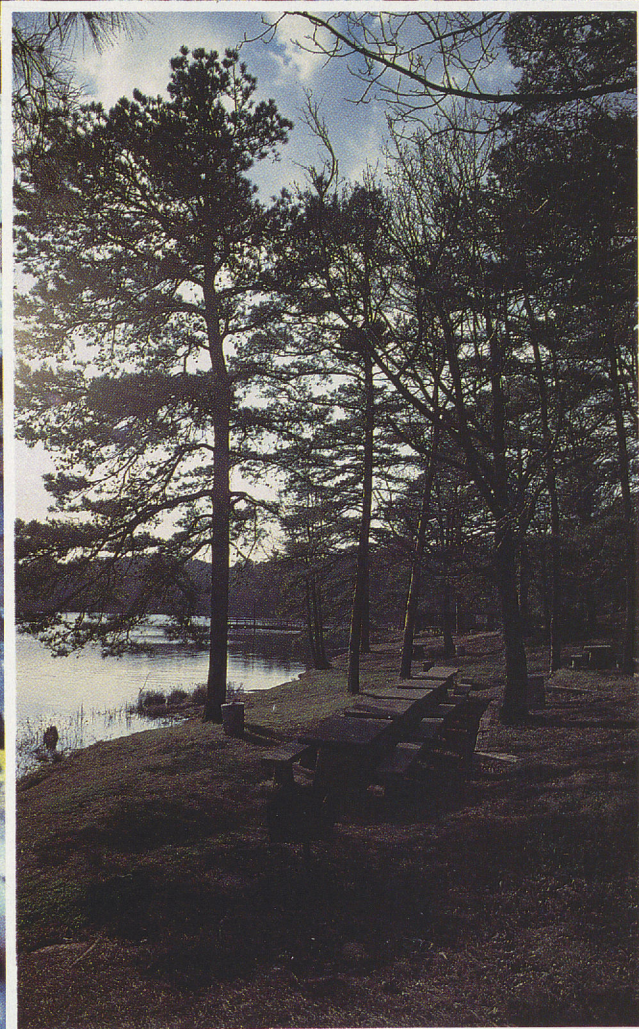
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**A Guide  
to the  
State Parks  
of Texas**

**T**his special section of *Texas Parks & Wildlife* magazine is designed to acquaint you with parks, historical areas and fishing piers all across the state. It tells you where they are, how to contact them, what facilities are available and regulations and fees. Use it to find a place for your next weekend camp-out or plan a longer trip with several stops along the way, from one end of Texas to the other if you like. Many historic sites and day-use parks are short distances from parks with campgrounds, so keep this in mind and plan some excursions for picnics and sightseeing during your camping trips.

In the following pages the state park system is divided into parks, historical areas and fishing piers to help you pinpoint exactly what you want. State parks are by far the largest group—64 of them—so we've divided them further. Those parks east of IH 35 form one category and those

west of that highway form another.

The activities available in those 64 parks can keep you busy for weeks. Enjoy primitive camping and backpacking? Try Lake Mineral Wells, Lake Somerville, Lost Maples and Pedernales Falls. How about boating and waterskiing? There's Falcon Reservoir covering 87,210 surface acres at the south end of Texas and 16,200-surface-acre Lake Arrowhead at the north, with 23 more parks permitting boating and skiing between the two and from east to west. Remember to bring your fishing tackle when you visit one of the many parks that permit fishing.

Enchanted Rock is one of the most popular rock climbing spots in the state and Lost Maples' bigtooth maple trees provide a magnificent show of color in the fall. During the summer you can see outdoor dramas at Galveston Island and Palo Duro or ride in an airboat at Sea Rim. State parks

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are ideal places for nature study in areas as diverse as Bentsen-Rio Grande Valley's South Texas brushlands and Copper Brèaks' eroded canyons.

Historical areas preserve and interpret areas and events of Texas' intriguing past, and history buffs can find a historical park or site to study practically any period of Texas history. Seminole Canyon's story begins with nomadic hunters coming to the Pecos River 12,000 years ago, and the Admiral Nimitz Museum covers more recent history, World War II. There are missions from the early 18th century and forts built to protect frontier settlers in the mid-19th century. Texas' struggle for independence comes alive in parks such as San Jacinto Battleground and Washington-on-the-Brazos. You can see a living history demonstration of early 20th-century Hill Country farm life at Lyndon B. Johnson Historic Park, and study the life and

achievements of the 36th President of the United States. Homes of notable Texans have been preserved where you can see period architecture and furnishings, and you can relive the golden age of steam railroading at the Texas State Railroad. Many of the historical areas have facilities for camping, picnicking or nature study, which are designated in the facilities chart.

The three state fishing piers—Copano Bay, Port Lavaca and Queen Isabella—open the door to good saltwater fishing for a small fee. All are lighted and have fish-cleaning tables and bait stands.

Outdoor recreation can be enjoyed year around in Texas, and you can have an outstanding, economical vacation by taking advantage of the parks and historical areas. State parks are accessible to all Texans, whether you just want to drive a short distance or travel across the state.

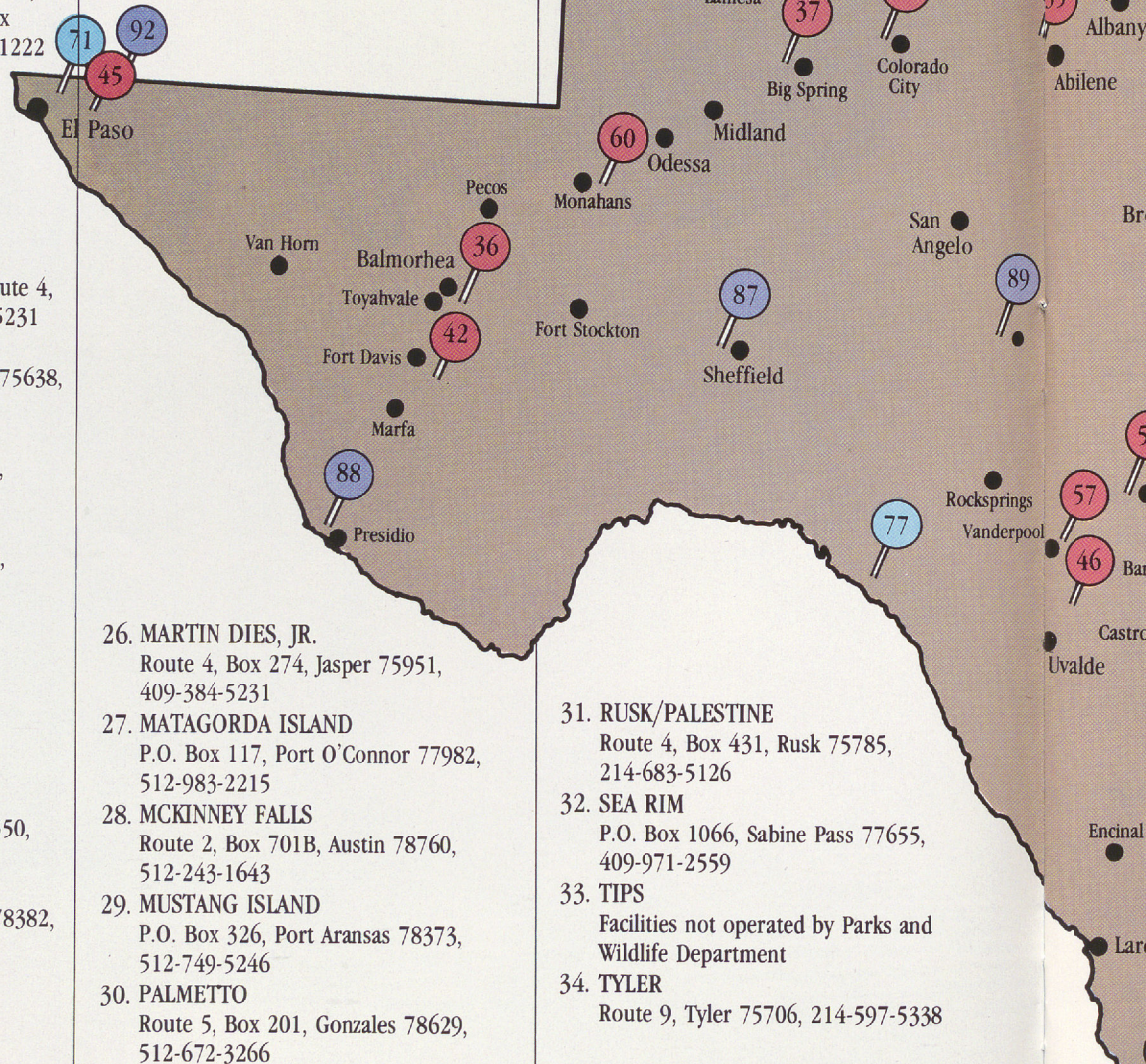


# Welcome to the State Parks of Texas

## STATE PARKS—EAST

1. ATLANTA  
Route 1, Box 116, Atlanta 75551,  
214-796-6476
2. BASTROP  
Box 518, Bastrop 78602, 512-321-2101
3. BENTSEN-RIO GRANDE VALLEY  
P.O. Box 988, Mission 78572,  
512-585-1107
4. BONHAM  
Route 1, Box 337, Bonham 75418,  
214-583-5022
5. BRAZOS BEND  
Route 1, Box 840, Needville 77461,  
409-553-3243
6. BRAZOS ISLAND (Undeveloped Beach)  
Facilities not operated by Parks and  
Wildlife Department
7. BRYAN BEACH (Undeveloped Beach)  
c/o Galveston Island, Route 1, Box  
156A, Galveston 77551, 409-737-1222
8. BUESCHER  
P.O. Box 75, Smithville 78957,  
512-237-2241
9. CADDO LAKE  
Route 2, Box 15, Karnack 75661,  
214-679-3351
10. CASSELLS BOYKIN  
c/o Martin Dies, Jr. State Park, Route 4,  
Box 274, Jasper 75951, 409-384-5231
11. DAINGERFIELD  
Route 1, Box 286-B, Daingerfield 75638,  
214-645-2921
12. EISENHOWER  
Route 2, Box 50K, Denison 75020,  
214-465-1956
13. FAIRFIELD LAKE  
Route 2, Box 912, Fairfield 75840,  
214-389-4514
14. FALCON  
P.O. Box 2, Falcon Heights 78545,  
512-848-5327
15. FORT PARKER  
Route 3, Box 95, Mexia 76667,  
817-562-5751
16. GALVESTON ISLAND  
Route 1, Box 156A, Galveston 77550,  
409-737-1222
17. GOOSE ISLAND  
Star Route 1, Box 105, Rockport 78382,  
512-729-2858
18. HUNTSVILLE  
P.O. Box 508, Huntsville 77340,  
409-295-5644

19. JEFF DAVIS  
Facilities not operated by Parks and  
Wildlife Department
20. LAKE CORPUS CHRISTI  
Box 1167, Mathis 78368, 512-547-2635
21. LAKE LIVINGSTON  
Route 9, Box 1300, Livingston 77351,  
409-365-2201
22. LAKE SOMERVILLE (Birch Creek Unit)  
Route 1, Box 499, Somerville 77879,  
409-535-7763  
LAKE SOMERVILLE (Nails Creek Unit)  
Route 1, Box 61C, Ledbetter 78946,  
409-289-2392
23. LAKE TEXANA  
P.O. Box 666, Edna 77957,  
512-782-5718
24. LOCKHART  
Route 1, Box 69, Lockhart 78644,  
512-398-3479
25. MARTIN CREEK  
c/o Region II Headquarters, Route 9,  
Tyler 75706, 214-595-2938



26. MARTIN DIES, JR.  
Route 4, Box 274, Jasper 75951,  
409-384-5231
27. MATAGORDA ISLAND  
P.O. Box 117, Port O'Connor 77982,  
512-983-2215
28. MCKINNEY FALLS  
Route 2, Box 701B, Austin 78760,  
512-243-1643
29. MUSTANG ISLAND  
P.O. Box 326, Port Aransas 78373,  
512-749-5246
30. PALMETTO  
Route 5, Box 201, Gonzales 78629,  
512-672-3266
31. RUSK/PALESTINE  
Route 4, Box 431, Rusk 75785,  
214-683-5126
32. SEA RIM  
P.O. Box 1066, Sabine Pass 77655,  
409-971-2559
33. TIPS  
Facilities not operated by Parks and  
Wildlife Department
34. TYLER  
Route 9, Tyler 75706, 214-597-5338

## STATE PARKS—WEST

### 35. ABILENE

Route 1, Tuscola 79562, 915-572-3204

### 36. BALMORHEA

Box 15, Toyahvale 79786, 915-375-2370

### 37. BIG SPRING

Box 1064, Big Spring 79720,  
915-263-4931

### 38. BLANCO

Box 493, Blanco 78606, 512-833-4333

### 39. CAPROCK CANYON

P.O. Box 204, Quitaque 79255,  
806-455-1492

### 40. CLEBURNE

Route 2, Box 90, Cleburne 76031,  
817-645-4215

### 41. COPPER BREAKS

Route 3, Quanah 79252, 817-839-4331

### 42. DAVIS MOUNTAINS

Box 786, Fort Davis 79734, 915-426-  
3337 (Indian Lodge 915-426-3254)

### 46. GARNER

Concan 78838, 512-232-6132

### 47. GUADALUPE RIVER

Route 2, Box 2087, Bulverde 78163,  
512-438-2656

### 48. HILL COUNTRY

Route 1, Box 601, Bandera 78003,  
512-796-4413

### 49. INKS LAKE

Box 117, Buchanan Dam 78609,  
512-793-2223

### 50. KERRVILLE

2385 Bandera Highway, Kerrville 78028,  
512-257-5392

### 51. LAKE ARROWHEAD

Route 2, Box 260, Wichita Falls 76301,  
817-528-2211

### 52. LAKE BROWNWOOD

Route 5, Box 160, Brownwood 76801,  
915-784-5223

### 53. LAKE COLORADO CITY

Route 2, Box 232, Colorado City 79512,  
915-728-3931

### 54. LAKE MINERAL WELLS

Route 4, Box 39C, Mineral Wells 76067,  
817-328-1171

### 55. LAKE WHITNEY

Box 1175, Whitney 76692,  
817-694-3793

### 56. LONGHORN CAVERN

Facilities not operated by Texas Parks  
and Wildlife Department  
Contact: Concessioner, Route 2, Box 23,  
Burnet 78611, 512-756-4680

### 57. LOST MAPLES

Station C Route, Vanderpool 78885,  
512-966-3413

### 58. MACKENZIE

Facilities not operated by Texas Parks  
and Wildlife Department  
Contact: Director, Parks & Recreation,  
City Hall, Lubbock 79408, 806-762-6411

### 59. MERIDIAN

Box 188, Meridian 76665, 817-435-2536

### 60. MONAHANS SANDHILLS

Box 1738, Monahans 79756,  
915-943-2092

### 61. MOTHER NEFF

Route 1, Box 58, Moody 76557,  
817-853-2389

### 62. PALO DURO CANYON

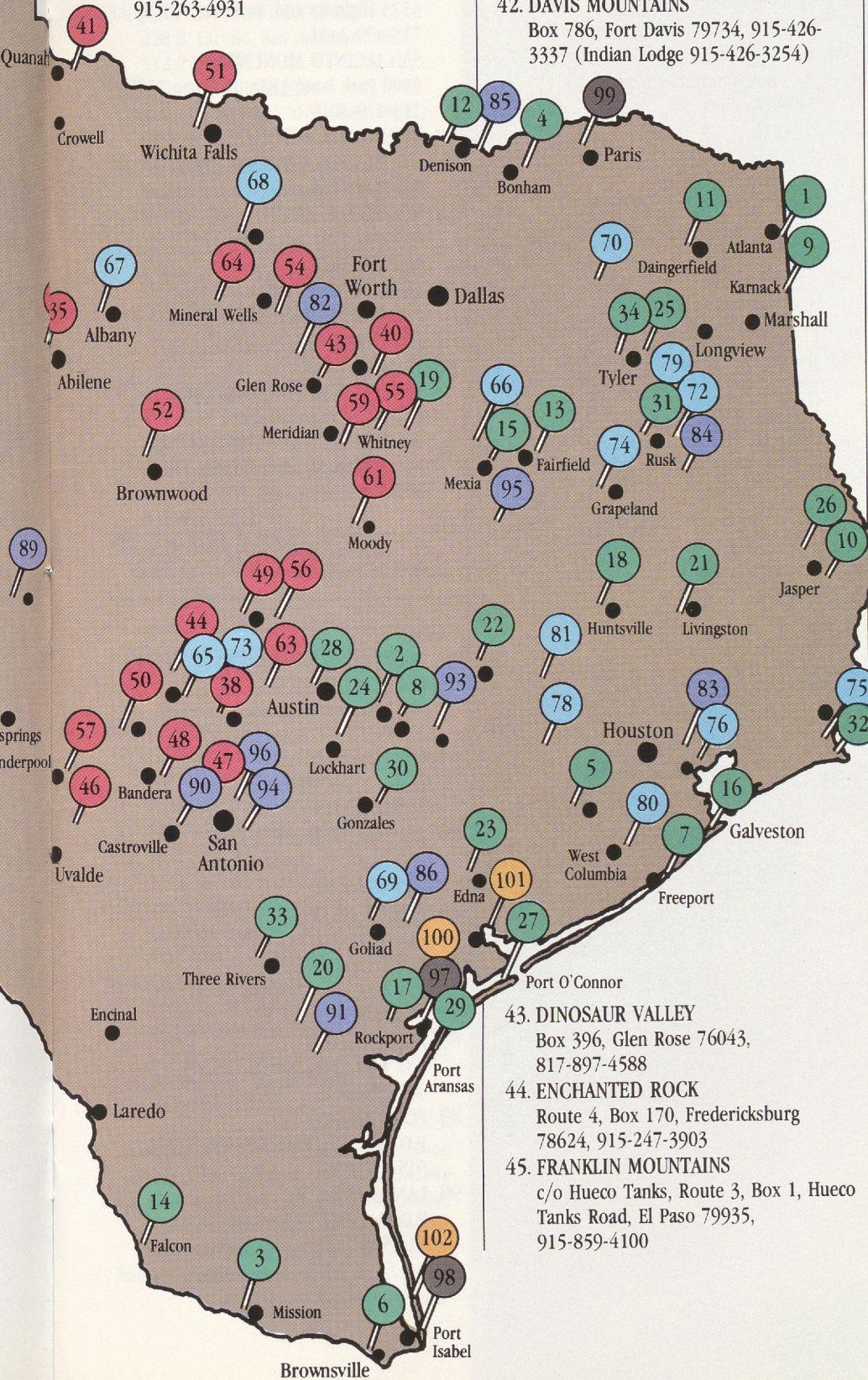
Route 2, Box 285, Canyon 79015,  
806-488-2227

### 63. PEDERNALES FALLS

Route 1, Box 31A, Johnson City 78636,  
512-868-7304

### 64. POSSUM KINGDOM

Box 36, Caddo 76029, 817-549-1803



### 43. DINOSAUR VALLEY

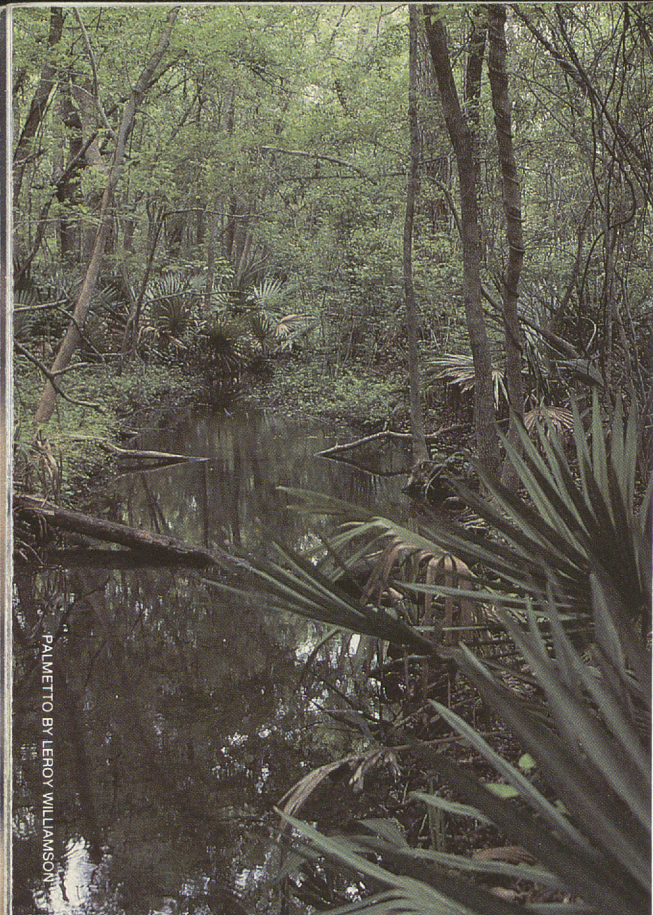
Box 396, Glen Rose 76043,  
817-897-4588

### 44. ENCHANTED ROCK

Route 4, Box 170, Fredericksburg  
78624, 915-247-3903

### 45. FRANKLIN MOUNTAINS

c/o Hueco Tanks, Route 3, Box 1, Hueco  
Tanks Road, El Paso 79935,  
915-859-4100



PALMETTO BY LEROY WILLAMSON

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## STATE HISTORICAL PARKS

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- 65. ADMIRAL NIMITZ  
P.O. Box 777, Fredericksburg 78624,  
512-997-4379
- 66. CONFEDERATE REUNION GROUNDS  
c/o Fort Parker, Route 3, Box 95, Mexia  
76667, 817-562-5751
- 67. FORT GRIFFIN  
Route 1, Albany 76430, 915-762-3592
- 68. FORT RICHARDSON  
P.O. Box 4, Jacksboro 76056,  
817-567-3506
- 69. GOLIAD  
P.O. Box 727, Goliad 77963,  
512-645-3405
- 70. GOVERNOR HOGG SHRINE  
Route 3, Park Road 45, Quitman 75783,  
214-763-2701
- 71. HUECO TANKS  
Route 3, Box 1, Hueco Tanks Road,  
El Paso 79935, 915-859-4100
- 72. JIM HOGG  
Route 2, Box 29, Rusk 75785,  
214-683-4850

GOLIAD BY GLEN MILLS



- 73. LYNDON B. JOHNSON  
Box 238, Stonewall 78671,  
512-644-2252
- 74. MISSION TEJAS  
Route 2, Box 108, Grapeland 75844,  
409-687-2394
- 75. SABINE PASS BATTLEGROUND  
P.O. Box 1066, Sabine Pass 77655,  
409-971-2559
- 76. SAN JACINTO BATTLEGROUND  
3523 Highway 134, La Porte 77571,  
713-479-2431  
SAN JACINTO MONUMENT  
3800 Park Road 1836, La Porte 77571,  
713-479-2019
- 77. SEMINOLE CANYON  
P.O. Box 806, Comstock 78837,  
915-292-4464
- 78. STEPHEN F. AUSIN  
P.O. Box 125, San Felipe 77473,  
409-885-3613
- 79. TEXAS STATE RAILROAD  
P.O. Box 39, Rusk 75785, 214-683-2561  
(Toll-free 1-800-442-8951)
- 80. VARNER-HOGG  
Box 696, West Columbia 77486,  
409-345-4656
- 81. WASHINGTON-ON-THE-BRAZOS  
Box 305, Washington 77880,  
409-878-2214

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## STATE HISTORIC SITES

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- 82. ACTON  
Burial site of Davy Crockett's wife
- 83. BATTLESHIP TEXAS  
3527 Battleground Road, La Porte  
77571, 713-479-2411
- 84. CADDOAN MOUNDS  
Route 2, Box 85C, Alto 75925,  
409-858-3218
- 85. EISENHOWER BIRTHPLACE  
208 East Day, Denison 75020,  
214-465-8908
- 86. FANNIN BATTLEGROUND  
Fannin 77960, 512-645-2020
- 87. FORT LANCASTER  
P.O. Box 306, Sheffield 79781,  
915-836-4391
- 88. FORT LEATON  
P.O. Box 1220, Presidio 79845,  
915-229-3613
- 89. FORT MCKAVETT  
P.O. Box 867, Fort McKavett 76841,  
915-396-2358
- 90. LANDMARK INN  
P.O. Box 577, Castroville 78009,  
512-538-2133

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91. LIPANTILAN

Facilities not operated by Parks and Wildlife Department

92. MAGOFFIN HOME

1120 Magoffin Avenue, El Paso 79901,  
915-533-5147

93. MONUMENT HILL/KREISCHE  
BREWERY

P.O. Box C, La Grange 78945,  
409-968-5658

94. JOSE ANTONIO NAVARRO

228 S. Laredo, San Antonio 78207,  
512-226-4801

95. OLD FORT PARKER

Route 3, Box 220, Groesbeck 76642,  
817-729-5253

96. SAN JOSE MISSION

Facilities not operated by Parks and Wildlife Department

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## STATE HISTORIC STRUCTURES

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97. FULTON MANSION

P.O. Box 1859, Fulton, 78358,  
512-729-0386

98. PORT ISABEL LIGHTHOUSE

P.O. Box 863, Port Isabel 78578,  
512-943-1172

99. SAM BELL MAXEY HOUSE

812 South Church Street, Paris 75460,  
214-785-5716

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## STATE FISHING PIERS

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100. COPANO BAY

Facilities not operated by Texas Parks and Wildlife Department

Contact: Concessioner, P.O. Box 39,  
Fulton 78358, 512-729-8633

101. PORT LAVACA

Facilities not operated by Texas Parks and Wildlife Department

Contact: Concessioner, 114 Linville,  
Port Lavaca 77979, 512-552-4667

102. QUEEN ISABELLA

Facilities not operated by Texas Parks and Wildlife Department

Contact: Concessioner, P.O. Box 2761,  
South Padre Island 78597,  
512-943-9807

*In addition to their recreational aspects,  
many state parks also preserve unique  
ecological environments, protecting plants  
that might otherwise be destroyed.*

*Historical parks preserve the past for  
today's visitors, giving them a glimpse of  
our heroes and our heritage.*



	Acreage	Camping	Screened Shelters	Group Facility	Campsites Elec/Sewage	Campsites Water/Elec	Restrooms	Showers	Cabins	Picnicking	Groceries	Fishing	Swimming	Water Skiing	Boat Ramp	Museum and/or Exhibit	Historic Structure	Day Use Only	Group Trailer	Trailer Dump Station	Nature/Hiking Trails	Miscellaneous	
ABILENE	621	■	■	P	■	■	■	■				■							■	■	LT		
ACTON	.006																■						
ADMIRAL NIMITZ	9.1				■	■									■	■	■					A	
ATLANTA	1,475	■		P	■	■	■	■	■		■	■	■	■					■	■			
BALMORHEA	46	■			■	■	■	■	■			■								■			
BASTROP	3,504	■		H GB	■	■	■	■	■		■	■									■	GD	
BATTLESHIP TEXAS	1					■									■	■	■						
BENTSEN-RIO GRANDE VALLEY	588	■		P	■	■	■	■	■		■									■	■		
BIG SPRING	370					■			■						■		■				■	D	
BLANCO	105	■	■	P	■	■	■	■	■		■	■								■	■		
BONHAM	261	■		P GB	■	■	■	■	■		■	■								■		B	
BRAZOS BEND	4,897	■	■	H	■	■	■	■	■		■									■	■		
BRAZOS ISLAND #	217	■							■		■	■											
BRYAN BEACH	878	■							■		■	■											
BUESCHER	1,017	■	■	H	■	■	■	■	■		■									■	■	D	
CADDOAN MOUNDS	70.1					■									■	■	■						
CADDO LAKE	480	■	■	H	■	■	■	■	■		■	■	■	■	■					■	■		
CAPROCK CANYON	13,655	■		P	■	■	■	■	■		■	■		■	■					■	■	S	
CASELLS BOYKIN	265	■				■			■		■	■	■	■						■			
CLEBURNE	529	■	■	GB	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■		■						■	■		
CONFEDERATE REUNION	73			P		■			■		■						■				■		
COPANO BAY #	5.9					■					■			■									
COPPER BREAKS	1,889	■		P	■	■	■	■	■		■	■		■	■					■	■	LS	
DAINGERFIELD	551	■		P	■	■	■	■	■		■	■		■							■		
DAVIS MOUNTAINS	1,869	■		P	■	■	■	■	■						■					■	■	D	
DINOSAUR VALLEY	1,272	■		P	■	■	■	■	■		■	■			■					■	■	L	
EISENHOWER	457	■	■	H	■	■	■	■	■		■	■	■	■						■	■	T	
EISENHOWER BIRTHPLACE	2.8					■									■	■	■						
ENCHANTED ROCK	1,643	■		P		■	■	■	■												■		
FAIRFIELD LAKE	1,460	■			■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■						■	■		
FALCON	573	■	■	H	■	■	■	■	■		■	■	■	■						■			
FANNIN BATTLEGROUND	13.0			P		■			■								■						
FORT GRIFFIN	506	■		P	■	■	■	■	■		■				■	■				■		L	
FORT LANCASTER	81.6					■									■	■	■						
FORT LEATON	13.3					■			■						■	■	■						
FORT MCKAVETT	79.5					■			■						■	■	■				■		

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Miscellaneous

	Acres	Camping	Screened Shelters	Group Facility	Campsites Elec/Sewage	Campsites Water/Elec	Restrooms	Showers	Cabins	Picnicking	Groceries	Fishing	Swimming	Water Skiing	Boat Ramp	Museum and/or Exhibit	Historic Structure	Day Use Only	Group Trailer	Trailer Dump Station	Nature/Hiking Trails	Miscellaneous
FORT PARKER	1,485	■	■	GB	■	■	■		■		■	■	■	■					■	■		
FORT RICHARDSON	389	■		P	■	■	■		■		■				■	■			■	■		
FRANKLIN MOUNTAINS	8,897																					
FULTON MANSION	2.3														■	■	■					
GALVESTON ISLAND	1,944	■	■		■	■	■		■		■	■							■	■		T
GARNER	1,420	■	■	CH	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■							■			M
GOLIAD	184	■	■		■	■	■		■		■	■			■	■			■			TP
GOOSE ISLAND	307	■		H	■	■	■		■		■	■	■	■					■	■		
GOVERNOR HOGG SHRINE	27			P		■			■						■	■	■					
GUADALUPE RIVER	1,900	■			■	■	■		■		■	■							■	■		
HILL COUNTRY	4,753	■																				
HUECO TANKS	860	■			■	■	■		■										■	■		
HUNTSVILLE	2,083	■	■	P	■	■	■		■	■	■	■		■	■				■	■		BM
INKS LAKE	1,201	■	■	P	■	■	■		■	■	■	■	■	■				■	■			GB
JEFF DAVIS #	38																					
JIM HOGG	177					■			■						■	■	■			■		
JOSE ANTONIO NAVARRO	.3					■									■	■	■					
KERRVILLE	517	■	■	HP	■	■	■	■	■		■	■		■					■	■		
LAKE ARROWHEAD	524	■		P	■	■	■		■	■	■	■	■	■					■			S
LAKE BROWNWOOD	537	■	■	C	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■					■	■		
LAKE COLORADO CITY	500	■			■	■	■		■		■	■	■	■					■			
LAKE CORPUS CHRISTI	365	■	■	P	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■					■			
LAKE LIVINGSTON	635	■	■		■	■	■		■	■	■	■	■	■					■	■		T
LAKE MINERAL WELLS	2,853	■	■	■	■	■	■		■		■	■		■					■	■		S
LAKE SOMERVILLE	5,200	■		P	■	■	■		■		■	■	■	■					■	■		ST
LAKE TEXANA	575	■		■	■	■	■		■		■	■		■					■			
LAKE WHITNEY	955	■	■	C	■	■	■	■	■		■	■	■	■					■	■		
LANDMARK INN	4.7					■			■								■			■		
LIPANTILAN #	5.0	■							■													
LOCKHART	264	■		H	■	■	■	■	■			■										G
LONGHORN CAVERN	639					■			■						■		■					
LOST MAPLES	2,174	■				■	■		■		■	■			■				■	■		
LYNDON B. JOHNSON	718			H		■			■		■	■			■	■	■			■		LA
MACKENZIE	542	■				■			■		■	■										G
MAGOFFIN HOME	1.5					■									■	■	■					
MARTIN CREEK	216								■	■	■	■	■	■			■					

	Acreage	Camping	Screened Shelters	Group Facility	Campsites Elec/Sewage	Campsites Water/Elec	Restrooms	Showers	Cabins	Picnicking	Groceries	Fishing	Swimming	Water Skiing	Boat Ramp	Museum and/or Exhibit	Historic Structure	Day Use Only	Group Trailer	Trailer Dump Station	Nature/Hiking Trails	Miscellaneous
MARTIN DIES, JR.	705	■	■	H	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■					■	■		
MATAGORDA ISLAND	7,325	■				CT			■		■	■				■						
MCKINNEY FALLS	726	■	■		■	■	■	■	■		■				■	■				■	■	
MERIDIAN	502	■	■	C	■	■	■	■	■		■	■		■						■	■	
MISSION TEJAS	118	■		P	■	■	■	■	■		■	■				■						■
MONAHANS SANDHILLS	3,840	■			■	■	■	■	■						■					■		
MONUMENT HILL/KREISCHE	39.8					■			■						■	■	■					■
MOTHER NEFF	259	■		X	■	■	■	■	■		■									■	■	
MUSTANG ISLAND	3,704	■			■	■	■	■	■		■	■								■	■	
OLD FORT PARKER	11.1					■									■	■	■					
PALMETTO	264	■			■	■	■	■	■		■	■								■	■	
PALO DURO CANYON	16,402	■			■	■	■	■	■	■					■					■	■	RS LD
PEDERNALES FALLS	4,860	■			■	■	■	■	■		■	■								■	■	
POSSUM KINGDOM	1,529	■			■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■						■		LB
PORT ISABEL LIGHTHOUSE	.5														■	■						
PORT LAVACA #	1.8					■					■			■								
QUEEN ISABELLA #	7.0					■					■											
RUSK/PALESTINE	127	■		P	■	■	■	■	■		■									■	■	
SABINE PASS BATTLEGROUND	56					■			■		■			■		■	■					
SAM BELL MAXEY HOUSE	.4														■	■	■					
SAN JACINTO BATTLEGROUND	327					■			■		■				■	■	■					
SAN JOSE MISSION #	22.8					■									■	■	■					
SEA RIM	15,109	■			■	■	■	■	■		■	■		■	■					■	■	
SEMINOLE CANYON	2,172	■				■	■	■	■						■					■	■	
STEPHEN F. AUSTIN	667	■	■	H	■	■	■	■	■		■	■			■	■				■		G
TEXAS STATE RAILROAD	507					■									■		■					
TIPS #	31	■		P	■	■	■	■	■		■											
TYLER	985	■	■	PC	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■		■						■	■	BT
VARNER-HOGG	66					■			■						■	■	■					
WASHINGTON-ON-THE-BRAZOS	154			P		■			■						■	■	■					A

# Facilities not operated by Parks and Wildlife  
 ■ Permitted but not provided  
 ■ Facilities for services provided for activity

A Auditorium  
 B Boats for rent  
 C Group camp  
 CT Chemical toilets  
 D Scenic drive  
 G Golf  
 H Recreation hall  
 L Texas Longhorn Herd  
 M Miniature golf  
 P Group picnic

R Rental horses  
 S Horseback areas/trails  
 T Group trailer area  
 X Open shelters  
 GB Group barracks

For information on those park facilities accessible to and usable by the handicapped, ask for our park brochure on handicapped facilities.



LOST MAPLES BY BILL HEAVES

# Rules, Rates and Reservations

## Summary of Regulations Governing the Use of Texas State Parks, Historic Sites, Scientific Areas and Forts Including Encompassed Waters with the Incorporation of Related Legislative Enactments

Regulations Adopted Pursuant to Authority Granted by Acts 1971, 62nd Legislature, Regular Session, Ch. 383 (Codified as Sec. 13.101—13.110, Parks and Wildlife Code)

### LEGISLATIVE ENACTMENTS

The penalty for violation of a regulation is as follows:

- (a) For a first conviction a fine not to exceed \$25.00;
- (b) For a second conviction for violation of the same regulation by the same person during a six-month period, a fine not to exceed \$50.00;
- (c) For a third or subsequent conviction for violation of the same regulation by the same individual during a one-year period, a fine not to exceed \$200.00. (Sec. 13.107, PARKS AND WILDLIFE CODE.) Penalties for violation of legislative enactments shall be as provided by law.

These regulations may be enforced by any peace officer of this State (Sec. 13.109, PARKS AND WILDLIFE CODE), including duly appointed employees of the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department designated as peace officers by authority of Sec. 11.019, PARKS AND WILDLIFE CODE. A citation may be issued by these officers for violation of a regulation.

As authorized by Sec. 13.108, PARKS AND WILDLIFE CODE, any person causing, contributing to, or directly or indirectly responsible for disruptive, destructive, or violent conduct endangering the health, safety, or lives of persons, animals, or property may be removed from a Unit of the State Park System for a period up to forty-eight (48) hours; a person may be enjoined from re-entry for a longer period for cause shown by a court of competent jurisdiction. Before removal, a person shall be placed on notice of this fact by the Park Superintendent or his subordinate and given an opportunity to correct his or her conduct.

Hunting is prohibited, except by permit (Sec. 62.061, PARKS AND WILDLIFE CODE).

Removal of rock, earth, coal, slate, minerals or other materials without consent of the Park Superintendent constitutes theft (Sec. 31.03, PENAL CODE).

Willful damage to or destruction of State or pri-

vate property constitutes Criminal Mischief (Sec. 28.03, PENAL CODE).

Archaeological sites and features are Landmarks unless otherwise designated by the State Antiquities Committee and a permit is required to alter, take or excavate the site. American Indian or aboriginal paintings, hieroglyphics, marks or carvings are protected (Sec. 191.002, NATURAL RESOURCES CODE).

Dumping of trash, sewage, or waste into or adjacent to any water is a violation of Chapter 26, Subchapter D, WATER CODE.

Disposing of trash, junk, garbage, refuse, unsightly matter or other solid waste on public highway, right-of-way, other public property or into inland or coastal waters without written consent of the owner, agent, or official in charge, is a violation of Sec. 2.01, LITTER ABATEMENT ACT, Revised Civil Statutes, Art. 4477-9a.

Disorderly conduct is prohibited (Sec. 2.01, PENAL CODE).

All Texas laws governing the operation of motor vehicles are applicable within a State park.

All provisions of Title 4, PARKS AND WILDLIFE CODE, concerning water safety provisions apply to lakes and waters in a State park.

### REGULATIONS — GENERAL

- 1.03 Payment of an entrance fee is required to enter a State park.
- 1.04 Payment of a user fee is required for use of most facilities. A facility may be used only for its intended purpose. Only authorized equipment may be used at a facility.
- 1.05 Facility users may not exceed the maximum limit of persons, vehicles, and equipment established for a facility. Only the type of vehicles, trailers and equipment designated for a facility may be used.
- 1.06 Facility users may not occupy a facility past an established check-out time unless it is determined that the facility is not needed for incoming visitors.
- 1.07 Wildlife within a park is protected and may not be harmed, harassed, caught, possessed, removed, or hunted except by permit.
- 1.08 Plants, trees and dead wood are protected and may not be damaged or removed from a park.
- 1.09 Fires may be built only in camp stoves or fireplaces. Firewood may not be gathered unless authorized by the Superintendent. Fireworks and explosives are not permitted.
- 1.10 Pets must be secured by a leash of six feet or less or confined. Pets other than seeing eye dogs are not permitted in public buildings or swimming areas. Horses may be ridden only in areas designated for that purpose. Noisy, vi-

- cious or dangerous animals are not permitted.
- 1.11 Loaded firearms are prohibited. Discharging a firearm or other hunting device is prohibited unless during authorized hunting by special permit or by law enforcement personnel.
- 1.12 During posted closing hours, unauthorized persons may not enter or remain in a park.
- 1.13 An assembly or a demonstration may be held only after written authorization.
- 1.14 Public nudity or disrobing is prohibited.
- 1.15 When notice is posted declaring an area or facility closed to public entry or use, unauthorized persons may not enter or remain in the closed area.
- 1.16 No alcoholic beverages may be sold or publicly consumed.
- 1.17 Solicitation of funds, distribution of circulars, and the sale or offer of sale of any item may be done only after a permit or written concession contract has been issued.
- 1.18 Use of metal detectors is prohibited.
- 1.19 Adults may not permit a minor under their supervision to violate these rules.
- 1.20 A vehicle or other property that is abandoned or unattended and creating a hazardous or unsafe condition, or in an unauthorized place is subject to removal, impoundment or sale, as provided by law.



## VEHICLES

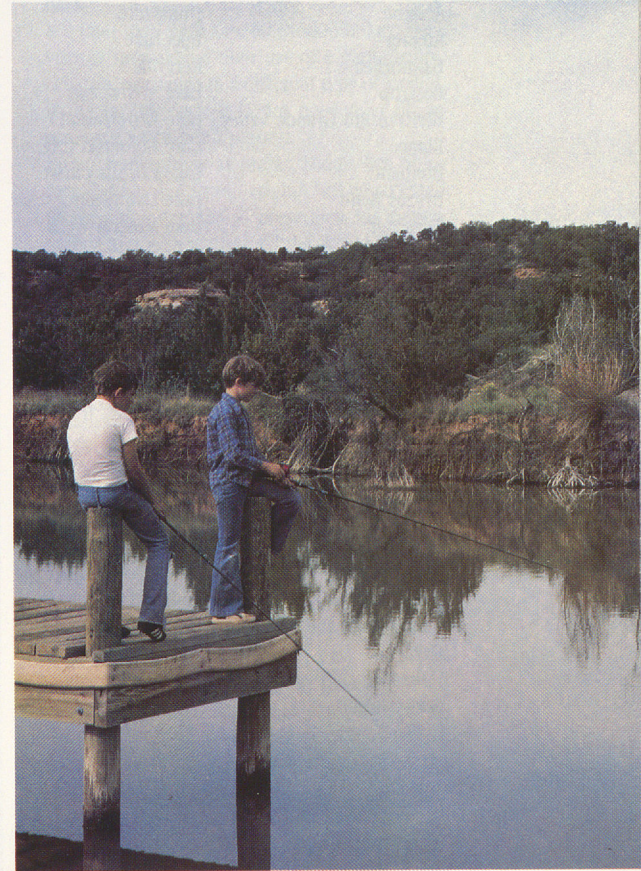
- 2.01 Speed limits on park roads may not be exceeded. Speed may not be excessive for the conditions.
- 2.02 Vehicles may not operated except upon roads and parking areas open to vehicles.
- 2.03 Vehicles and trailers must be parked only in parking areas designed, constructed or designated for parking.
- 2.04 Two and three-wheeled motorized vehicles must be equipped with an unmodified street legal muffler and a U.S. Forest Service/U.S.D.A.-approved spark arrester/exhaust system. They may be operated only in areas designated for their use and at posted times. A street legal bike may be operated by a licensed operator on park roads open to vehicular traffic. Indiscriminate operation of vehicles is prohibited. Pedestrians, bicycles and horses are prohibited from using mini-bike trails.
- 2.05 Use of motor vehicle or bicycle on a pedestrian trail is prohibited.
- 2.06 Vehicle traffic between the park closing hour and 6 a.m. is for emergency or necessary purposes only. Indiscriminate traffic in camping areas is prohibited.

## CAMPING

- 3.01 Campers must obtain a camping permit (1.04) and not exceed the established limit for the number of persons and the type and number of vehicles and equipment at the facility (1.05), and may camp only in a facility designated for that purpose.
- 3.02 Continuous occupancy of camping facilities by the same person or group is limited to 14 consecutive calendar days, unless an alternate time limit has been established or unless the occupied facility is not needed for incoming park visitors.
- 3.03 Persons under 18 years of age may stay overnight only if they are accompanied by parent or legal guardian or with his/her written permission, or if in a group supervised by a responsible adult for each 15 persons under 18 years of age.
- 3.04 Noise may not be broadcast into the camp or sleeping quarters of another visitor between 10:00 p.m. and 6:00 a.m. Electronic broadcasts must be confined to the camp or picnic area of the person creating the sounds at all times. Excessive noise and disturbing conduct are prohibited.

*Scenic and recreational opportunities are as varied as the number of parks in the system, and swimming, fishing and hiking are but three of the activities that can be enjoyed. No matter which park you choose to visit in whatever part of the state, you are sure to find pleasure and relaxation in the outdoors.*

COPPER BREAKS BY GLEN MILLS



HUECO TANKS BY GLEN MILLS

## WATER SPORTS

- 4.01 Swimming is restricted to designated areas and daylight hours. Water skiing, similar activities and operating a motorized ski device on lakes of less than 650 surface acres located in a State park are prohibited.
- 4.02 Boats may be docked only at designated mooring areas between 10 p.m. and 6 a.m., except by permit.
- 4.03 Glass containers are not permitted in the water of, or on the beach adjacent to, a swimming area.

LIVINGSTON BY GLEN MILLS



**PER MOTOR VEHICLE  
ENTRANCE/DAY USE FEES  
(AIRCRAFT INCLUDED)**

**DAILY**

**-\$2.00 PER DAY PER MOTOR VEHICLE**  
Applicable at the following parks:

Abilene	Huntsville
Atlanta	Inks Lake
Balmorhea	Kerrville
Bastrop	Lake Arrowhead
Bentsen-Rio Grande Valley	Lake Brownwood
Blanco	Lake Colorado City
Bonham	Lake Corpus Christi
Brazos Bend	Lake Livingston
Buescher	Lake Mineral Wells
Caddo Lake	Lake Somerville
Caprock Canyons	Lake Texana
Cleburne	Lake Whitney
Copper Breaks	Lockhart
Daingerfield	Lost Maples
Davis Mountains	McKinney Falls
Dinosaur Valley	Martin Dies, Jr.
Eisenhower	Meridian
Enchanted Rock	Mission Tejas
Fairfield Lake	Monahans Sandhills
Falcon	Mustang Island
Fort Griffin	Palmetto
Fort Parker	Palo Duro Canyon
Fort Richardson	Pedernales Falls
Galveston Island	Possum Kingdom
Garner	Sea Rim
Goliad	Seminole Canyon
Goose Island	Stephen F. Austin
Hueco Tanks	Tyler

**\$1.00 PER DAY PER MOTOR VEHICLE**  
Applicable at Big Spring State Recreation Area only

**BUSES (PASSENGER-CARRYING)**

	NUMBER OF PERSONS	COST
Adults:	1-11	\$.50 each (min. \$2.00)
	12-47	\$6.00 per bus
12 years of age and under	1-29	\$.20 each (min. \$2.00)
	30 or more	\$6.00

**ANNUAL**

**\$15.00 ANNUAL PARK ENTRANCE PERMIT**

Valid at all parks where a per motor vehicle park entrance fee is charged (passenger-carrying buses not eligible).

**\$8.00 RESTRICTED ANNUAL PARK ENTRANCE PERMIT**

Valid at one (1) park designated at time of purchase (passenger-carrying buses not eligible)

**\$2.50 DUPLICATE ANNUAL ENTRANCE PERMIT**

**\$1.00 REPLACEMENT FOR ANNUAL, RESTRICTED ANNUAL, OR DUPLICATE**

**\$15.00 ANNUAL GROUP ENTRANCE PERMIT**

Valid for youth groups (18 years of age and under) at all parks where a per motor vehicle entrance fee is charged. Each permit is valid for up to 50 persons. Park entry may be by motor vehicle (no limit on number of vehicles), bus, bicycle or on foot. Write to Austin Headquarters for required application form.

**NOTE: TO BE VALID, ANNUAL ENTRANCE PERMITS MUST BE PERMANENTLY ATTACHED TO THE INSIDE OF YOUR VEHICLE WINDSHIELD.**

A State Parklands Passport exempting persons 65 years of age or over and/or 60 percent VA disabled veterans from having to pay an entrance fee at state parks is available at all state parks where a per vehicle entrance fee is charged. Passports are also available in the Austin Headquarters, 4200 Smith School Road, Austin, Texas 78744. Passports must be obtained in person with proper identification and proof of age or disability.

**PER PERSON PARK ENTRANCE/  
DAY USE, TOUR AND FISHING PIER FEES**

**PARK ENTRANCE/DAY USE FEE: PER PERSON**  
(Applicable only when park entry is on bicycle, foot or boat)

Adults	\$.50 each
12 years of age and under	\$.20 each

**TOUR AND FISHING PIER FEES:**

A per person fee will be charged for tours and/or fishing privileges at parks indicated below. Daily, Annual, Restricted Annual, Annual Group Entrance Permits and Parkland Passports are not valid for tour or fishing privileges.

**LONGHORN CAVERN**

Adult	\$4.00
4-12 years	\$3.00
Under 4 years	Free

**ORGANIZED GROUPS (MINIMUM 20 PERSONS)**

Adult	\$3.00
Child	\$2.00

Charges apply only to persons taking conducted tours; access to other facilities in park is free.

**TOURS**

Anson Jones Home (Washington-on-the-Brazos)*	
Caddoan Mounds**	Eisenhower Birthplace*
Fort Leaton	Fulton Mansion*
Honeymoon Cottage & Stinson Home (Governor Hogg Shrine)*	Jose Antonio Navarro
Landmark Inn**	Magoffin Home
Monument Hill**	Old Fort Parker**
Port Isabel Lighthouse**	Sam Bell Maxey House
Varner Hogg Plantation House Museum*	

Adults	\$1.00
6-12 years	\$.25
Under 6 years	Free

\*Charges apply only to persons taking conducted tours; access to other facilities in park is free.

\*\*Parkland passports, daily and annual entrance permits valid for tours.

**ADMIRAL NIMITZ**

Adults	\$2.00
6-12 years	\$1.00
Under 6 years	Free

**BATTLESHIP TEXAS**

Adults	\$2.00
6-12 years	\$1.00
Under 6 years	Free

All student groups sponsored by colleges, universities and public or private schools offering accredited courses are admitted at all Historical Sites and Historical Parks listed for a flat fee of \$1.00 for the entire group.

**FISHING PIERS**

Copano Bay
Port Lavaca
Queen Isabella

\$1.00 per rod and reel, pole, throwline, etc. Valid for 24-hour period beginning at 5:00 a.m. on day fee is paid.

**PARK USER FEES**

A user fee will be collected in the amount shown for the privileges, services, accommodations or facilities listed below. Day rates are authorized only where indicated. Capacity requirements will be observed; parties requiring larger accommodations must obtain additional facilities. Preferences will be given if desired facility is vacant or not reserved. Checkout time is 2:00 p.m. for all overnight accommodations except at Indian Lodge and Landmark Inn.

**CAMPsites:**

Kind of Campsites:	Cost
Regular	\$4.00
With Utilities:	
Electricity	\$6.00
Electricity & Sewer Hookups	\$7.00
Screened Shelter	\$8.00

**ELECTRICAL SERVICE IS DESIGNED FOR THE USE OF ONE FAMILY OR PARTY UNIT ONLY. ADDITIONAL HOOKUPS WILL NOT BE PERMITTED.**

Campsites and shelters are designed to accommodate only one family or party unit of not more than eight persons with a combination of motor vehicles and trailers not to exceed two (2). However, if the park manager deems the site will accommodate additional motor vehicles, trailers or camping equipment without endangering park resources or causing an inconvenience to other campers or damage to park installations, additional motor vehicles or trailers may be authorized.

**CAMPERS ARE ENCOURAGED TO BRING THEIR OWN FIREWOOD AS GATHERING OF FIREWOOD WITHIN THE PARKS IS PROHIBITED.**



**PARKING FEE** (For motor vehicles in excess of those authorized at a campsite, shelter, cabin or group facility)

\$2.00 per motor vehicle (10:00 p.m. to 6:00 a.m.)

When a parking fee is charged for excessive motor vehicles, they must be parked only in areas that are designated for such purposes by the park manager.

**CABINS: (HOTEL TAX APPLICABLE)**

1-2 persons	\$18.00
Each additional adult	\$ 4.00
Each additional child 6-12 years of age	\$ 1.00
Children under 6	Free

(Includes towels and linens)

Capacity for each cabin will be posted in the cabin and at park headquarters.

**LODGE OR COURT:**

(HOTEL TAX APPLICABLE)

— NO CREDIT CARDS ACCEPTED —

**INDIAN LODGE**

(DAVIS MOUNTAINS STATE PARK)

Single	\$22.00
Double	\$25.00
Double w/two beds	\$30.00
Suite w/two beds	\$32.00
Each additional adult	\$ 4.00
Each additional child 6-12 years of age	\$ 1.00
Children under 6	Free

(Includes towels, linens, telephone and television)  
Room capacity will be posted in rooms and at the registration desk.

Check-out time is 12:00 noon.

Indian Lodge will be closed for a two-week period beginning the second Monday in January of each year.

**SAN SOLOMON SPRINGS COURTS**

(BALMORHEA STATE RECREATION AREA)

One person	\$20.00
Each additional adult	\$ 4.00
Each additional child 6-12 years of age	\$ 1.00
Children under 6	Free
Extra cost for kitchen unit	\$ 4.00

(Includes towels, linens and television)

**LANDMARK INN**

One person	\$20.00
Double (2 persons)	\$24.00
Each additional child 6-12 years	\$ 1.00
Children under 6	Free

Check-out time is 12:00 noon.

**TRAIN FARES**

(STATE RAILROAD STATE HISTORICAL PARK ONLY)

Adult - round trip	\$6.00
Child - round trip	\$4.00
Adult - one way	\$4.00
Child - one way	\$2.50
2 years of age and under	Free

(Child rate applicable to 3 yrs. through 12 yrs.)

Toll-free information and reservations number 1-800-442-8951

**RESERVATIONS**

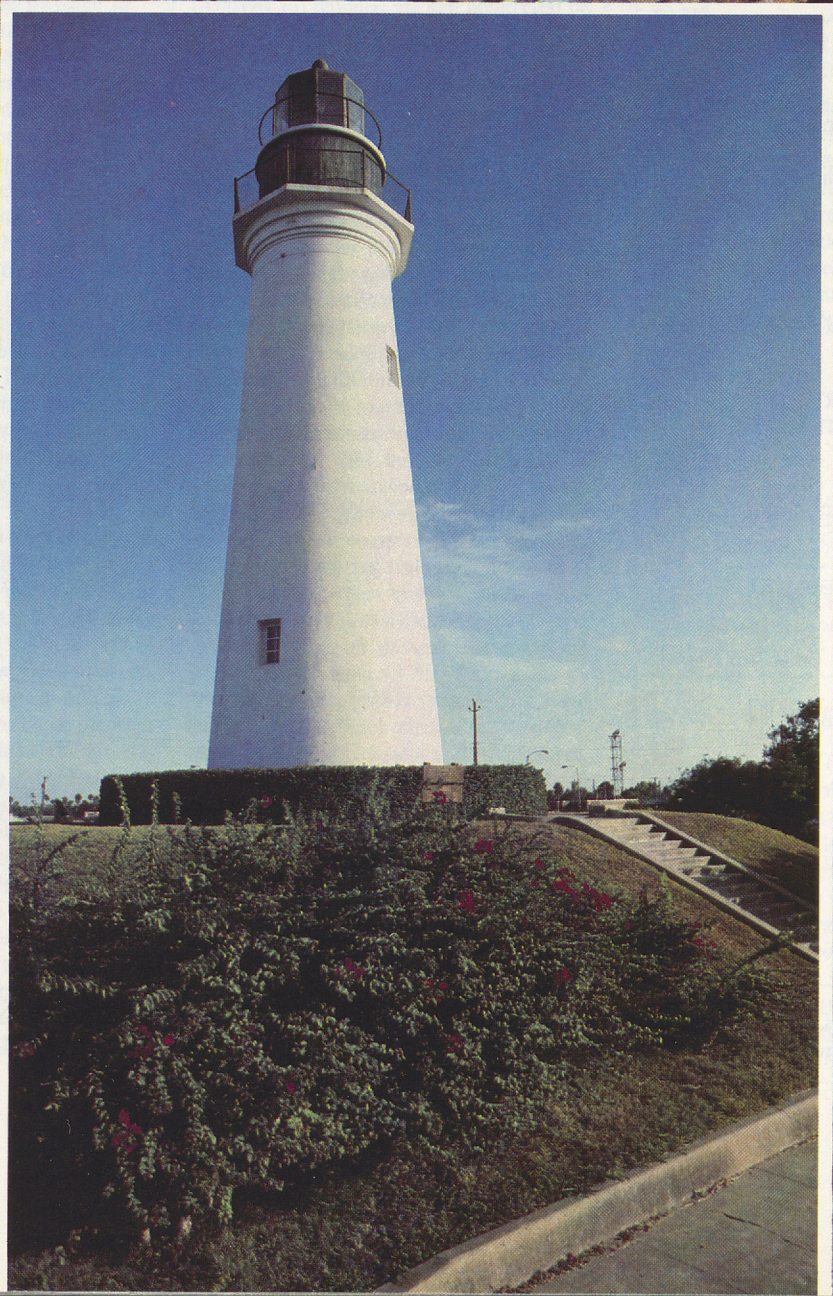
1. Reservations for park facilities will be accepted daily at the park headquarters where the facility is located, by mail, telephone or in person between the hours of 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.
2. Reservations for cabins, screened shelters and campsites cannot be made more than 90 days in advance of occupancy date.
3. Reservations made more than 10 days in advance of occupancy date for cabins, screened shelters or more than two campsites require a reservation fee for each facility reserved, in an amount equal to a one day's fee for the type of facility reserved. Reservations made by telephone will be held five days pending receipt of required reservation fees. If the reservation fee has not been received after five days, the reservation request will be cancelled.
4. All reservation fees will be applied to the total amount due at the time of registration. If a reservation or any part of a reservation is cancelled 72 hours or more prior to 2:00 p.m. on arrival date, the reservation fee will be refunded; otherwise the reservation fee will be forfeited.
5. No reservation fees are required (or accepted) when reservations are made for one or two campsites. However, the reservation will not be held beyond 6:00 p.m. on arrival date. Persons reserving no more than two campsites who cannot arrive by 6:00 p.m. must call the park headquarters either on the day of arrival or the day before during the hours 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. to request late arrival privileges. All reservations for one or two campsites will be cancelled at 6:00 p.m. on arrival date unless late arrival privileges have been confirmed by the park headquarters. (This provision also applies when reservations for cabins, screened shelters, group facilities or more than two campsites are made less than 10 days in advance of occupancy date.)
6. Reservations for campsites are made according to the type requested with adequate space necessary to accommodate eight persons and a combination of motor vehicles and trailers not to exceed two (2). Screened shelter occupancy is also limited to eight persons; however, the use of certain types of motor vehicles and/or camping equipment at shelters may be restricted. Persons making requests for screened shelters should ask park staff for more details.
7. Specific campsites or shelters cannot be reserved; however, if a specific location is desired on arrival it will be honored (1) if a user fee has not been paid and (2) if it will accommodate your equipment.
8. Reservation requests for adjoining or adjacent camping facilities will be honored subject to availability.
9. Cabin reservations will be confirmed by facility number. Preference will be honored if available. The department reserves the right to change assignments if confirmed cabin is out of service upon arrival.
10. Facilities which have not been reserved and those for which cancellations have been received

will be available on a first-come, first-served basis to persons arriving at the park without reservations. A waiting list will be maintained if demand exceeds availability.

11. On the last day of occupancy, facilities must be vacated by 2:00 p.m. Incoming visitors cannot be assured of facility occupancy before 2:00 p.m. on scheduled date of arrival. Continuous occupancy of park facilities is limited to 14 days.
12. Not later than 9:00 a.m. on check-out date, park visitors may extend their use of a park facility, relocate, or change to a different type of facility, if the facility desired is not needed to fill an incoming reservation request.
13. Room reservations at Indian Lodge, San Solomon Springs and Landmark Inn will be accepted in the same manner as prescribed for cabins, except that reservations will be accepted for as much as 12 months in advance of occupancy date. Check-out time at Indian Lodge and Landmark Inn is 12:00 noon.

**GROUP FACILITIES**

An impartial drawing to determine assignment dates for park facilities designated as group facilities, for the 12-month period beginning February 1st and ending January 31st of the following year will be held each year at respective park headquarters on January 11th at 10:00 a.m. Each group wishing to participate in the drawing may enter its name one time only. Participants may include in their reservation requests for group facilities a total of four (4) dates in their order of preference which will be considered as alternate choices in the event there is no open date for first choice when the name is drawn. Entry blanks for the drawing (PWD 214) are available from parks that have group facilities. The entry blanks may be left at the park headquarters beginning December 1st prior to the January 11th drawing. Participants in the drawing will be notified as soon as possible if reservation has been confirmed. A reservation fee in the amount of one day's user fee for the type of group facility reserved must be received by the park no later than January 31st after receiving reservation confirmation as a result of the annual drawing. If the reservation fee has not been received by 5:00 p.m. on January 31st, the reservation will be cancelled. All reservation fees will be applied to the amount due at the time of registration. If group facility reservations are cancelled 72 hours or more prior to 2:00 p.m. on scheduled arrival date, the reservation fee will be refunded; otherwise, the reservation fee will be forfeited. Reservations for group facilities will be taken on a first-come, first-served basis by letter, telephone or in person after the drawing is held. All group facility reservations require a reservation fee in the amount of one day's user fee for the type of group facility reserved if the reservation is made 10 days or more in advance of occupancy date. All groups must comply with occupancy limitations established for each group facility. The park superintendent will furnish this information when requested.



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## Coastal, Inland Fishing Regulations Modified

Emergency bag, possession and size limits on red drum (redfish) and spotted seatrout (speckled trout) imposed after the December 1983 freeze-related fish kill on the Texas coast have been extended on a permanent basis.

The Texas Parks and Wildlife Commission, meeting in Austin March 30, voted to retain the limits after hearing staff reports on the population status of the two species.

The limit on redfish is five per day, 10 in possession; the speckled trout limit is 10 per day, 20 in possession. Minimum size limits of 18 inches for redfish and 14 inches for trout also will continue in effect. The maximum size for red drum remains at 30 inches.

Effective on May 1 or before, the ban on retention of redfish and trout caught in East Matagorda Bay will be lifted. The bay was designated a redfish and trout sanctuary after the freeze in order to compare post-freeze populations of the two species with those in other bays.

Gary Matlock, chief of coastal fisheries, told commission members that the sport catch of trout in 1984 is less than 50 percent of the average catch during comparable periods in 1976 through 1983. Spotted seatrout caught in survey gill nets in 1984 are only 38 percent of the average catch during the 1976-83 period.

Matlock said some redfish are being caught on the coast, but bag seine samples indicate populations of the juveniles may be reduced more than was indicated shortly after the freeze.

No other major changes were made for rod-and-reel fishing in saltwater, but several modifications were adopted for sail lines, snaglines, nets and trotlines.

Sail line length will be limited to 1,800 feet with a maximum of 30 hooks per line. There is no minimum spacing requirement for hooks. The main line must be weighted shoreward of the last float so as to sink the main line below the surface where it will not impede boat traffic, and the floats and sail must have reflectors for night use.

Netting regulations for marine waters in Chambers, Harris and Victoria Counties will remain the same as during the period when they were not under the Parks and Wildlife Department's regulatory authority, with the exception that nets must be six-inch minimum mesh size.

In Baffin and Alazan Bays where snaglines are permitted, the lines may be fished with the hooks off the bottom. However, all trotlines coastwide must be fished with the main line on the bottom, and marked on each end with stakes or gallon-sized buoys.

The minimum size limit on soft-shell crabs was removed coastwide in order to allow development of a softshell crab industry.

In freshwater regulation changes, Toledo Bend Reservoir and Caddo Lake were provided standard Texas fishing regulations, rather than conforming to Louisiana regulations.

## Red Snapper Certified As New State Record

The fish records committee of the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department has certified a 32-pound, eight-ounce red snapper caught off Port Isabel during February as a new state record.

Ivy Shipp of Austin caught the fish at the East Banks on February 16. It was 38 inches long and 38½ inches in girth.

The former record snapper weighed 32 pounds, ¾-ounce, and was caught by Houstonite James Patrick Farley in 1980.

# OUTDOOR ROUNDUP

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DEPARTMENT'S NEWS SERVICE

Other freshwater changes were:

—Standardized trotline rules statewide, with a 100-hook limit per person, no more than 50 hooks on any one device, spaced at least three feet apart. They must be marked with a durable tag showing the name and address of the owner and the date the line was set.

—Increased the maximum size of the opening in wire minnow traps from one-inch diameter to one inch by three inches.

—Netting for rough fish will be allowed only in those areas where it currently is legal. A minimum size of six-inch stretched mesh (three-inch-square) was established for all nets. Additionally, netting for rough fish only will be allowed in Lake Anahuac and a small section of the Neches River below Steinhagen Reservoir. Required marking of all sport nets.

—Opened Old Marlin City Lake at Marlin and Brandy Branch Reservoir near Marshall to fishing. A 14-inch minimum size limit on bass was established for Brandy Branch.

—Removed the 35-inch maximum length limit on redfish caught in freshwater lakes.

—Prohibited fish snagging on a statewide basis.

## 1984-85

### Hunting Seasons Set By P&W Commission

A standard statewide quail season was one of the major changes among the 1984-85 hunting seasons adopted by the Texas Parks and Wildlife Commission March 30.

The November 3, 1984, through February 24, 1985 quail hunting season is the first in the state's modern history without exceptions for various counties or regions.

The commission also set the white-tailed deer hunting season for November 17, 1984, through January 6, 1985 in most counties. Exceptions include certain counties in the Panhandle which will have a season of November 17-December 2; counties in the Trans-Pecos which will have November 24-January 6; and Marion, Morris, Cass, Bowie and Red River Counties in East Texas, where the whitetail season will be split, November 17-30 and December 26-31.

The nine-day mule deer seasons will be November 17-25 in the Panhandle and November 24-December 2 in the Trans-Pecos.

The commission also voted to retain the buck permit system for

whitetails in Maverick, Webb, Duval and Zapata Counties. Permits for fork-antlered bucks will be issued to landowners in these counties on an unlimited basis as during 1983-84.

A general Panhandle white-tailed deer season was established in Oldham County.

The 1985 spring turkey hunting season for counties in the Rio Grande turkey range was set for April 13-28, 1985, and 12 counties were added to those offering a spring season. The season for eastern turkeys for 1985 in East Texas will be March 30-April 14 in the portions of eight counties offering the season. Henderson and Anderson Counties were provided the same season as the other East Texas counties.

Several changes were made in fall turkey hunting regulations, including:

—Closed the fall season in Matagorda County.

—Opened the season in Gonzales and Parker Counties.

—Changed the Kerr County season to end on the last day of the deer season (January 6).

—Established a season of November 17-December 2, in Foard County, with a bag limit of one turkey either sex.

—Established a one turkey either sex bag limit in Dickens County.

—Changed the bag limits in Bell, Coryell and Williamson Counties from one gobbler or bearded hen to two gobblers or bearded hens.

—Changed bag limits in Baylor, Callahan, Coleman, Shackelford, Sutton, Throckmorton, Val Verde and Wilbarger Counties from two gobblers or bearded hens to two turkeys either sex.

—Provided an October archery season for turkeys in Dimmit, Gonzales, Kerr and Parker Counties.

The commission made no changes in the pheasant season, but increased the daily bag limit in Panhandle Counties from two cock pheasants per day to three. The Panhandle season will be December 8-23. For coastal pheasants, the season will be November 17-December 16, with the daily bag limit remaining at two cocks. Commissioners added the southern portion of Fort Bend County and all of Matagorda and Brazoria Counties to the pheasant hunting area. The requirement that the head and both feet of pheasants be retained on the carcass until reaching their final destination was modified; retention of one foot only will be required in 1984-85.

The chachalaca season was lengthened and set for December 1-January 27. The season was closed in

Zapata County and opened in Willacy County.

The squirrel season was closed in certain Western Panhandle and Permian Basin counties. In Eastern Panhandle counties which had a six-month split squirrel season there will be no closed season, no bag limit. The season is closed in Western Panhandle and Permian Basin counties.

### Martin Creek Lake Park Project Okayed

The Texas Parks and Wildlife Commission has approved the master plan for Martin Creek Lake State Recreation Area and authorized expenditure of \$400,000 for Phase I construction and restoration at the site.

Facilities planned in Phase I include improvements to a boat ramp and the water system, additional parking, a fish-cleaning shelter, picnic areas, a footbridge and restroom.

The 216-acre park is located on the shores of the 5,000-acre Martin Creek Lake, owned by Texas Utilities Generating Co. The site currently is open to the public.

### Biologists Happy About Big Bass

Texas Parks and Wildlife Department officials were pleased to hear of a Channelview angler's recent catch of a 14-pound, 6½-ounce largemouth bass at Houston County Lake near Crockett.

The fish ranks as the third largest bass ever taken in Texas, and the second largest from a public reservoir. It was caught by Dan Bush on a chrome-colored crankbait March 13.

Officials believe introductions of the Florida-strain largemouth in the 1970s now are paying off in increased catches of trophy-sized bass.

"The Florida fish are growing right on schedule," said Bob Kemp, director of fisheries, "and it's also important to note that Houston County is not a power plant lake."

A large portion of the 13-pound and larger bass taken in Texas have been from power plant cooling lakes where discharges keep water temperatures up, resulting in a longer growing season for bass. However, the current state record 15-pound, eight-ounce bass came from a non-heated private lake in East Texas, and the 13-8 record which stood for more than 40 years was from non-heated Lake Medina.

Bob Bounds, inland fisheries management coordinator, believes a non-



"The Lone Star" drama in the Mary Moody Northen Amphitheater.

### Most Facilities Open At Galveston Island Park

State park officials remind vacationers and other visitors to the upper Gulf Coast that most facilities at Galveston Island State Park are open to the public.

Hurricane Alicia's winds and high tides caused a temporary closing of the entire park for a short time last summer, but many of the facilities have since been repaired, according to Joe Bill Cochran, Park Superintendent.

"We still are without 150 multi-use campsites and 60 picnic sites, as well as all restroom and shower facilities on the beach side of the park," said Cochran, "but we have some overnight camping facilities."

Cochran noted that 20 campsites with water and electricity, and 10 screened shelters are available for use on the bay side of the park. "We also can offer nature trails, access to bay fishing and day-use activities," he said. The Mary Moody Northen Amphitheater also is in operation.

The park headquarters is open from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. daily, and reservations for overnight camping may be made between 8 a.m. and 5 p.m. in person or by calling 409-737-1222.

heated public lake may ultimately produce a new state record. "Bass tend to grow faster in year-round warmwater conditions," Bounds noted, "but their life span may be shorter than fish in a cooler environment. That's why it's possible some of the older, cold-water lakes could come to the fore in big bass production."

Bounds noted that three of the five largest bass taken from Texas waters came from nonheated reservoirs, and 10 of the top 27.

### P&W Commission Selects 1984-85 Waterfowl Art

A painting of a wood duck drake and hen rendered by Minnesotan David Maass will depict the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department's 1984-85 State Waterfowl Stamp.

The painting by the nationally known Maass was selected by the Parks and Wildlife Commission March 30 in Austin.

The work was submitted by Graham's Gallery, a publishing firm from Jonesboro, Arkansas, which agreed to pay the department \$35.63 for each of the prints sold. The firm also guaranteed a minimum royalty to the department of \$250,000.

The \$5 state waterfowl stamp is required of all waterfowl hunters in addition to a valid hunting license. Revenues from the sales of stamps and wildlife art prints made from the stamp art are dedicated to waterfowl research, management, protection and habitat acquisition and development in Texas.

Marketing and distribution of the 1984-85 waterfowl prints will be done by Collectors Covey Inc. of Dallas, which produced the first three print programs. During that time, 33,900 prints have brought the department almost \$1.3 million in royalties from print sales and almost \$200,000 from the sales of stamps affixed to the framed prints.

Maass is one of the nation's most acclaimed wildlife artists, having won the federal duck stamp competition

in 1974 and 1982. His credits also include artwork on the Minnesota duck stamp in 1977 and 1979, the Ruffed Grouse Society stamp and print in 1980, the first International Quail Foundation print in 1981, the 1982 National Wild Turkey print and the 1983 Arkansas duck stamp print.

### Trout Fishing Draws State Park Visitors

A rainbow trout stocking program at three state parks almost doubled visitation there during December, January and February, according to Texas Parks and Wildlife Department officials.

The department released the hatchery-reared trout in small lakes to determine if the fishery would increase winter visitation at Buescher, Tyler and Meridian State Parks.

Each of the parks posted impressive gains during those three months over the same period in 1983, and officials believe fishing was the main cause since no other substantial changes were made in the park facilities.

The most dramatic increase occurred at Meridian State Park near Meridian. The gains started slowly during the cold spell in December, with a 3.2 percent increase, but the January totals were 240 percent higher than January 1983, with 10,995 people entering the park. A 300 percent increase was noted in February with 16,334 visitors compared to only 4,008 in February 1983.

The three parks combined showed a 17.9 percent increase during December, a 97.6 percent gain for January, and 81.6 percent for February over the previous year.

The state park experiment mirrors the popularity of the state's other rainbow trout stocking programs at five public fishing areas. They are the Guadalupe River below the Canyon Reservoir Dam, the Brazos River below Possum Kingdom Dam, Foster County Park Lake at San Angelo, Boykin Springs Lake in Angelina County and the San Gabriel River below the Lake Georgetown Dam.

The trout introductions are a put-and-take operation conducted during the winter months, usually ending by April, officials said. The daily bag limit is five, possession limit 10, at all trout fishing areas.

The state park fisheries are available to all park visitors, with no extra fees charged other than the standard entry and overnight camping fees. A fishing license is required unless the angler is exempted.

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## Wild Flowers, Snakes Set To Make Appearance

Warm spring weather fills the air with anticipation for the annual appearance of Texas' beloved wildflowers. It also heralds the appearance of some less delightful fauna—poisonous snakes.

Biologist Floyd Potter of the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department said by the time wild flowers bloom along roadways and fields, snakes and other reptiles are emerging from their winter dens.

Potter says you don't have to let snakes prevent full enjoyment of flowers and other spring sights if

you take a few precautions.

"The great majority of Texas snakes, both as to kinds and numbers, are nonpoisonous," said Potter. "Relatively few places in the state have locally abundant poisonous snakes where the hazard of snakebite is substantial."

The poisonous snakes native to Texas are the various subspecies of rattlesnake, cottonmouth, copperhead and coral snake.

Potter offers a few tips for avoiding snakebite. "When you walk through areas where snakes might be, go slowly to give snakes a chance to move out of your way. Watch where you put your hands and feet, because most snakebites occur on extremities after a person fails to

watch where he or she is stepping or climbing," he said.

The TP&WD offers two publications on poisonous snakes which include identification, snakebite prevention and first aid. One is a free leaflet entitled "Watch Your Step." Another is a color-illustrated booklet entitled "Poisonous Snakes of Texas," (Bulletin #31) which costs \$2.70. To obtain either of the publications, write the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department, 4200 Smith School Road, Austin, Texas 78744.

## Deer, Turkey Harvest Shows Decline in '83

Hunters harvested fewer deer and wild turkeys in Texas during the 1983 hunting season, but Texas Parks and Wildlife Department officials believe the decline was caused by lush range conditions rather than low deer and turkey populations.

Recently completed surveys indicate hunters took approximately 318,300 white-tailed deer during the 1983 season, a six percent decline from 337,600 the year before; a total of 31,700 turkeys was harvested, down 42 percent from 54,600 in 1982.

"There was a tremendous acorn crop everywhere, and this caused deer and turkeys to move around less for food during the hunting season," said Horace Gore, white-tailed deer program leader. "This was especially true in the Edwards Plateau, where a large portion of the statewide harvest occurs each year." Gore added that even though harvest declined statewide, it was higher than the 10-year average.

In areas with large acorn crops, deer and turkeys largely ignored feeders where hunters place corn or other food items to attract game, Gore noted.

Hunters in the Edwards Plateau region harvested 136,300 deer in 1983-84, a 15 percent decline from the previous year's 159,700. Declines also were noted in South Texas, two percent, and the Cross Timbers, 21 percent.

A 35 percent decline in the mule deer harvest in West Texas, from 4,700 in 1982 to 3,100 in 1983, may have been related to declining mule deer populations as well as diminishing hunter participation. Javelina harvest also was down about 12 percent, with a total harvest of 21,700.

Two of the state's major deer-producing ecological regions posted increases in the whitetail harvest, with the biggest numerical gain in the Pineywoods of East Texas. Hunters

bagged 38,600 deer in 1983, compared to 28,300 the year before, for a 36 percent increase. The Pineywoods deer population has been on the upswing for the past several years, Gore said. The Post Oak Belt of East-Central Texas gained eight percent.

## State Shooting Range Program Gets Underway

The Texas Parks and Wildlife Commission has approved expenditure of the first \$100,000 in the state's new shooting range program for hunter education.

The fund, authorized by the 67th Texas Legislature, provides money for construction, development, improvement and/or maintenance of shooting ranges.

The first projects, and the amounts authorized are: the University of Texas at Arlington, \$11,750; Harris County Parks Department, \$62,881; and the Orange Gun Club, \$25,369.

Federal funds for the program are derived in part from an 11 percent excise tax on sales of handguns and archery equipment.

The ranges are required to be on land owned or controlled by the applicant to assure implementation of hunter education classes and public use.

Officials said volunteer hunter education instructors will be able to use the facilities to certify students.

JUNE IN . . .

## TEXAS PARKS & WILDLIFE

The Big Thicket National Preserve is well known for its lush and unusual plant life, and next month we'll visit the Big Thicket's Pitcher Plant Savannah. We'll also visit Goliad State Historical Park, where part of the state's colorful past can be rediscovered by present-day explorers. If a bayfishing trip is among your plans this summer, you might want to learn how watching the birds can lead you to good catches of speckled trout. We'll explain in the June issue. Other stories next month include the Carmen Mountains white-tailed deer, Bastrop State Park's hiking trail and a summary of Texas rivers in observance of American Rivers Month. The Young Naturalist feature will explain how mouth coloration stimulates birds' feeding activities.



## 'Texas' Musical Drama Enters 19th Season

The popular musical drama "Texas" will kick off its 19th colorful season June 13 at the outdoor Pioneer Amphitheatre in Palo Duro Canyon State Park.

The spectacular production, staged by the nonprofit Texas Panhandle Heritage Foundation, reenacts events during the settling of the Texas Panhandle in the 1880s.

During 1983, "Texas" played to 87,881 visitors from all 50 states and 68 foreign countries, and has entertained almost 1.5 million during the past 18 seasons. It will play Monday through Saturday nights until August 25.

The amphitheatre is framed by a rugged backdrop of canyon walls in one of the state's largest parks. Palo Duro Canyon State Park is located 12 miles east of Canyon on FM 217.

Tickets for "Texas" may be reserved at any time at 2010 4th Avenue in Canyon, or by writing P.O. Box 268, Canyon, Texas 79015. The telephone number is 806-655-2181. For overnight camping reservations at the state park, write the park superintendent at Route 2, Box 285, Canyon, Texas 79015, or call 806-488-2227.

*Three leaflets on each leaf stalk is poison ivy's only dependable characteristic. White berries that age to an ivory-brown are another identifying feature of the plant.*

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# “leaflets three, let it be.”

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by Ilo Hiller

“Leaflets three, let it be,” are words that should be engraved in the minds of every outdoor recreationist. By following the admonition of this old saying, most people can avoid the tormenting consequences of direct contact with poison ivy. Ignoring it may mean a period of severe itching, skin inflammation, water blisters or worse reactions.

As the rhyme indicates, poison ivy grows with three leaflets on each leaf stalk; however, this is its only dependable characteristic. Countless people fall victim to the insidious plant because they do not realize its appearance can be so varied and fail to recognize its many forms.

Poison ivy leaves can vary in size, shape, color and lustre. They may be dull or glossy, broad or thin and have smooth or jagged edges. When they unfold in the spring, the crinkly young leaves are red or purplish.” Summer finds the mature leaves displaying shades of green, and autumn turns them colorful hues of red, orange and yellow.

To further complicate matters, the plant may grow as a shrub, varying from a few inches to several feet high; a climbing vine, rising some 50 to 75



BILL REAVES



PAUL M. MONTGOMERY



*Fall Virginia creeper (above) looks like poison ivy (left), but its five leaves identify it. Don't overlook the green three-leafed ivy growing with the creeper and green dewberry plant.*

feet above the ground; or a spreading ground cover, blanketing everything in its path. Slender vines running along the ground may intertwine with other vegetation or attach themselves to a tree or other object to begin an upward climb. Over a period of years, the vines grow to be several inches in diameter and become woody. Kinky, brown aerial rootlets securely attach

the vines to crevices or small openings in the objects being climbed. These rootlets give the vine the look of a fuzzy rope and help identify it.

Clusters of small, rather inconspicuous, five-petaled, yellowish-green flowers appear on the ivy in the early summer. These flower clusters always grow in the angle between the leaf stalk and the stem. If they develop, they produce

PAUL M. MONTGOMERY

*Thorns distinguish this dewberry from poison ivy, but berry pickers should remember they can grow together.*



PAUL M. MONTGOMERY

small green berries that ripen to a waxy white or ivory color. Distinct lines mark the outer skin of the berry to give it the segmented appearance of a peeled orange. In late fall, winter and early spring when the leaves are not present, the berries are helpful in identifying the plant.

Common poison ivy, nonconforming as it may be, grows in every state except California and Nevada. However, varieties of poison oak (southern, eastern and western) make up for the omission. In fact, the leathery-leaved western poison oak has infiltrated most of California.

Poison oak is considered a misnomer by many people. Rather than producing acorns, this plant bears the same inconspicuous flowers as the ivy and produces the same type of waxy berries. As with the ivy, its leaves appear in triplicate on a leaf stalk, but they are shaped somewhat like those of an oak tree. Contact with poison

oak produces the same results as contact with poison ivy. For this reason, the plant is known to many as oakleaf ivy or oakleaf poison ivy.

An extreme precaution taken by some people is to avoid contact with all wild vines. Although there's nothing wrong with being cautious, such a phobia leads a few individuals to destroy harmless varieties of woodland vines in the mistaken belief that they are getting rid of poison ivy.

Members of the creeper family (Virginia, thicket and seven-leaf creepers) often are mistaken for poison ivy by those who fail to notice a definite characteristic of these plants. Their leaves grow fanlike from one point on the leaf stalk and usually number from five to seven. Creepers produce small, five-petaled, greenish flowers, but the berries that follow range from greenish blue to bluish black.

As a rule, all the outdoor recreationist needs to remember is "Leaflets three, let it be." However, as is usually the case, there is an exception to the rule. One five-leaf form of poison ivy has been found growing along Bray's Bayou in Houston and in the San Jacinto River Bottom near Sheldon. It displays all the characteristics of normal poison ivy except it has an additional pair of leaves growing on the leaf stalk just below the usual two. Since all five leaves on this form of poison ivy do not grow from one point on the leaf stalk, it still cannot be confused with the harmless Virginia creeper. Few, if any, outdoor recreationists should come in contact with this unusual five-leaf poison ivy.

No one is completely immune to the effects of poison ivy and poison oak, but sensitivity to the plant varies with the individual. Contact may produce only a few itchy bumps or blisters on one person, while another becomes a hospital patient as the toxin enters the blood system and spreads inflammation to the internal organs.

An oily substance called urushiol is the toxic ingredient that causes all the problem. It occurs in the sap and is present in all parts of the poison ivy plant. Leaves, flowers, berries, bark, stem and roots are potent at all times of the year, but in spring and summer secretions of oil in the leaves and stems may be more abundant giving the victim an increased dose of poison.

Killing the plant does not make it harmless. Research has found that leaves stored at room temperature for as long as five years, and ivy branches cut and exposed to the outdoors on top of a garage roof for 18 months were almost as toxic as when they were part of a live plant.

Indirect exposure to poison ivy can be as bad as direct contact. Urushiol can be transferred to the hands when removing shoes or touching tools, camping equipment or anything else that may have come into contact with poison ivy. As the contaminated hands touch other parts of the body, the irritant is spread. Man's best friend can





be an innocent culprit, too. Since the oily toxin sticks to animal fur, petting the family dog after it has had a run in the woods transfers urushiol to the hands.

Another indirect method of contamination occurs when poison ivy is burned. It is a foolish camper indeed who gets some of the plant mixed in with the firewood or builds a campfire on some of the vines. Tiny oil droplets trapped in the smoke as the plant burns can penetrate light clothing to irritate unexposed skin as well as exposed parts of the body.

If you suspect you have come in contact with poison ivy, don't wait for the



PHOTOGRAPHS BY BILL REAVES



The three-leaf skunk-bush sumac and its sucker vines (above) might be mistaken for poison ivy or poison oak (left), but not when its red berries are present. To help you remember, here's another rhyme: "Berries red hold no dread; berries white, take flight."

proof of itchy bumps and blisters. Wash the contaminated skin immediately with strong soap and then rinse thoroughly. Repeat the process several times under running water to lessen the effects or perhaps even prevent a reaction.

Clothing worn at the time of exposure should be removed as soon as possible and washed thoroughly (not with other clothes). Be careful when handling the clothes since they probably are contaminated too. Send them

through two complete washing cycles as an added precaution. To clean the machine, allow it to go through another complete cycle after the clothes have been removed.

Those who have had to suffer the miseries of poison ivy probably would consider any precautions worthwhile, and learning to identify poison ivy is one of the best ways to prevent contamination. *Praestat cautela quam medela*—Precaution is better than cure. \*\*

# TARPON ROUNDUP

by Steve Marwitz



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**E**arly on the morning of November 7, 1983, Coastal Fisheries biologists and technicians from Seadrift arrived at a roadside ditch along the Powderhorn Ranch fenceline in Calhoun County. While waiting for the ranch foreman to arrive, they eagerly eyed the surface of the rain-filled drainage ditch for the telltale silver flash of surfacing tarpon. A most unusual roundup at Powderhorn Ranch was about to begin.

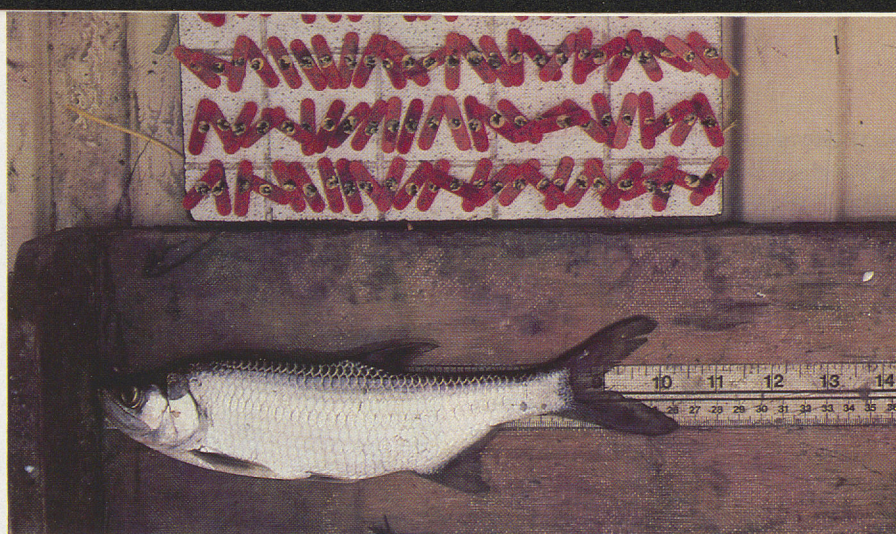
Two weeks earlier, 94 young tarpon had been captured from a roadside ditch near Seadrift and taken to the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department's Heart of the Hills Research Station in Ingram. During that seining operation, many tarpon were seen escaping to the side of the ditch on the Powderhorn Ranch, and biologists had obtained permission from the ranch owner to continue the rescue.

Events leading up to this moment had begun when department personnel in Seadrift received a report that small tarpon were being caught by fishermen in bait nets in a roadside ditch located alongside State Highway 185 between Seadrift and Port O'Connor. A quick trip and one throw of the cast net by technician Dave Turowski netted 12 small tarpon with an average length of 8½ inches. All but five fish retained for identity confirmation were returned to the ditch. Further examination revealed there were many more trapped tarpon in the ditch, and it was feared that they would not survive the winter.

This was exciting but difficult to explain. In thousands of routine samples taken by biologists through the years, finding young tarpon is extremely rare. Now we had found a backwater area where juvenile tarpon were present in unusual abundance. Where had they come from and how had they gotten there? To answer these questions, we must examine the life history of the tarpon.

Also known as the silver king, the tarpon, *Megalops atlantica*, is regarded as a prime game fish because of its fighting abilities and leaping powers.

*Bag seines were used to capture the trapped tarpon. It takes six or seven years for young tarpon to mature and perhaps provide fishing pleasure for coastal anglers.*



PAUL HAMMERSCHMIDT

At one time it was the king of coastal sport fish, and some of the state's earliest fishing tournaments were for tarpon. In the early 1950s the tarpon population began to decline, marking the end of the tournaments. Only one remains, the successful tarpon "rodeo" held each October at Port Isabel, where the state's most viable tarpon fishery is found. The state record tarpon of 210 pounds was caught in 1973.

**T**he tarpon is one of the most prolific of fishes and can produce more than 12 million eggs. But its major problem is that it must live six to seven years before reaching sexual maturity. Spawning takes place in summer and early fall and produces an eel-like larva called a leptocephalus. Growth is slow.

Young tarpon inhabit small, brackish freshwater streams and, as they grow,



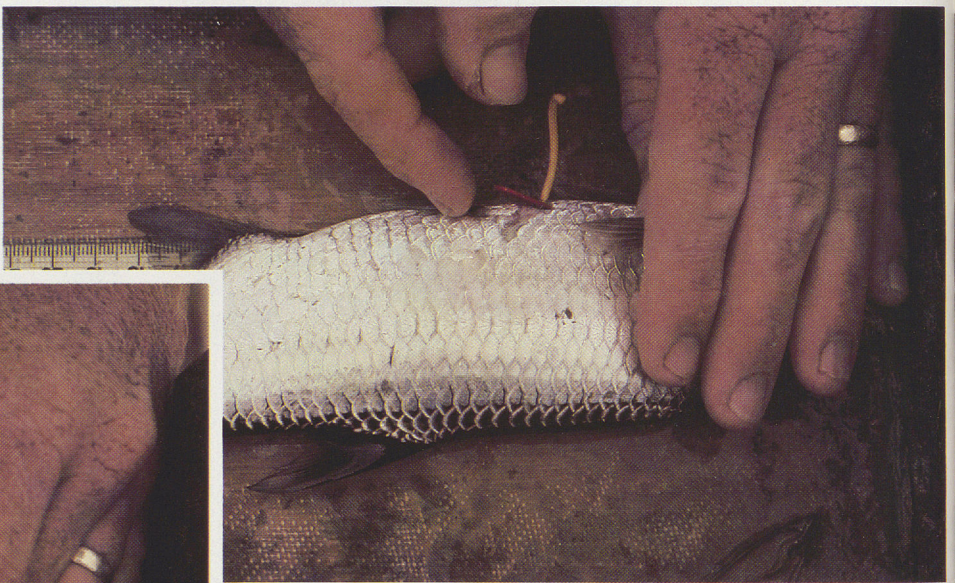
BILL BEAVES

they move into larger streams and estuaries. They can tolerate a wide range of salinities and often are found in fresh water. They also can live in waters virtually devoid of dissolved oxygen since they can gulp atmospheric oxygen during their surface rolls.

From this life history information, we can assume the tarpon were trapped in the overflow ditch when Coloma Creek receded after earlier flooding. Coloma Creek runs through the Powderhorn Ranch and empties into Powderhorn Lake, which in turn empties into Matagorda Bay.

The problem was what should be done with these young tarpon. The trapped fish provided a perfect opportunity for fisheries biologists to collect a large number for tagging, transplant stocking and other studies. Since tarpon can adapt and live in fresh water, Dick Luebke, director of research at Heart of the Hills, wanted some of these game fish. Studies conducted there could provide invaluable information on growth, temperature tolerances and maturation. On October 21, bag seines were used to capture 94 of the young tarpon for transport to Heart of the Hills. It was during this particular seining operation that many tarpon were seen escaping to the Powderhorn Ranch side of the ditch.

Many fishes, including tarpon, occupy environments near the limits of



*Tags placed in 44 of the young tarpon may provide transplant stocking information and other data on the released fish. Those smaller than nine inches weren't tagged.*





their temperature tolerance. The freedom to move to deeper, warmer water is necessary for their survival. Confined in a ditch, such movement is not possible and one or two strong cold fronts could kill many of the fish. Since winter was fast approaching, the decision was made to collect and remove as many of the remaining fish as possible.

The ranch owner gave special permission to enter the Powderhorn Ranch. Three biologists and two technicians from the Seadrift Field Station began the roundup operation on November 7 and captured 144 tarpon ranging from five to 12 inches long with an 8½-inch average. This roundup was done with several simultaneous drags of two 60-foot bag seines. The captured fish then were placed in holding boxes for transport to the release site at Coloma Creek where it empties into Powderhorn Lake. This is the habitat they most likely would have occupied had they not been washed from the creek. Forty-four tarpon measuring longer than nine inches were tagged before their release; the remaining smaller fish were released without tags.

All this resulted in the capture and relocation of 238 young tarpon that probably would have died during the severe freeze that hit Texas just weeks later. So many tarpon in such a small area is rare and probably a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity. It is hoped the tarpon will grow, reach sexual maturity and help reestablish a tarpon fishery in Texas coastal bays and the Gulf of Mexico. \* \*

*Capturing so many young tarpon at one time gave department biologists a rare opportunity to conduct research studies on this coastal game fish. Since tarpon can live in fresh water, 94 of the young tarpon were sent inland to the Heart of the Hills Experiment Station.*



PHOTOGRAPHS BY PAUL HAMMERSCHMIDT

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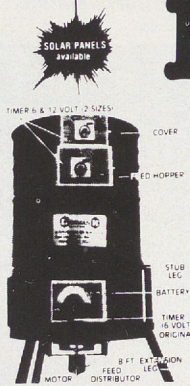
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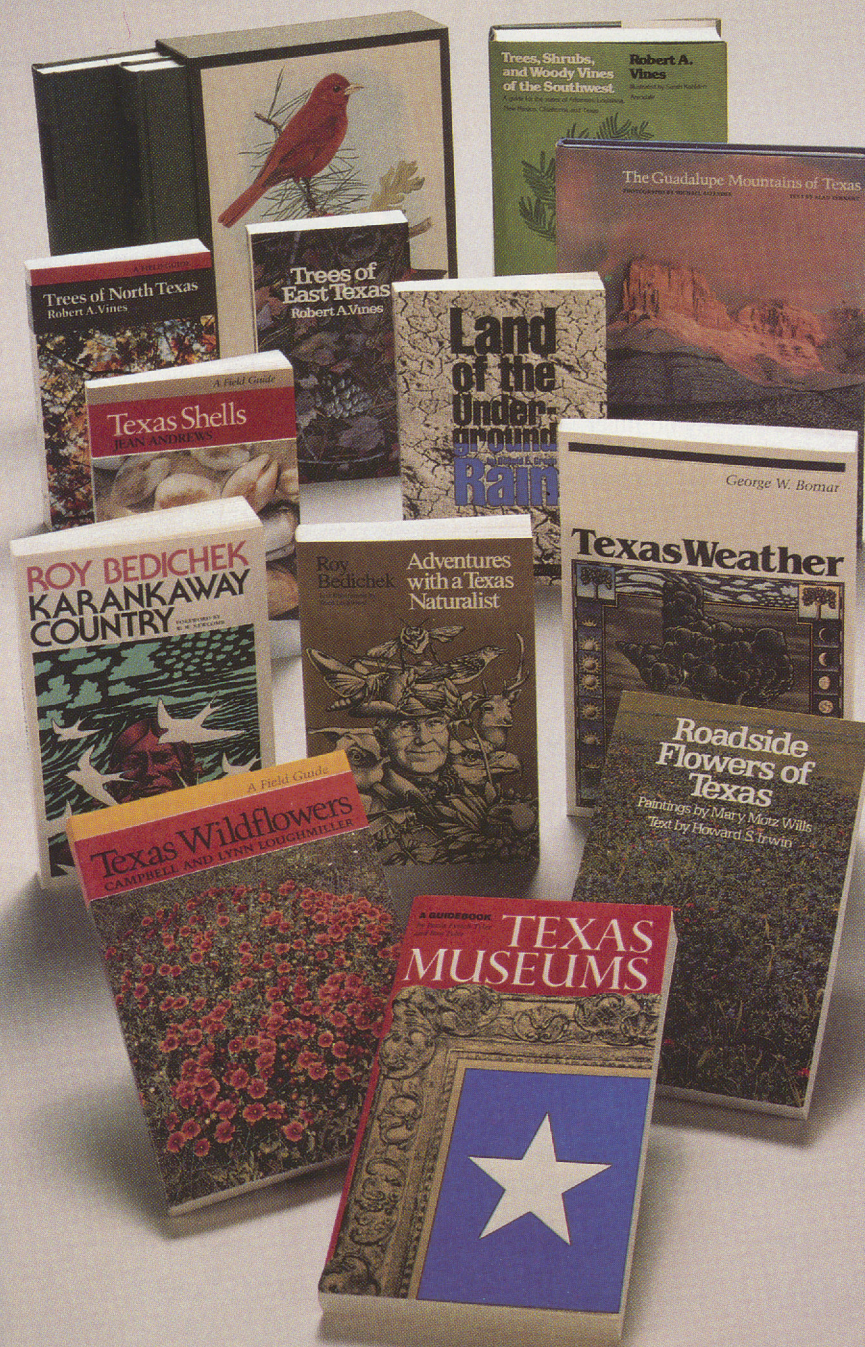
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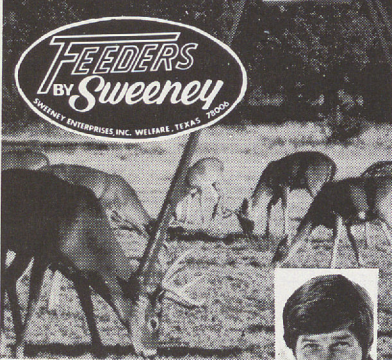
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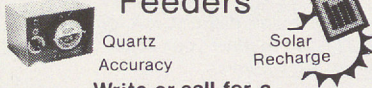
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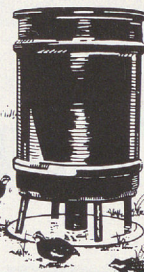


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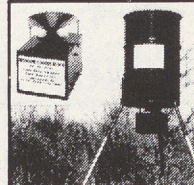
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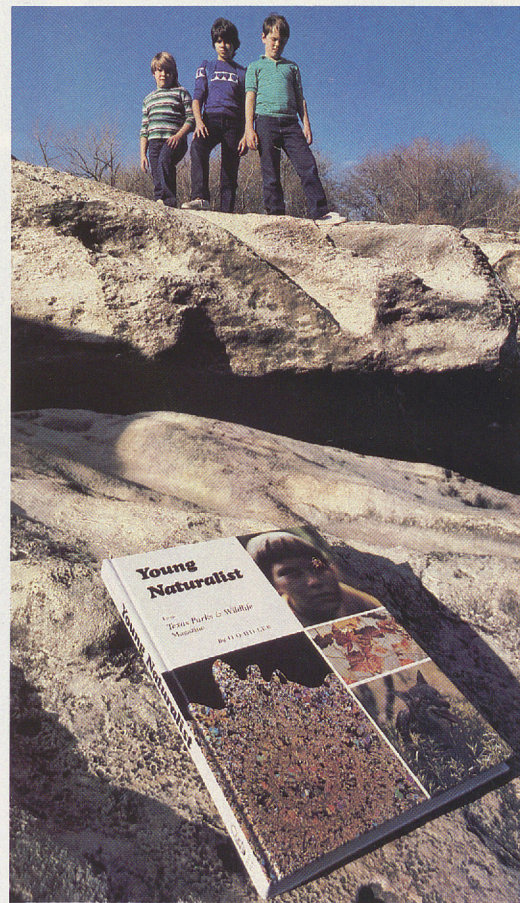
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# Letters to the Editor

## Slob Hunters

I am writing about the Louisiana hunters who were convicted of killing does out of season and wasting the meat (February "Outdoor Roundup").

As sportsmen and hunters, we in Louisiana deplore such acts no less than our counterparts in Texas, but what makes things such as this just as deplorable is the subtle but firm language in the article that infers that Louisiana hunters are especially capable of such horrible acts.

It is true that Louisiana has its share of outlaws, as do Texas or Mississippi or any other state. Many of these hunters also cross over lawful boundaries in search of game. We look upon these people as criminals, sportslobs and opportunists, but above all as individuals. We hope that the people in Texas and your editors in particular grant us the same courtesy.

Jim Earnest  
Duson, Louisiana

## Antlerless Harvest

The article "Antlerless Deer Harvest Lagging" in the March Outdoor Roundup caught my eye.

I have been hunting white-tailed deer for more than 20 years. I have not gone for the past three seasons, not because I didn't want to, but because I could not afford the price landowners now demand. I have had season leases at Burnet, Possum Kingdom and Paris with great success, but at each lease the landowner went up on his price after a few seasons. Only at the Possum Kingdom lease did the landowner provide doe permits. Next I tried day leases, which were somewhat less successful, and in all cases but one the landowner did not allow does to be taken. The one exception charged an extra fee for the doe permits. The reason given by all the landowners was that they did not want to decrease the size of their deer herd.

I am not a trophy hunter. I hunt for recreation, and because I love the taste of properly prepared deer steak, sausage and chili.

Almost all articles on deer hunting agree that harvesting antlerless deer improves a deer herd. Landowners I have talked to do not believe this, and they think that as long as hunters are willing to pay whatever prices they ask, why shouldn't they charge high prices. When a hunter is willing to pay such high prices, he is seeking a trophy buck and nothing else.

There may be no way to regulate the

way a landowner operates, but maybe there could be an antlerless-only season in areas of high deer population. Or maybe the number of bucks allowed each hunter per season could be reduced. At any rate, until things change, I will only be reading about white-tailed deer, and hoping one of my friends will invite me to a deer chili supper.

Berton F. Stengel  
Eddy

## Wrong Birds

The photo on page 27 of the March issue shows three white pelicans either landing or taking off, not whooping cranes, as stated in the caption. Whoopers would show long trailing legs and some color on the head, even in a photo of this size.

I've been taking *Texas Parks & Wildlife* almost six years, and couldn't do without it every month. It's the best money I spend for magazines. Keep up the good work. Your magazine made those cold winter months pass quickly.

Charles Easley  
Cleburne

## Wrong Sex

The photo on page 43 of the March issue is a male cardinal feeding the young, not a female, as stated below the picture.

Jane Reader  
San Angelo

## Wildlife Restoration

We animal lovers, protectors and defenders realize that hunting license fees pay for restoration. But there is one thing no one ever considers. If hunters and trappers didn't remove the wildlife, restoration would not be necessary.

As for the letter in the February issue that said anti-hunters talk a lot but don't put their money where their mouths are, I happen to spend \$250 per month on animals, and I am a member of many wildlife conservation groups with people who spend a lot more than I do.

I, for one, would be willing to support the institution of taxes to be used to correct habitat destruction and mismanagement. I believe camping, hiking, fishing, target practice, backpacking and just enjoying beautiful places in nature are great activities. I'll never understand why so many people deem it necessary to derive most of their pleasure at the expense of poor, dumb animals.

Mrs. Sondra York  
Lewisville

## No Dead Animals

Your March issue was written in the way your magazine should be written. It was filled with beautiful photographs and interesting articles sure to please and inform any nature lover. For once there were no dead animals in any of the pictures. It is difficult for a nature lover to enjoy the beautiful pictures of animals in your magazine when you show pictures of dead animals that have been shot by hunters.

Instead of trying to please both animal killers and animal lovers, it sure would be nice if your magazine would devote itself to showing off the natural beauty of the vegetation and wildlife within the state parks of Texas.

Robert Lisauckis  
Lubbock

## Where's Utah?

While reading your magazine I discovered an error on page 7 of the March issue. On the partial map of the United States, Utah has been incorrectly labeled as Wyoming. I've been to the Four Corners and know Wyoming is not one of the four states.

I really enjoy your magazine. The pictures are amazing. Your articles on state parks are wonderful because my family visits one every summer and the magazine helps us decide where to go.

Shelley Johnson (Age 11)  
Andrews

■ Our apologies to Utah. We'll try to do better on our geography.

## BACK COVERS

**Inside:** The western diamondback rattlesnake is the most dangerous, the most widespread and the most common poisonous snake in Texas. It is one of the two largest poisonous snakes in the country and will aggressively defend itself if annoyed. Western diamondbacks vary in color from chalky white to deep red, but can be identified by alternating black and white rings of equal width on the tail. Photo by Wyman P. Meinzer Jr.

**Outside:** Colorful blooms give the common and ubiquitous prickly pear a delicate beauty. Cactus flowers have a brief life, opening for only a few hours in the worst heat of the day. Photo by Frank Aguilar.

