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FRONT: Orville O. Rice painted a mother opossum and her babies for the cover of the January 1955 issue of the magazine. Illustration by Orville O. Rice/TPWD

PREVIOUS SPREAD: A magnificent rainbow offers a grand finale to a passing thunderstorm in the desert land west of Shafter. Photo © Wyman Meinzer

THIS PAGE: Longhorn Cavern is one of several state parks developed by the Civilian Conservation Corps in the 1930s. The corps cleaned out the cave, built stairs down to the cave entrance and constructed several buildings. Photo by Rob McCorkle/TPWD



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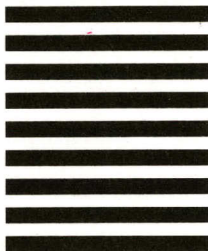


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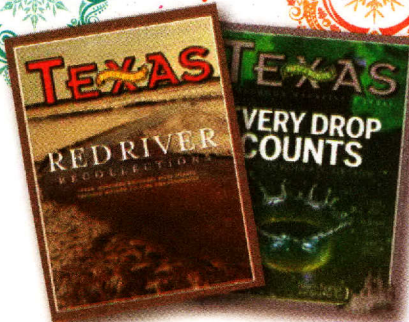


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SUBSCRIPTIONS:

(800) 937-9393

Texas Parks & Wildlife magazine (ISSN 0040-4586) is published monthly with combined issues in January/February and August/September by Texas Parks and Wildlife Department, 4200 Smith School Road, Austin, Texas 78744. The inclusion of advertising is considered a service to subscribers and is not an endorsement of products or concurrence with advertising claims. Copyright © 2012 by Texas Parks and Wildlife Department. No part of the contents of this magazine may be reproduced by any means without the permission of Texas Parks & Wildlife magazine. The magazine is not responsible for the return of unsolicited materials provided for editorial consideration.

SUBSCRIPTION RATE: \$18/year; foreign subscription rate: \$27.95/year. POSTMASTER: If undeliverable, please send notices by form 3579 to Texas Parks & Wildlife magazine, P.O. Box 421103, Palm Coast, FL 32142-1103. Periodicals Postage Paid at Austin, Texas, with additional mailing offices. SUBSCRIBER: If the Postal Service alerts us that your magazine is undeliverable, we have no further obligation unless we receive a corrected address within one year.

Texas Parks & Wildlife magazine is edited to inform readers and to stimulate their enjoyment of the Texas outdoors. It reflects the many viewpoints of contributing readers, writers, photographers and illustrators. Only articles written by agency employees will always represent policies of the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department.



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In the Field

KAREN CLARY

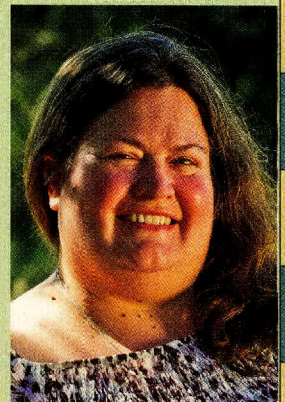
is a self-avowed plant nut. She can't remember a time when plants didn't interest her. Karen, who is a regular Flora Fact contributor, remembers the first time she knew she had a problem was when, at about the age of 6, she stole a bag of lima beans from the pantry and planted them. "I think I wanted



to see if *Jack in the Beanstalk* was a true story or not," she says. "I got caught when my mom discovered the bean plants coming up in the backyard." After earning degrees in botany, she pursued a career in conservation biology with the state Department of Transportation and later with TPWD. Last May she signed on with the Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center. She finds the plant world to be a source of endless wonder and takes special delight in sharing her fascination with Texas plants.

KRIS SHIPMAN'S

interest in and passion for volunteerism began 15 years ago when she was an AmeriCorps VISTA member serving at the Texas Department of Health. She has served in various roles through the years as a volunteer, a volunteer coordinator and an instructor on volunteer management, and eventually served as president of the Directors of Volunteers in Austin to promote volunteer management as a profession. Kris, who wrote an article on volunteering in this issue, works with hundreds of volunteers each year in her role as TPWD's Coastal Expo coordinator. Kris enjoys working with volunteers because it allows everyone to play a role and make a difference in his or her community.



TIM SPICE

has worked for the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department for 18 years in boater education and urban outreach. Tim, who wrote this month's Skill Builder on Dutch oven cooking, is well-respected for his culinary flair with Dutch ovens and outdoor cooking. "My grandmother was known for her fried chicken, and my mother was a home economics teacher," he says. "That's



where I learned to cook." Tim loves to entertain, and he takes his outdoor cooking show all across Texas. "One of my friends sent me a Dutch oven when I was in Iraq," Tim says. "His note said: 'Didn't want you to lose your touch.'" You can learn more Dutch oven cooking tips from Tim on TPWD's YouTube channel (www.youtube.com/user/TexasParksWildlife) or his own YouTube channel (search for keyword Mequence).

AT ISSUE

FROM THE PEN OF CARTER P. SMITH

She walked in the company of giants, men with boundless aspirations grappling with even larger political responsibilities on behalf of a great nation. Though diminutive in stature and hailing from the little Pineywoods town of Karnack, a world far, far away from the nation's capital and swirling center of political intrigue, Lady Bird Johnson was a quiet force of her own.

Fortunately for Texas, she was a force of, and for, nature.

As my colleague Rob McCorkle writes in this issue, Mrs. Johnson would have been 100 years young this year. Her spirit and legacy continue to loom large in the Texas Hill Country and beyond. Most remember her for her tireless advocacy of native plants, the beautification of the nation's highways and the establishment of the nationally renowned Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center.

I choose to remember her for something different, namely "her rock."

Nobody tells the story better than Pat Noonan. Noonan, a giant himself in the field of conservation, is the founder of the Conservation Fund. In the 1970s, Noonan was the director of the Nature Conservancy and was operating out of the conservancy's D.C.-area office when he received an unexpected call. It was none other than Lady Bird Johnson on the line.

Her request was a seemingly straightforward one, at least to her. Mrs. Johnson wanted him to come to Texas post-haste to help her save "her rock." There was only one thing to do when the former first lady called. So he hopped on a plane to Texas the next day, as he tells it with more than a little bit of glimmer in his eyes and a touch of humor in his voice, "to go see a lady worth seeing about her rock."

Her "rock," as she affectionately called it, turned out to be a massive granite batholith, known for its perceived mystical and enchanted powers and its prominent place on the Hill Country landscape. For Mrs. Johnson, the site represented a favorite place to take out-of-town, and particularly out-of-state, guests for an invigorating hike and a grand view of the Johnson family's beloved home ground.

When Pat Noonan arrived in Texas, Mrs. Johnson didn't waste any time marching him right up to the top of the rock and announcing her concerns. As she patiently explained with her inimitable Southern charm, the owners encompassing this extraordinary geologic feature were thinking of selling the property, and a rock quarry developer was in the market for a new source of granite. Her concerns about the future of the place were palpable and undeniable.

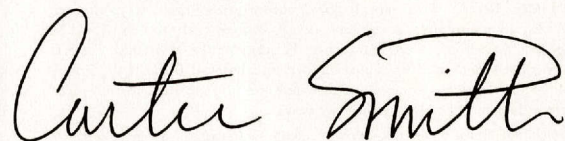
Her proposition, as Noonan tells it, was equally irresistible. "Pat, if you get this land under contract, I'll find you the money to buy it," she emphatically declared. And, as the annals of Texas conservation history will most assuredly attest, he held up his end of the deal, and she held up hers.

The result of that grand bargain was, of course, Enchanted Rock State Natural Area, a Hill Country treasure that Texas families will continue to cherish, now and to come.

I like her deal and hope you do, too.

Thanks for caring about our wild things and wild places. They need you now more than ever.

Her "rock," as she affectionately called it, turned out to be a massive granite batholith, known for its perceived mystical and enchanted powers and its prominent place on the Hill Country landscape.



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MAIL CALL

PICKS, PANS AND PROBES FROM OUR READERS

FOREWORD

If we tried to write up a recipe for *Texas Parks & Wildlife* magazine for those who step into the kitchen to succeed us one day, the first two ingredients would have to be science and art. Without that base, you've got nada. It would be like trying to make a cake without flour and eggs.

Back in the wartime austerity of December 1942, flour and eggs were about all people had to make a cake, and even those were precious. When you look at the first issue of this magazine that same month, the partnership of science and art already made up the core, but few ingredients were at hand to sweeten and flavor the "cake." What those early cooks lacked in ingredients, however, they made up for with humor and heart. The end result was a delightful and informative read, a treasured treat in a time filled with few desserts.

In our modern kitchen here at *Texas Parks & Wildlife* magazine, the shelves are filled with a wondrous array of ingredients and gadgets. At our fingertips are photographs that make us gasp with wonder and stories that take us to the places of our dreams and memories. We have the privilege of spending our days creating pages filled with these marvelous ingredients, of cooking art and science in a kitchen that has kept the oven warm for 70 years.

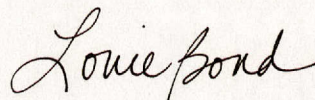
And you, dear readers, have been our companions at the kitchen table all this time. You sit down for a slice of our cake each month, and you stay a spell to share your own stories and photographs with us. This is no commercial kitchen, you see. This is Grandma's kitchen. We're not going to use a mix. Just like Grandma, we're stirring in love and passion every time we cook.

You can feel those secret ingredients in two fine articles by Managing Editor Russell Roe this month. Russell combines thorough research with superb storytelling in the spellbinding tale of the once-vanishing red wolf. Russell also takes us back to another time of frugality, the Great Depression, and the resulting Civilian Conservation Corps efforts in state parks. Using the natural materials around them, the CCC workers created iconic, functional buildings and architectural features that we have all come to cherish.

For this 70th anniversary, we also share with you some imagery from our archives and some reflections from those connected with us in special ways. Our staff may be few in number, but we are blessed by the assistance of countless others who lend expertise, advice and support.

Looking back reminds us of not only how far we've come, but also why we're here. We're here not only for the land and water of Texas or for the plants that grow here or the creatures that roam this state. We're here for you. Our only desire is that you'll come visit our kitchen by reading the pages we lovingly concoct each month, and find here the information and inspiration you need to enjoy life in this natural wonder we call home.

Thank you for 70 incredible years. We hope to keep the oven warm for many more to come.



LOUIE BOND
EDITOR

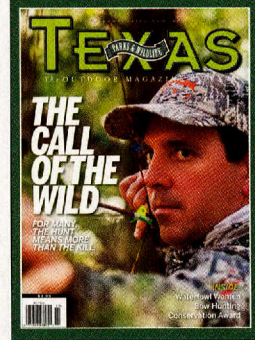
LETTERS

DESERT MEMORIES

I was looking through the October 2012 issue of *Texas Parks & Wildlife* magazine and saw the Table of Contents photo and thought I recognized the location. Sure enough, when I read the description it confirmed that it was in the Chinati Mountains. It was one of the first trips my wife and I made when we started dating — circa 2002. We left Big Bend Ranch and headed to Chinati Hot Springs.

I remember thinking how we were really in the middle of nowhere and hoping I did not have any car trouble. Stopping and taking a picture there always stuck in my memory, and I'm glad you could help me revisit that time!

TIM SPEYER
Austin



"What a joy to open up each issue and appreciate the efforts of Texans to preserve and facilitate good hunting in this wonderful state."

NEHEMIAH NOWLEN
Eules

VICARIOUSLY HUNTING AND FISHING

After living and enjoying a super-bountiful hunting in Fairfield County, S.C., for 30 years, my life's calling in ministry brought me to Eules in 2007, ending my hunting days. But a bright light has been *Texas Parks & Wildlife* magazine. What a joy to open up each issue and appreciate the efforts of Texans to preserve and facilitate good hunting in this wonderful state. My guns are gone, but I can vicariously "hunt and fish" in Texas through this magazine.

NEHEMIAH NOWLEN
Eules

DISAPPOINTED IN HUNTING FOCUS

I am a relatively new subscriber to the magazine, and I am so disappointed in it. I am not exactly against hunting, but it

MAIL CALL

is something that I would never do. I grew up on a farm in Minnesota, and my dad always hunted, but it is not for me.

When I first saw some information on the magazine I thought it would be interesting and I would enjoy it, but the last two issues have had so much on hunting and I cannot even bring myself to read those articles! So I get to read half a magazine. Nowhere in the initial advertisement that I saw did it say "Texas Parks & Wildlife for Hunters." October was a hunter's magazine, and I thought about writing then, but maybe it was a one-time thing ... well, no. November is the same. I am very disappointed!

"The Outdoor Magazine of Texas" should not necessarily mean hunting! There is plenty to enjoy outdoors in Texas, or anyplace else for that matter, without a gun or bow in your hand.

GAIL MCKELVEY
Hurst

TP&W MAGAZINE RESPONDS: We strive to serve a wide audience with our coverage, and we regret that you're disappointed in the subject

matter of hunting during the fall months. This is a very diverse state and consequently so is the magazine's range of articles. We follow the seasons with our editorial mix — hunting in the fall; fishing and state parks in the spring; travel and ecology in the summer. The magazine's goal is to support the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department's mission by promoting hunting, fishing, state parks, history and conservation of wildlife and natural resources. We hope you will be pleased with articles in future issues as the editorial mix changes. This month, learn about the Civilian Conservation Corps and the last stand of the red wolf, among other topics.

DALHART: A NICE PLACE TO VISIT

I really enjoyed your article on Dalhart ("XIT Marks the Spot," July 2012). I was a long-haul truck driver for many years, and I would always try to arrange my trips from Houston to Denver, Salt Lake City and Seattle (and the reverse) to where I could arrive in this friendly little town around suppertime. I would always stop at the small truck stop on the outskirts of town, fuel my rig, have a good hot meal and crawl in the sleep-

er for a good night's rest. I spent many a long winter's night in that warm sleeper with the snow coming down and the wind howling like crazy outside, but just being in this friendly place always gave me a warm feeling. Unfortunately, I never really got to know anyone there, but the few people I would run across in my short times there were always warm and friendly. I've never had anything but good things to say about Dalhart.

JOHN M. MASSEY
Dodge

Sound off for Mail Call

Let us hear from you!

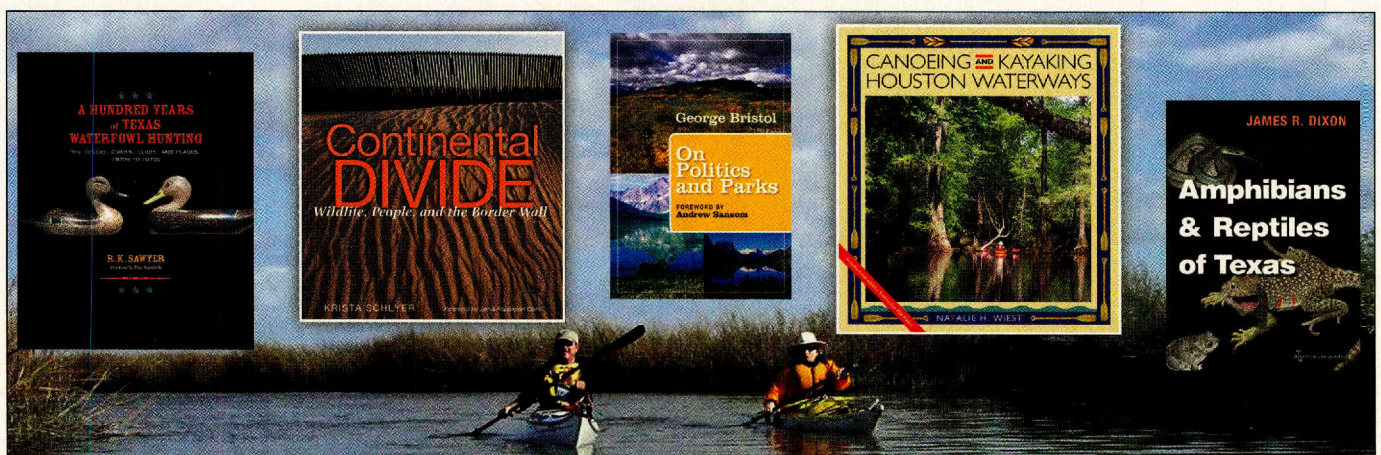
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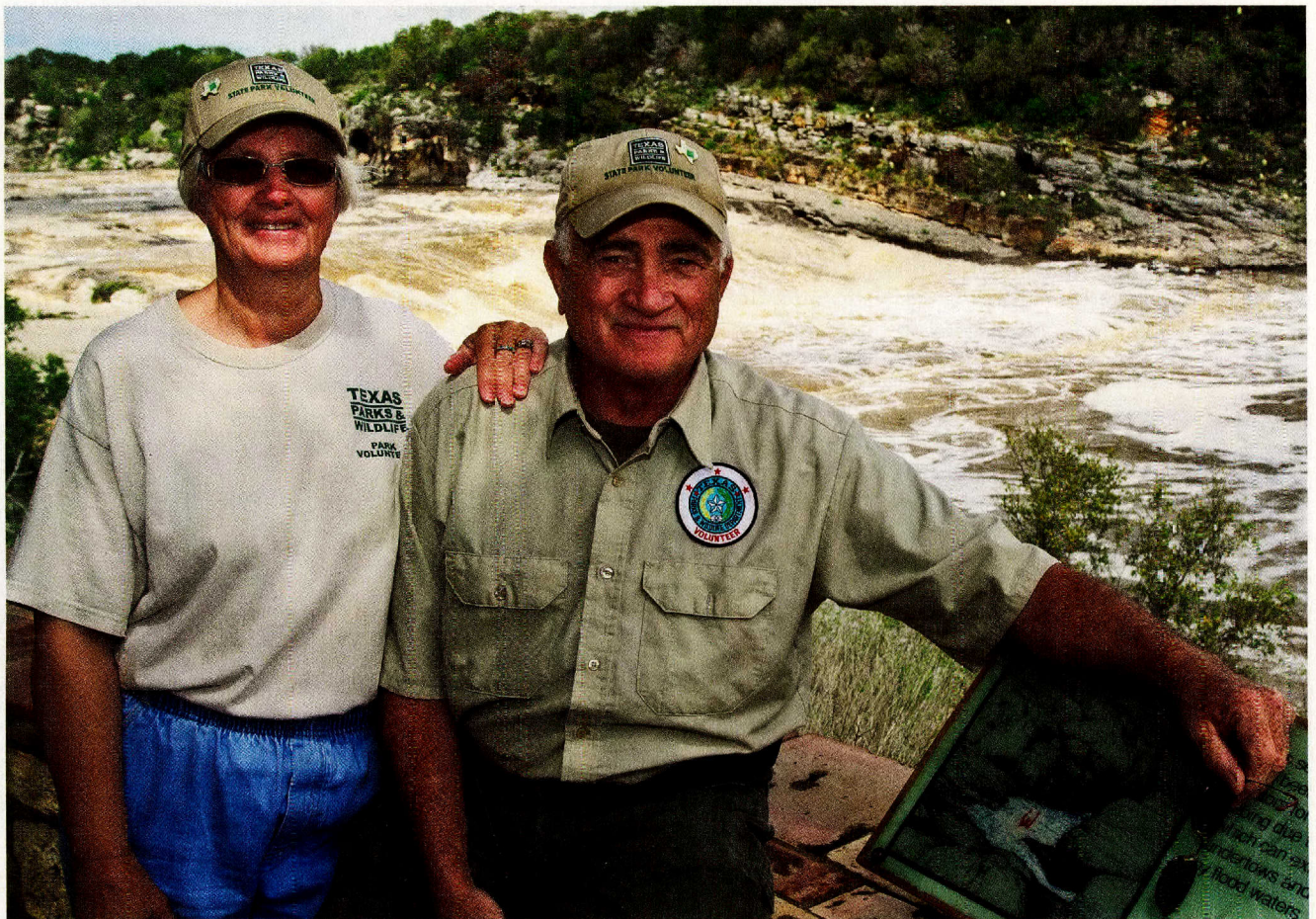
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SCOUT

NEWS AND VIEWS IN THE TEXAS OUTDOORS

SEASON OF SHARING

Give yourself the gift of giving this year.



December is traditionally considered a time of giving, and many of us reach for our checkbooks to donate to a worthy cause. There are other ways to give, however, not only during the holidays but throughout the year. One of the best ways is to volunteer your time.

Volunteering is not free — it requires commitment, time and talent. The service you give is quite valuable; in fact, it's been recently estimated to be worth an

average of \$21.79 per hour nationally. Last year, Texas Parks and Wildlife Department volunteers donated more than 978,000 hours, valued at \$16.5 million. TPWD volunteers provide support to our state parks, historic sites, fish hatcheries and outreach programs, assisting TPWD in its mission.

Volunteering is a “win-win” situation. It's easy to see how TPWD benefits, but what do the volunteers get out of the

experience? Volunteering is fun. It provides an opportunity to travel, meet people and develop new friendships.

Volunteering provides people an opportunity to support a cause they believe in and work cooperatively with others to solve a problem in society. It is one way for those who have received benefits from an organization to give back. Volunteers develop a sense of community and feel pride in

their accomplishments.

Volunteering can also provide benefits in the workforce. It is a great way to gain new skills, develop existing skills or explore different career paths. Volunteering provides an excellent opportunity to develop professional contacts and receive work experience. For those in high school and college, volunteering can be an opportunity to receive class credit or gain insight into professional opportunities.

Volunteering is actually good for your overall physical and mental health, too. Volunteering produces "helper's high," which can reduce stress and symptoms of depression. Many who donate their time say they have healthier immune systems, experience a decrease in chronic pain and feel stronger. Perhaps one reason is an increase in physical activity. Instead of walking a treadmill, spend time volunteering at a state park doing trail maintenance or trash pickup.

The TPWD volunteer program is a challenging and rewarding experience. Programs throughout the state offer a broad range of volunteer options that can be tailored to fit individual talents, experience and time frames. Volunteering is a great way to experience nature, promote conservation and outdoor recreation and share your passion.



Prefer to donate money instead? Donations can be made for a specific need, such as state park operation, native wildlife and endangered species protection, freshwater and saltwater resource management, habitat preservation, hunting land access, the new game warden facility or education.

However you choose to give, please visit www.tpwd.state.tx.us/involved for details. Together, we can make sure that life is better outdoors for generations to come. ★

—Kris Shipman



Volunteers serve parks across the state. Larry and LaVonne Roszell donate their time at Pedernales Falls (opposite page), while others serve at Monument Hill (top left), Sheldon Lake (top right) and Sea Center (above).

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Using Your Car to Support Parks

It's easy — just add \$5 to your vehicle registration fee to help parks through tough times.

If you've renewed your annual vehicle registration in the past several months, you may have noticed something different — a chance to donate to state parks included on the form.

Texas vehicle owners have the option of adding \$5 or more for state parks when they renew their registrations. All you have to do is fill in your donation amount in the box at the bottom of the form and add it to your total, and your donation will go to state parks.

"We're hopeful that people will see this as a new avenue to contribute to the operation of parks," says Brent Leisure, director of state parks.

The donation program was created by the Legislature in 2011 and was launched in January as a way to offset some of the budget cuts made to the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department during difficult economic times.

The Legislative Budget Board recommended the vehicle registration donation program as one of the options to help fund state park operations, which experienced cuts of more than \$20 million over the 2012-13 biennium. It projected that the program would bring in \$1.6 million a year.

So far, the program has fallen short of projections. Through August, the end of the fiscal year, it brought in \$468,864. For the 2013 fiscal year, with the program in place for a full 12 months, TPWD estimates that the donations will bring in \$600,000 to \$700,000. Texas has about 16.5 million registered motor vehicles.

The donation program is modeled after a similar one in Washington state. In 2009, Washington began including a \$5 parks donation in vehicle renewal notices and new registrations.

The Washington donations are automatically included in all bills, and if residents don't want to donate, they must "opt out" and subtract the \$5 from their total. In the 2011 fiscal year, the Washington program generated \$10.3 million.

In Texas, the donation isn't automatically included in the bill, and residents who want to donate must "opt in" and add \$5 to their total.

Donna Bailey of Driftwood, who has spent a lot of time at parks such as Lake

Mineral Wells and Possum Kingdom, is one parks supporter who opted in. "It's a convenient way to contribute," she says. "Parks are something I really believe in supporting."

Leisure says that on top of the budget cuts, parks in 2011 encountered severe drought, heat and wildfires, which caused a drop in visitation and a decline in revenue. "All those things combined made for a pretty difficult year," he says.

To cope with the financial challenges, TPWD delayed hiring and deferred park maintenance. In December 2011, TPWD made a statewide public appeal for donations to help the park system.

Darcy Bontempo,



TPWD marketing director, says one of the best ways people can help parks now is to visit them. About half of the state park operating budget comes from visitor fees. "If you love parks, support them," she says. "We need you. State parks need your help."

Leisure echoes that sentiment. By visiting state parks, people help them financially, and at the same time, they get to enjoy the park. State parks offer Texans a "tremendous outdoor experience," he says, and also provide an economic boost to the state and to nearby communities.

With milder weather and higher water levels in several areas of the state, parks have seen an increase in visitors in 2012,

a development that has brought in much-needed revenue. Total parks revenue was up 5.7 percent through the first eight months of the year compared with the same period in 2011, and entrance fee revenue is up 12.3 percent this year.

Mike Jensen, TPWD chief financial officer, says he hopes participation in the vehicle program picks up, too. Less than 1 percent of automobile owners have been making donations through the program. He notes that TPWD, which handles boat registrations, started a similar donation program for boat renewals and that par-



A new way to contribute to parks began this year: Vehicle owners have the option of making a donation when renewing their registration.

participation rates have been higher for boat owners, with 8 to 9 percent contributing.

To reach the program's goal of \$1.6 million a year, TPWD needs 320,000 vehicle owners to make the \$5 donation, or about 1.9 percent of all annual vehicle registrations. If just 5 percent of the estimated 6.4 million state park visitors each year donated \$5 through the vehicle program, TPWD would reach the goal.

Leisure says the state park system is very appreciative of money coming to parks through the vehicle registration program. Continued support from Texans will help to provide parks as gateways to the outdoors in Texas. ☆

— Russell Roe

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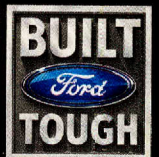
Sort By Distance A-Z

	Distance	
1 FREEPORT MARINA	0.5 mi	
2 WATERFORD HARBOR	0.5 mi	
3 GALVESTON YACHT BASIN	0.6 mi	
4 SURFSIDE MARINA	0.6 mi	
5 BAY HARBOR YACHT CLUB	0.6 mi	

Listening...

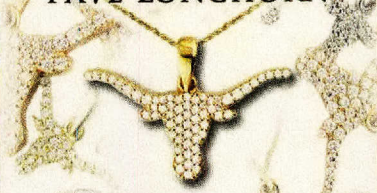
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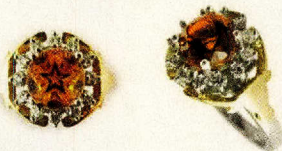


The Longhorn Rim Collection combines CAD precision with hand-crafted details set with fine sapphires in 14k white, yellow, or orange gold.

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*Chain sold separately

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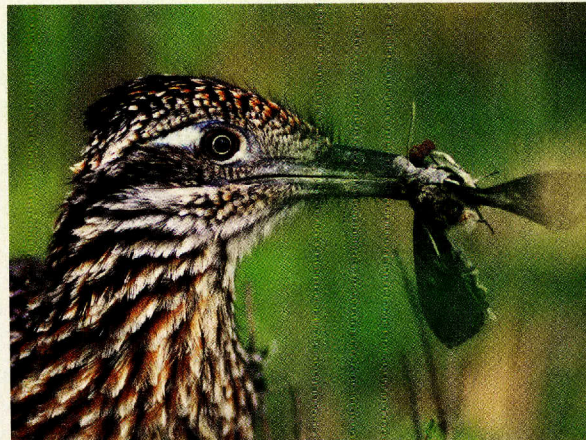


Financing Available!



A Need for Speed

Roadrunners rely on swiftness and agility, not flight.



Roadrunners rarely fly, though they're capable of doing so. They eat insects, lizards, rodents and snakes.

"Beep-beep!"

For many of us, this silly sound pops into our minds when we think of roadrunners. You know, Wile E. Coyote's cartoon nemesis, the road-racing bird that was always one step ahead. Today, we also relate lightning-fast Internet connectivity with the name. Either way, this zippy bird is indisputably affiliated with speed.

The greater roadrunner (*Geococcyx californianus*) is a ground-dwelling member of the cuckoo family (Cuculidae). A large bird, reaching a total length of 24 inches, it is the only roadrunner found in the United States. And, actually, "Beep-beep!" is not even close to the dove-like coos and clicking vocalizations roadrunners make.

Often thought of as an iconic species of the desert Southwest, the greater roadrunner can be found throughout Texas, even behind the pine curtain of the easternmost regions of the state.

Roadrunners are aptly named for their ability to run and walk. Speed is their greatest asset, and they are capable of running as fast as 17 mph.

While these birds are quite capable of flying, they rarely do unless threatened. Even then, roadrunners will fly only short distances, and usually hit

the ground running.

The roadrunner's diet is as diverse as the habitats where it can be found. Well-known as rattlesnake hunters, they consume mainly other animals: insects, lizards, snakes, rodents and other birds.

Roadrunners are exceptionally agile and can catch birds right out of the air. Their long tail provides a valuable counterbalance when involved in high-speed pursuit of prey. Armed with speed, agility, power and a sharp beak, roadrunners usually have no problem getting something to eat. If necessary, they will subdue their quarry by repeatedly slamming it onto the ground.

Roadrunners prefer to eat on the run, and are often seen with a snake or lizard hanging from their mouths.

Greater roadrunners live from seven to 10 years, reaching maturity after two years. Monogamous, they breed once or twice annually.

Males exhibit some interesting courtship rituals. The male will often entice a potential mate with a tasty morsel while performing a tantalizing dance, keeping the food just out of her reach. While she's distracted by the prize, he takes the opportunity to breed. He then relinquishes the bait, and through this innocent chicanery, a lifelong pair bond is formed.

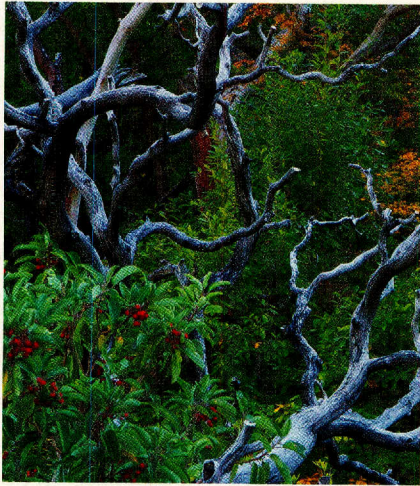
Such ingenuity! ★

— Tucker Slack



Appealing Twist

With writhing limbs and peeling bark, the madrone is easy to spot.

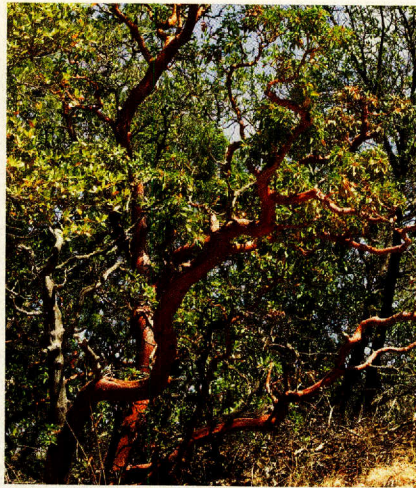


One of the most exotic native trees found in Texas is the madrone. First, you'll notice the madrone's vivid red peeling bark. Then you'll marvel at the twisting branches, each one seemingly determined to out-twist the others all the way up to the top of the tree. The fall and winter months are the best times to see the Texas madrone shedding its papery bark, as it cracks and peels to make room for next year's growth.

Madrone can be seen on hiking trails in Garner State Park and Pedernales Falls State Park. Out west, they grow in Big Bend National Park and Guadalupe Mountains National Park.

Although Texans refer to it as the Texas madrone and once claimed it as a unique species, science now tells us that "our" madrone is part of a wide-ranging species that grows as far south as Guatemala and as far west as New Mexico. The species name, *xalapensis*, refers to the town of Xalapa, capital of the Mexican state of Veracruz, where the type specimen was collected. The genus name, *Arbutus*, means "strawberry tree" in Latin, perhaps referring to the sweet, edible, strawberry-colored fruits that grow on it.

The fragrant, urn-shaped flowers are typical of members of the heath family (Ericaceae) and are a useful clue for identification. Madrone flowers bloom in spring; fruits mature in the fall. The leaves are evergreen. The ripe berries are favored by many animals, especially birds. Humans make good use of most parts of the tree, including the fruit, wood and bark. Matt Turner, in his book *Remarkable Plants of Texas*, tells how the bark, high in the



The distinctive Texas madrone grows on rocky hills and in canyons in western parts of the state.

tannins that make it red, was used in the tanning industry.

In Texas, madrones grow on wooded rocky hills and mountain slopes and in canyons in the Edwards Plateau and the Trans-Pecos. Their distribution is spotty; they grow in small clusters.

You may have noticed that madrones aren't popular landscaping plants. That's because they are tricky to grow in the nursery and have very low transplant survival rates outside of their native habitat.

Unfortunately, Texas madrone is becoming increasingly rare in the wild. Older, larger trees are dying, and few seedlings and young trees exist. Seedlings are particularly rare wherever livestock, mainly goats and cattle, are present, presumably because of the combined effects of browsing and trampling. Landowners can protect young trees by keeping grazers away.

Bob Harms of the University of Texas Plant Resources Center in Austin provides expert advice on propagating madrones in the wild, using his 30 years of experience with madrones growing in Central Texas. Harms found that seeds planted close to a mother tree tend to survive well and that ashe junipers are important nurse trees. Visit w3.biosci.utexas.edu/prc/DigFlora/ARXA/ARXA-restoration.html to read more about growing madrones. ★

—Karen Clary

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Financing Available!



Holiday Lights in East Texas

Head east for a collection of parks with lots of holiday cheer.



The crisp scent of pine evokes Christmas cheer, and East Texas has plenty of both in store for visitors this month. Forget the long lines and noisy crowds at the mall. Instead, plan a drive through the colorful Christmas light displays at various Texas state parks.

Be sure to come early to stroll the hiking trails or wet a line at one of the lakes (no fishing license required when fishing from the bank at a Texas state park). Everyone's welcome, so bring your camera to capture photos with Santa and friends.

Campers, volunteers, community friends and park staff have dressed up several East Texas parks for holiday events and old-fashioned celebrations featuring sparkling light displays, new and vintage decorations, candles and lanterns, and refreshments.

The sunset view over Wright Patman Lake at Atlanta State Park transforms into an abundance of twinkling stars, while other areas of the park are shining bright with lights and decorations. Visit with Santa and Mrs. Claus, and you may spot Smokey Bear!

Not too far away, enjoy a celebration of community featuring decorations in the park and surrounding area, hosted by Lake Bob Sandlin State Park. Shop for Christmas gifts at the park store after a drive through the park.

Driving from east to west in this region of the state, you see the landscape begin to change, with fewer pine trees and more tall, stately oaks. Bring your camera to capture memories of a festive holiday drive through Cooper Lake State Park — Doctors Creek Unit.

Traveling farther south, discover more pines in the winter forest at the Sunset Winter Wonderland Hike at Tyler State Park, and enjoy refreshments after driving through the holiday decorations.

Campers will make Christmas in the Pineywoods a memorable time at Martin Creek Lake State Park, so come enjoy the refreshments and decorations.

The Twinkle Tour hayride, the

SIGHTS & SOUNDS

TEXAS PARKS & WILDLIFE TV AND RADIO



TELEVISION

LOOK FOR THESE STORIES IN THE COMING WEEKS:

Dec. 2-8: Texas' Caribbean connection; Lake Whitney State Park; rifle sighting tips; D-Day remembered; snow at Pedernales Falls.

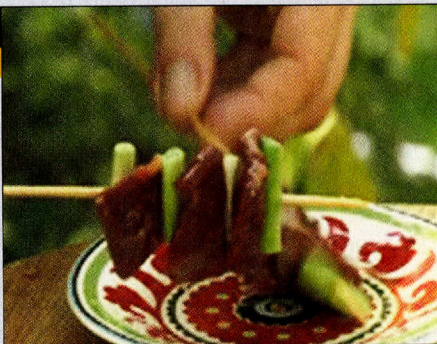
Dec. 9-15: Texas' coral reefs; interpretation expert Chris Holmes; Abilene State Park yurts; fishing from a pier; airboat excitement.

Dec. 16-22: Tracking mountain lions; fishing Atlanta State Park; deep-sea

fishing the Texas coast; spider webs.

Dec. 23-29: Duck hunting beginners; teal on the grill; Irma Sanchez profile; the life of a butterfly; buffalo in the snow.

Dec. 30-Jan. 5: Wind power and wildlife; Bastrop's toad lady; bike trails; paying for conservation; West Texas views.



Wild game chef Jesse Griffiths shows us how to grill teal to tasty perfection. Watch the week of Dec. 23-29.

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RADIO

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Passport to Texas is your guide to the great Texas outdoors. Any time you tune in, you'll remember why you love Texas. Go to www.passporttotexas.org to find a station near you that airs the series.

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www.passporttotexas.org





As Christmas approaches, it'll be a holiday in the parks. Several East Texas state parks, such as Cooper Lake (top left) and Atlanta (below left), will offer holiday fun with light displays and celebrations.



highlight of the season at Lake Tawakoni State Park, is a delight for children and adults. Tell Santa your wish at the amphitheater, shop for presents at the park store and enjoy hot chocolate and cookies after you drive through the display of lights.

Fun is in store at Purts Creek State Park, where staff will host a celebration reminiscent of Christmas in Goshen during the late 1800s. Gather at the pavilion and enjoy hot chocolate, coffee and cookies, then venture to the park store to shop for last-minute gifts.

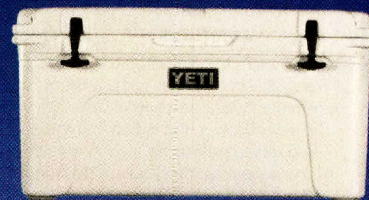
Close to the city lights of Dallas, step back to a slower time as you take a lantern-light tour of historic Penn Farm at Cedar Hill State Park, while listening to stories of the Fenn family and their pioneering spirit. Learn about life farming and raising livestock here. Enjoy holiday refreshments around a glowing campfire and sing all of your favorite Christmas carols.

Come outside with us and celebrate the season while you explore East Texas state parks. Find out more at www.texasstateparks.org. ✪

— Barbara White Permyley

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FINDING THE PERFECT CHRISTMAS GIFT

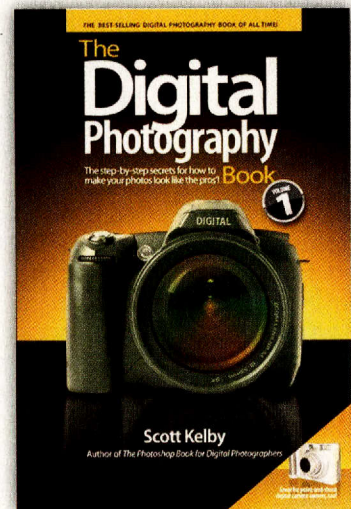
for the photographer who has everything can be a daunting task and an expensive proposition, especially for big-ticket items like camera bodies and lenses. However, there are many fun and useful items available online or from your local camera store that will make your shutterbug happy this season without breaking the bank. Here are just a few suggestions.

— Earl Nottingham



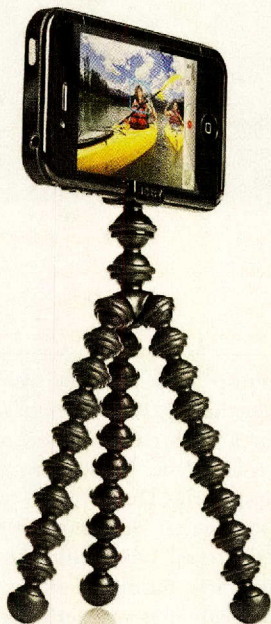
Photojojo can best be described as an online toy store for photo geeks. It carries lots of whimsical yet useful photo gifts and gear. My personal favorites are the insulated mugs and Thermoses that look just like Canon or Nikon lenses. (\$24-\$35 at photojojo.com/store)

Scott Kelby is a photographer, designer, trainer and award-winning author of *The Digital Photography Book, Vol. 1* (Peachpit Press). Although he has since published Volumes 2, 3 and 4, this best-selling version contains a wealth of timeless concepts and tips for beginning as well as advanced photographers. (\$13.18 at www.amazon.com)



PHOTOS COURTESY OF MERCHANTS OR MANUFACTURERS

For the high-tech equivalent of a stocking stuffer, consider "gifting" a smartphone camera app such as Camera+ through iTunes for only 99 cents. Camera+ adds additional controls and creative effects to your existing smartphone camera. To purchase the app as a gift, simply log into iTunes, search the iTunes Store for Camera+, choose the arrow next to the "Download" button and follow the option to "Gift This App."



Speaking of smartphones: Every photographer knows that a stable camera is vital for a sharp image, especially for long exposures, time-lapse photography and quality video. Several manufacturers offer universal and brand-specific tripod adapters for smartphones. Some adapters even come with short, flexible tripod legs, which allow the camera to stand alone or be mounted to various surfaces. Check out the Gorilla-Mobile system. (\$10-\$30 at joby.com/gorillamobile)

Now that you have hundreds — or thousands — of images in your computer, the question becomes "How do I manage them all?" Probably one of the most comprehensive and useful software applications for managing photographs is ACDSee 15. It does just about everything that a photographer would need in terms of organizing, viewing, editing and sharing images. (\$49.99 at www.acdsee.com/en/products/acdsee-15)



» Please send questions and comments to Earl at earl.nottingham@tpwd.state.tx.us
 » See more on outdoor photography at www.tpwmagazine.com/photography

ORIGINAL TECH DESIGNS



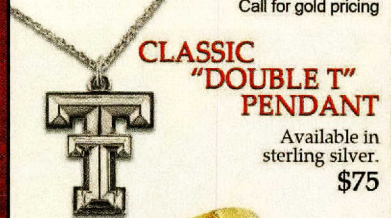
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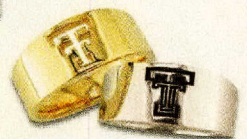
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Dutch Oven Peach Cobbler

Step-by-step directions for the perfect outdoor dessert.

Cooking with cast iron is experiencing a resurgence in popularity. For me, it brings back many fond memories, like the aroma of fresh farm eggs and sausage or fried chicken cooking in grandma's cast iron skillet.

My father had a small, aluminum Dutch oven that would magically appear from his backpack. He would then prepare an aromatic and tasty pineapple and cherry cobbler. It was made even more delicious, I'm sure, by the fact that we were hungry after a day outdoors. When I joined the Boy Scouts, I learned you could cook anything in a Dutch oven.

Most people are amazed at the wonderful food that can be produced from a small black pot and a bunch of hot coals. Dutch oven cooking is easy to do!

The quintessential Texas Dutch oven dessert has to be peach cobbler. Here is a simple recipe.

First, start with a bed of hot coals. Use

charcoal instead of wood coals, and it will be much easier to manage the heat. Place a can of drained peaches in a clean Dutch oven with a dab of butter, ¼ cup brown sugar, 1 tablespoon cinnamon and ¼ teaspoon nutmeg. Stir mixture to incorporate ingredients.

Using a box of cake mix, prepare the mix as directed on the box, then pour it on top of the peaches. Place the lid on the oven.

Using a fireproof surface away from any structures, use a shovel to spread out



Come and get it: Peach cobbler is a popular Dutch oven treat. But be patient — opening the lid too early will make it take longer to cook.

enough hot coals to equal two fewer in number than the diameter of the oven. So, for a 12-inch Dutch oven, use 10 briquettes. Place the oven on the coals. On top of the Dutch oven, place two more briquettes than the diameter, or 14 in this case. On a mild day with no rain and low humidity, this combination of briquettes will generate enough heat to cook the cobbler to perfection. If the weather is cool, windy or a little rainy, more coals may be added to the top and bottom.

The most important ingredient is patience. Opening the lid too often will lower the temperature in the Dutch oven, so the cobbler will take longer to cook. Wait for 20 minutes, then take a peek inside. Remember, the lid will be hot, so be sure to use a lid lifter or a pair of pliers. Insert a knife in the center of the cake; if it comes out clean, the cobbler is ready. If your cobbler is not browning, place the lid back on the pot and add a few more briquettes.

For a special treat, add some pecans during the last five minutes.

For more information about cast iron cooking, check out the TPWD YouTube channel at www.youtube.com/user/TexasParksWildlife. ★



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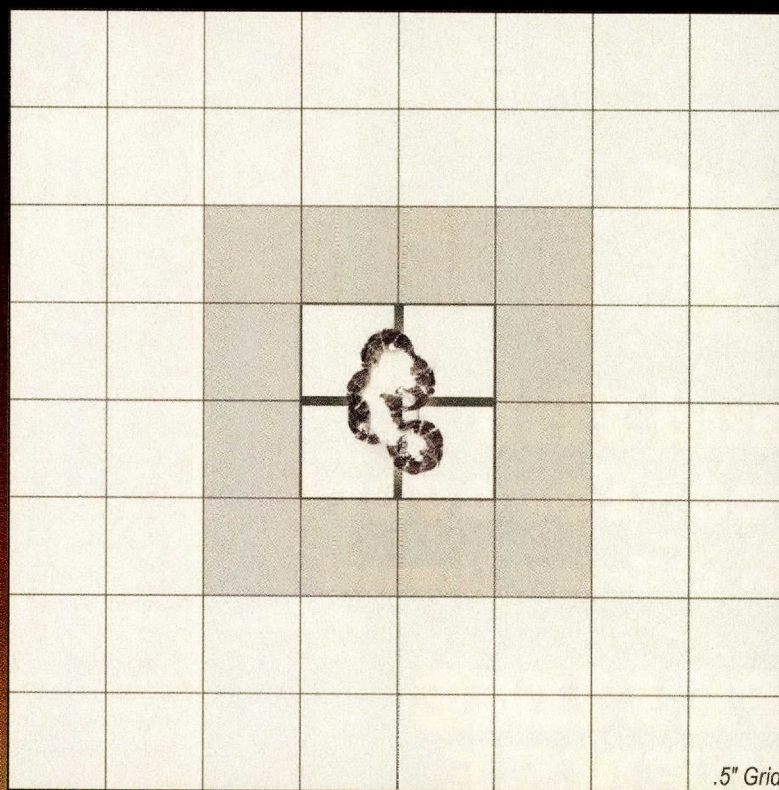
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DUTCH OVEN BY CHASE A. FOUNTAIN/TPWD; COBBLER BY EARL NOTTINGHAM/TPWD

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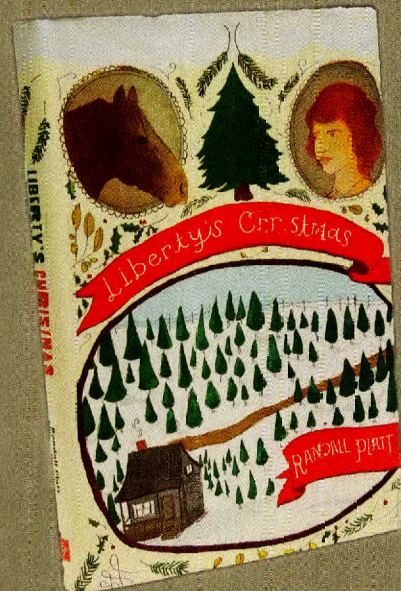
Searching for Liberty in the Depression

'Liberty's Christmas' provides a holiday lesson set in Texas for teens.

Stuck under the heavy hammer of Depression-era debt, Liberty Justice Jones, a teenager in 1930s Central Texas, takes it upon herself to save her family's Christmas tree farm.

Liberty's Christmas, by Randall Platt, is a story that is overgrown with Texas pride

and family love. After the death of Liberty's father, her family is trapped under the hardships of debt during the Great Depression and is at risk of losing their livelihood. After coming up with several ideas about how to raise enough money to keep her family's tree



farm, Tree Acres, Liberty takes action and decides to enter a Christmas tree contest in Austin with the hope of winning and using the prize money to pay off debt.

Texas Parks & Wildlife readers of all ages will enjoy this book's descriptions of the beauty of Texas scenery and references to areas that can still be visited today, such as Bastrop's loblolly pines, Houston and Austin. This perfect Christmas stocking stuffer will send readers on an emotional roller-coaster ride through the Texas Hill Country, guided along the way by family love, determination and an old horse named Quiller.

Liberty's adventure, and her refusal to accept the foreclosure of her family farm, takes a page from history and delivers a personal and relatable experience that accurately maps the social and economic problems of Depression-era Texas. Randall Platt will have you rooting for Liberty to succeed from the very first page.

Because this story is told from a teen perspective, this book will give younger readers a taste of the lifestyle during those days. The future of children, especially girls, is a lot brighter now than it was in the early 20th century.

"There's only so much a person can do when she's watching her whole future, which happens to be wrapped around a two-bit spark plug, go pling-plop-plummeting down into oblivion," Liberty says. ☆

—Stephanie Selinas

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Enter by December 27, 2012 and you will be eligible for both drawings!**

Winners can keep the license or give it as a gift.
Only Texas residents are eligible to win. Winners also receive a one-year subscription to *Texas Parks & Wildlife* magazine.

Visit www.tpwd.state.tx.us/lifetimedrawing for complete rules and information.

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AUSTIN — 1 hour / BROWNSVILLE — 5.75 hours / DALLAS — 4 hours

HOUSTON — 3.75 hours / SAN ANTONIO — 1.25 hours / LUBBOCK — 6 hours / EL PASO — 8 hours

Lady Bird Turns 100

Natural beauty and cultural history reside alongside presidential heritage in LBJ Country.



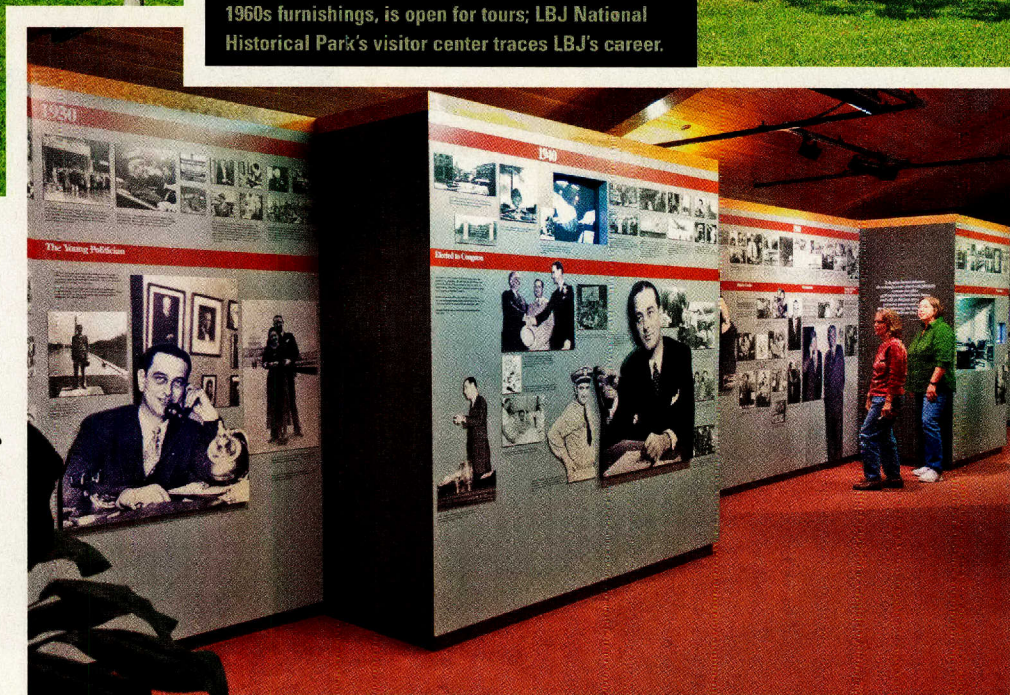
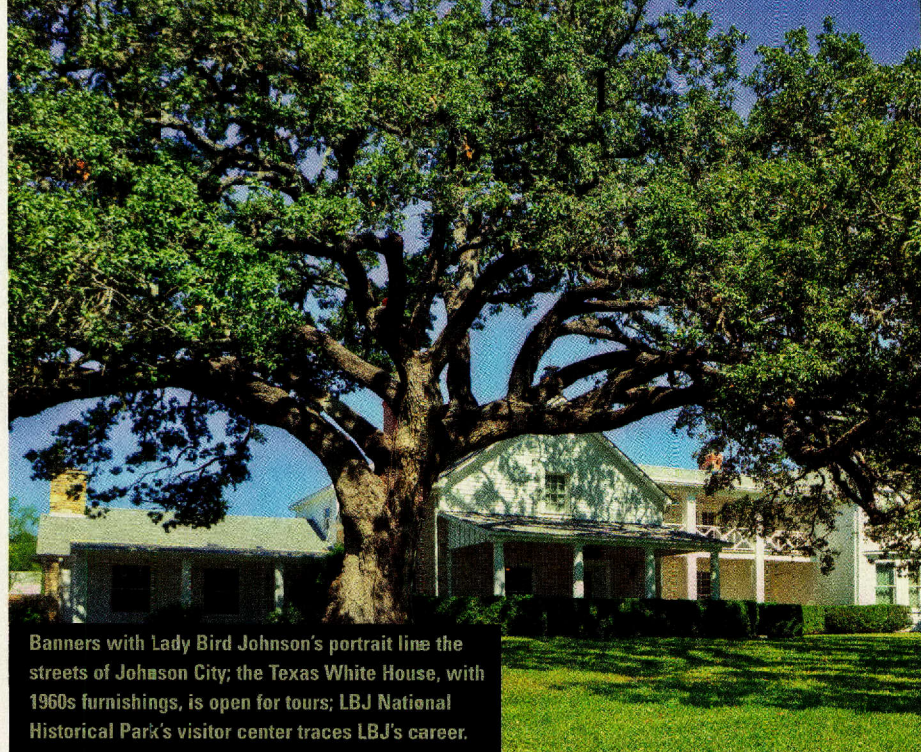
The Exhibit Hall at LBJ State Park offers a look at the Hill Country's German heritage and its favorite son, Lyndon B. Johnson, whose trademark hat and boots are on display.

Every American should — and every Texan must — visit LBJ Country. Loosely defined as the rolling, cedar- and oak-studded environs of Blanco and Gillespie counties that shaped the last U.S. president to “come from the land,” its 1,772 square miles encompass the heart and soul of the Texas Hill Country.

Stonewall serves as ground zero for this picturesque, history-rich part of Texas. The tiny, rural birthplace of Lyndon B. Johnson hosted the nation's 35th president and his entourage for more than 500 days at what was

dubbed the Western White House during LBJ's presidency (1963–68), a tumultuous period defined by the Vietnam War and the civil rights movement.

Our first stop is 718 acres of Pedernales River-front property, opened in 1970 as Lyndon B. Johnson State Park and Historic Site. The picturesque park, known for spring meadows filled with technicolor displays of bluebonnets, Indian blankets and other wildflowers, serves as the embarkation point for self-guided tours of the National Park Service-operated LBJ Ranch just across the river.



Visitors should allow several hours to do justice to this treasure trove of Texas' cultural and natural history.

"LBJ is not only a presidential site, but also features the best of nature. It takes visitors back in time to experience what life was like in the Texas Hill Country and how the area has evolved over the past 100 years," says Iris Neffendorf, park superintendent. "Our relationship with the national park gives us a whole other dimension."

A visit to the park takes on added significance during this year's centennial salute to Lady Bird Johnson. A banner bearing a portrait of the late first lady dressed in a canary-yellow dress greets my wife, Judy, and me just inside the visitor center. Nearby, a wildflower photo display pays homage to Lady Bird's lifelong campaign to beautify the nation through the use of native plants and flowers. Neffendorf notes that this year's Dec. 16 Christmas tree lighting ceremony, begun 43 years ago by the Johnsons, is dedicated to the beloved Karnack native.

A short film in the theater, narrated by Lady Bird's longtime friend, PBS journalist Bill Moyers, provides compelling insight into the child of nature who spent much of her childhood playing outdoors and exploring the Caddo Lake area. We learn that Claudia Alta Taylor got her nickname from a nursemaid who said she was "as purty as a lady bird."

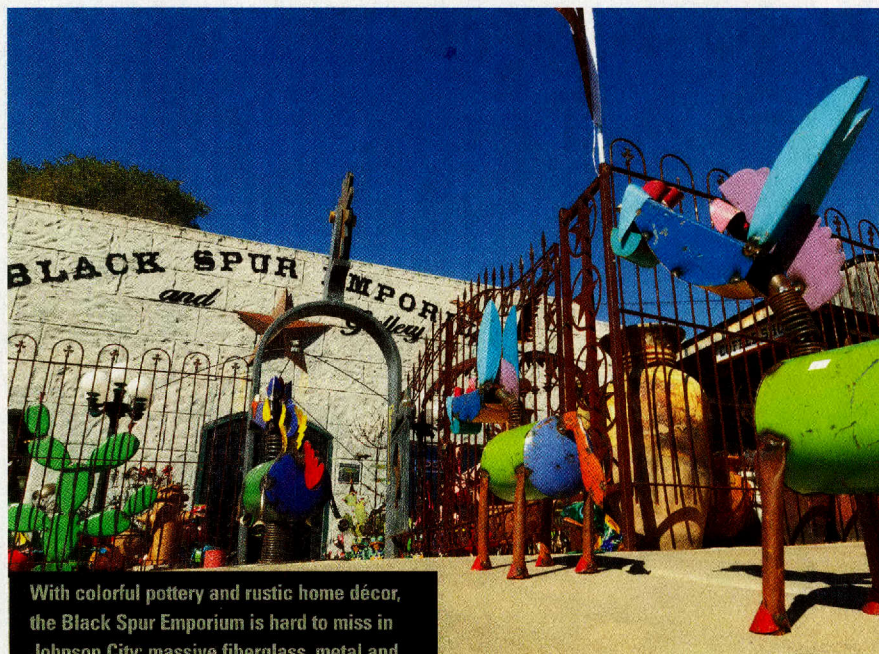
A quick tour of the Exhibit Hall helps give us a feel for the German heritage and the land, a culture that helped shaped a president. A self-guided driving tour with stops at ranch

landmarks ends up at the 8,000-square-foot Texas White House. Not long after Lady Bird's death in 2007, the NPS began offering guided tours of the home's downstairs.

Seeing LBJ's office is like stepping into a '60s time capsule: boxy television sets, clunky desk phones, typewriters and other artifacts.

Park ranger Barbara Ford explains how the Johnsons lived during the presidency and later during their retirement years, when seven Johnson grandchildren dubbed the rambling ranch home "Mirri's house." Dozens of photographs of visiting dignitaries, framed correspondence from celebrities, wildlife paintings from Texas artists, daughter Luci's parlor piano and other family memorabilia greet us as we move through living room, dining room, kitchen and bedroom, where LBJ suffered a fatal heart attack in 1973. For \$2 per adult, the tour is a must-do for those with 45 minutes to spare.

Cognizant that most Hill Country trekkers don't come just for an immersion in history, I point my vehicle west for a short drive down Ranch Road 1 to U.S. 290 — which



With colorful pottery and rustic home décor, the Black Spur Emporium is hard to miss in Johnson City; massive fiberglass, metal and granite sculptures seem to sprout from the hills at the Benini Studio and Sculpture Ranch.



is one of LBJ Country's two main highways, along with U.S. 281 — to the tiny burg of Hye to check out one of the newer wineries along "Wine Road 290."

William Chris Vineyards beckons travelers to step inside a century-old farmhouse to sample hand-crafted wines made strictly with Texas grapes. Until their newly planted vineyards mature, native Texans Bill Blackmon and Chris Brundrett are using fruit from 40 acres of Hill Country and High Plains vineyards to make their small-batch, mostly varietal red wines.

Open for less than two years, the winery already boasts more than 1,000 members of Hye Society, the William Chris wine club that offers a number of perks, including free tastings of the latest varietals.

Our accommodations for the night lie about 10 miles east of Fredericksburg just off Ranch Road 1376 at Full Moon Inn, a classic Hill Country bed-and-breakfast. For more than 20 years, owner Capt. Matt Carinhas has welcomed travelers to his funky cluster of log cabins and cottages on a historic 1860 property along South Grape Creek within a ringing guitar lick of legendary Luckenbach.

A pair of well-fed, friendly black dogs, Audie and Butterball, lead us into the main ranch house to check in with Carinhas and his wife, Ginny, who's preparing dinner and looking after 4-month-old Scarlett, the sister of twin brother Rhett. You get the picture. This isn't your typical stuffed-shirt, dress-up-for-breakfast kind of place, but a laid-back, bucolic retreat shaded by old-growth mesquites populated by cooing doves.

Matt Carinhas, who knows the Hill Country inside and out and is never short of stories, runs a rural retreat designed to leave guests — bikers, car club enthusiasts and wedding parties alike — well-rested and well-fed. We unpack in the Grape Suite, the spacious downstairs floor of a two-story, white-framed house, sporting a full kitchen and breakfast room, bath and king bedroom. It's already 6:30, and hunger pangs have commenced.

We stop at Luckenbach to listen to the regular afternoon guitar pickers beneath the live oaks, serenaded by a



boisterous rooster, and then take the back roads to Alamo Springs Café. The country eatery sits just a short walk from Old Tunnel State Park and its renowned bat flights. I opt for the highly touted green chile burger on a jalapeño-cheese bun; Judy has a shrimp po-boy. Even the smallest order of onion rings proves more than a match for our appetites.

Breakfast at Full Moon Inn means much more than the chintzy continental breakfasts offered by a growing number of B&Bs. Carinhas calls on his New Orleans culinary skills to whip up a gut-busting breakfast of strawberry-orange juice, fried eggs, locally made German pepper-wurst sausage and sweet potato pancakes.

LBJ's boyhood hometown of Johnson City is calling, so we hit U.S. 290 heading east. Just a couple of miles from our ultimate destination, a glinting, chrome bull sculpture marks the highway turnoff to a different kind of exotics ranch — the Benini Studio and Sculpture Ranch. The Italian artist and his wife, Lorraine, have turned 140 acres of a former hunting ranch once owned by LBJ into a surreal setting where fiberglass, metal and granite

sculptures seem to sprout from the limestone hills.

We wind our way to ranch HQ, a converted quonset hut art studio. The expansive space showcases the works of various regional, national and international artists, as well as dozens of Benini's eye-popping, abstract and geometric, color-drenched acrylics.

There's just enough time for a quick bite in Johnson City at the 290 Diner and some window-shopping at the Old Lumber Yard retail stores before checking into the Chantilly Lace Country Inn. Former restaurateurs Porter and Sylvia Dunnaway own this two-story replica of a traditional Texas limestone home. Judy opts to take a class from Sylvia, who makes and sells fragrant goat-milk soaps, while I drive into town to see a special Lady Bird exhibit at the Lyndon B. Johnson National Historical Park's visitor center.

The exhibits share stories and photos that reinforce Lady Bird's legacy as the woman with the honeysuckle-sweet Southern drawl who spurred LBJ's implementation of such groundbreaking environmental legislation as the Clean Air Act, Endangered Species Act and Wild and Scenic Rivers Act. Park visitors can listen to a recording of the first lady as she stumps for LBJ in the Old South during a whistle-stop train tour aboard the "LBJ Special." Several panels, with poster-sized photos and text, highlight Lady Bird's visits to and promotion of the national park system, including Big Bend National Park and the Fort Davis National Historical Site.

I have one more afternoon stop in mind, so I decide against a guided tour of LBJ's reconstructed boyhood home that's been restored to a 1920s appearance and forgo a short walk to the Johnson Settlement that interprets the family's ranching and trail-driving roots.

The Whittington family started making and selling jerky from their Johnson City meat locker plant around the time that LBJ assumed the presidency. Today, descendants operate Whittington's Jerky, making smoked, chewy strips of beef, turkey, pork, bison and venison jerky and selling them worldwide. I pop into Whittington's Jerky General Store, where visitors can sample the many varieties of regular and spicy jerky. The store offers an impressive selection of Texas salsas, barbecue sauces and other gourmet items.

Dinner on our last night in LBJ Country waits on the town square at one of the state's newest brewpubs, Pecan Street Brewing. Opened in 2011, the combination bar and full-service restaurant is a family affair for the Elliotts, Houston transplants who moved to the area in 2003. Son Sean's locally brewed craft beers flow from bar taps fed by a two-story brewing operation. I can't resist the brick oven pizza. Judy's shrimp with grits in a creamy Cajun sauce proves superior. The entrees are a perfect complement to the restaurant's scrumptious specialty appetizer — portabella fries, dipped in piquant chipotle sauce. The Elliotts have definitely put their mark on LBJ's hometown.

A restful night in an upstairs, king Jacuzzi suite prepares us for one of Sylvia Dunnaway's highly anticipated breakfasts. It does not disappoint. We gorge ourselves on a gourmet spread of peach praline, cranberry scones, eggs Florentine and country ham, while mesmerized by the aerobatics in the butterfly garden just beyond the dining room's plate-glass windows.

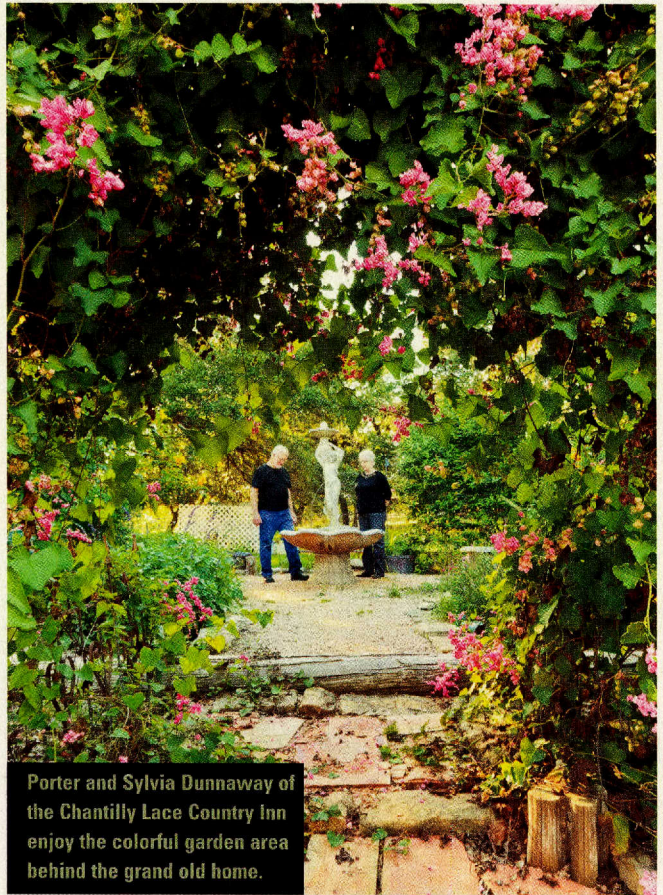
On the drive home, we do what most visitors to this

part of the Hill Country do — pick up some of the area's famous peaches to eat later. We stop at a Stonewall mainstay, Burg's Corner. The Dueckers sell more than a dozen varieties of the juicy fruit grown in their family orchard from mid-May through early September.

Yep, LBJ Country certainly is a lip-smacking slice of heaven. That brings to mind a poster I had seen at the national park's exhibit hall.

Asked if she believed in heaven, Lady Bird replied: "Oh, yes, I do. I do know there's something hereafter, as all of this has been too significant, too magnificent for there not to be something."

Happy 100th birthday, Lady Bird. ★



Porter and Sylvia Dunnaway of the Chantilly Lace Country Inn enjoy the colorful garden area behind the grand old home.

DETAILS:

- Lyndon B. Johnson State Park and Historic Site, (830) 644-2252, www.tpwd.state.tx.us/lyndonbjohnson
- Lyndon B. Johnson National Historical Park, (830) 644-2478, www.nps.gov/lyjo
- William Chris Vineyards, (830) 998-7654, williamchriswines.com
- Full Moon Inn, (830) 997-2205, fullmooninn.com
- Benini Studio and Sculpture Ranch, (830) 868-5244, www.sculptureranch.com
- Whittington's Jerky General Store, (877) 868-5501, www.whittingtonsjerky.com
- Chantilly Lace Country Inn, (830) 660-2621, www.chantillylacesoaps.com
- Pecan Street Brewing, (830) 868-2500, pecanstreetbrewing.com
- Burg's Corner, (800) 694-2772, www.burgscorner.com





Celebrating 70 Years

Texas Parks & Wildlife magazine has inspired Texans to love the outdoors for seven decades.

By Louie Bond

STARTING A MAGAZINE IS NEVER EASY, so starting a magazine during World War II could be considered either incredibly foolish or incredibly courageous. Yet a group of visionaries decided that it was indeed the perfect time to step out on that limb and turn an in-house monthly bulletin into a publication that would spark enough public interest to pay for its printing during wartime shortages.

"There is not only a demand but a need for such information," wrote Executive Secretary William J. Tucker in the foreword to that premiere issue of what was then called *Texas Game and Fish* in December 1942.

"This war shall change many of our concepts and habits," Tucker continued. "After the harshness, brutalities and sacrifices of the present conflict, the Texas man and womanhood that has succeeded in winning the war should return to a pleasanter place in which to live, with the invigorating influence of the out-of-doors doing its full share to cleanse their spirits and temper their character."

Even back then, interaction with nature was recognized as restorative to mind and body. We still preach that message at *Texas Parks*



ILLUSTRATION BY ORVILLE O. RICE/TPMWD

& *Wildlife* magazine. While those early dog-eared pages, with yellowing black-and-white text and visuals, are a far cry from today's modern design and color, the content is as familiar as Grandma's pot roast. Eloquent outdoorsmen and outdoorswomen put pen to paper (or fingers to keyboards) to share their expertise and philosophy; hardy photographers brave the pre-dawn chill to climb a mountain for an inspirational image. Then and now, the magazine spreads the agency's mission to its readers: "We have been given a natural treasure, so go enjoy it and preserve it."

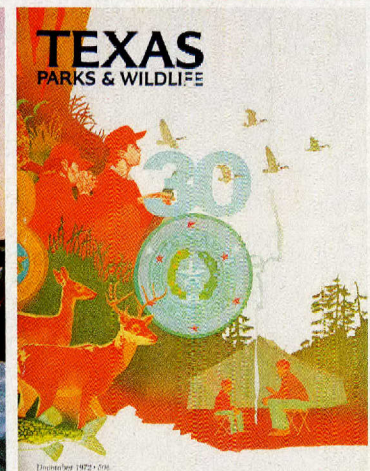
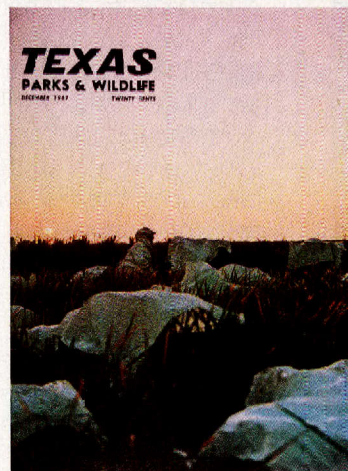
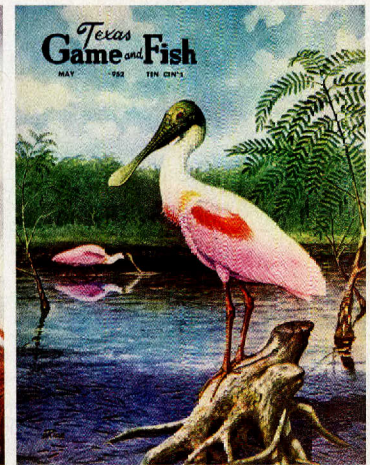
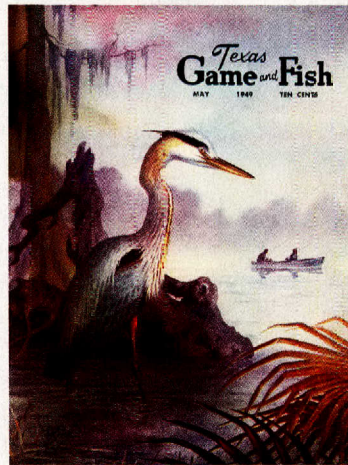
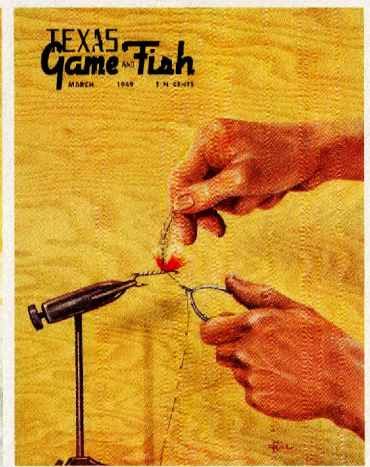
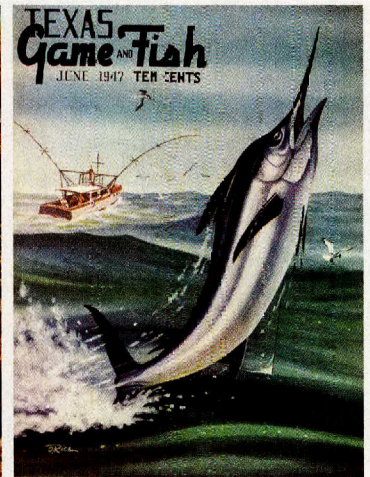
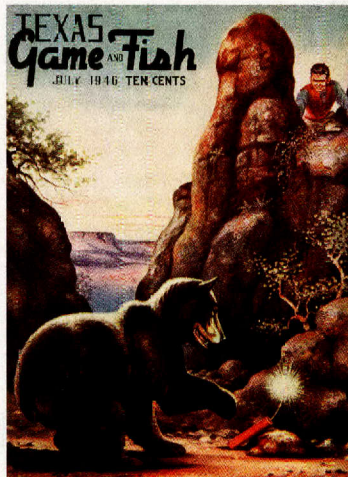
One of *Texas Parks & Wildlife* magazine's crowning accomplishments has been the publication of 10 annual July issues dedicated to the state's most important resource, water. The series (which includes five documentaries produced by the TPWD video department) culminated with a symposium in 2011. The content is available to the public at www.texasstateofwater.org.

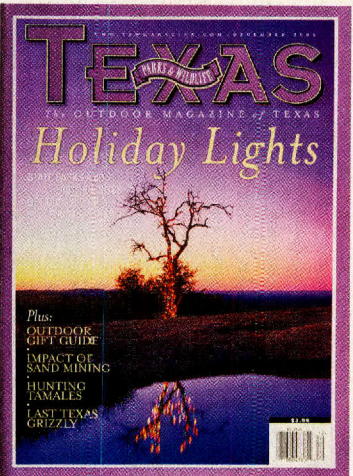
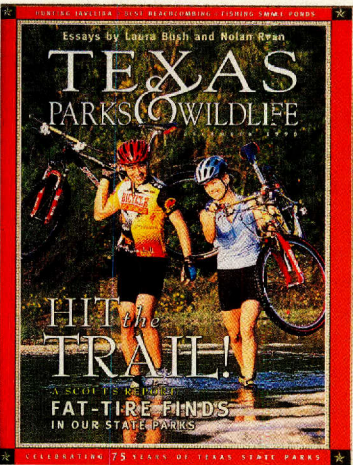
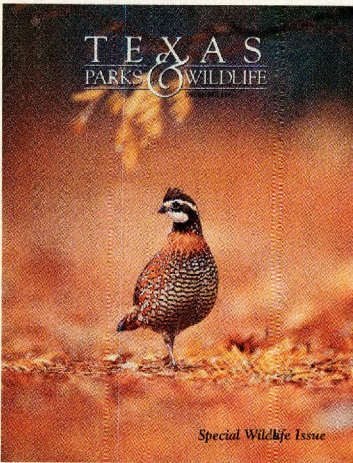
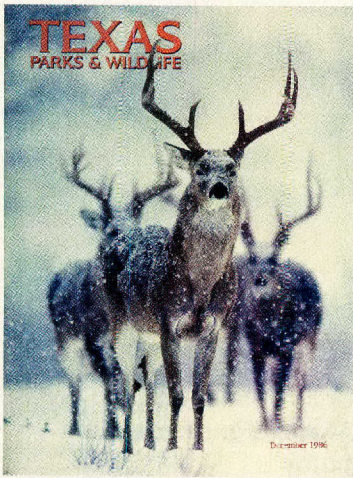
Another recent achievement is the publication of 36 editions of "Keep Texas Wild," a resource for Texas schoolchildren that used imaginative imagery and fun facts to educate and entertain the future stewards of this state. These four-page lessons are available free online at www.tpwmagazine.com.

Texas Parks & Wildlife magazine has grown with the times and can be found on social media and video-viewing sites. We create digital reproductions of each print issue, and we have started producing hunting and fishing digital-only editions for enthusiasts to access on electronic devices.

In seven decades, so much has changed. And yet, so much remains the same. To celebrate this rite of passage, we asked those who have helped shape the magazine in recent years to share their thoughts and memories with us. While the early publishing pioneers have passed, their legacy continues in these pages. ★

**Then and now,
the magazine
spreads the
agency's mission
to its readers:
"We have been
given a natural
treasure, so go
enjoy it and
preserve it."**





**CARTER SMITH,
TPWD executive director**

Texas Parks & Wildlife magazine was a fixture in our family well before I came into this world. I received my own subscription from my grandmother, who likely grew weary of me pilfering her copies before she had a chance to read through them. Who could blame her? If I didn't run off with her copy each month, I'd rip out pictures of deer and bobcats and West Texas mountains and coastal sunrises.

My love affair with our wild things and wild places was in no small part shaped by that early exposure to the stunning wildlife photography and essays on all things outdoors. I still read it cover to cover, multiple times, cherishing every picture and hanging on every word. And, in carrying on an old family tradition, my wife and I still fight each month over who gets to read it first.

**LYDIA SALDAÑA,
TPWD Communications
Division director**

Texas Parks & Wildlife magazine has been a Texas treasure for 70 years. Through its pages, generations of Texans have been inspired to enjoy the natural and cultural riches of our state and become conservation advocates. As communications director since 1996, I've had the distinct pleasure of reading every single magazine manuscript and reviewing every layout before it goes to press. It's one of the work tasks I enjoy the most! It is humbling to play even a small role in the history of a magazine that has meant so much to so many generations of Texans.

The magazine's look has changed, but the mission has stayed the same. Orville O. Rice created artwork for many of the covers in the magazine's early days.

**LARRY BOZKA,
freelance photographer/writer,
longtime contributor**

In 1966, my fourth-grade teacher caught me committing a serious crime: Reading a magazine.

As she walked over, my classmates observed us with the morbid curiosity of a crowd about to witness a hanging. I was a dead man sitting.

"Give me that!" she commanded. "And see me after school."

Two hours later, I faced the judge. She had already been informed — repeatedly — that I was going to be an outdoor writer.

"I've taken this publication for years," she said. "It's great that you read it. Just don't do it in my classroom."

Mrs. Casey was an excellent teacher. So was *Texas Parks & Wildlife* magazine.

Today, 46 years later, it still is. If it wasn't, there's no way she would have handed that issue back to me.

**JOE NICK PATOSKI,
freelance writer, longtime
contributor**

Texas Parks & Wildlife magazine has provided me the privilege of witnessing natural Texas at its best, while also allowing me to tackle environmental issues other publications would not. With opportunities to write about the Kinney County water wars, the world's finest spring-fed pool in Balmorhea, adventures in Big Bend Ranch State Park, the pristine beauty of the Laguna Madre, the dazzling lure of Jacob's Well or the wetlands of Southeast Texas, this magazine has been my entree to the finest places and finest people in this great state of ours.



WALTON BUILDING

AUSTIN, TEXAS



ARMS AND AMMUNITION

RUSSELL A. GRAVES,
freelance writer/
photographer/videographer,
longtime contributor

When I was 18 and just getting interested in writing and photography, my dad showed me a *Texas Parks & Wildlife* magazine that he'd picked up and said, "When you can get stuff in this magazine, you are really doing something."

My mom got me a subscription, and I studied the articles and photos. I wrote letters to contributors like Grady Allen, Wyman Meinzer and Steve Bentsen, asking for advice on getting started in the outdoor journalism business.

In 1993, when I was 23 years old, I had my first article and photo package published in the magazine. Since then, I've enjoyed a 20-year relationship with the publication and the great people who work there. The places I've been across Texas, on behalf of the magazine, have forever enriched my life and the lives of my wife and kids as they often travel with me.

I think *Texas Parks & Wildlife* is like our version of *National Geographic*. The magazine helps us all revel in the state's beauty and diversity. It helps connect us all as Texans.

Over the years, dramatic photography has captured the state's diverse landscapes and wildlife.

ROBERT L. COOK,
former TPWD executive director

Texas Parks & Wildlife magazine is "the" book on fish and wildlife of Texas, our state parks and on TPWD itself, past, present and future. This publication is an "open" book, honestly identifying and discussing the good, the bad and the ugly issues facing our state's natural resources and TPWD. Some folks say they just enjoy looking at the pictures, but, in doing so, they see and learn about Texas' fish, wildlife and state parks, and, as a result, become involved. *Texas Parks & Wildlife* magazine was the first statewide publication to identify water as the single most important natural resource conservation issue in Texas, and dedicated an entire issue to this topic every year for a decade. Keep up the good work.



DAVID SIKES,
outdoor columnist for the *Corpus Christi Caller-Times*, longtime contributor

If this magazine's intent was to be all things to all outdoor enthusiasts, then it has failed.

I'm thankful.

I don't expect stories about bounty hunting for bobcats any more than I expect commentary that swings to the other extreme. Through *Texas Parks & Wildlife* magazine's evolution, we've come to expect the beauty, dignity and sometimes the fragile nature of our state's abundant and broad natural and cultural heritage. This spans endless possibilities for the inquisitive seeker of all things Texas.

Month after month, we experience glory and tragedy, struggle and defiance within these pages. We see nature uncovered and human nature revered through the lenses of gifted photographers and the imaginations of writers who care.

The features are smart, witty, sometimes sad or funny, always informative, well-researched and impeccably edited.

Center stage always belongs to the wildlife and the wild places and to history within the context of recreation and conservation, written, photographed and edited by people who participate in both.



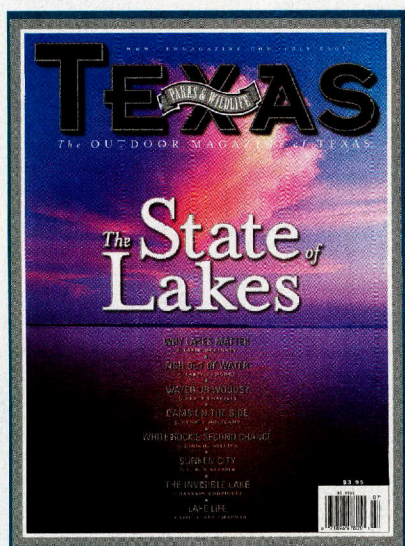


BIG BEND AND TOAD BY CHASE A. FOUNTAIN/TPWD, WAGSP © CLIVE YARLACK, CEMETERY © WYMAN MEINZER, OTHERS BY EARL NOTTINGHAM/TPWD



FRANKLIN MOUNTAINS © LAURENCE PARENT

Adventure and conservation have always been part of the magazine's editorial mix.



LARRY MCKINNEY,
executive director of the
Harte Research Institute
for Gulf of Mexico Studies,
former TPWD Coastal Fisheries
Division director

As my colleague and former TPWD executive director Robert Cook used to say, “The three most important resource issues facing Texas and TPWD are water, water and water.”

Hanging in my home are 10 years of *Texas Parks & Wildlife* magazine covers dedicated to water. I continue to be amazed that it was even possible. I do not believe any other magazine would contemplate such a commitment. Each July issue throughout that decade was dedicated to a major aquatic ecosystem such as springs, rivers, estuaries and the Gulf of Mexico. The list of contributing authors reads like a who’s who of Texas’ best and brightest writers. The series launched PBS documentaries, books and symposiums and built a cadre of fellow travelers dedicated to making sure water for conservation and the environment was part of the water equation. I know from

many discussions with political leaders and those who influence them that the water series was a powerful voice to push us all to just do the right thing. Thank you, *Texas Parks & Wildlife* magazine, on behalf of all Texans, especially those yet to be born.

WYMAN P. MEINZER,
Texas state photographer,
longtime contributor

I was reared in a rural environment in the Texas Rolling Plains, so hunting and fishing were a dearly loved way of life for me, even in the earliest recollections of my youth.

I recall seeing an issue of *Texas Parks & Wildlife* magazine some four decades ago and thinking that this was a publication whose message aligned with my own, a love for our natural land resources and native fauna. I recognized that *Texas Parks & Wildlife* magazine is a priceless visual aid, one that’s so important in celebrating the greatness of our wilder places. This publication is a conduit through which our youth can engage in a passion that has shaped the legacy that defines the Texas outdoor experience.

JOHN JEFFERSON,
former TPWD director of
information and education,
longtime contributor

In 1942, a terrible war was raging. A young boy growing up in Beaumont, whose father was serving in Africa, needed help to learn about the outdoors. Wild places were his heritage. His grandfather had headed the Texas Game, Fish and Oyster Commission; his grandmother lived along the Guadalupe River.

That grandmother sensed the boy's needs, so when the agency her late husband had directed started a new magazine, she bought a subscription for her grandson.

Then called *Texas Game and Fish*, that magazine introduced him to a world beyond the Southeast Texas pines and marshes. It also launched a lifelong relationship with the outdoors. He is honored to have been published in it.

☆ ☆ ☆ ☆ ☆ ☆ ☆ ☆

Sportsmen!



Back the Invasion

☆
Buy an

EXTRA WAR BOND

ANDREW SANSOM,
executive director of the
Meadows Center for Water
and the Environment, former
TPWD executive director

Everyone who loves the outdoors also loves the equipment, clothing and other paraphernalia that facilitate his or her passion for the natural world. For me, *Texas Parks & Wildlife* magazine is an irreplaceable part of my gear. And the fact that it still comes in the mail, that you can touch it and keep it by the bedside or at the camp, is part of its value. Over the many years I have been associated with TPWD as an outdoorsman, an employee and a friend, countless men and women in conservation professions have told me that they got their start among the pages of *Texas Parks & Wildlife* magazine. That is certainly true for me.

MIKE COX,
TPWD news team leader,
longtime contributor

I have a lot of good memories of traveling Texas with my granddad, the late L.A. Wilke, when I was a youngster and he was editor of *Texas Parks & Wildlife* magazine. Of course, it wasn't called that then.

Back then, the department did not furnish state vehicles, so Granddad used his own car, a 1957 white-over-gold Chevrolet, with a piece of gray cardboard with the Game and Fish logo on it to put in the car's window when he was on official business.

By the time Granddad neared retirement age (which back then was 65 whether you wanted to retire or not), I was in the seventh grade and already interested in following in his boot steps as a writer. To help me along a bit, and to create the impression among his readers that he had more writers than he did (or had enough money to pay), he used my byline on several stories he wrote.

Despite this rather unseemly introduction into the profession, I did become a writer, and in a very satisfying way, I went to work in the Communications Division of TPWD in 2010, at about the same age Granddad was when he started at the department. Now that 65 no longer is a mandatory retirement age, I may stick around a little longer than he did.

CHARLES LOHRMANN,
publisher and executive editor,
Texas Highways magazine, former
assistant publisher of *Texas Parks & Wildlife* magazine

The slice of bright light from a waxing crescent moon punctuating the deep blue, early evening sky over Palo Duro Canyon; the spine-tingling reaction to that deep-brush rustling at Ojito Adentro in Big Bend Ranch, knowing it's probably a javelina but wondering if it's a mountain lion; gliding along Village Creek and watching a belted kingfisher swoop across the water ahead of me. It's those memories and dozens of others that I treasure, all a direct result of my experience with *Texas Parks & Wildlife* magazine.

In day-to-day terms, the most impressive aspect of *Texas Parks and Wildlife*

magazine — and an essential reason it holds a place in the crazy world of publishing after 70 years — is the sense of mission shared by everyone involved. This enduring dedication to the cause of conservation is vital, and that spirit is what guides the writers, photographers, editors and designers. No other publication would, or even could, put together a series of annual water issues, and be able to combine such lofty issues with fun, how-to articles about camping, hiking and fishing. It's all that, plus the thrumming chorus of night sounds that take over a midnight wetland.

EARL NOTTINGHAM,
Texas Parks & Wildlife magazine
chief photographer

I was once told that I had an easy job because all I had to do was "go out and take pictures." There is some truth to that. The mechanics of taking a photograph are actually very simple — just get the composition, focus and exposure accurate and you will have a technically good picture. The challenge, however, is to use the camera as a tool — and the photograph as a catalyst — to distill the mission of the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department into the beautiful story-telling photographs that readers have come to love and expect for the past 70 years. It is the respect of that heritage that drives not only me, but other talented contributing photographers who follow in the shadows of the great artists who first graced the magazine's pages. ☆

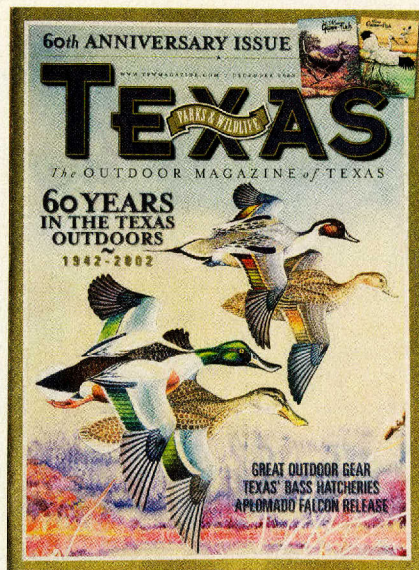





PHOTO BY CHASE A. FOUNTAIN/TPWD

CCC-constructed cabin
at Palo Duro State Park.



THE CCC USED NATIVE MATERIALS
AND THOUGHTFUL DESIGN
TO CREATE ICONIC FEATURES
IN STATE PARKS.
BY RUSSELL ROE

NATURE BY DESIGN

F

or generations, Texans have danced on the graceful, well-worn patio at Garner State Park, walked under elegant archways on the way to subterranean Longhorn Cavern, picnicked on rustic stone tables at Palo Duro and held family gatherings at the rising-out-of-the-ground refectory at Palmetto.

The Civilian Conservation Corps-built structures have served as a gateway for Texans' interactions with the outdoors for decades. Though many visitors might not give a second thought to a park's architecture, the CCC buildings are the product of an architectural vision of people and nature and how they interact.

The rustic structures, built in the 1930s and 1940s by the government work corps, were designed to be accessories to nature — complementing the landscape instead of competing with it.

I've always appreciated the rough-hewn structures at Texas state parks. I love the rock buildings and rock tables at a place like Lake Brownwood, and I'm delighted when I stumble across some unexpected rock-and-timber feature at Bastrop or some other CCC park. I marvel at Indian Lodge's lobby. In addition to enjoying the scenery at a park, I make it a point to admire the CCC craftsmanship. If I drive

over a CCC-built bridge, I'll sometimes get out to appreciate the handiwork. Even a well-built culvert might draw an approving nod.

The architectural style, with direct ties to the National Park Service and the great national parks of the West, is known as "NPS rustic," and it aims to have buildings harmonize with their surroundings and to reflect the landscape through the use of local, natural materials such as stone and timber.

"These were plans specifically for parks so that the buildings weren't an intrusion on the natural landscape but rather blended all the natural features with the man-made," says Angela Reed, who served until recently as coordinator for the CCC Legacy Parks initiative in the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department's Historic Sites and Structures Program.

Bastrop, Lake Brownwood, Garner and Palo Duro state parks have some of the best and most extensive examples of CCC work.

The rustic approach to architecture grew out of the development of national parks in the early part of the 20th century. The National Park Service wanted the scenery to be the main attraction, not the buildings, and it decided that buildings should take their natural settings into account.

A carefully formulated design policy was laid out, influenced by the park designs of landscape architect Frederick Law Olmsted and the organic architecture of Frank Lloyd Wright. In the 1920s, the rustic style was developed and refined through lodges, museums and

other structures at Yosemite, Yellowstone, Zion, Grand Canyon and other national parks. Buildings such as Yellowstone's Old Faithful Inn and Yosemite's Ahwahnee Hotel carried out this rustic design ethic.

When the CCC was formed in the 1930s and workers began building parks in Texas and across the nation, national park architects oversaw the CCC's work and extended the reach of the NPS rustic style.

In Texas, the result is a collection of structures of rare and distinctive beauty: cabins in Bastrop that sprout up in the pine forest, rocky buildings at Palo Duro that sit on the edge of the canyon wall, rugged rock-and-timber pioneer-style lodging at Caddo Lake.

One of the real successes of the rustic style is its ability to combine nature and people's needs in a beautiful way.

"The style is rooted in the belief that

nature is restorative to the soul," Reed says. "I personally believe that nature is restorative, but I'm also a buildings person. That's the part that excites me: to see a building that blends into the landscape and to know that it was intentionally designed that way. It was designed to give me a notion of the beauty of nature and how that might restore my soul."

The style has several essential elements: low silhouettes and horizontal orientation; hand-tooled finishes with logs and quarried stone; use of native materials; avoidance of rigid, straight lines; adaptation of frontier methods of construction; use of colors that blend with the natural surroundings; and, sometimes, the elimination of lines of demarcation between the land and the structure. Most important, each building was to be designed for its particular site and to blend with the landscape.

The book *Park Structures and Facilities* says, "Successfully handled, [rustic] is a style which, through the use of native materials in proper scale, and through the avoidance of rigid, straight lines, and over-sophistication, gives the feeling of having been executed by pioneer craftsmen with limited hand tools. It thus achieves sympathy with natural surroundings, and with the past."

The buildings may look informal, with their use of natural materials, but they are loaded with a strength of design. A rustic rock wall is at once simple and natural but also very sophisticated and full of high-level craftsmanship, says architectural historian James Wright Steely, author of the book *Parks for Texas*.

Overseeing the work in Texas and a handful of other states was noted architect Herbert Maier, who had designed buildings at Yellowstone,

CCC Classic



Palmetto refectory

The refectory at Palmetto State Park features a handmade quality to its appearance, using the "horizontal key" for its stonework and roofline so that the building visually hugs the earth. Boulders laid at the foundation ensure there is no clear demarcation between the structure and the ground. The original roof of the refectory was thatched with palmetto fronds.

Yosemite and the Grand Canyon and was influential in developing the park service's signature architectural style.

He trained Texas state park architects in the rustic sensibility and showed how it could be applied to entrance portals, picnic tables, culverts, drinking fountains and concession buildings. Even latrines were designed to be beautiful, functional and nonintrusive. Maier didn't want the designs to be copied; he expected architects to carry out the vision based on a site's unique natural and cultural history.

The result is that the buildings give each park a real sense of place — the story of the land is told through the parks. Park developers intentionally chose parks scattered throughout the state "to reflect what Texas is made up of geographically," Reed says. And they made sure the geo-

graphic diversity was reflected in the park design.

The park designers experimented with natural materials to see how they could be made into structures that seemed to belong in the natural setting.

Workers quarried local rock and harvested local timber. At Bastrop, in the Lost Pines, it's sandstone, pine and hardwoods. At Blanco, in the Hill Country, it's limestone, echoing the region's rocky hills and German architectural heritage.

"There's such a sense of balance and scale," says Cynthia Brandimarte, director of the Historic Sites and Structures Program. "It's like you're walking into nature and you don't want to intrude, but you want to be part of it. Somehow, people who built those parks built them the same way. The buildings show you how to *be* in the parks."

The rustic style was a perfect fit for the CCC: The buildings required intensive amounts of time and labor, and the CCC had thousands of young men it needed to put to work.

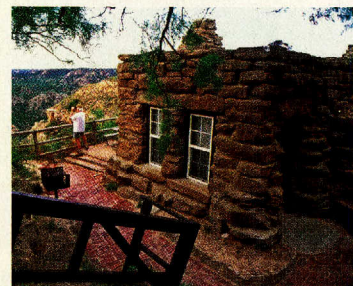
The enduring craftsmanship and design are evident today.

"I can go back to my first experiences with state parks," Steely says. "What I can describe now is the comfortable scale of the buildings. I felt drawn to them as a kid; I feel drawn to them as an adult because of this combination of natural materials and simple finishes and a low, small scale, which are all part of the formula. They are attractive. I feel it, and I watch other people around me feel it. You probably feel it. It appeals to something in our human nature to not be cooped up, to be outside and yet have some kind of facility that makes being outside easier than being in the wilderness." ★



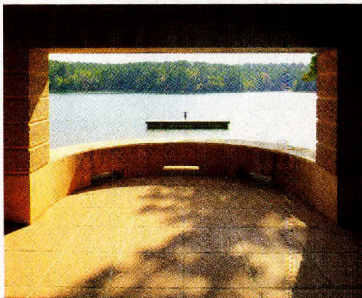
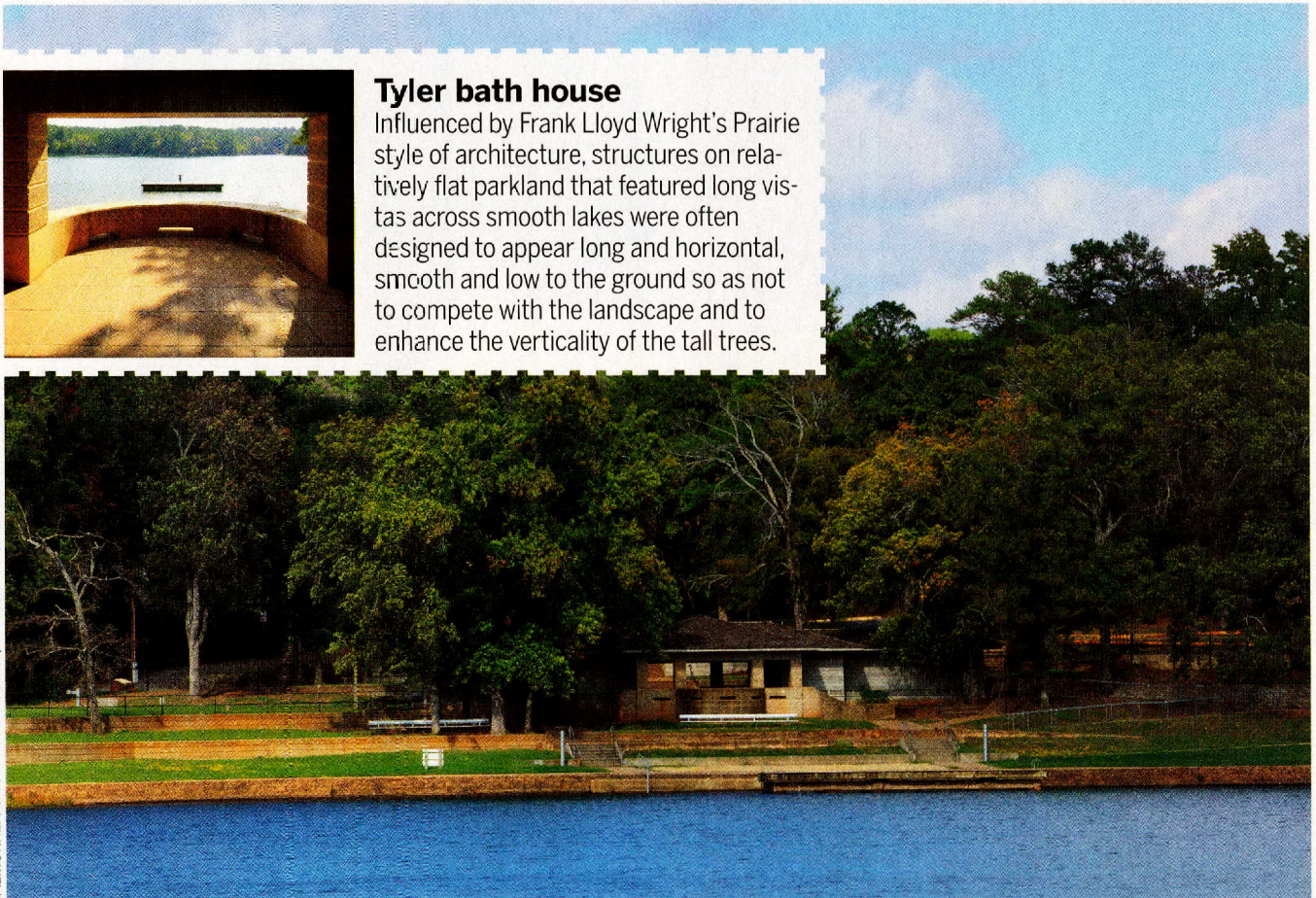
Palo Duro cabins

The CCC used materials from the region, in this case local stone, so that structures appeared "one with nature." Some stone cabins at Palo Duro are perched on the canyon walls; others appear to grow up from the ground.



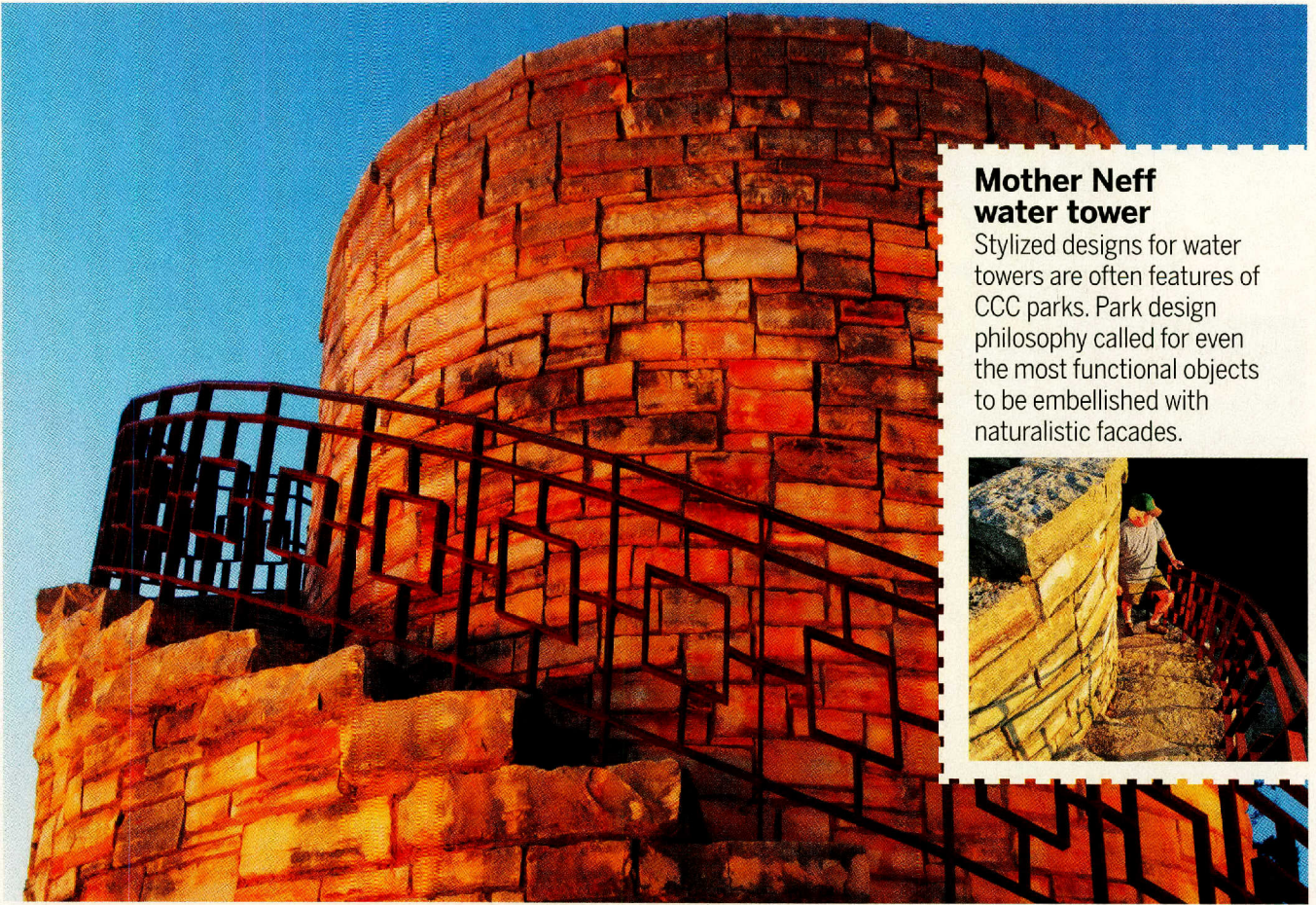


Balmorhea poolside pergola
 Where there is a CCC-built pool, there is a pergola. The small shaded structure at Balmorhea blends seamlessly with the poolside. Abilene and Bastrop state parks also have poolside pergolas that provide shaded seating.



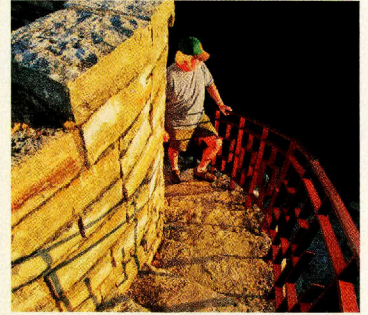
Tyler bath house
 Influenced by Frank Lloyd Wright's Prairie style of architecture, structures on relatively flat parkland that featured long vistas across smooth lakes were often designed to appear long and horizontal, smooth and low to the ground so as not to compete with the landscape and to enhance the verticality of the tall trees.

BALMORHEA © JOHN B. CHANDLER; TYLER BY EARL NOTTINGHAM/TPVD



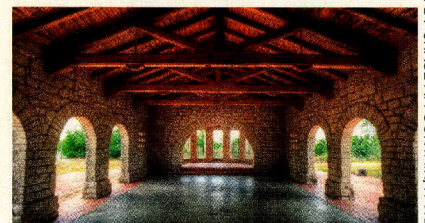
Mother Neff water tower

Stylized designs for water towers are often features of CCC parks. Park design philosophy called for even the most functional objects to be embellished with naturalistic facades.



Lake Corpus Christi refectory

This building is constructed of cast caliche blocks, made by mixing cement and the caliche that is abundant in this coastal area. The design of the building is typical of CCC architecture influenced by Henry Hobson Richardson, who favored heavy stone facades rendered more delicate by grand arches, sweeping stairwells and lookout towers. The refectories at Longhorn Cavern and Abilene state parks are two other excellent examples of this style.



MOTHER NEFF BY EARL NOTTINGHAM/TPWD; CORPUS CHRISTI BY CHASE A. FOUNTAIN/TPWD

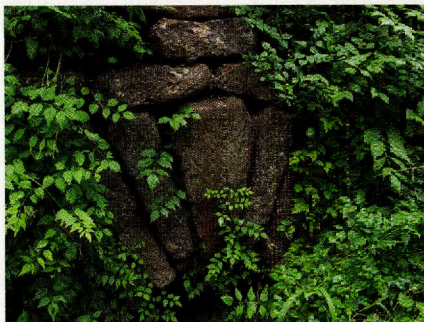


Indian Lodge

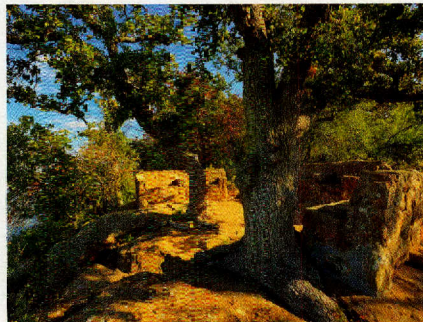
One of the tasks of the CCC was to reflect the culture and history of a region through architectural design. This hotel in the Davis Mountains was constructed of adobe, a material used in vernacular architecture of the region. The hotel's layout, as well as its interior furnishings built by the CCC, referenced Native Americans of the Southwest.



CCC Hidden Features



Retaining wall and culvert, Bastrop:
This retaining wall beneath Park Road 1A is visible from the trail that leads to the Boy Scout camp and overlook. The wall, which had been obscured by foliage for years, was uncovered by the September 2011 fire. Foliage is already growing back.



Stone benches and fire pits, Lake Brownwood:
Stone furniture, including benches, tables and fire pits, can be found along the park's trails, much of it in disrepair and some of it covered by foliage.



Stone mosaic on the floor of the entrance portals, Bastrop:
The CCC often added whimsical details to its work, even in places where the details might get overlooked.

CCC Legacy Parks

In an effort to promote and preserve state parks built by the Civilian Conservation Corps in the 1930s and 1940s, the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department launched the CCC Legacy Parks initiative in 2011.

“We believe these are important parks and significant to the history of state parks as a whole,” says Angela Reed, who served as the first coordinator of the CCC initiative. “We want people to be aware of that history and why state parks exist as they do today. We believe these parks are icons of the system.”

The initiative seeks to link the 29 CCC-built parks in a more cohesive manner, obtain funding for the parks for restoration and serve as a clearinghouse for CCC history.

The CCC parks — from Palo Duro to Lake Corpus Christi and

from Balmorhea to Daingerfield — contain many architectural treasures, and TPWD wants to make sure those buildings receive specialized care as historical structures. Some structures have been restored, but others are in great need of repair.

TPWD historical architect Dennis Gerow and others compiled an assessments book that outlines repair needs at the CCC parks and puts a dollar figure on those repairs. They distributed the books to TPWD leaders and hope to get them in the hands of state legislators to request money for needed restoration.

The initiative’s branding effort includes establishing imagery for CCC parks and working with the park system’s interpretive staff to present the CCC parks in a con-

sistent manner.

A TPWD website tells the story of the CCC parks with photos, videos, interactive programs and park profiles, at www.texascccparcs.org. A CCC Facebook page allows TPWD to share pictures, news and state park history.

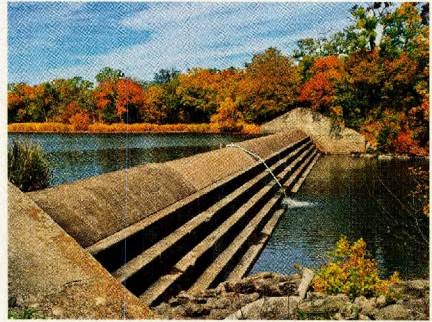
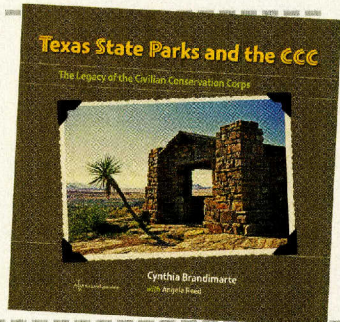
TPWD fields a lot of public inquiries on the CCC, Reed says, “and we saw a need to make this history accessible to the public — to put it all in one place.”

TPWD’s renewed focus on CCC work began in the 1980s, when the CCC-built structures were turning 50 and therefore becoming eligible for historical status. TPWD started recording oral histories from CCC veterans to preserve their stories and to find out how the buildings were built so they could be repaired properly.

The Rich History of the CCC

A new book about the CCC, coming out in January, outlines the history of CCC parks and uses oral histories to tell the stories of CCC workers. *Texas State Parks and the CCC: The Legacy of the Civilian Conservation Corps* was written by Cynthia Brandimarte, director of TPWD’s Historic Sites and Structures Program, with Angela Reed. It is being published by Texas A&M University Press.

The book provides a comprehensive look at the CCC in Texas, from formation of the work corps to current preservation efforts. Twenty-nine parks are profiled.



Lake Springfield dam, Fort Parker: Although lakes are what attract visitors to many state parks, the CCC-constructed dams that created them often go unnoticed.



Rock stairway, Davis Mountains: Unless climbers watch their feet as they walk the trail to this Skyline Drive picnic area, they may miss the craftsmanship of this winding stairway the CCC built into the side of the mountain.



Fireplace, Mission Tejas: Pieces of petrified wood are set in a stylized pattern in this bit of CCC handiwork, one of the decorative touches found throughout CCC parks.



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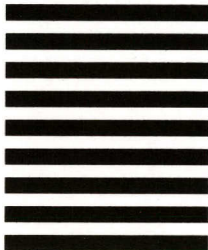


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Last Stand of the Red Wolf

America's 'other wolf' was reintroduced to the wild after a last-ditch roundup in Texas.

BY RUSSELL ROE

With the hair standing up on the back of our necks, we listened as the howls rang out in primal peals — haunting, howling vocalizations that rose and fell in chaotic disorder as the red wolves spoke their minds on a summer night in the swamp. What we heard wasn't the pure, single howl of the lone wolf but the modulating tones of a chorus howl, with wolves dropping out and rejoining the chorus for a full minute and a half of sounds that were melodic, eerie and wild. They were the sounds of one of the most endangered animals in North America.

Wolves bark, whimper and growl, too, but it's the howl that fascinates us. In Texas, the red wolf's howl echoed for the last time across the forests and plains more than 30 years ago, when biologists rounded up the final ragtag group of wolves in a last-ditch effort to save the species. Today, the howls of wild red wolves can be heard only on a marshy peninsula of eastern North Carolina, where they were reintroduced after being declared extinct in the wild. This past summer I joined about 30 people there for a red wolf "howling safari" and heard their wild call.

It's been a rough journey for America's "other wolf," full of cliffhangers and near-catastrophes. As a species, it has been to the brink of oblivion and back. Today, the red wolf is an endangered species success story, though many challenges still stand in the animal's way. This year marked the 25th anniversary of its reintroduction into the wild.

Red wolves, lanky predators native to the Southeast, are smaller than gray wolves and larger than coyotes. Their coats aren't truly red but range from tan to black with reddish highlights. In Texas, red wolves lived in the eastern part of the state and gray wolves in the west.

For generations, wolves have evoked hatred and fear in people. It was government policy to eradicate red wolves until

people realized there were hardly any left. Passionately persecuted with gun, trap and poison, they almost disappeared. Once, red wolves roamed as a top predator across the southeastern U.S., from Florida to Texas and as far north as Pennsylvania. By the 1960s, through predator control and habitat loss, they were reduced to a sliver of marginal habitat in the bayou country along the Gulf Coast. In Texas, the red wolf had its last stand.

In 1962, an Austin College professor named Howard McCarley sounded the alarm about the red wolf and its unexpected spiral toward extinction. He pointed out that what people thought were

wolves were actually coyotes or wolf-coyote hybrids.

The wolf's howl helped reveal the dire situation. In the mid-1960s, biologists went in search of the red wolf in places across the Southeast where the wolf was thought to live. They drove back roads at night playing taped wolf howls — a sound the wolves can't resist answering — and listened for a response. The choruses of answering howls came from both wolves and coyotes, and they focused in on the howls that were distinctly wolfish.

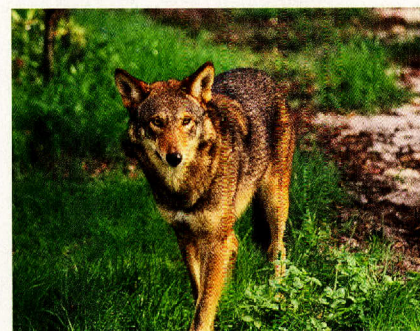
They were dismayed by what they

In the 1970s, the U.S. red wolf population was down to just a handful of animals in Texas. Red wolves, critically endangered, now number nearly 300.





Red wolves exist only in a reintroduced population in North Carolina and in zoos that participate in the red wolf species survival plan, such as the Texas Zoo in Victoria (top photo).



found. The red wolf no longer roamed its familiar territory. The biologists determined that the only red wolves remaining were hemmed in along a stretch of coast in southeastern Texas and southwestern Louisiana. It seemed to be an unlikely final redoubt for the forest-loving wolf — coastal prairies and marshes that are a stone's throw from Houston, Galveston and Beaumont, in the shadow of one of the most industrialized areas of the country, an area of rice farms, cattle ranches and oilfields.

A 1970 Texas Parks and Wildlife Department survey of red wolves, using a hand-cranked air-raid siren on the back of a pickup to elicit howls, found at least 100 wolves, mainly in Jefferson, Chambers and Liberty counties.

The ever-adaptable coyote had been increasingly taking over territory from the shattered red wolf. Red wolves had lost their foothold so badly that they were interbreeding with coyotes. And in the delirium of disaster, the resulting "hybrid swarm" was threatening to overtake the species.

In 1973, Congress passed the Endangered Species Act, and the red wolf was one of the first animals listed. The first goal was to protect the wolves in their remaining territory, and the government started trapping coyotes to prevent the red wolves from being genetically swamped. The effort didn't work. The

wolves were surrounded by an ever-encroaching sea of coyotes.

With time running out, the government took desperate and drastic action: It decided to remove the red wolves and put them in captivity with hopes of reintroducing them into the wild someday. Despite the hope and intent of the Endangered Species Act, wildlife managers decided to make the red wolf extinct in the wild in order to save it.

"It seems like you're going backward," says David Rabon, coordinator of the red wolf recovery program for the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. "You're given this new piece of legislation to go out there and save the planet, save these species. And

one of the first things you do is go: 'We'll extirpate them in the wild.'" But, he added, it was the right thing to do.

From 1974 to 1978, more than 400 animals were trapped in the recovery program, established by the Fish and Wildlife Service in cooperation with TPWD. Trappers tromped through the mud and muck, fighting humidity and mosquitoes as they captured wolves, coyotes and hybrids.

Many of the animals were in terrible shape because of parasites and the harsh

coastal environment. Every canine that came in was infected with heartworm, a mosquito-carried parasitic worm that spreads through the arteries and ultimately plugs them. Many of the wolves had terrible cases of mange mites, which caused hair loss and severe itching. Some of the infected animals hardly had any fur left.

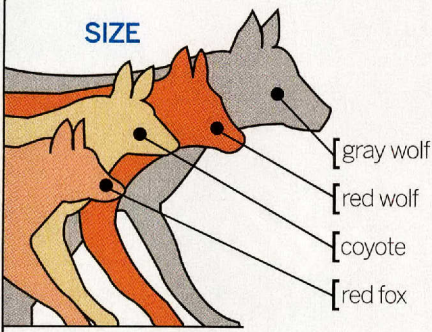
After they trapped and treated the animals, wildlife managers had to determine which ones were real wolves. When they removed all the wolves they thought

RED WOLVES HAD LOST THEIR FOOTHOLD SO BADLY THAT THEY WERE INTERBREEDING WITH COYOTES. AND IN THE DELIRIUM OF DISASTER, THE RESULTING "HYBRID SWARM" WAS THREATENING TO OVERTAKE THE SPECIES.

were tainted by coyote genes, they were left with 43 animals. After subsequent cullings, just 17 pure red wolves remained. Fourteen of those wolves became the founding members of a captive breeding program and the ancestors of all the red wolves alive today.

It was an inglorious ending for a wild species and an apex predator — trapped in a tiny corner of its former territory, ravaged by parasites, breeding with coyotes and surrounded by interlopers ready to take over. If the government had

SIZE



waited a couple more years to act, it might have been too late. In 1980, with the last red wolves in captivity, the species was declared extinct in the wild.

The coyote is the trickster in Native American lore — clever and highly adaptable. The gray wolf is a cunning, fearsome creature. The red wolf is ... what, exactly? The problem was that red wolves had mostly died off before anyone could study them in the wild. The red wolf is somehow considered less “wolfy” than the gray wolf, yet it’s more than just a large coyote. Like other wolves, red wolves live in small packs. They feed on rabbits, raccoons and nutria; they are elusive and generally avoid humans.

The Fish and Wildlife Service considers the red wolf a distinct species, though its taxonomic status isn’t completely clear and debate is ongoing.

“Red wolves, which are big-eared and short-coated, slender, spindly, stilt-legged for coursing through the Southern marshes or under tall forests, have always impressed observers as being rather rudimentary and unemphatic for wolves,” writes Edward Hoagland in his essay “Lament of the Red Wolf.” “Behaviorally they resemble gray wolves; ecologically they are more like coyotes.”

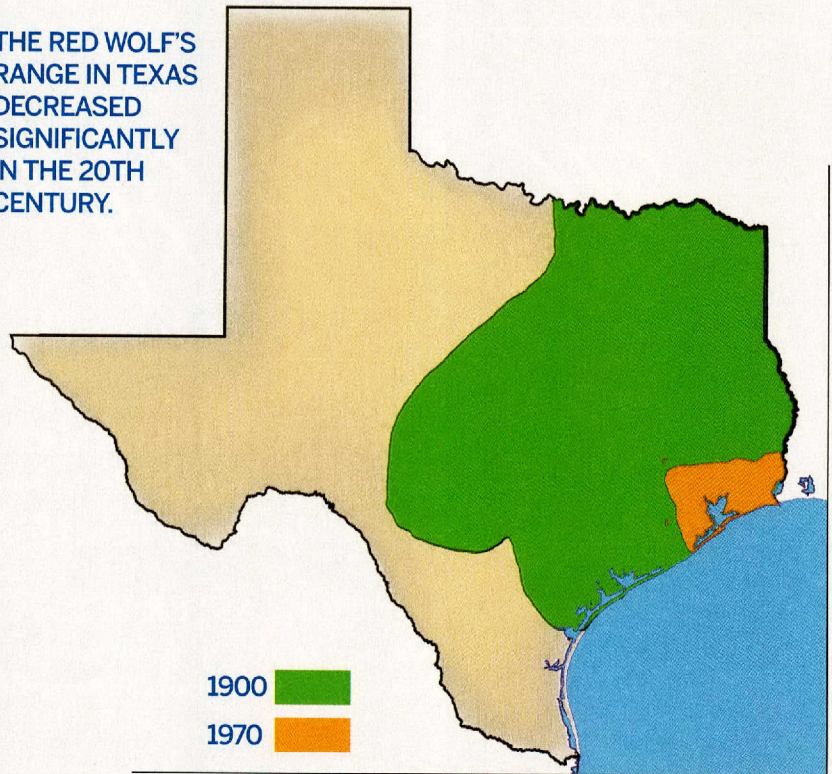
In the canid family, the red wolf seems to suffer from middle child syndrome.

After the red wolf roundup, a captive breeding program was set up at the Point Defiance Zoo in Tacoma, Wash. The breeding program was expanded to zoos across the country, and in Texas, Fossil Rim Wildlife Center in Glen Rose, the Texas Zoo in Victoria and the Fort Worth Zoo have captive red wolves and participate in the program.

After several years, the Fish and Wildlife Service was ready to reintroduce red wolves into the wild.

In an unprecedented move, red wolves were released at Alligator River National Wildlife Refuge in North Carolina in 1987. The refuge, on a peninsula near the Outer Banks, provided an isolated, controlled environment, with few people, plenty of prey and no coyotes. The first years were bumpy, but when it got to the point where wild-born wolves

THE RED WOLF'S RANGE IN TEXAS DECREASED SIGNIFICANTLY IN THE 20TH CENTURY.



were raising wild-born pups, wildlife managers figured the wolves might just make it.

The red wolf program broke new ground again when it started a program called pup fostering, where captive-born pups are placed in dens with wild litters and raised as wild wolves — an innovation that helped increase the population.

The wild population now clocks in at 100 to 130 animals, with 175 more in captivity. Reintroduction of the red wolf stands as a true conservation triumph — it was the first predator restored after being declared extinct in the wild and paved the way for future wolf reintroductions.

Two issues, however, continue to plague the red wolf recovery. The coyote continued its eastward march and since the mid-1990s has taken up residence near the red wolf. The constant crush of coyotes is like that throbbing headache that won’t go away. Worried about hybridization, wildlife managers have been sterilizing the coyotes and putting them back as placeholders to keep other coyotes out.

Gunshot mortality has been another problem, with seven or eight red wolves killed every year by hunters who mistake them for coyotes.

Texas will have to watch the recovery from afar. Wendy Connally of TPWD’s Wildlife Diversity Program says the agency considers the red wolf extirpated in Texas with no plans for recovery here.

Andrew Sansom, former TPWD exec-

utive director, says he led an effort to get red wolves released on Matagorda Island in the 1990s. He liked the idea of having the wolf back near its final stronghold, but federal officials, pointing to the threat of coyotes, thought differently.

Some folks in Southeast Texas still report seeing red wolves or something like them roaming the prairies and marshes of the area. Certainly, some red wolf genes would have been passed down through the years so that a little bit of the red wolf still lives on in the coyotes of the bayou country.

Glynn Riley, a government trapper who witnessed the red wolf’s final days in Texas, sees something wild and majestic in the red wolf. He is known for saying that “a mountain with a wolf on it stands a little taller.”

A mountain *without* a wolf on it, then, must stand a little shorter, and a state without a wolf, well, will have to settle for the long-faded howls of a misunderstood creature of the night.

What did Texas lose when the red wolves were carried away? Some might say good riddance.

Roy McBride, a legendary trapper who caught red wolves for the recovery program, offers this: “They didn’t leave a heritage. They didn’t leave a building you could look at or dig a big hole or put in a dam. I guess the first rain that came along after the last one was caught washed out his tracks, and that was about the only sign they were ever there. We’ll never have them again.” ★

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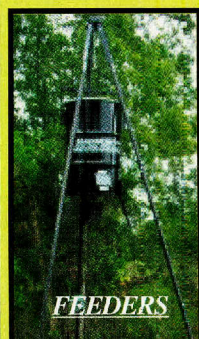
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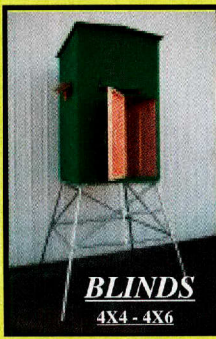
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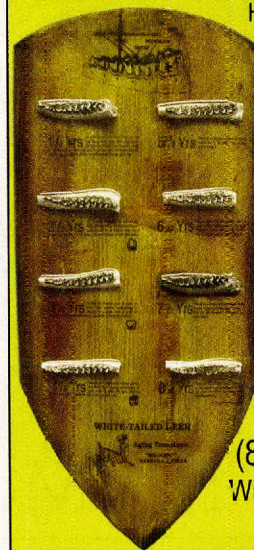
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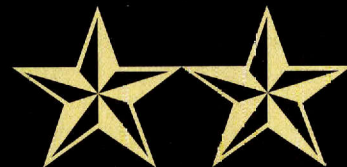
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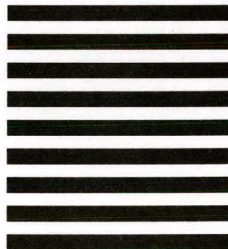


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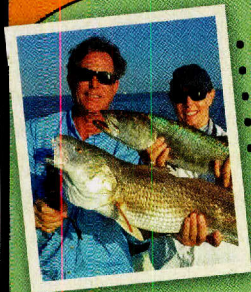
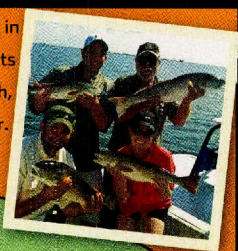
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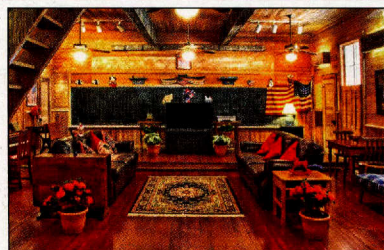




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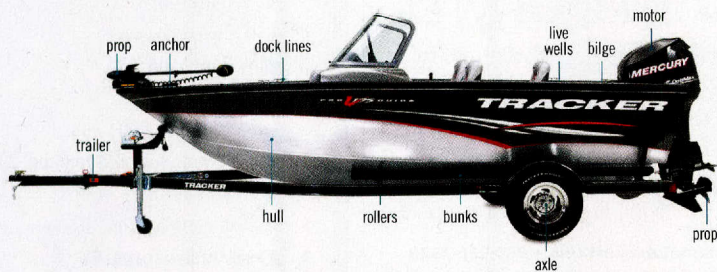


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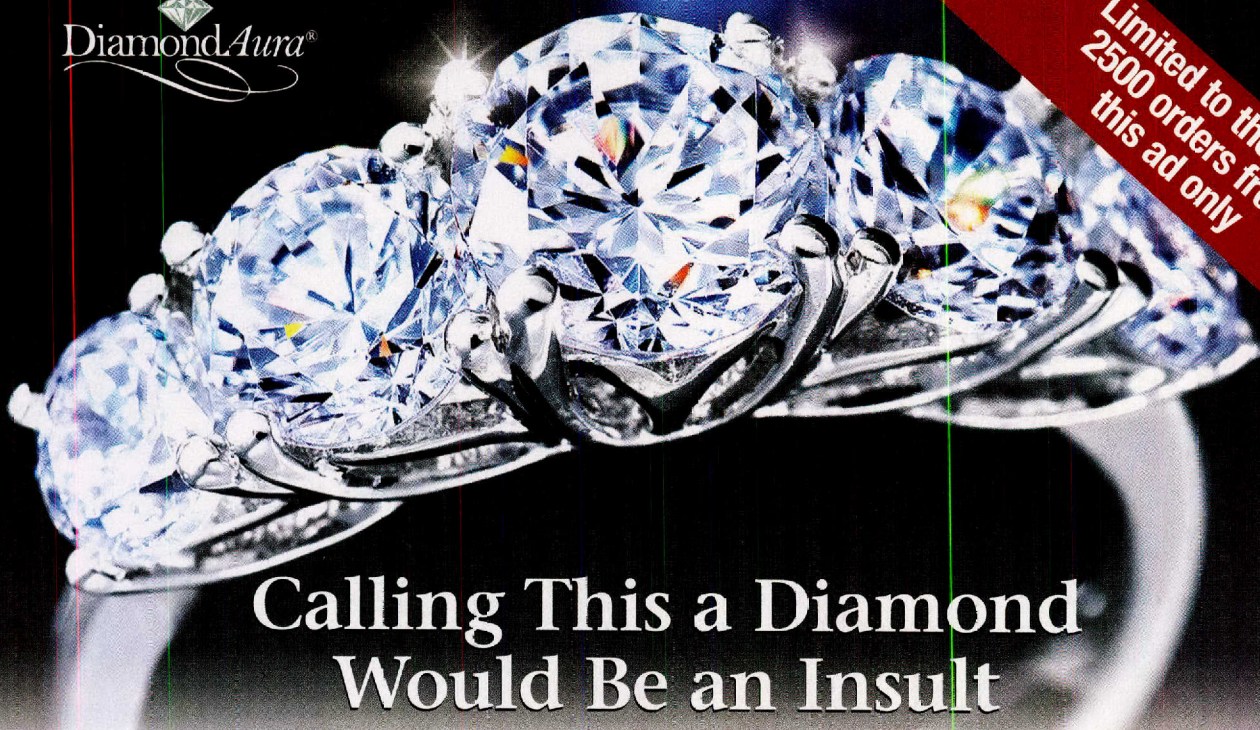


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This page, with artwork by former Art Editor Nancy McGowan, ran as the back cover of the December 1967 issue of *Texas Parks & Wildlife* magazine. The accompanying caption read, "All personnel of the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department take this opportunity to wish all their friends a Merry Christmas and a prosperous New Year." Indeed we do.

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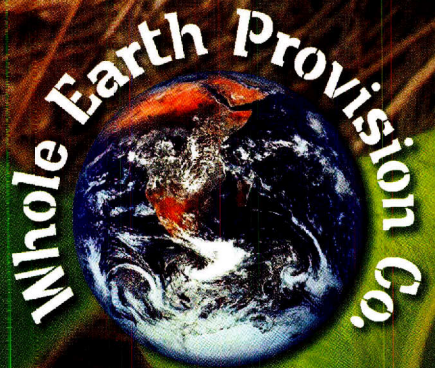
Ben McConahey hikes through a maze of prayer plants in the rain forest near Santiago Atitlán, Guatemala.

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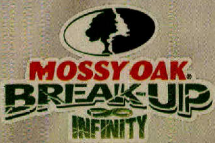
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