

THE TRAVEL MAGAZINE OF TEXAS

TEXAS

HIGHWAYS

APRIL 1999

\$3.50



April in Texas. The outdoors calls. Children itch to get out and play. Adults long to breathe the spring air and visit the state's natural wonders. From the Gulf Coast to the Panhandle-Plains, towns beckon with fairs and festivals; art shows and market days; rodeos, dances, and concerts. What a time to travel Texas in search of bluebonnets, gaillardia, coreopsis, and the myriad other blooms that have sprung from the wintry earth.

Elizabeth Silverthorne, author of *Legends & Lore of Texas Wildflowers*, among other books, wrote the text that accompanies this month's wildflower photographs. Texas **wildflower tales** originated with the Native Americans, who recognized the flowers as part of the eternal cycle of death and rebirth. Elizabeth also incorporates myths and tales about our blossoms that came from India, Greece, and Scotland—reminders of Texas' rich ethnic origins, as well as of the kinship of the world's flora....

Frequent contributors **Jan Edwards** and **Stephan Myers** outline the engaging story of **dinosaurs** in Texas, beginning with dinosaur hunter Roland T. Bird, who in the 1930s explored the Paluxy River in search of fossils for the American Museum of Natural History in New York. Jan and Stephan's tale of inquiry and interpretation continues today, with the work of Texas Tech researchers under the direction of Dr. Sankar Chatterjee, who has been exploring a Garza County site for some two decades.

Wherever they are found, dinosaurs fascinate children. The prehistoric nature of the creatures, their preposterous proportions, the movies and cartoons made about them, the replicas children can see and play with, and their incredible variety alone enchant the young. But the fact that we really know very little about the great creatures and that we continue to rework our hypotheses about their fundamental characteristics mag-

nify the mystery. Add to that speculation about the causes of their extinction—massive meteorite shocks? cataclysmic volcanic eruptions? global climatic change?—and the fascination only grows. Furthermore, consider that representatives of every major group of dinosaurs once inhabited today's Texas—it's no wonder that these Brobdingnagian behemoths continue to intrigue us all.

Some of Texas' successful dinosaur-discoverers have been children. In 1988, seven-year-old Thad Williams located a new species on a walk through a creek bed with his father, Ted, a biology teacher. They came across a skull that looked like it might have belonged to a horse. Upon closer inspection, Thad noticed that the long row of teeth could not be a horse's. "Dad," he yelled, "it's a dinosaur!"

Sure enough. Thad and Ted enlisted the help of Jim Diffily of the Fort Worth Museum of Science and History and Louis Jacobs of Southern Methodist University to identify and excavate the bones of what turned out to be two *Tenontosaurus dossi*, named for land-owners James and Dorothy Doss.

The following year, 12-year-old Johnny Maurice found some odd bones in Fort Worth. His dad quipped that they looked like chicken bones, but Dr. Jacobs identified them as belonging to a baby dinosaur called a nodosaur.

Dinosaur finds occur more often than you may think. If you come across what you suspect may be dinosaur bones, call someone knowledgeable, like the pros at the Fort Worth Museum of Science and History (817/732-1631) or Dr. Dale Winkler at Southern Methodist University (214/768-2898)....

Wherever your travels may lead, take the time to stop and smell the primroses, bluebonnets, and other colorful bouquets.



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Texas Highways (ISSN 0040-4349) is published monthly by the Texas Department of Transportation, 150 East Riverside Drive, Austin, Texas 78704. The official travel magazine of Texas encourages recreational travel within the state and tells the Texas story to readers around the world. *Texas Highways* is funded solely through sales of magazines and related products. © Texas Department of Transportation 1999. All rights reserved.



Internet Sites: www.texashighways.com; www.traveltex.com; and www.dot.state.tx.us

The editorial office of *Texas Highways* is at 150 East Riverside Drive in Austin. Call 512/486-5858; fax 512/486-5879. Send queries about manuscripts or photographs to Box 141009, Austin, Texas 78714-1009. We are not responsible for unsolicited materials.

Subscriptions to *Texas Highways* are \$17.50 annually (\$25.50 foreign). Single copies, \$3.50. For subscription services, including ordering, changes of address, and requests to be removed from mailing list sales, write to *Texas Highways* Circulation, Customer Service, Box 149233, Austin, Texas 78714-9233, or call 512/416-3492 or 800/839-4997.

IRMA MEMBER, INTERNATIONAL REGIONAL MAGAZINE ASSOCIATION

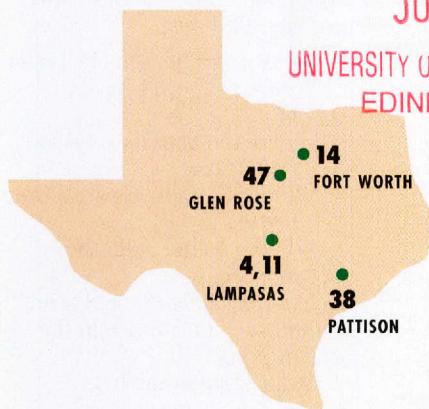
PRINTED IN U.S.A. ON RECYCLED PAPER



Periodicals Postage paid at Austin, Texas, and additional mailing offices. POSTMASTER: Send address changes to *Texas Highways* Circulation, Box 149233, Austin, TX 78714-9233.

JUL 28 1999

UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS PAN AMERICAN
EDINBURG, TEXAS



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by Rosemary Williams

Long known for its healing waters, Lampasas still features a spring-fed, free-flowing pool. Today's visitors find the slowed-down pace and small-town charm therapeutic as well

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RANCH-STYLE DREAMS

by Rosemary Williams

The Historic Moses Hughes Ranch Bed & Breakfast, in a 143-year-old ranch house built by one of Lampasas' first settlers, now welcomes guests from all over the world

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Want proof that dinosaurs once trod Lone Star territory? Several Texas museums—not to mention Dinosaur Valley State Park, near Glen Rose—boast fossils that prove the colossal creatures were no fairy tale

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by Janet R. Edwards

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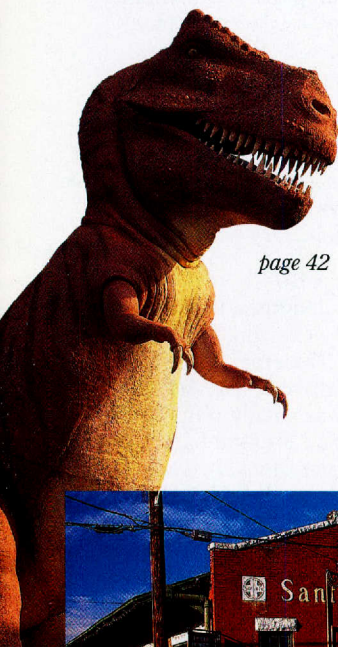
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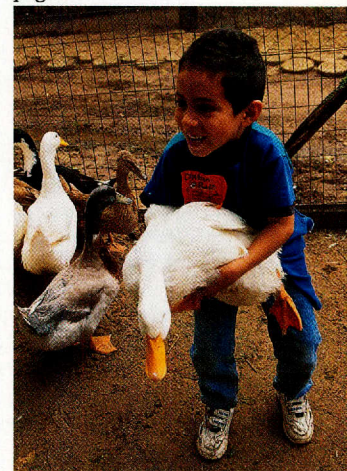
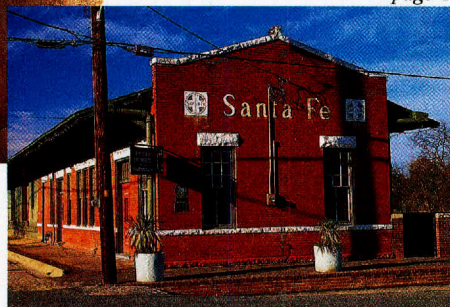
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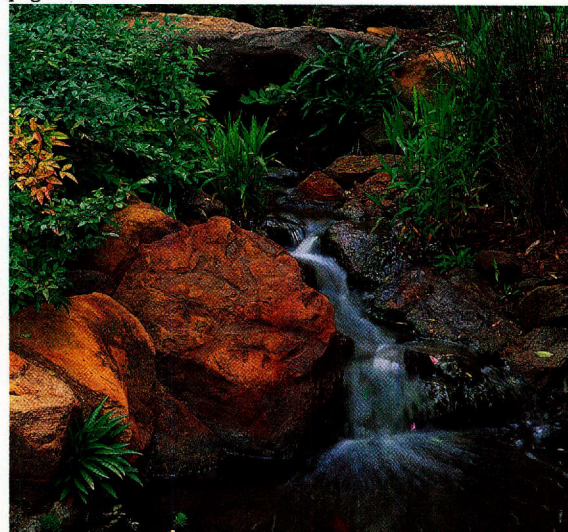
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ABOUT OUR COVERS

FRONT—Gaillardia, coreopsis, winecups, and a smattering of bluebonnets and white prickly poppies lend color to a Llano County pasture. Our annual wildflower extravaganza begins on page 22. Photo © Richard Reynolds

BACK—A Hill Country clearing forms a backdrop for Indian paintbrush and bluebonnets, two of many Texas wildflowers that figure in Native American legends. Photo © Joe Lowery



Readers: In February's story on the most romantic places in Texas, we gave you a couple of incorrect details for the award-winning Cook's Cottage B&B in Fredericksburg. For information or reservations, call 210/493-5101 or 830/997-6422. Web site: www.aisi.net/patsys-place.

In February's *For the Road*, we forgot to mention the ticket prices for the *Matisse and Picasso* exhibition, on view through May 2 at Fort Worth's Kimbell Art Museum. Admission to this special exhibit is \$8; \$6 age 61 and older and students with ID; \$4 ages 6-11 (accompanied by an adult). Call 817/332-8451. Web site: www.kimbellart.org.

Lights, Camera, Flashback!

I was so pleased when I received my copy of the January issue, with Tom Peeler's excellent story on Karl Hoblitzelle and his Interstate Amusement Company. I could not have written a better story about our beautiful old theaters and the thousands of people in The Passing Parade that attended our programs.

I worked for Mr. Hoblitzelle for 30 years (1937-1967) and managed some of his best theaters. I was manager of the Metropolitan Theatre (3,100 seats) in Houston from 1955 to 1973. Most of Mr. Hoblitzelle's employees were very loyal to him and stayed with him many years. We still have a meeting every year at the Dallas Athletic Club, with an attendance of about 75 people (theater managers and employees) from all of the old Interstate towns.

HOWARD SKELTON
Tyler

While Tom Peeler was at the Lakewood Theatre in Dallas, I was at the Eastwood Theatre in Houston. During World War II, I attended Eastwood Elementary. Sometimes, on the way home, I would go to the movie, where I paid nine cents. That is the least I ever paid for so much fun and entertainment. Mr. Kelly was the manager for as long as I could remember. At the Saturday Fun Club, he directed bubble gum-

MICHAELA A. MURPHY



We're sad to report that Slim Rater, pictured in our February 1997 story on senior pro rodeers, died this past February.

Flat Happy

The photographs and text in December's "Flat Is Where It's At" were fabulous. I was born and raised on the High Plains in Dimmitt, but I now, unfortunately, reside in southern California. The Panhandle and surrounding area are chock-full of history and photographic possibilities. Keep up the good work, and try to do more stories on the Texas Panhandle and its great, friendly people.

M. SMOTHERMON
Indio, California, via email

blowing and yo-yo contests, and he even let us sell and trade our used comic books in the theater during intermission. (I bet Mr. Hoblitzelle didn't know about that.) Now and then, wrestlers that we had seen on TV would show up at intermission, including Gorgeous George, Bull Curry, Paul Bosh, and many others.

DANIEL C. MURPHY
Stafford

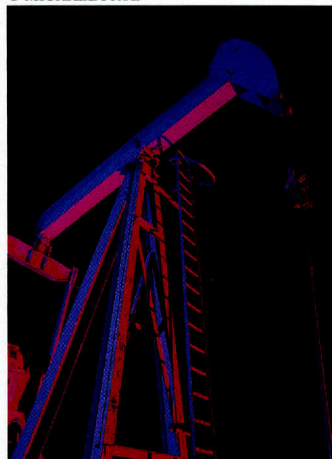
The Shortest Distance...

In your February issue, Gene Fowler wrote an excellent article about Port Arthur. It is noteworthy that Arthur Stilwell drew a straight line from Kansas City to the Gulf of Mexico; the southern terminus was Sabine Pass [Stilwell later moved the terminus to the north shore of Sabine Lake]. This would save many miles from Kansas City to connect with the rest of the world by sea.

Also, Stilwell drew a straight line from Kansas City to the Gulf of California and founded the Kansas City, Mexico & Orient Railway to shorten the distance from the "Heartland" to the Pacific by more than 500 miles. The tracks run through Sweetwater, San Angelo, Alpine, Presidio, Chihuahua City, and Copper Canyon to a seaport at Topolobampo, Mexico. After 60 years of construction, this railroad was completed in 1960.

ED FISHER
San Angelo

© MICHAEL FRYE



Michael Frye's light-painted images of Texas icons (in the March issue) have brightened the lives of some readers and sparked angry letters from others. What do you think?

Name That Poem

I hope you can help me find a poem about Texas that I saw back in the '20s or '30s. I can

remember only the first two verses. They are:

We're down here in old Texas
Where you never have the blues
Where the bandits steal the streetcars
While the marshals steal the booze.
Where you get up in the morning
In a world of snow and sleet
And you come home in the evening
Suffocating in the heat...

I think there were six verses describing the ocean, mountains, plains, deserts, piney woods, and other sites.

EDGAR FLOYD
Dallas

Ed. Note: Readers, let us know if you recognize this poem. We hope the later verses are a little more complimentary....

Arizona Bill

I was delighted to see the picture of Arizona Bill and his burro, Tipperary, in December's *Speaking of Texas*. Arizona Bill's was a truly remarkable story and brought back many memories of my own acquaintanceship with him in 1935-36.

I was a brand new Second Lieutenant. Arizona Bill lived in the 12th Field Artillery stables at Fort Sam Houston and would walk with his burro each morning across the parade ground. I frequently passed him, and he would give me a snappy salute. It sent chills up my spine. He was history personified.

General Hagood, the Army area commander, ordered that Arizona Bill could live on any Army post and that we would provide food, shelter, and blankets for him (and forage for his burro) as long as he lived. Arizona Bill chose to sleep in the stables with his burro. He was proud of his service. Sergeant Miller did a wonderful thing in devoting many years to getting Arizona Bill's remains reburied at the Fort Sam Houston cemetery.

SAL ARMOGIDA,
COLONEL, U.S. ARMY (RETIRED)
San Antonio

If you would like to write to *Texas Highways*, the editors would enjoy hearing from you. Though we are unable to print every letter, we just might select yours to appear in the magazine—whether you send us kudos or criticism. We reserve the right to edit letters. Write to Letters Editor, *Texas Highways*, Box 141009, Austin 78714-1009, or fax 512/486-5879. Email: editors@texashighways.com.

A freedom fighter with a certain fondness for fashion, Robert Hall was born in South Carolina around 1812. He moved with his family to Tennessee in 1828 and there, though underage, voted for Davy Crockett when Davy ran for the U.S. Congress. In the spring of 1836, Hall joined a party of Kentucky volunteers headed for Texas. Arriving after the Battle of San Jacinto, he joined the Army of the Republic of Texas on June 1. In 1837, he married Mary Minerva "Polly" King and settled in Gonzales County. As a member of Matthew Caldwell's Ranger company, he helped lay out the town of Seguin in 1838. Two years later, he was wounded fighting Comanches at the Battle of Plum Creek.

When the matter of annexing Texas to the United States came up, Hall opposed it, voting, as he later wrote, "first, last, and all the time for the Lone Star." Nonetheless, he joined General Zachary Taylor's army to defend U.S. interests in the Mexican War. (A sword he plucked from the bloody field at the 1847 Battle of Buena Vista can be seen at Los Nogales Museum in Seguin.) Hall also opposed slavery and Texas secession, but he still fought bravely for the South in that "fratricidal struggle."

In the 1870s, Hall, then living in Cotulla, sewed himself a fabulous "frontiersman's suit," adorned with the hide, fur, and even horns of most every kind of beast that prowled Texas and Mexico. He wore the getup at veterans' reunions until his death in 1899. In 1936, the garment was exhibited at the Texas Centennial Exposition, where film star Gary Cooper donned it for photographers.

Hall wore the suit for the cover of his

1898 biography, *Life of Robert Hall*, written by someone known only as "Brazos." Rare-book dealers say a first edition might bring \$2,500 today, but State House Press in Austin issued a more affordable reprint (\$14.95) in 1992.

—Gene Fowler,
Austin



UT INSTITUTE OF TEXAN CULTURES, SAN ANTONIO

Fashion plate Robert Hall (1812?-1899) fought with three armies, helped lay out the town of Seguin, and fathered 13 children. He once braved a 200-mile round trip through Indian country to buy his wife a new dress.

one knows for sure what sparked the classic frontier showdown—perhaps a careless word or a misunderstood gesture—but with the flash of a gun, the outsider lay dead. Local authorities immediately investigated and determined that the fight had been fair; no charges were filed.

A search of the dead man's effects revealed only a change of clothes and a pair of elegant, silver-mounted, and much-worn "gal-leg" spurs, each in the shape of a woman's leg. The man carried no identification, but the spurs' leather straps carried the initials JRD. Later, the spurs were given by the Wise County sheriff to local prosecuting attorney Hubert Lobdell.

Although the case remained open, no one ever came forward to inquire about a missing person fitting the stranger's description. An unmarked grave in Bridgeport's Boot Hill became the man's final resting place. The spurs eventu-

Around the time of World War I, a handsome stranger got off the Fort Worth-to-Wichita Falls train in the Wise County town of Bridgeport. He wore Western-style dress, carried a "hawleg" pistol (a gun with a handle in the shape of a hog's leg), and spent his time in town in a saloon.

In the evening, a confrontation took place between the stranger and some local wranglers. No

ally came into the possession of Roy Padgett of Spano, whose late wife, Isabelle, was the daughter of attorney Lobdell.

It seems impossible that this mystery will ever be solved. Yet maybe, after all this time, someone will have the critical piece of information to identify the mysterious stranger and the initials JRD.

—Paul Benson, Dallas

Charles Angelo Siringo, born in 1855 in Matagorda County, wrote the first authentic cowboy autobiography, *A Texas Cowboy, or Fifteen Years on the Hurricane Deck of a Spanish Pony*. Humorist Will Rogers, who considered the 1885 book "the cowboys' Bible," once remarked, "The stuff cowboys did might be bad, but Siringo could tell it so well it would sound almost respectable."

With a desire to see the world, Siringo left cowpunching, moved to Chicago in 1886, and for 22 years worked for the Pinkerton National Detective Agency. As a shrewd and highly successful investigator, he tracked outlaws throughout the West and from Alaska to Mexico. When he left Pinkerton, he wrote another book, *Pinkerton's Cowboy Detective*. The agency at first threatened a lawsuit, then, as a condition of publication, forced Siringo to change the title to *A Cowboy Detective* and to substitute fictitious names. The book was published in 1912.

Angered by the agency's reaction, Siringo in 1915 wrote a third book, entitled *Two Evil Isms, Pinkertonism and Anarchism*. Pinkerton suppressed the book following its publication, and attempted (unsuccessfully) to bring Siringo up on libel charges. The detective agency interfered a third time, in 1927, with his book *Riata and Spurs*, stopping publication until the author made revisions.

Although Siringo's writing romanticized the West and the myth of the American cowboy, it did much to raise the status of cowboy literature above the level of the dime novel.

—Elizabeth W. Lewis, Houston

A scenic photograph of a lake with a person fishing. The image shows a large tree on the left, a person with red hair and a fishing rod on the right, and a calm lake reflecting the sky and trees. The overall mood is peaceful and natural.

L

Town of the Leg



l a m p a s a s

BY ROSEMARY WILLIAMS • PHOTOGRAPHS BY JIM CROW

S

cratch the surface of a small town, and you're apt to find a cache of riches... little gems of interesting sites and sights... gleaming pearls of local lore... golden strands of history. In Lampasas, deep in the heart of Central Texas, such discoveries come easily.

Stroll the courthouse square. Chat with friendly locals. Visit the old springs that brought fame to Lampasas. Take a look at buildings that echo bygone eras.

But first, bone up on Lampasas history. You'll find the town's past occasionally rowdy, sometimes posh, and always intriguing.

Lampasas, population 6,400—give or take a few folks—lies along Sulphur Creek, a tributary of the Lampasas River. Tonkawas and other tribes frequented the land early on, lured by the abundance of deer, buffalo, and other game that gathered at the creek. Here, too, the Indians visited the area's mineral-laden springs, whose healing powers they held sacred.

The Spanish, who traversed the region in the early 1700s, bestowed the name Lampasas upon the river, probably to commemorate the village of Lampazos in northern Mexico, some 80 miles south of Laredo. Lampazos, too, boasts a mineral springs.

Anglo settlement began more than a century later, when a man named Moses Hughes brought his ailing wife, Hannah, to the springs for a cure in 1853. They camped beside Sulphur Creek and built a log cabin and mill there, reportedly the first buildings in Lampasas. Nothing records the nature of Hannah's illness, but apparently she benefited from the therapeutic sulphur

Sulphur Creek winds through the rolling countryside surrounding Lampasas. The area's sulphur springs brought visitors by the thousands to luxury resorts in the 1880s.

l e n d a r y S p r i n g s



waters. Drawn by stories of the healing springs, other settlers began arriving in the 1850s. The Hughes family soon moved a few miles west and built a ranch house that became a stopping place for folks passing through the county (see sidebar, page 11).

Although no one had truly put down roots here before the Hughes family, John Burleson, a veteran of the Texas Revolution, had been awarded 1,280 acres of land along the river in return for his service to the Republic. One of his relatives, Elizabeth Scott, and her husband, George W. Scott, laid out a town site in 1855 and named it Burleson. Elizabeth even designed the town square, leaving room for a courthouse. A year later, when the state legislature created Lampasas County, it named Burleson the county seat and renamed it Lampasas.

Lampasas grew fitfully and boisterously, wracked by lawlessness and Indian raids in the 1850s and 1860s and by floods and fires

in the 1870s. During the 1870s, too, cattle herds coursed through the town on their way to join the Chisholm and Goodnight-Loving trails. More than 30 saloons lined the streets, and unruly carousers often kept hapless townsfolk behind closed doors.

A shootout on the streets on June 7, 1877, between members of a family named Horrell and a group headed by one John "Pink" Higgins left one man from each side dead. The two groups decided to call a truce, which marked the beginning of a transformation that would tame the town and improve its gritty image.

*I*n 1882, the Gulf, Colorado, and Santa Fe Railroad came to Lampasas. Wealthy Galvestonians, who had been responsible for bringing in the rail line, took one look at the popular mineral

In the mood for a Sunday drive? Take Texas 580 west from Lampasas to nearby Colorado Bend State Park. Settler Moses Hughes built his second home in this scenic area in 1856.



COURTESY LAMPASAS CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

[CLOCKWISE, FROM TOP LEFT] Lamapas' easygoing style reveals itself at Lisa's Schnitzel House, where a game of dominoes is never far off. The 1883 Lamapas County courthouse, on the National Register of Historic Places, hosts a number of popular events, including a quilt show in August. An 1882 photo shows the courthouse—and the town square—in its infancy.

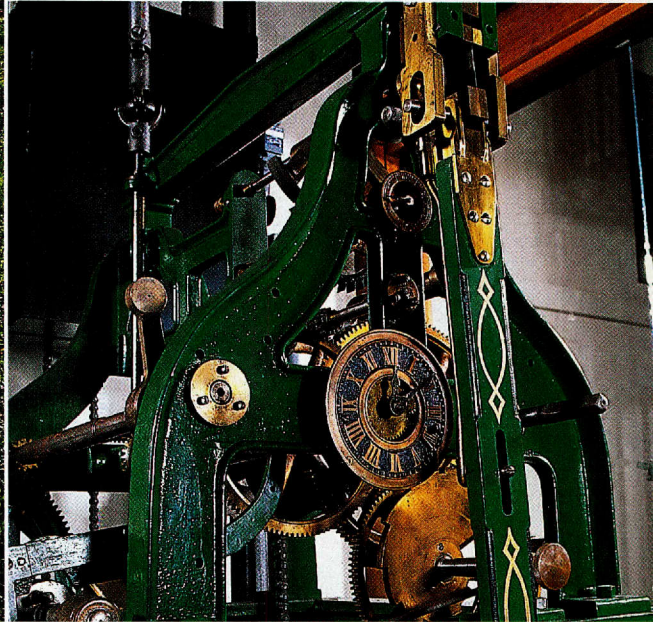
springs in the town and visualized a resort akin to Hot Springs, Arkansas, or Saratoga Springs, New York. They formed a syndicate that bought Hancock Springs—named for early landowner John Hancock—and some 200 adjoining acres and set about building the palatial Park Hotel. Advertisements soon called the area “The Saratoga of the South.”

The Park Hotel was the largest frame hotel in Texas at the time of its construction in 1883. Even by today's standards, it was a luxurious resort. Broad galleries on each of the 200-room hotel's two floors extended the 331-foot length of the building. Spacious, elegantly furnished rooms boasted “electric bells” to summon service. Pipes pumped mineral water from the springs to the hotel, and hot or cold baths pampered visitors year round. A mule-drawn streetcar brought guests to the

Park and to the springs from the downtown railroad station. The fare? A nickel.

The hotel's ballroom accommodated several hundred people for concerts and formal dances, while a circular pavilion provided an outdoor platform for the hotel's orchestra, its members decked out in blue uniforms with gold braid. A number of comfortable cottages on the grounds served families as summer homes, while another area held “Bachelors Row,” where single male residents felt free to smoke and play cards.

Across Sulphur Creek from the hotel, a huge bathhouse enclosed Hancock Springs, forming two immense—and separated—bathing areas, one for men and one for women. Each encompassed 20 bathing rooms and a 40- by 60-foot swimming pool three to six feet deep. Bathers came by the hundreds for



recreation and for therapy. Their testimonials after “taking the waters” claimed relief and even cures for ailments such as arthritis, rheumatism, indigestion, and dyspepsia, as well as skin, liver, and bronchial disorders. Bathing had become big business in Lampasas.

At about the same time the Park Hotel was built near Hancock Springs, another group built a second large bathing complex and pavilion at Hanna Springs (named for another Lampasas family), across town to the northeast. Thanks in no small part to the offerings at these various springs during the 1880s and early 1890s, thousands of people congregated in Lampasas for special gatherings. The Knights of Pythias, wool growers, bankers, Democrats, Baptists, and the Daughters of the Republic of Texas all held statewide meetings and conventions here.

But the resort era proved short-lived. When the railroad extended its tracks westward from Lampasas in the mid-1880s, the era of the luxurious spas gradually spun to an end. By the

1890s, the Park Hotel housed a small college. The beautiful building burned to the ground in 1895.

But, the town’s parklands and springs continued to provide recreation for townsfolk. Hancock Park and Hancock Springs served from 1905 until 1928 as a Baptist encampment and later as a swimming and boating club. During World War II, soldiers from nearby Camp Hood (today’s Fort Hood) enjoyed the environs of Hancock Park, which they dubbed Panther Park.

Today, on the north side of Sulphur Creek, where the Park Hotel once stood, golfers at Hancock Park can play an 18-hole course. On the creek’s south side, vestiges of the bathing spots that brought the park its glory are still visible. Remnants of rock walls outline the old Park Hotel bathhouse alongside the creek, where the springs still percolate their sulphur-scented waters (at a rate of 246 gallons a minute).

Several hundred feet south lies *(continued on page 10)*

[CLOCKWISE, FROM LEFT] A rock-lined acequia leads from an overflow area of Hancock Springs Pool, a popular swimming hole for generations of Lampasans. The old Santa Fe Railroad depot, built in 1901-1902, now serves as the chamber of commerce office. Inside the Lampasas County courthouse, you can see the elaborate works of the building’s original Seth Thomas clock, which was restored in 1985.

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A Lampasas County sunset can erase the worries of even the most harried city dweller. Even in the town proper, a leisurely pace prevails.

Hancock Springs Pool, a rock-lined basin that has delighted Lampasas residents for years, and a two-story, limestone building called the Hostess House, built in the Twenties and now a popular spot for weddings, receptions, and reunions. Lampasas native Carol Wright, an ardent preservationist and president of the O.M. Roberts Chapter of the Daughters of the Republic of Texas, worked with other DRT members to save and restore Hancock Park's Hostess House in the early 1990s.

"The pool here at the Hostess House is one of the three oldest spring-fed, free-flowing pools still in public use in Texas. The others are Barton Springs [in Austin] and Balmorhea [State Park]," says Carol. "We have a new municipal pool across town, but this pool remains a nostalgic favorite. It should be open at least on weekends this summer.

"The water bubbles up clear and very cool, averaging about 72 degrees," Carol continues. "When you dive in, it takes your breath away, and you wonder at first if you're gonna live through it."

Although the water has a high sulphur content, no mineral residue coats your skin, though a white film sometimes clings to the rocks lining the pool. "Early-day write-ups talk about people coming here and seeing rocks around the springs that looked like they were covered with white velvet," says Carol.

Across US 281 from Hancock Park sits Brook Park, named in honor of longtime Lampasas physician and four-term mayor Dr. W.M. Brook. Brook Park borders the south bank of Sulphur

Creek. Large picnic shelters dot its rolling, wooded grounds, and an information kiosk here holds brochures and maps of Lampasas and the surrounding countryside.

*Y*ou can easily explore Lampasas by car. Be sure to pick up a "Scenic and Historical Tour" map at either the park kiosk or the chamber of commerce office (in the old Santa Fe Depot). Use the map as a guide to drive by some of the town's historic homes, interesting buildings, old springs, and park sites.

While a visit to Lampasas' springs and parks provides a glimpse of the town's spa era, a tour of the small Keystone Square Museum (open only on Saturdays or by appointment) allows a look at ordinary life in Lampasas during the late 19th and early 20th centuries. Exhibits include a replica of a turn-of-the-century parlor, as well as displays of period china and dishware, and the re-created corner cashier's cage from an early bank.

"About 99 percent of the items here belonged to families and businesses from Lampasas County," says Carol, who is president of the museum. "These early-20th-Century dolls belonged to Maude Noyes Johnson, a longtime schoolteacher here, who donated them to the museum. One of the larger dolls wears a dress that Maude wore as a girl."

A rifle supposedly used in the Horrell-Higgins feud rests in a glass case. Nearby, an assortment of stable gear, such as bridles, reins, and blacksmithing tools, stands beside an antique sign that says, "We have buggies, *(continued on page 12)*"

Ranch-Style *dreams*

Let's hear it for Moses Hughes! In 1856, when he decided to move with his wife, Hannah, and their large brood to a site seven miles west of Lampasas, he chose well. Moses selected a lovely section of land shaded by oaks, watered by a spring-fed creek, and softened by gently rolling prairies. Here, he built a two-story, two-chimney ranch house, using hand-chiseled limestone blocks to form walls some 18 inches thick.

Today, Moses Hughes' ranch house still stands—and gloriously. Its handsome stone walls, spacious rooms, and broad wooden balcony welcome guests from all over the world. Thanks to Al and Beverly Solomon, you, too, can enjoy the 143-year-old ranch house and the captivating tranquillity of its 45 acres. The Solomons bought the house in 1988, moved here from Houston, and—after two years of hard work and innovative planning—opened it as a bed and breakfast.

Remarkably, Al and Beverly have added all the necessary creature comforts to their Historic Moses Hughes Ranch Bed & Breakfast without disturbing the essence of an early-Texas home. Simplicity reigns in the décor. Woven wall-hangings, wood and Saltillo tile floors, and hand-hewn cedar beams evoke the Old West. Here and there, special furnishings, such as the Hughes family's original dining table and a small, collapsible table that accompanied cowboys on the Chisholm Trail, complement comfortable modern furniture. Antique beds, chests, and cabinets adorn the bedrooms.

"This piece goes back to Civil War days or earlier," says Al, describing a six-foot-high cabinet in one of the bedrooms. "We found it in a barn and spent two weeks just cleaning it," he says.

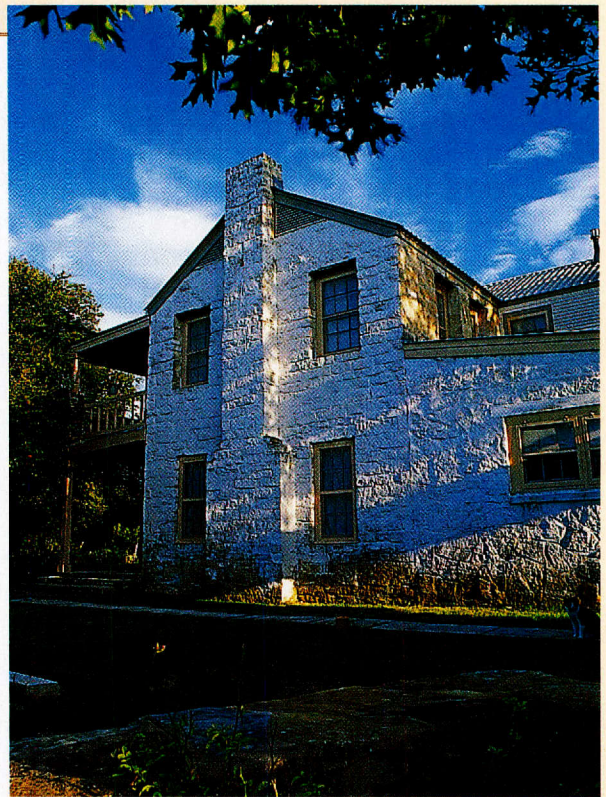
"See how the handworked beveling is hidden on the inside of the doors? In the 1850s and 1860s, only rich folks could afford milled wood, so people would turn the flat side out, thinking it made their furniture look richer, more modern," Al explains. "Today, we'd be thrilled to have it just the opposite."

"The little room Al uses for his study was added on by the Hughes family after the house was built," says Beverly. "They called it a 'traveler's room.' Since this house was one of the first structures built out here, people would see it and want to spend the night in safety from the weather or the Indians. The room kept the travelers separate from the family," she says.

A walled courtyard beside a small stone building housing a guest suite dubbed the "Courtyard Casita" boasts a pink-and-salmon explosion of blooming bougainvilleas in springtime and a gently murmuring fountain. A charming, rustic gate opens onto the expansive grounds. "We have lots of pet deer here," says Beverly. "Our guests love them, and we do, too. At least, until they eat my beloved roses."

Al mows large areas of the pathway to and alongside the creek so that visitors can venture along its banks. In clearing the land, he has found numerous artifacts, such as arrowheads, a Civil War-era spur, an 1851 penny, and an original Moses Hughes branding iron. Many of Al's finds are on display in the ranch house.

Each morning, the Solomons provide guests with a full breakfast that might include a special omelet or quiche, fresh pastries, a fruit platter, orange



The Historic Moses Hughes Ranch Bed & Breakfast offers modern-day amenities and old-fashioned charm.

juice, and coffee. If you need a TV-fix, you can watch in the living room; there's even a VCR. Activities here tend toward the relaxing, such as short walks to the creek, lounging in rockers on the wide second-floor veranda, reading, and surveying the splendid Central Texas scenery.

Birdwatchers love it here, says Al. During various seasons, you can see painted buntings, golden-cheeked warblers, hawks, owls, and even eagles. If you feel the need to roam farther afield, you can visit nearby Colorado Bend State Park, or take the celebrated Vanishing Texas River Cruise.

Lots of guests (who have come from as far away as New Zealand, Hong Kong, Egypt, and Wales, and as near as Austin) tell the Solomons that spending a few days at the ranch house brings a serenity and a sense of a "real Texas experience" they haven't found elsewhere. That's just what Al and Beverly like to hear. They've worked hard to make it that way. No doubt Moses Hughes would be pleased, too.

—Rosemary Williams

surrys [sic], hacks. You have money, mules, jacks. Come in. Let's trade some.—Henry Stallings & Co., Lometa.” Brands, the oldest dating to 1858, from more than 90 Lampasas County ranches adorn a display that Carol calls “the branding board.” The museum also contains a large replica of the old Park Hotel.

Walk a block east and south of the museum to the courthouse square and its attractive array of restored and renovated buildings. The native-stone courthouse, built in 1883, anchors the square. Architect W.C. Dodson designed the Second Empire-style building with mansard roof and a distinctive clock tower that glitters with tin shingles arranged in a diamond pattern. The tower sports a four-faced 1884 Seth Thomas clock that chimes on the hour.

If you're in town when the courthouse is open (Monday-Friday, 8-5), be sure to see the tower clock's works, encased in glass on the first floor. You can watch as the massive pendulum ticks to and fro and the brass gears wind their circular path, all supported in a bright apple-green mounting. For this special treat, you can thank the handiwork of two local artisans, Major C. Dumas and J.M. Crumley, both now deceased, who lovingly and painstakingly restored the clock to working order in 1985. The men even machined gears for the works when they couldn't find suitable replacements.

When you leave the courthouse, stroll over to the Antique Emporium on the west side of the square. Chances are, you'll

find owner Reuben Nuckles concentrating on a game of Moon with some of his domino-playing cronies. “Let me know if I can help you,” Reuben calls, never missing a bid or a beat.

You can explore to your heart's content the cavernous store, which houses such diverse treasures as Roseville pottery, vintage comic books, a circa-1870 walnut Eastlake halltree, and an early-Texas handmade rocker. Other antique stores throughout the town offer a similar wide range of items.

On the courthouse square, stop by Eve's Cafe for coffee and a homemade cherry Danish. Eve's also serves a variety of sandwiches, but the cafe specializes in German fare. For lunch, try the schnitzel plate of breaded pork loin and freshly pressed spaetzel. You can also pop into nearby Perk's Coffee Bar for a slice of cheesecake, a cup of espresso, or a deli sandwich.

You'll find a more extensive lunch and dinner menu at the handsomely decorated Courtyard Cafe, situated in the refurbished 1890 Townsend Building, on the northwest side of the square. Here, owner Kathy Baxter offers a delectable array of soups, salads, and sandwiches, as well as steaks, seafood, and chicken entrées. While you enjoy your meal, look up at the wrought-iron light fixtures, which feature handcrafted silhouettes of cowboys herding cattle.

If dinnertime rolls around while you're in Lampasas, go for the huge portions of tasty German food at Lisa's Schnitzel

[CLOCKWISE, FROM LEFT] To have a look-see at Lampasas' many historical sites and homes, pick up the chamber of commerce's free guide, which includes the 1902 Hosea Baily Home. On the north side of the courthouse square, many buildings from the 1870s still stand. In the Keystone Square Museum, president Carol Wright shows off “the original Stokes Bros. Bank security system”—a Colt .41 pistol.



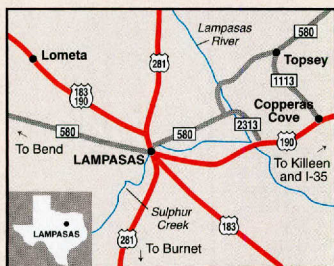
Lampasas

Lampasas, the county seat of Lampasas County, lies at the junction of US highways 183, 190, and 281 in Central Texas, about 70 miles northwest of Austin and 115 miles north of San Antonio. **The area code is 512; the zip code is 76550.** Unless otherwise noted, all sites are wheelchair accessible. At press time, the city was working to make the sidewalks more accessible; call the chamber of commerce to check on progress.

For information about area lodging, restaurants, shops, and events, visit the Lampasas County Chamber of Commerce, 501 E. Second St. Hours: Mon-Fri 8-noon and 1-5. Write to Box 627; call 556-5172. Web site: www.lampasaschamber.org. The city's Web site, www.ci.lampasas.tx.us, is also helpful.

Hancock and Brook parks straddle US 281 in south Lampasas beside Sulphur Creek. Hours: 8 a.m.-9 p.m. Oct. 1-Mar. 31; 6 a.m.-10 p.m. Apr. 1-Sep. 30. Hancock Park, on the west, offers an 18-hole municipal golf course; call 556-3202 for information. Hancock Springs Pool should open to swim-

mers this summer on weekends; call 556-6831 (city hall). Brook Park provides several covered picnic sites and pleasant walking trails, as well as an information kiosk containing area literature.



Keystone Square Museum, 303 S. Western Ave. Hours: Sat 10-2, or by appt. for groups; 556-2224.

Lampasas County Courthouse. Hours: Mon-Fri 8-5; 556-8271.

Hickory Hill Herbs & Antique Roses, 307 W. Ave. E. Hours: Mon-Fri 9-5, Sat 10-5; 556-8801. Web site: www.n-link.com/~hillherb.

Restaurants
Country Kitchen, 307 N. Key Ave. (556-6152); **Courtyard Cafe**,

402 S. Live Oak St. (556-6611); **Eve's Cafe**, 521 E. Third St. (556-3500); **Lisa's Schnitzel House**, 311 E. Third St. (556-2660); **Perk's Coffee Bar**, 406 E. Third St. (556-5704); and **Storm's Drive-In**, 201 N. Key Ave. (556-6269).

Festivals

For details about the following events, contact the chamber of commerce (dates listed are for 1999).

Bluebonnet Fair/Farm Heritage Day (Apr. 3) takes place on the courthouse square and features arts and crafts, agriculture-related exhibits, and displays of antique tractors and classic cars. **A Little Night Music** (June 4, 11, 18, and 25) provides free musical presentations, also on the courthouse square. **Spring Ho Festival** (July 9-11), the town's huge community-wide celebration of its springs, includes street dances, a 10-K run, arts and crafts exhibits, fishing competitions along Sulphur Creek, gospel singing, and fireworks. Other popular yearly events are the **Sulphur Creek Car Cruise** (June 12-13); the **Quilt Show Extravaganza** (Aug. 13-14); **Indian Artifacts**

Show (Aug. 14); **Herb/Art Fest** (Oct. 9); and **Carol of Lights Community Christmas** (Dec. 3).

Historic Moses Hughes Ranch Bed & Breakfast

Al and Beverly Solomon's Historic Moses Hughes Ranch Bed & Breakfast is 7 miles west of Lampasas on FM 580 (North Ave. in Lampasas). FM 580 also leads to Colorado Bend State Park (call 915/628-3240), 17 miles west of the B&B. The Vanishing Texas River Cruise (call 800/728-8735) is on RM 2341, a drive of about 45 minutes from the B&B. The Solomons provide information about both attractions.

The Historic Moses Hughes Ranch Bed & Breakfast offers 2 upstairs bedrooms and a courtyard suite; all have private baths. Rates (includes full breakfast): \$75-\$85 per night, with a 2-night minimum stay on weekends and holidays. No children under age 15; no pets; no smoking in the house. Not wheelchair accessible.

Write to Al and Beverly Solomon, Rt. 2, Box 31, Lampasas 76550; 556-5923. Web site: www.bestinns/net/usa/tx/moses Hughes.html.

House, where sauerbraten, Wiener schnitzel, and cabbage rolls dominate the menu. Or you might visit the Country Kitchen, which draws crowds with an all-you-can-eat Friday night fish fry.

Lampasas offers about 20 places to eat, but probably none of them proves as well known as Storm's Drive-In, the home of "Great Texas Hamburgers" made with "100 percent Texas beef" since 1950. Ask anyone who has ever visited the town, no matter how briefly, and he or she is likely to know about Storm's.

Darryl Barry of Wichita Falls readily testifies to Storm's savory burgers. "I always look forward to stopping here when I'm headed this way," says Darryl, who admits to devouring three all-the-way cheeseburgers on one visit. "Their burgers are always fresh, and they taste home-cooked," he says. At Storm's, you can eat in your car or sit at a table on the patio, framed by massive llanite boulders and a ceiling bolstered by cedar beams.

To cap your tour of Lampasas, head down the road apiece to pay a visit to Paula and Don Hill's Hickory Hill Herbs & Antique Roses, an enterprise the Hills proudly call their "mom and pop cottage garden business."

Paula, who began raising herbs 12 years ago after a friend gave her a basil plant, will take you on a "taste and scent" tour of the small garden plots and greenhouses that adjoin the Hills' home. You'll thrill to the pleasantly pungent odor of lemon- and mint-scented geraniums and marvel at the sweeter-than-sugar taste of *Stevia rebaudiana* (also called stevia or sweetleaf). The Hills sell a wide assortment of herbs and also offer antique roses, native plants, and potpourri.

Altogether, Lampasas offers a pleasant mix of history, scenery, and local lore. When you visit this attractive and friendly town, watch out. You may find the tempo of life so tempting that you won't want to leave. But, if you have to say farewell, don't sweat it. They'll always welcome you back to Lampasas, the spring town of Central Texas. ★

Freelancer ROSEMARY WILLIAMS of Austin enjoys writing about Texas history and attractions. She thanks Carol Wright for helping her get to know Lampasas.

Freelance photographer JIM CROW of Waco recommends Storm's Drive-In in Lampasas to burger-lovers. This coming November, Jim will focus his camera on Norwegian Christmas celebrations in Clifton.



Lone Star Gardens

BY LANA ROBINSON • PHOTOGRAPHS BY CAROLYN BROWN

Morning has broken at Weston Gardens in Bloom, a peaceful sanctuary of woodland creatures, myriad birds, and those favored souls fortunate enough to wander amidst its beauty. Behind the veil of enticing evergreens and ferns, small clearings and graceful contours teem with color, texture, and sweet aromas. The network of nooks and hollows, framed by generous

borders of assorted blooms, overflows with plantings—drifts of hardy perennials, supple grasses, and copious groundcovers and vines that creep and curl their way up tree trunks. At every turn, a profusion of tender shoots and bursting bulbs heralds the arrival of spring.

This 17-acre “living showroom:” thrives on a scenic stretch between Forest Hill and Kennedale, on the outskirts of Fort Worth. Open year round, the gardens offer singular beauty in springtime.



WITH A

British Accent

Weston Gardens in Bloom is the handiwork of Randy and Sue Weston, whose specialty is creating lush “wildscapes” and easy-care Lone Star gardens that have an English flair. Their popular compound includes a retail landscape nursery, a small gift shop full of accessories, and a maze of demonstration gardens boasting Texas-tough native and perennial plants. “We have many different environments here, which illustrate various facets of gardening,” says Randy, an avowed naturalist whose interest in plants sprouted in early childhood.

“When you have a free afternoon, Weston Gardens is a wonderful place to visit, to get away from it all,” says Phyllis Snider, executive director of the River Legacy Foundation in nearby Arlington. “You forget you’re just minutes away from town. I always leave feeling refreshed.” Phyllis enjoys dropping by on special occasions, like Mother’s Day, to see what’s blooming, sip tea, and listen to the harpist play. During

Fort Worth’s Weston Gardens in Bloom, in fact, promises you a rose garden, and more. Part of this prime parcel of plant life and landscape artistry has a fascinating history that dates to the Thirties.

S

IMPLY SELECT ANY SERPENTINE PATH, AND VENTURE INTO WATCH THE BUTTERFLIES FLUTTER.

evening celebrations, special lighting makes the trees, flowers, fountains, and ponds sparkle.

Weston Gardens also offers children intimate encounters with nature. In 1998, a team from River Legacy Parks presented a live-animal demonstration during the gardens' annual open-house festivities, which take place each April. Popular children's entertainer Eddie Coker of Dallas sang

[RIGHT] Mellow yellow. An iris dazzles with its abstract swirl of color and form.

[BELOW] Tall green veronica stands over a patch of Texas sundrops.



“Stick Your Teeth in the Air,” “Alligator in the Elevator,” and other catchy tunes kids love. On April 4 this year, youngsters can have their pictures made for free with the Easter Bunny while Mom and Dad enjoy live music and peruse the gardens. Everyone wearing an Easter bonnet gets to take home a free plant.

Randy and Sue find it enormously satisfying to provide a place where people of all ages can stop and smell the roses. They gear everything toward putting people in touch with nature, and they promote the joys of gardening with a simple, show-and-tell approach. The couple eagerly oblige customers, who frequently ask how to cluster

and mix borders of wild-and-wonderful native blooms, such as plucky Texas bluebells, columbine, winecup, and asters, for a cheery, cottage-garden effect.

“The most important thing is to pick plants that will cope with the extremes of our weather, especially the heat,” says Randy. He warns that many imports, though beautiful in early spring, fizzle when Texas temperatures sizzle.

Perennials making Randy's “Survivors of the Hotter-than-Hell 1998 Drought” list include flame acanthus (hummingbird bush), wood fern, pink skullcap, rock rose, autumn sage, Texas lantana, and Turk's-cap. Also on the list are two native shade trees, the chinkapin (chinquapin) oak and Eastern red cedar; two shrubby plants, sumac and American beautyberry; three



[FACING PAGE] A bench and pond provide a soothing refuge on one of the terraced levels of Weston Gardens.

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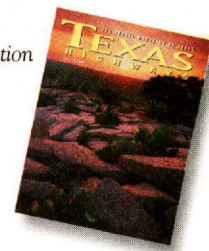
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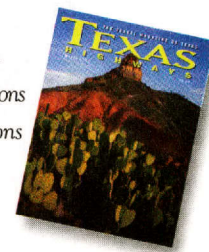


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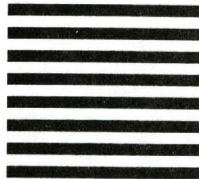


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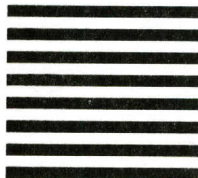
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THE PARK'S INNERMOST RECESSES. SMELL THE FLOWERS.

Hear the bees buzz.





[ABOVE] A T-shaped water lily pond, resurrected after years of neglect, thrives once again.

[FAR RIGHT] Randy Weston plants ornamental grass in one of the gardens' xeriscaped areas.

[RIGHT] Oxeye daisies give testament to nature's potential and perfection.

groundcovers or vines—coral honeysuckle, cross vine, and pigeonberry; and two ornamental grasses, Lindheimer's muhly and inland sea oats.

The most popular part of Weston Gardens is the so-called “Westonian,” a secluded area of peaceful grottos, lichen-encrusted stones, and exotic plantings. Remarkably, Randy and Sue were unaware of this garden's existence when they opened their landscape nursery on Anglin Drive in 1984. But then, says Sue, “Old-timers began coming into the store, reminiscing about the beautiful gardens that once graced nearby Chambers Creek. One of them said, ‘You know, that place just across the street used to be the showplace of Tarrant County.’”

In 1988, the Westons purchased 10 acres of the old estate, which had once belonged to Fort Worth socialites Leon and Peggy Bandy, and immediately began reclaiming it. Because of the garden's size, and because information about it and its creators has proven sketchy at best, restoring the Bandys' private Eden to its former glory has been slow. But the Westons—gritty Texans who got that way growing up on the blustery High Plains (Randy at Spearman and Sue at Canyon)—have persisted.

They do know that Leon Bandy, a prominent and somewhat eccentric architect, bought the original 100-acre parcel

in 1929. In the throes

of the Great Depres-

sion, he and Peggy prop-

agated their own plants

and established a garden of

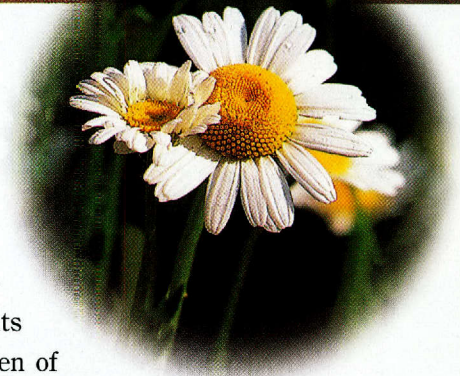
substance and rare beauty. They

also successfully transplanted South Texas natives, such as retama (Jerusalem thorn), hummingbird bush, and Turk's-cap, along with yaupon hollies from East Texas.

A row of red crape myrtles and three jujube trees number among the Bandys' original plantings, along with several conifers and Eastern red cedars. Other survivors include arborvitae and assorted shrubs, as well as remnants of three groundcovers, vinca major, coralberry, and honeysuckle. Several gigantic button bushes also linger along the creek banks.

“To have survived all these years, the plants had to be native, or as good as native, in terms of their adaptability,” says Randy.

Leon and Peggy Bandy called their idyllic retreat “Dripping Springs,” for the numerous seeps and springs that flourished here. While Peggy nurtured the plants, Leon began building a series of fanciful structures, many of which remain. The most





Dig In

IF YOU WANT YOUR TEXAS GARDEN TO HAVE A BRITISH ACCENT, THE WESTONS RECOMMEND THE FOLLOWING PLANTS.

Hardy full-sun perennials that work well in Texas include Texas aster (*Aster oblongifolius*), black-eyed Susan (*Rudbeckia* sp.), butterfly bush (*Buddleia* sp.), purple coneflower (*Echinacea purpurea*), oxeye daisy (*Leucanthemum vulgare*), autumn sage (*Salvia greggii*), wild petunia (*Ruellia* sp.), winecup (*Callirhoe involucrata*), and yarrow (*Achillea* sp.).

Shade-loving perennials include Texas columbine (*Aquilegia* sp.); coral bells (*Heuchera* sp.); hosta (*Hosta* sp.); Turk's-cap (*Malvaviscus arboreus* var. *Drummondii*), an excellent attractor of hummingbirds; lyre leaf sage (*Salvia lyrata*); and wild petunia (*Ruellia* sp.).

Gomphrena (bachelor button), cosmos, larkspur, and poppies, all planted from seed, are recommended **annuals**.

For **seasons-long beauty and texture**, Randy and Sue suggest nandina (*Nandina domestica*), whose delicate foliage turns bronze in the fall and has plump red berries in winter, and oak-leaf hydrangea

(*Hydrangea quercifolia*). They also like forsythia (*Forsythia* sp.), Japanese quince (*Chaenomeles japonica*), and bridal wreath (*Spiraea vanhouttei*), because they all flower in early spring.

The couple recommends **antique bush roses**, such as Petite Pink Scotch, Old Blush, and The Fairy, for their **low-maintenance, texture, and prolific blooms**. Duchesse de Brabant is a particularly fragrant antique variety that performs well. Old Blush also comes in a hardy climbing variety, along with Cecile Brunner and sweet-smelling Mermaid and Lady Banks.

Ornamental grasses, such as tall, elegant Lindheimer's muhly grass (*Muhlenbergia lindheimeri*) and little bluestem (*Schizachyrium scoparium*), which grows three to four feet in height; or shorter varieties, such as inland sea oats (*Chasmanthium latifolium*), autumn blush muhly (*Muhlenbergia capillaris*), and black fountain grass (*Pennisetum alopecuroides* 'Moudry'), can be planted in clumps or worked into borders.

Good **groundcover** selections for Texas gardeners are pigeonberry (*Rivina humilis*), ground ivy (*Glechoma hederacea*), frog fruit (*Phyla incisa*), and horseherb (*Calyptocarpus vialis*). Flowering groundcovers include germander (*Teucrium chamaedrys*), strawberry geranium (*Saxifraga stolonifera*), calylophus (*Calylophus drummondianus*), and "Moonbeam" coreopsis (*Coreopsis verticillata* 'Moonbeam').

Excellent **understory** choices include aromatic Mexican plum (*Prunus mexicana*), Texas kidneywood (*Eysenhardtia texana*), possumhaw holly (*Ilex decidua*), and smoke tree (*Cotinus obovatus*)—all sturdy Texas natives. Though not indigenous to Texas, chaste tree (*Vitex agnus-castus*), with its aromatic foliage and lilac flowers, and crape myrtle, which blooms profusely in Texas' summer heat, are highly acclimated ornamentals that prosper here.

—Lana Robinson



[ABOVE] Fragrant Lavender Lassie and Zephirine Drouhin roses bloom against a fence along the Anglin Drive frontage of Weston Gardens in Bloom. **[BELOW]** A small waterfall helps sustain plant life and adds graceful contrast to the landscape. This stream flows into the pond pictured on page 17.

outlandish is a 125-foot-long, stone-and-concrete replica of a ship, which appears to have run aground on a little peninsula on the bank of Chambers Creek. When it was completed in 1942, the vessel boasted steel rigging, a fo'c's'le, and two 50-foot masts, each with a crow's nest. The terrazzo deck, which served as a dance floor for the Bandys' all-night bashes, is still intact.

Several ironstone monuments and a red brick wishing well—all built in the 1930s—stand in an area where local thespians and Big Band-era musicians entertained the Bandys' dinner guests. A stone altar and courtyard, where couples once tied the knot, endures in a secluded nook by the creek. Though it no longer serves as a wedding site, the Westons re-landscaped the intimate setting in 1993.

Today, the Westons, along with their seven-year-old son, Jackson, live in the Bandys' farmhouse, now enlarged and renovated. South of their sprawling home is a once-formal rose garden featuring Cramoisi Supérieur, Ballerina, and The Fairy varieties. Randy and Sue gave the Bandys' conventional garden a more casual, cottage-garden look by adding oxeye daisy, rock rose, bright yellow calylophus, "Sunny Border Blue" veronica, Russian sage, yarrow, and

purple coneflower, the latter an excellent butterfly magnet. A long, narrow lily pond traverses the garden and leads to a wisteria-draped arbor erected in 1933. Randy says the deep-crimson water lilies here withstood almost three decades of neglect following the Bandys' departure in the mid-1960s.



Weston Gardens

Beyond the rose garden, in a second arbor, visitors often pause for quiet reflection. Just steps away, another lily pond built in the early '30s forms the hub of a perennial garden boasting fiery-red autumn sage, silver artemisia, upright germander, and Indian blanket. The Westons added a waterfall, a connecting stream bed, and an upper retention pond in 1991. A shade garden and a patio, introduced in 1992, are favorite areas for outdoor lectures and activities. These include a recent earth-friendly workshop that promoted pine-cone bird feeders and biodegradable pots made from newspapers; the annual "Antique Roses

Weston Gardens in Bloom is at 8101 Anglin Dr. in Fort Worth. Take the Anglin Dr. exit (#441) south from Interstate 20 for 2.3 miles. The site, which includes a nursery, demonstration gardens, and a gift shop, opens year round. Spring/fall hours (mid-Feb.-Oct.): Mon-Sat 9-6, Sun noon-5. Winter hours (Nov.-mid-Feb.): Mon-Sat 9-5, closed Sun. Admission: Free. Some areas wheelchair accessible.

Workshops on March 20-21, 1999, cover "Herbs For Texas," "Perennials For Spring," and "Texas Tough Plants."

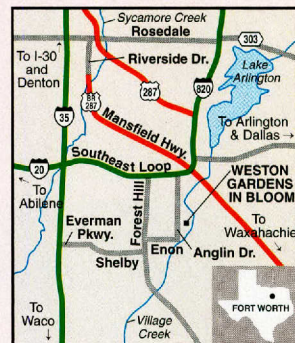
On Easter Sunday, Apr. 4, **Easter in the Garden**, a family-oriented affair, promises live music, free pictures of kids with the Easter Bunny, and free plants for those wearing Easter bonnets. The annual open house, **A Celebration of Nature**, Apr. 16-18, features night views of the "Westonian" 'til 9 on Fri. On Sat. at 2 p.m., a team from the Fort Worth Zoo presents a program with live ani-

mals. On Sat. and Sun., there will be live music and an exhibit of articles and historical photographs of the "Westonian." On Apr. 24-25, workshops will focus on "Container Gardens" and "Planning a Beautiful, but Texas-Tough Garden."

Mother's Day in the Gardens (May 8-9, 1999) features live harp and flute music, as well as tea and coffee. All mothers attending receive a free plant.

Other 1999 **programs/workshops** include: "Habitat Gardens" (for birds and butterflies) and "Natural, Less Toxic Maintenance," June 5-6; "Texas Heat-Beater Plants" and "Ornamental Grasses," July 10-11; "Herbs for Fall Gardens," "Fall Perennials—Best for Texas," and "Rock Gardens for Texas and the Use of Stone in the Garden," Sep. 11-12; and "Wildflowers for Texas" and "Mixed Borders—Best Plants and Combinations," Sep. 25-26.

Guided tours and historical presentations are also offered. For workshop fees, details, and a schedule, write to 8101 Anglin Dr., Fort Worth 76140; 817/478-7220; metro 817/572-0549. Web site: www.westongardens.com.



Sue Weston leads one of the many school groups that tour the gardens each year.

& Romance" Valentine's Day Celebration; and the "Herbs For Texas" workshop, held each March (March 20-21, 1999).

Though Randy and Sue have designed their "living showroom" to bloom and provide interest virtually nonstop, the peak season at Weston Gardens is from April through the end of June. Simply select any serpentine path, and venture into the park's innermost recesses. Smell the flowers.

Watch the butterflies flutter. Hear the bees buzz. Romp with the squirrels, or sing along with the park's raucous chorus of birds. Get the lowdown on the plants, and learn how to grow them from the gardens' gracious owners and friendly staff.

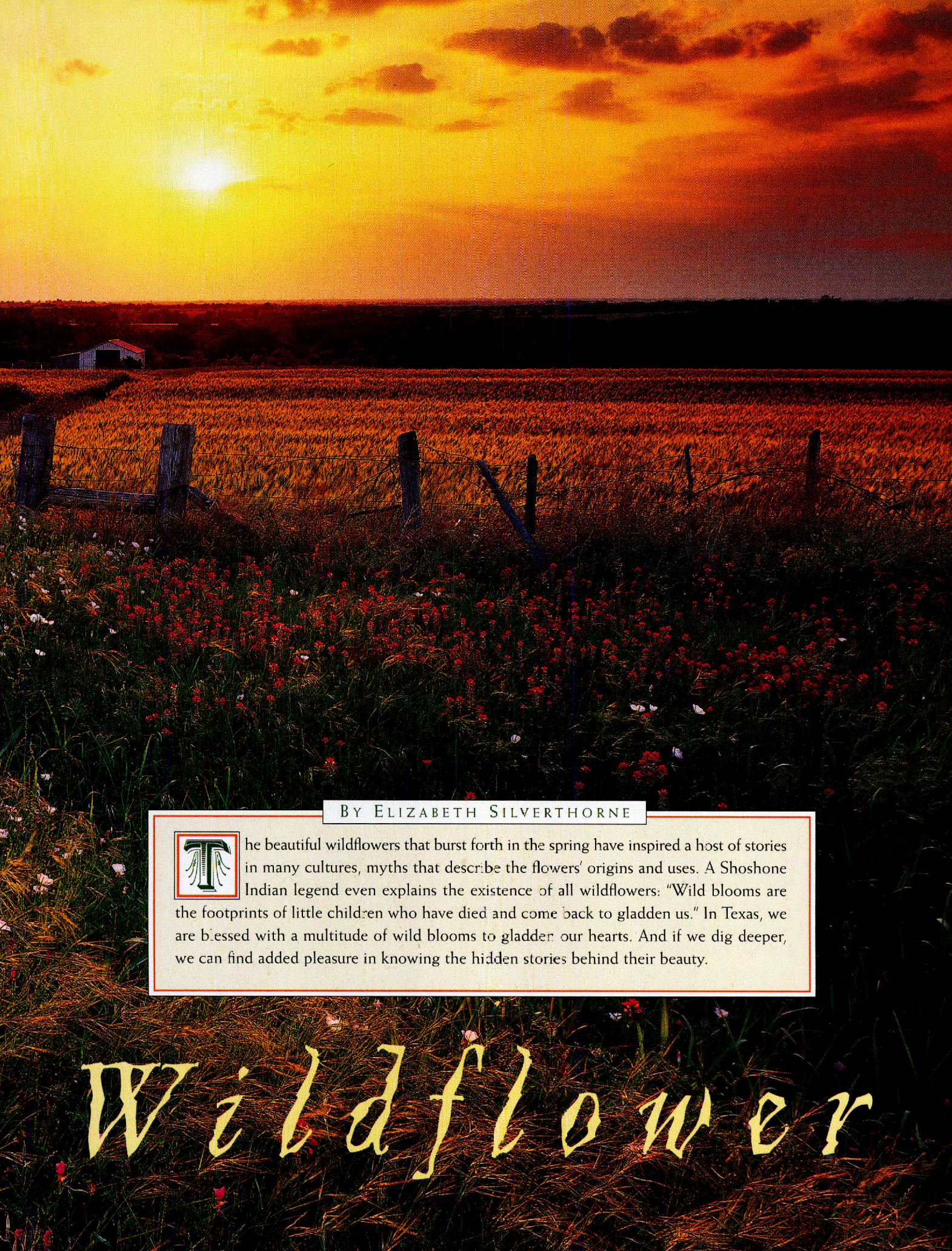
Enjoy a family outing; come alone to relax; explore with friends; or plan a lovers' rendezvous. Beneath the ancient canopy of trees in this botanical paradise, families seem to grow closer, solitude feels special, friendships take root, and romances blossom. ★

In the October 1998 issue of *Texas Highways*, LANA ROBINSON took readers on a tasty trip to Eilenberger's Bakery in Palestine.

CAROLYN BROWN photographed last month's feature on the Dallas Arboretum and Botanical Garden.

Behind the pretty faces
of many of our common
wildflowers lie intriguing
myths and legends

Once Upon a



BY ELIZABETH SILVERTHORNE



The beautiful wildflowers that burst forth in the spring have inspired a host of stories in many cultures, myths that describe the flowers' origins and uses. A Shoshone Indian legend even explains the existence of all wildflowers: "Wild blooms are the footprints of little children who have died and come back to gladden us." In Texas, we are blessed with a multitude of wild blooms to gladden our hearts. And if we dig deeper, we can find added pleasure in knowing the hidden stories behind their beauty.

Wildflower



[ABOVE] Bluebonnets and winecups (also known as poppy mallows) like the same sandy soil. One of the winecup's European relatives, the marsh mallow, exudes a sticky juice that was once used to make the confection of the same name.



legend from Incia describes the origin of the **winecup**, aptly named for its cup-shaped, violet blooms:

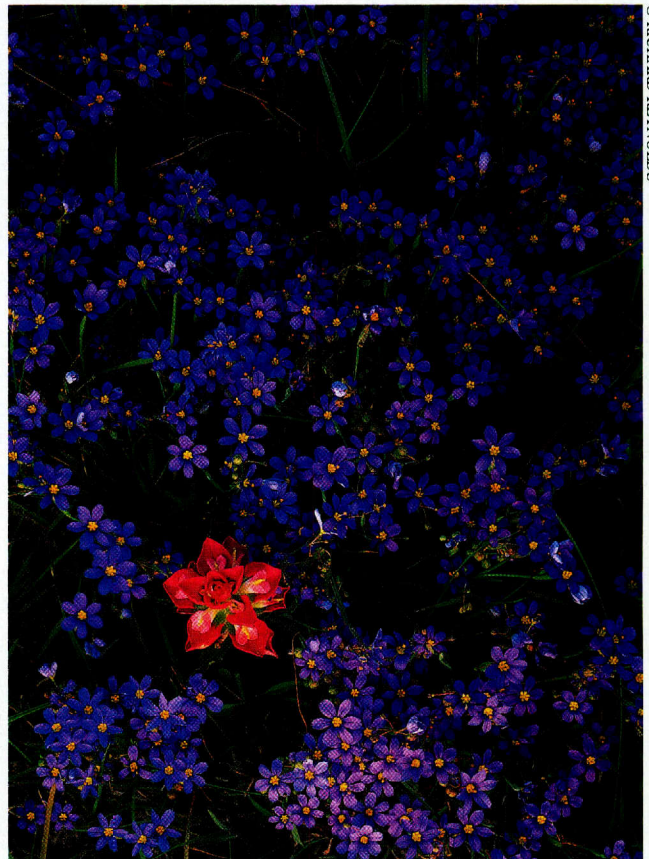
There was once a great ruler, well loved by his people for his wisdom and kindness. He became very ill, and the doctors despaired of his life. The dying king asked his servant Ivan to perform one of the country's favorite dances, the "Dance of the Wine Cup," in which the performer balanced a goblet of wine on his hand. Ivan rejoiced that he could do something to please the king and determined to dance as never before. He refused to stop until he finally stumbled from exhaustion. The fragile goblet shattered, splattering the wine far and wide. Ivan was distressed, but the king told him that the energy he had put into the dance had restored his master's strength. The next morning, the people were astonished to see the palace lawn dotted with a new flower, of a rich, red-wine color, in the shape of the goblet that had broken.



© JOHN ELK III

[RIGHT] Surrounded by blue-eyed grass, a solitary Indian paintbrush makes a striking impression.

[FACING PAGE] A profusion of phlox sets off a stand of silverleaf sunflowers on the sand dunes of Mustang Island.

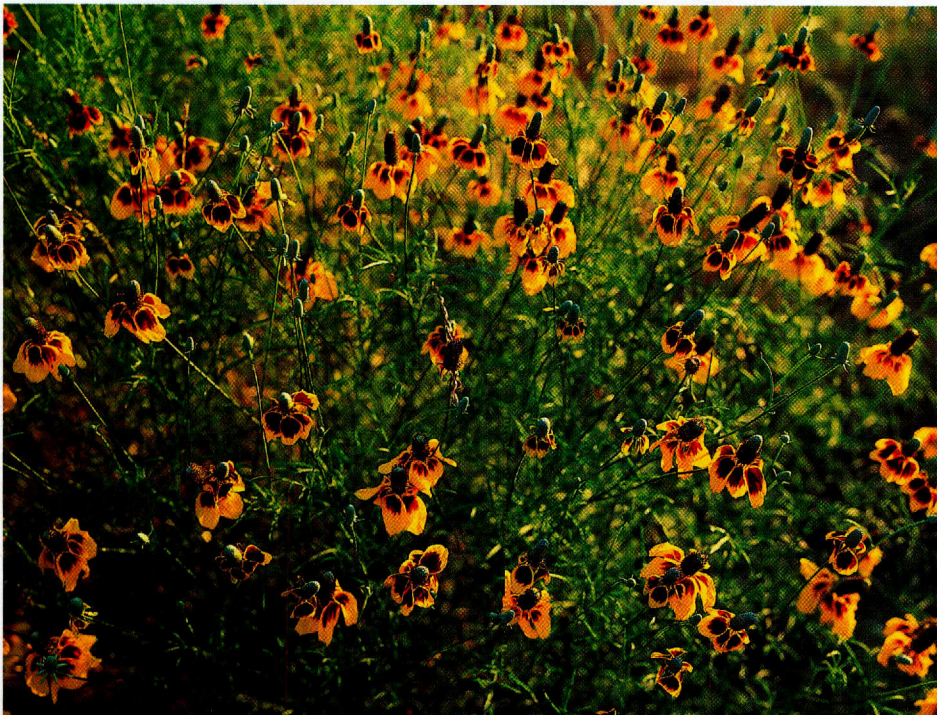


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© LAURENCE PARENT



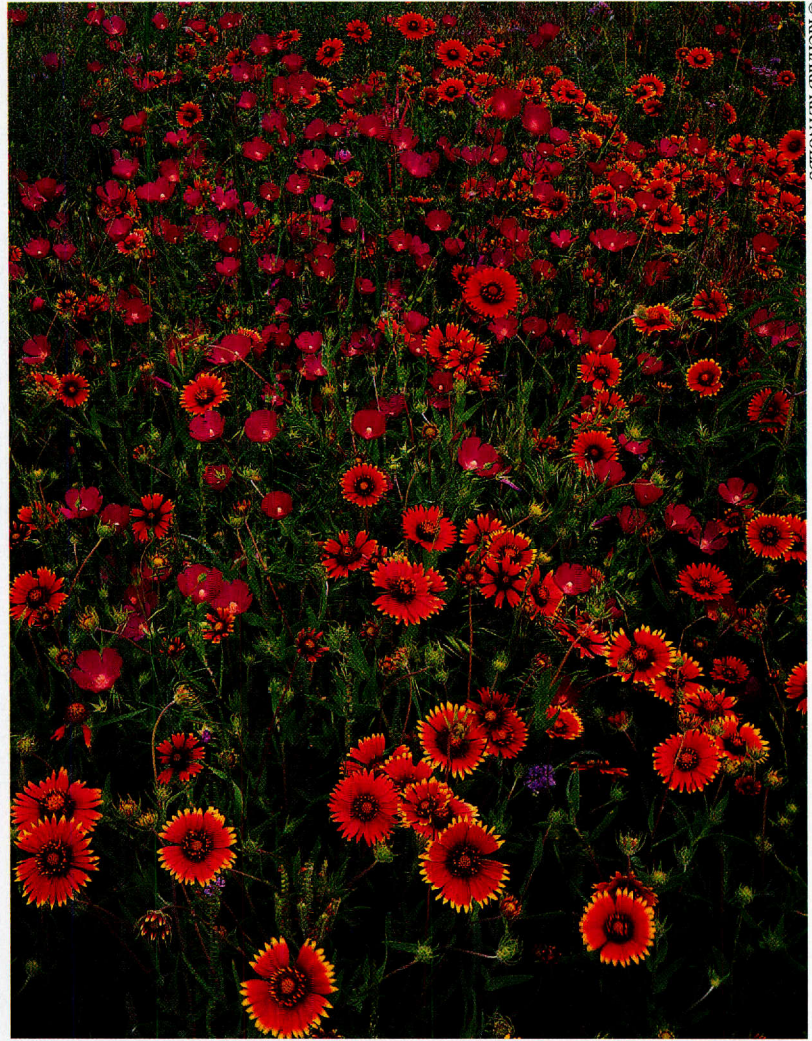
[ABOVE] Coreopsis and Indian blankets thrive in the shadow of a venerable peach tree.

[LEFT] Easy to recognize because of the flowers' distinctive shape, Mexican hat grows throughout Texas. The blooms last several days in bouquets.



© JOHN DREW

[ABOVE, RIGHT] Gaillardia and winecups bathe a Blanco County field with vivid color.



© RICHARD REYNOLDS

Gaillardia, or Indian blankets, usually appear in late spring and signal the beginning of summer in many parts of the state. With their showy, concentric bands of red and yellow blazing across wide expanses of land, they do indeed resemble colorful Indian blankets.

Eliza Johnston, a Texas artist and diarist who collected wildflower legends in the mid-1800s, related a Mexican legend (paraphrased here) about gaillardias in *Texas Wild Flowers*, a book she wrote and illustrated for her husband, the famed General Albert Sidney Johnston:

Originally a bright gold, the flower was a favorite of the Aztecs. Young women decorated their jet-black hair with crowns of the golden flowers, and young children delighted in playing among the bright blossoms. Then Cortez came, and the lovely land was drenched with the blood of the trusting inhabitants. The much-loved flower in pity caught the blood of the innocents as it fell. And to this day, the red stains remain on the flower. When the tiny butterfly that is the color of the flower is seen flitting around it, the Mexicans say it is the spirit of the Aztecs watching in gratitude their favorite flower.



© KYLIE WOOD



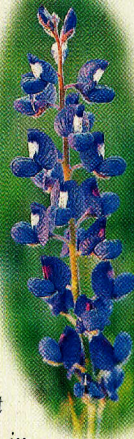
Our state flower, the **bluebonnet**, has inspired several legends. One of the best known tells of a sacrifice made by a young Comanche girl:

After a long drought had devastated the land, the Great Spirit told the tribe they must make a burnt offering of their most valued possession. The chief's little daughter knew what that sacrifice must be. Her beloved doll with its headdress of bright feathers from the bird that calls "Jay! Jay!" lay hidden in the folds of her skirt.

When everyone else had gone to sleep, she crept from her tipi. Using a burning coal, she started a fire, and holding up her doll, she asked the Great Spirit to accept it. Then she threw it into the fire and watched as the greedy flames consumed the body and the beautiful blue feathers of the headdress. After the ashes had cooled, she scooped them up, and turning to the north and south, east and west, she let them blow through her fingers.

In the morning, the tribe awakened to find the barren land covered with a blanket of blue flowers. Their land became lush and green once more, and the little girl who was the most unselfish of them all was given the name One-Who-Dearly-Loves-Her-People. Each spring, in memory of the little girl's sacrifice, the Great Spirit blesses the land with the beautiful blue flowers.

An approaching spring thunderstorm darkens the sky over a field of bluebonnets and Indian paintbrush west of Lake Buchanan.





© LAURENCE PARENT



© RICHARD REYNOLDS



In the Hill Country, the **Indian paintbrush** often grows in concert with the bluebonnet and is almost as popular with Texans. A Native American legend describes the origin of the flower:

Each evening, a young chief sat watching the sunset as the colors changed from rose to crimson to gold and then faded, leaving a gorgeous afterglow. He longed to be able to paint this beauty on buckskin, but he had only his crude war paints and heavy, stiff brushes, too clumsy to copy such nuances of color. Each night, after the glorious tints faded into darkness, he went to his tipi sad and heavy-hearted. One evening, as he sat watching a sunset more beautiful than any he had ever seen, he heard a voice telling him to look down by his feet. There, he found a graceful plant shaped like a slender brush wet with paint that matched the red of the sunset. When he held its tip to the soft buckskin before him, the color transferred perfectly. As other brushes sprang up dripping with the colors of the sunset, he worked feverishly at his picture, tossing aside each brush as he finished with it and plucking another. At last his heart was filled with joy, for his picture was a true copy of the sunset. And in the morning, he saw that every brush he had tossed away had taken root and multiplied, spreading the vivid beauty of the paintbrush over the land.



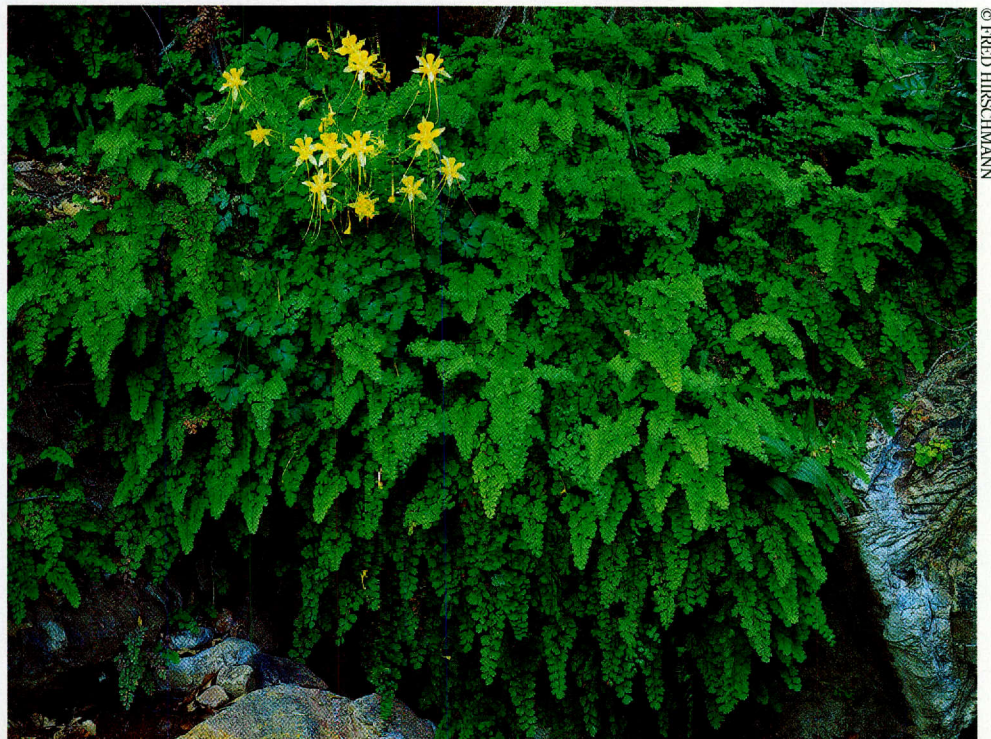
[ABOVE, LEFT] Indian paintbrush stands out against a background of pink phlox and bur-clover. Native Americans used various parts of the paintbrush to make dyes and medicines.

© DENNIS FLAHERTY



[ABOVE] Prairie paintbrush covers a field in Bell County, proclaiming spring to passersby.

[RIGHT] Though uncommon in most of Texas, several species of columbines grow in the state. These beauties glisten among maidenhair fern in Big Bend National Park.



© FRED HIRSCHMANN





© DENNIS FLAHERTY

[ABOVE] Spring in the Hill Country offers wonderful juxtapositions, such as this stately pair of yucca plants in a sea of bluebonnets.

[FACING PAGE] A patch of four-point evening primrose blooms in Motley County. This species of primrose grows in clumps and features long stems, up to three feet tall.

The Texas thistle and the Scottish thistle have many characteristics in common, including the prickly bracts that surround their purple flowers. Every school-child in Scotland learns the legend of how the thistle, their national emblem, saved the country in the Middle Ages, when the Scots and Norsemen were at war:

Under cover of darkness, the Norsemen managed to land unobserved on the coast of Scotland. Removing their boots, they crept on bare feet toward the unsuspecting Scottish army. Suddenly, a sharp cry of pain shattered the stillness: A Norse soldier had stepped on a thistle. Thus alerted to the surprise attack, the Scots sprang into action and drove the invaders from their shores.



© FRED LABOUNTY

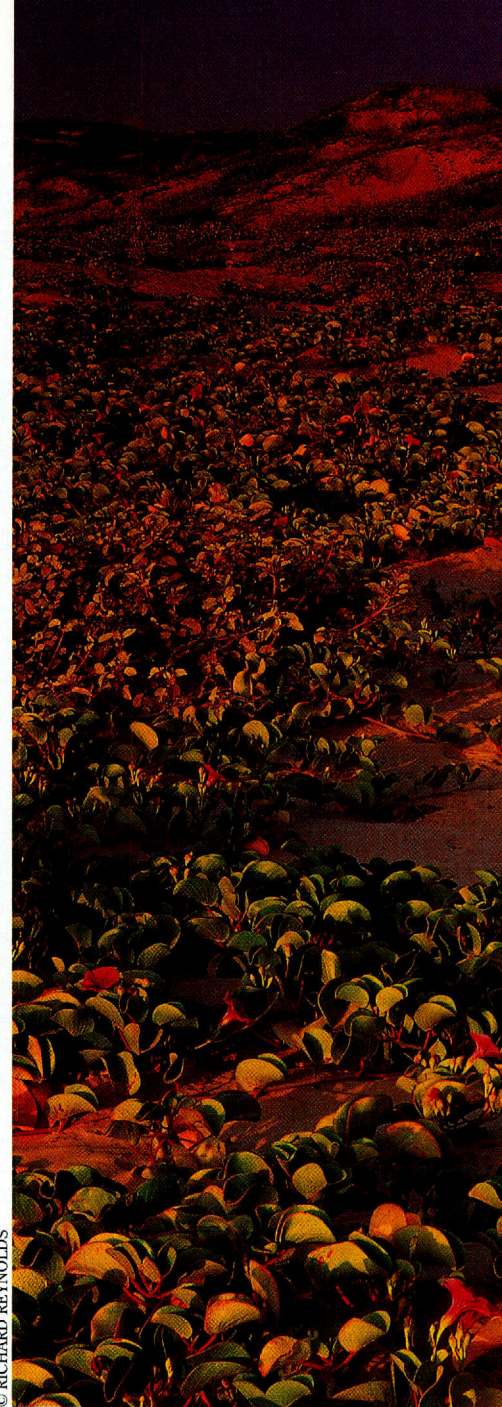
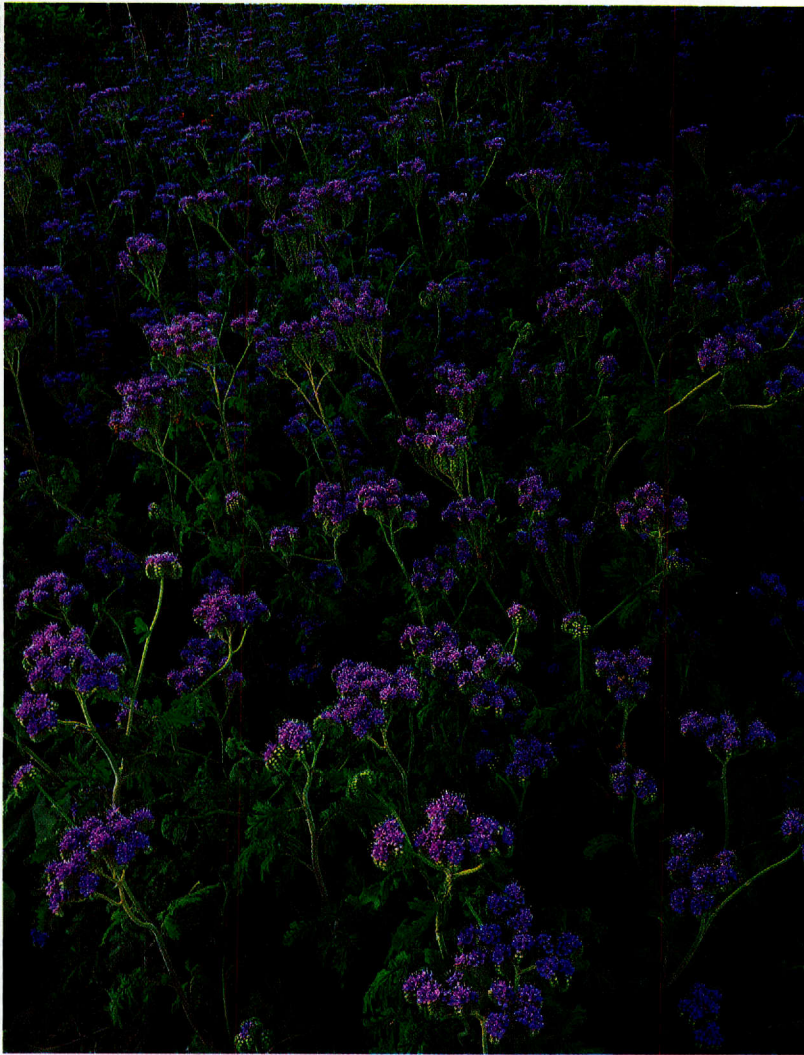
Asters hybridize so freely that even the most knowledgeable botanists have difficulty classifying them. Even so, they know that at least 20 species grow in Texas, including **Texas aster**, **tansy aster**, and **annual aster**.

The name "aster" comes from the Greek word for "star," hence the plant's common name, star-flower. A Greek myth describes its origin:

A goddess called Astrea lived on earth in the Golden Age. Later, when people became cruel, greedy, and violent, the gods, one by one, abandoned the planet. The last to leave was Astrea, who became the constellation Virgo (the Virgin). In her compassion for humanity, she wept, and her tears, which fell to earth as stardust, became the starflowers.



© STEPHAN MYERS



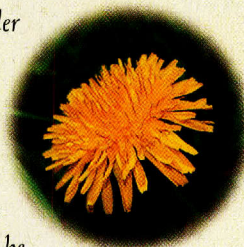
© RICHARD REYNOLDS

[ABOVE, LEFT] Known as blue curls, or fiddleneck, this plant features tightly curled blue-to-lavender flower heads that unfurl as they bloom.



The common dandelion, which blooms almost year round in Texas, commands little respect from lawn owners. But in Europe, it has long been valued as both medicine and food. Even in this country, chefs in recent years have begun using the young leaves and flowers in salads, soups, and other dishes. An Algonquin Indian tale relates to the plant's means of propagation:

While Shawondese, the lazy South Wind, lay resting under a shady tree, he saw a beautiful, golden-haired young girl in a nearby meadow. Although he greatly admired her, he was too indolent to pursue her. So day after day, he idly watched her from a distance. One day, he was amazed to see an old woman with fuzzy white hair in the place where the maiden had been. When he heaved a big sigh of disappointment, he watched in astonishment as her white hair flew away. From her hairs, other golden-haired maidens appeared, but they, too, grew old and white-headed. And to this day, the South Wind still fervently sighs for his lost love and sends the white locks flying.

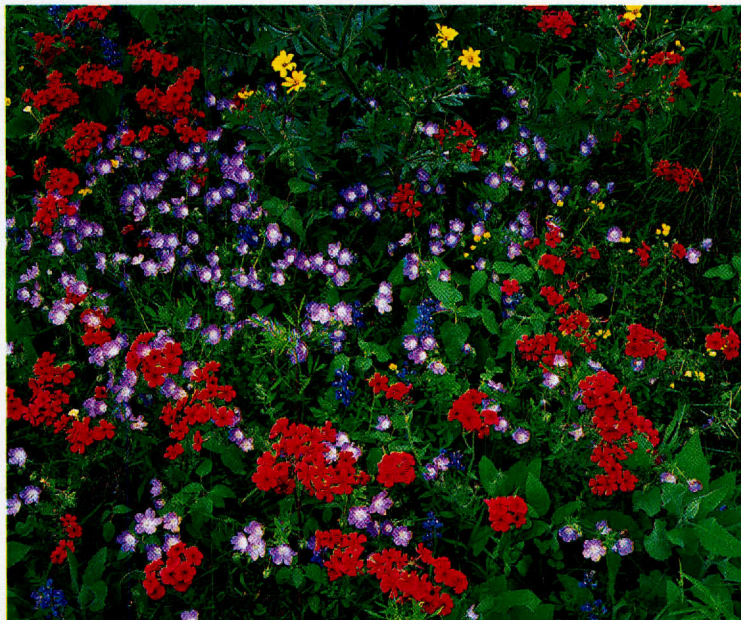


© STEPHAN MEYERS



[ABOVE] Strands of goat-foot morning glory decorate the dunes of Padre Island National Seashore.

[RIGHT] Mother Nature presents a bouquet of Drummond phlox, baby blue-eyes, Engelmann daisies, bluebonnets, and bladderpods in Gonzales County.



© STEVE GYNES



Texas Wildflowers

Wildflowers abound throughout Texas, but according to our recent Readers' Choice poll (see "Tops in Texas," December 1998), the following areas offer the best viewing: Brenham area; Llano area; Fredericksburg area; Willow City Loop; Austin; Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center; Mason; and Ennis.

Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center

If you can only make one trip in April, head to the **Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center**, where you can see a wide range of Texas species at a single site. The center, at 4801 La Crosse Ave. in southwest Austin, offers year-round learning experiences for all ages. Entrance fee: \$4, \$2.50 students and age 60 and older, free for members and age 4 and younger. Grounds hours: Tue-Sun 9-5:30. Visitors Gallery hours: Tue-Sat 9-4, Sun 1-4. Gift store hours: Tue-Sat 9-5:30, Sun 11-4. Wildflower Cafe hours: Tue-Sat 10-4, Sun 1-4. Children's Little House: Sat 10-noon and 1-4, Sun 1-4. In April, the center also opens on Mon. Closed major holidays. Most areas wheelchair accessible. Write to 4801 La Crosse Ave., Austin 78739; 512/292-4200. Web site: www.wildflower.org.

Resources

For up-to-date reports on wildflower conditions across the state, you have two options. From Mar. 13-May 21, staff botanists at the **Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center** provide a recorded message on the state's best wildflower patches. Call 512/832-4059. *Note: Do not call the Wildflower Center's main number for this information.* From mid-March through early May, the **Texas Dept. of Transportation** offers information about roadside wildflowers. Call 800/452-9292. TxDOT also offers a **free "Wildflowers of Texas" brochure** that doubles as a poster. Write to Box 149249, Austin 78714-9249.

For more on myth-inspiring wildflowers, look for Elizabeth Silverthorne's *Legends & Lore of Texas Wildflowers* (Texas A&M Univ. Press, 1996); *Wildflower Folklore* by Laura C. Martin (East Woods Press, 1984); *Hedgemaids and Fairy Candles: The Lives and Lore of North American Wildflowers* by Jack Sanders (McGraw-Hill, 1995); and two children's books by Tomie DePaola, *The Legend of the Bluebonnet* (G.P. Putnam's Sons, 1983) and *The Legend of the Indian Paintbrush* (G.P. Putnam's Sons, 1988).

Salado author ELIZABETH SILVERTHORNE has written 12 books, including *Legends & Lore of Texas Wildflowers*.



© JOHN P. GEORGE

[ABOVE] White prickly poppies, which can indicate disturbed or overgrazed land, typically cover large areas, like this spread in Mason County.

[FACING PAGE] A pastoral scene in Blanco County features verbena, bluebonnets, gaillardia, and white prickly poppies.

Several species of **anemones** grow in Texas, including **ten-petal anemone**, which is also called **Granny's nightcap** and **windflower**. A classical myth connects the creation of this flower with the west wind:

A beautiful nymph named Anemone lived at the court of Flora, the goddess of flowers, and Flora's husband, Zephyr, the West Wind. When Flora realized that Zephyr and Anemone had fallen in love, she banished the nymph from the court. Heartbroken, Anemone died of her sadness, but Zephyr persuaded Venus to change her body into a flower that would come back to life each year with the return of spring.



© DAVID MILLARD

Texas **vervain**, also called **slender vervain** and **blue vervain**, is closely related to an Old World vervain that was believed to have supernatural powers. Roman priests used vervain in religious ceremonies. Ancient Persians harvested the plants, considered sacred, with great care on moonless nights and poured honey onto the places where they had grown to placate the earth for taking such a precious possession. Egyptians believed vervain sprang from the tears of Isis, the goddess of nature, as she grieved for her murdered brother-husband, Osiris. In more modern times, German brides wore hats made of vervain to ensure lasting happiness in their marriages, and mothers hung a piece of vervain around a child's neck to serve as a charm against sickness.



© SCOOTER CHEATHAM



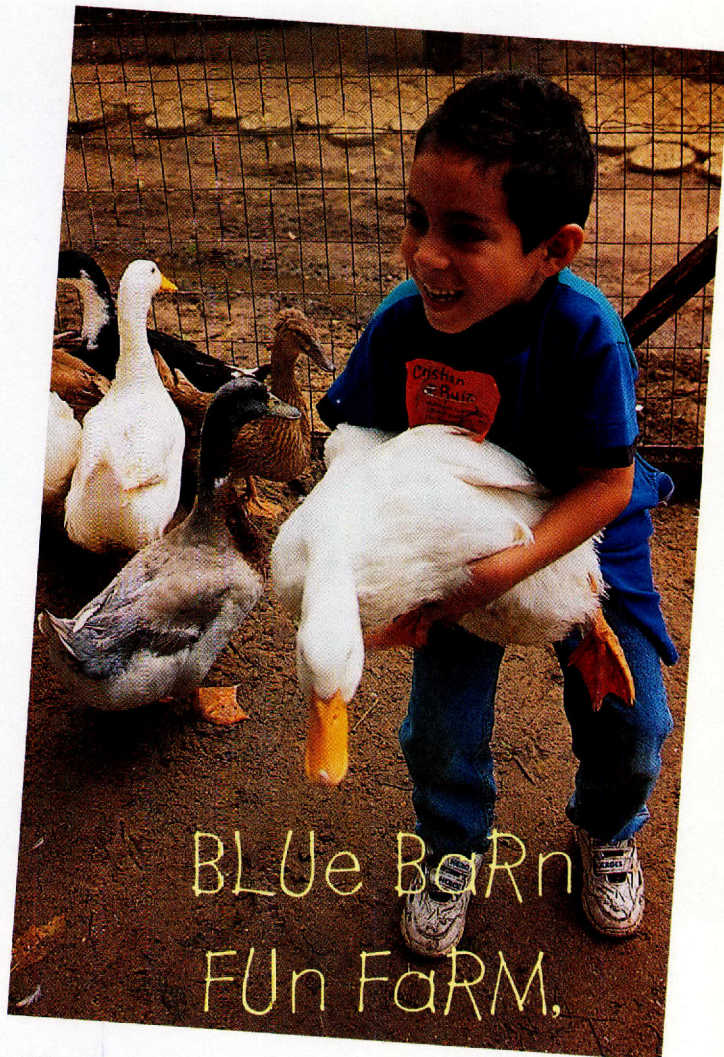
a FARM with CHARM

K NOW HOW TO TELL A MALE DUCK FROM A FEMALE or how to differentiate between a duck and a goose? Could you find a chicken's ears? Have you or your children ever held an alligator, milked a cow, or jigged for crawfish?

If not, it's obvious you've never spent a hands-on morning at the Blue Barn Fun Farm in Pattison.

A standout exception in the age of the disappearing family farm, this 30-acre teaching facility keeps alive what was, a generation ago, common barnyard knowledge. Blue Barn's two-hour guided tour explains the basics of animal lore and food production and shows how each thing on a farm can be used to make a living.

For most visitors, it's the first time they've touched any farm animal. Remedying that sorry state is exactly what Clyde and Maudine Brubaker had in mind when they established the Blue Barn's program in 1991 with advice from Texas A&M University. Today, they operate Blue Barn Fun Farm in close harness with their son and daughter-in-law, Dan and Connie Brubaker. That second generation took over full management of the farm early this year. While the program is definitely designed for children, adults also come away with fresh appreciation of food and what it takes to produce it.



a 30-acre teaching facility near Houston, keeps alive what was, a generation ago, common barnyard knowledge.

[ABOVE] Cristian Ruiz has no intention of ducking his duty. In November, children from McRoberts Elementary School in Katy got to take a quack at farm life.

[FACING PAGE] Making hay(rides) while the sun shines: All tours of Blue Barn Fun Farm end with a wagon ride to a picnic and play area. Carina Zuñiga (bottom photo) proves that feeding the animals doesn't get her goat.



See you now, alligator: Tour guide Bessie Rose hands a young gator to Sara La Croix, while Chelsea Valls (left) and Brooke Collins consider how best to handle the matter.

“Small children like doing things,” Maudine states firmly. “Just walking around and seeing stuff doesn’t interest them one bit. So here we have more than a dozen hands-on activities. They get to milk the cow, touch the calf, hold rabbits, and feel the fuzz on newly hatched ducks and chicks. They stroke Mr. Turkey and Mr. Pig, feed the geese, and then grind corn to feed the goats and sheep.”

Those last fellows nearly bust their pens trying to eat the food out of the children’s hands. At the first touch of a goat’s nibbling lips, the kids jump back, but they quickly return with more feed when they discover that neither goats nor sheep bite. As one six-year-old boy from McRoberts Elementary School in Katy giggled, “Man, that tickles!”

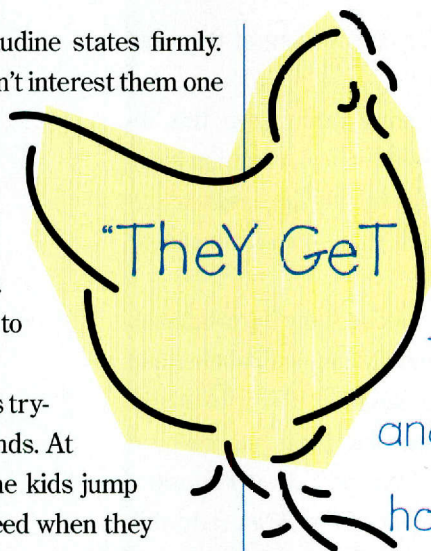
Such school classes, ranging from pre-kindergarten level through the fourth grade, come by the dozens nearly every week throughout the year, as do church groups, families, and vans full

of retirees. Advance reservations are required so that enough of the Brubakers’ 21-person, well-trained guide staff is on hand to lead an orderly progression from one activity to the next. Many of the guides are retired schoolteachers, well able to relate to small children. As a result, Blue Barn Fun Farm is far more than your standard petting zoo.

“Each little tidbit our visitors learn is something worthwhile,” states Maudine. “Among other things, they find out that a cow has four stomachs, that a baby pig suckles the same teat each time it nurses, and that milk comes from a cow, not a plastic jug.”

Everyone also learns that “boy” ducks have a curl on their tail feathers, and that “girl” ducks don’t. Visitors also are invited to smell the down under the ducks’ wings: “That’s how to tell a duck from a goose,” explains

Maudine. “If it has a slight odor, it’s a duck, and the down never loses that scent, even when it’s in a comforter.”



to Milk the Cow,
touch the calf, hold rabbits,
and feel the fuzz on newly
hatched ducks and chicks.”

The Brubakers added alligators to their farm animal list when they found an abundance of them in a creek on a remote section of their property. These reptiles are very slow-growing—about six inches a year—and the Brubakers select

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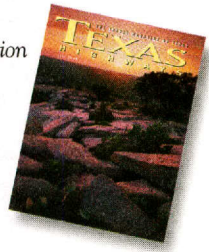
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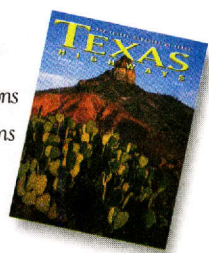
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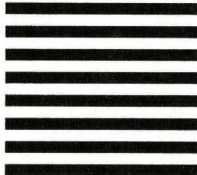


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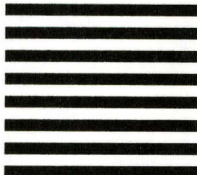
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[RIGHT] Tour guide Bonnie Vaughan demonstrates a hand-operated corn-sheller to (left to right) Eric Matagarza, Fernando Ruiz, Luis Lugo, Jessica Martinez, Deysi Benitez, and Cynthia Perez.

[BELOW] The Blue Barn fun gang includes owners Clyde and Maudine Brubaker (at left); son and daughter-in-law Dan and Connie Brubaker (at right), who manage the farm; 21 tour guides; and more than 300 animals eager to be fed and petted.



their “touch-and-hold” examples right after they’ve hatched, when they’re only 4-6 inches long. They then use them in the Blue Barn educational program for up to three years. (The alligator shown on page 40 is approximately two years old.)

“Our alligators are very, very tame,” notes Maudine, “and everyone is fascinated by them. Our visitors learn how alligators are sexed by commercial alligator farms, and that alligator is the most expensive leather that money can buy.”

In all, Blue Barn Fun Farm makes use of more than 300 farm animals, along with abundant knowledge, hands-on experience, and humor, to teach modern farming technology. However, the Brubaker family points out to visitors that most farms today specialize in one thing such as cattle, grain, pigs, turkeys, and so on. Ask them what their specialty is, and the answer is quick: education and children, not necessarily in that order. ★

Freelancer CAROL BARRINGTON of Montgomery is a longtime contributor to *Texas Highways*. Look for her upcoming story on the Galveston Bay Foundation in the June issue.



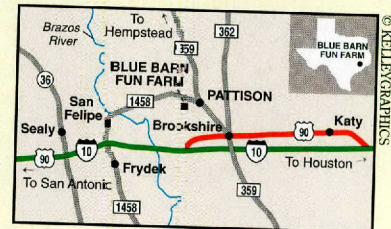
WHEN...WHERE...HOW

Blue Barn Fun Farm

Blue Barr Fun Farm is in Pattison, 37 miles west of downtown Houston via Interstate 10. Take Exit 732 in Brookshire, go north to Texas 90, and turn west. Turn north at the FM 359 intersection, and go 4 miles to Pattison. At the FM 359/FM 1458 intersection in Pattison, continue west on FM 1458; the farm will be on your immediate left. Write to the farm at Box 425, Pattison 77466; 281/375-6669 or 375-6106.

Blue Barn Fun Farm opens daily year-round by *advance reservation only*. Admission: \$6 per person; lower rates for groups of 20 or more. Wheelchair accessible. Guided tours end with a tractor-drawn hayride to a large, oak-shaded play area with picnic tables, grills, restrooms, and a covered pavilion. Although there's a concession stand on site with moderately priced food, visitors are welcome to bring their own lunches.

Free take-home gifts vary by the month and season: In Jan., Feb., May, June, and Sep., visitors get souvenirs such as refrigerator magnets or keychains; in Mar. and Apr., visitors plant vegetable seeds in containers to take home; July visitors get cold watermelons grown nearby; Aug. visitors get a sample of cornmeal ground on the farm; Oct. and Nov. visitors get pumpkins; and Dec. visitors get candy canes.





© LAURENCE PARENT

A monstrous figure, 50 feet long and three stories tall, looms in the mist of a tropical world. Nibbling the branches of luxuriant conifers as it plods along the margins of a shallow estuary, the 30-ton dinosaur leaves deep, rounded footprints in the mud. Despite this sauropod's dimensions, danger lurks in the shadows. For a cunning theropod—a carnivorous dinosaur with powerful claws and saber-sharp teeth—follows, keeping its presence hidden and its scent downwind.

«TRACES OF TEXAS BEFORE TIME»

Suddenly, the predator attacks, gashing the flesh of the behemoth plant-eater. Stricken with fear, the victim screams and staggers, desperate to escape. Undaunted, the theropod persists, toppling the leviathan and devouring part of its remains.

More than 100 million years later, tell-tale footprints bear witness to this battle of the titans. First recorded in limey mud, these imprints slowly turned to stone under the weight of layers of sand and mud. After eons of erosion, the prints reemerged in the bed of the present-day Paluxy River, in north central Texas.

[ABOVE] Though only a model, this toothy theropod has really made tracks—from the 1964-65 New York World's Fair to Texas' Dinosaur Valley State Park, where it still rules the roost.

[FACING PAGE] The Paluxy River bedrock at Dinosaur Valley State Park yields traces of ancient titans like the carnivorous *Acrocanthosaurus*, called "the terror of the Early Cretaceous" in Louis Jacobs' *Lone Star Dinosaurs*.



DINO - MIGHT

R.T. Bird, the first paleontologist to recognize their true identity, discovered the tracks in 1938. They are now on display at the American Museum of Natural History in New York and the Texas Memorial Museum in Austin. You'll find replicas of the prints at the Museum of Texas Tech University in Lubbock, as well as on the grounds of Dinosaur Valley State Park (see "Walking in Their Footsteps," page 47), the site of the original find. Hundreds of additional dinosaur tracks imprinted in the park grounds are gradually being exposed by erosion of the river bed and its banks.

For many Texans, imagining beasts so large and strange interacting as prey and predator in places where, millions of years later, we might venture out for an evening stroll is, well, downright unnerving.

"Dinosaurs have a kind of mythical quality—they can be fierce, friendly, dangerous, cute—whatever you want to make of them," says Louis Jacobs, a professor of geological sciences and director of the Shuler Museum of Paleontology at Southern Methodist University in Dallas. "But because they are now extinct—except for birds, which are a special group of dinosaurs—dinosaurs can't get to you, no matter what."

Despite the dinosaurs' demise, which occurred around 65 million years before modern humans appeared on the planet, we create blockbuster movies about them, drive hundreds of miles to see their fossils, and devote hard-earned dollars to learn more about them. But did dinosaurs really live in Texas?

"Most people think of Montana and Wyoming as

having the best dinosaur fossils in the country," continues Dr. Jacobs, who wrote the book *Lone Star Dinosaurs*. "But recent discoveries have brought about a dinosaur renaissance right here in Texas. Since the late 1800s, more than 35 of the world's 300 known dinosaur genera, most of which have only one species, have been uncovered [in Texas], and exciting new finds pop up on a regular basis."

To recognize a real dinosaur fossil in the field (and regular folks in our state have done just that), it helps to know what to look for. Aside from having a shape identifiable as a skeletal fragment, a fossilized bone will have a smooth surface, a satin sheen, and fine striations. Any worn, broken surfaces will reveal an orderly, sponge-like interior texture typical of bone tissue.

For a layman's purposes, dinosaurs are defined as extinct, ruling reptiles that walked with their legs directly under their bodies during the Mesozoic era—between 230 million and 65 million years ago.

These ancient animals, primarily land dwellers, ranged in size from no bigger than a rabbit to, some claim, nearly 100 feet in length. Like most animals today, dinosaurs were either carnivores (flesh-eaters, who killed other animals), herbivores (plant-eaters), or scav-

Today, despite an undisputed mastery of the planet for at least 150 million years, the dinosaurs are gone. Few puzzles pursue and perplex the paleontologist more than the question of what happened to these bodacious beasts.

© KAREN CARR, COURTESY SOUTHERN METHODIST UNIVERSITY, DALLAS



On view at the Fort Worth Museum of Science and History, a rendering by Karen Carr shows duckbilled dinosaurs, which roamed the Big Bend's then-wooded, deltaic environment about 75 million years ago. Also known as hadrosaurs, these plant-eaters stretched some 42 feet and weighed three to five tons.

engers (who fed on the remains of dead animals they encountered).

Paleontologists point out several other characteristics that set dinosaurs apart from pterosaurs, the extinct flying reptiles, and from mosasaurs, the extinct marine lizards. All dinosaurs exhibit an upright posture (as opposed to the sprawled posture typical of non-dinosaur reptiles), made possible by a thigh bone positioned vertically in a hollow hip socket. Dinosaurs also share certain unique structural features in their head and foot bones.

Other than these shared traits, the dinosaurs, or “terrible lizards,” exhibited a spine-tlingling, somewhat bewildering diversity during their 165 million-year reign upon Earth. In fact, scientists must rely on differences in the animals’ pelvic structures to classify them into two basic groups: the “lizard-hipped” saurischians and the “bird-hipped” ornithischians.

Texas can boast of fossils representing both of these groups. But to accurately picture the place of Texas dinosaurs in the paleontological scheme of things, and to locate their fossilized remains, it’s essential to recognize the periods of time and the environments in which they lived.

“Dinosaurs are known to have existed on the planet during all three periods of the Mesozoic—the Cretaceous, the most recent; the Jurassic; and the Triassic,” says Dr. Wann Langston, Mr. and Mrs. Charles E. Yager professor emeritus in the Department of Geological Sciences at The University of Texas at Austin. Dr. Langston is also the retired director of the Texas Memorial Museum’s Laboratory of Vertebrate Paleontology.

According to Dr. Langston, in Texas, rocks of the Triassic Period have yielded fragmentary dinosaur fossils belonging to species that include *Coelophysis*, a

swift-running, bird-like carnivore; *Technosaurus*, a wolf-size herbivore; and *Shuvosaurus*, a heavy-beaked, ostrich-like plant-eater.

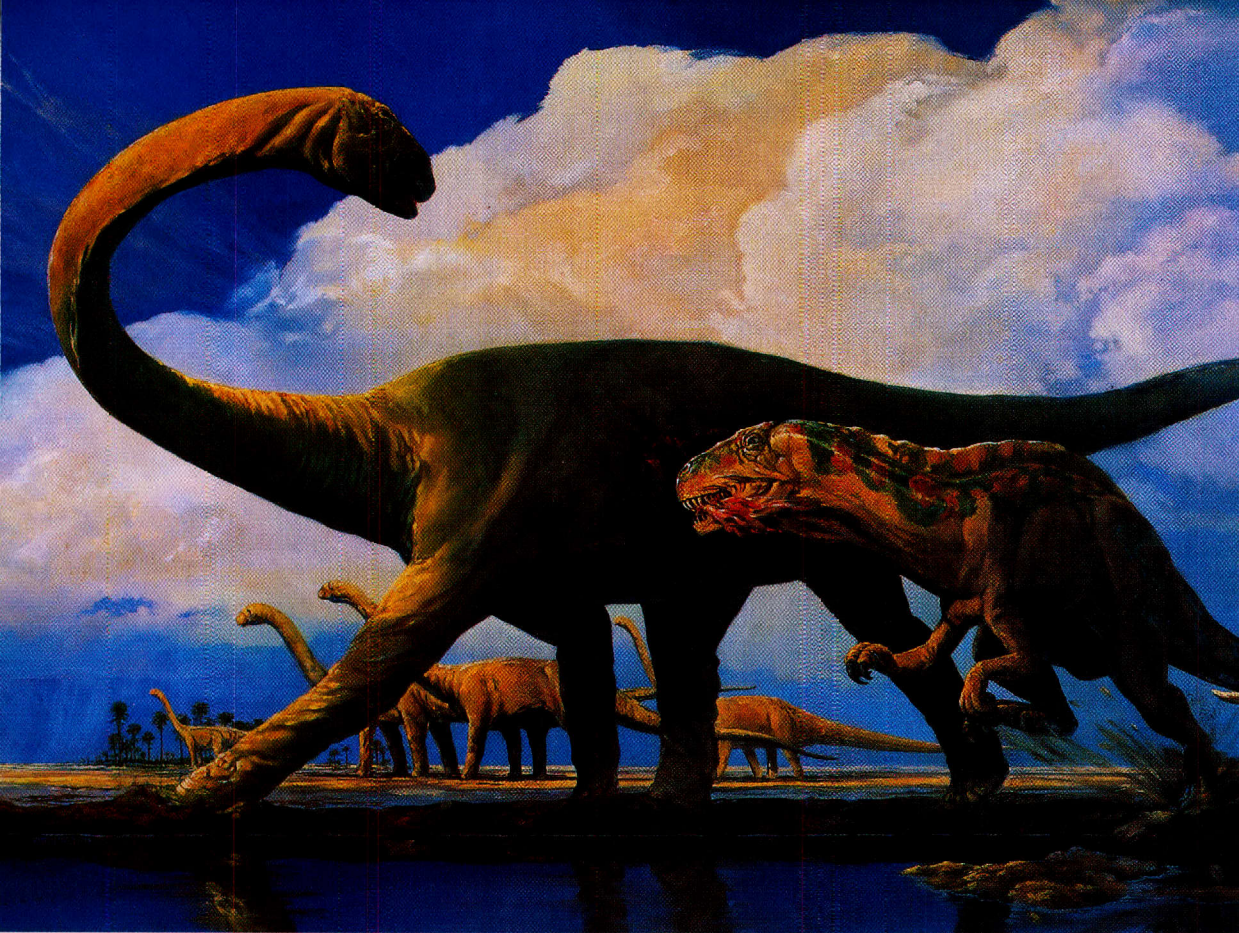
These species number among the finds of early dinosaurs and their relatives unearthed from a quarry in Garza County over the last 20 years by Dr. Sankar Chatterjee and his students at Texas Tech University. Dr. Chatterjee, Paul Whitfield Horn professor of geology

and curator of paleontology at the university, says that these small and very agile dinosaurs lived 225 million years ago in what was then a tropical forest. His most spectacular—and controversial—find at the site, dubbed *Protoavis texensis*, is possibly the oldest fossil bird, predating the German *Archaeopteryx* by 75 million years.

During the Jurassic Period, rocks in our state “were almost all deposited in



At the Houston Museum of Natural Science, folks can bone up on dino-anatomy, including that of the notorious *Tyrannosaurus rex* (foreground) and the hadrosaur (background).



© KAREN CARR. PHOTOGRAPH BY STEPHAN MYERS

Also at the Fort Worth Museum of Science and History, this illustration by Karen Carr depicts an *Acrocanthosaurus* attacking a *Pleurocoelus*. The battle was recorded for the ages in petrified mud-prints found at Dinosaur Valley State Park.

the sea,” says Dr. Langston. “And only one dinosaur bone [a sauropod tail vertebra] has been found in rocks from Jurassic times.

“However,” he adds, “we do find a fair number of rock formations from the Lower Cretaceous [around 100 million years ago] in Central and north central Texas, from near Dallas-Fort Worth south to the Austin area. We also have several dinosaur-bearing geological formations from the Late Cretaceous in the Big Bend region of West Texas.”

One hundred million years ago, much of Texas was covered by a shallow sea and salty, near-shore lagoons. Confined to land, where plants such as cycads and conifers flourished in the hot, humid climate, dinosaurs roamed a shoreline that angled down from today’s Montague County through Wise, Parker, Somervell, Erath, and



Tony Fiorillo, a paleontologist at the Dallas Museum of Natural History, holds a fossil belonging to *Alamosaurus*, which extended some 60 feet and weighed a tidy 30 tons.

Hood counties to a little west of the Austin area. Here, they found a low-lying, watery setting not unlike the modern Texas Coastal Bend or Florida’s mangrove swamps.

“These former wetlands in Central Texas, including the Glen Rose Formation, as seen in Dinosaur Valley State Park, yield the dinosaur tracks we observe today,” says Dr. Langston. “During great storms, water in these lagoons would sometimes be sucked away, exposing hundreds, perhaps thousands, of acres of gooey mud. Several types of dinosaurs

traveled across these mud flats, leaving footprints. Soon afterward, torrential rains swept sediment from the land into the lagoons, covering the trackways with new layers of silt, mud, and sand, and preserving them. Over time, these marine deposits eventually hardened and turned to stone.”

For the past five years in Hood County, a few miles north of Glen Rose, paleontologists and volunteers have excavated the fossilized bones of *Pleurocoelus*, a plant-eating dinosaur with a colossal, elephant-like body, long neck, enormous tail, and tiny head. This is the beast that probably made the giant, saucer-shaped prints found in the Paluxy River bed and put Glen Rose (and later, Dinosaur Valley State Park) on the map.

Not to be outdone, *Acrocanthosaurus* has laid claim to the razor-clawed, three-toed tracks visible in and near the same

« WALKING in their FOOTSTEPS »

One hundred and thirteen million years is a long time to be gone from home.

Texas dinosaurs—if miraculously resurrected from extinction—would not recognize their old stomping grounds in and around Dinosaur Valley State Park, the terrain has changed so much. And yet, a fluke of natural erosion has unveiled a small slice of their primeval world in this picturesque part of the state, a place to put bare toes in muds (now stone) once trodden by dinosaur feet.

“Dinosaur tracks appear in many areas in and around the Paluxy River,” says park superintendent Billy P. Baker. “This whole region, where the Glen Rose Formation is exposed, was once part of an ancient seashore visited by both theropods and sauropods. But with our water clarity and easy access to the river, Dinosaur Valley State Park is probably the best place to see their footprints.”

Long vanished are the vast, mud-covered, coastal estuaries that blanketed the Glen Rose area during the Late Cretaceous period. Even so, the region’s grassy knolls and valleys, accented with outcrops of crumbling limestone and clumps of sprawling oaks, seem filled with mystery, as if hiding traces of some ancient secret.

On the grounds adjacent to the Dinosaur Valley State Park headquarters, visitors see that something special’s afoot. For here, monstrous dinosaur prints lie captured in a concrete cast—a mold of the original tracks (displayed at New York’s American Museum of Natural History and at Austin’s Texas Memorial Museum) excavated from the Paluxy River in 1940 by R.T. Bird. Other footprints, fossils, and educational displays await inside.



Lindsey and Casey Swain of Irving compare the sizes of theropod and sauropod casts at Dinosaur Valley State Park.

Farther on, the long, snake-like head of an enormous sauropod seems to sniff the wind, while a fierce-looking theropod growls a toothy grin. These life-size models, featured at the 1964-65 New York World’s Fair, were later purchased and donated to the park by the Atlantic Richfield Company.

As you tour the park, you may see people peering through tube-like viewfinders and pointing over the edge of a steep overlook. Joining them, you can identify for yourself a three-clawed theropod footprint lying just inches below the shimmering surface of the Paluxy River.

Using a park map, you can locate and follow one of several trails leading down to the water’s edge. (Be careful, as several of the paths are very steep and rocky.) With

luck (in periods of diminished rainfall), the water level will be low and you’ll see the prints fairly easily.

Wandering a few yards along the river, you may notice a dark, oval depression in the riverbed. It’s a footprint! The fossil is round (about two-and-a-half feet in diameter) and deep (at least three inches), so it must belong to a giant sauropod. A yard farther on, you’ll see another one! Then another. The colossal creature was really here, walking in the mud right next to you!

But get ready, more spine-tingling adventure awaits just ahead. If it has been a dry summer, you may find a large, flat shelf of rock emerging a few inches out of the water. And what a piece of rock it is: a virtual passport to the Early Cretaceous sealed in stone. Theropod prints run

in all directions here, each so exquisitely formed you can actually see where the dinosaur’s feet sank and slipped slightly forward, leaving behind a toe-curling cleavage and deep claw marks in the mud. As if this weren’t enough, long, smooth channels crisscross certain sites along the trail, looped markings that may be the deep drag-marks of a heavy, reptilian tail.

As the sun sets behind the Paluxy’s low canyon walls, birds fly in to sip the cool waters and crickets gather for an evening chorus. Shadows soon fall across the river, and you know it’s time to go. In time, these dinosaur prints will disappear as well, washed away by the turbulent waters of the Paluxy River. But the memory of their sculptured form and the marvelous beasts who made them will remain, forever embedded in your mind.

—Jan Edwards

river bed. Slightly smaller than *Tyrannosaurus rex*, this bipedal, carnivorous theropod (38 feet long, weighing two to three tons, and having a high, curved ridge along its backbone) tore flesh with four rows of terrible teeth like steak

knives, making it as fearsome as *T. rex*.

Perhaps the most common dinosaur of the Early Cretaceous period in Texas was *Tenontosaurus*. Several skeletons of two species of this horsy-headed beast have been unearthed at several sites in

the north central region. About 15 feet in length and weighing a ton, the herbivorous *Tenontosaurus* probably walked on all four legs. However, a stubby neck, stocky body, short front legs, and long tail may have given it the option of

standing briefly on its hind legs to browse the lower branches of trees.

By the Late Cretaceous, about 75 million years ago, the landscape in Texas had changed dramatically. Dinosaurs lived along a great inland seaway that extended from the ancient Gulf of Mexico up to the Arctic Ocean, cutting North America in two.

“During this period, that seaway was eventually filled by sediments and drained,” says Dr. Langston. “As filling progressed, the dinosaurs along the shoreline found themselves restricted to deltaic environments [similar to deltas along the Mississippi River] in the part of Texas we call the Big Bend region. This strip of available land was covered with a highly diverse forest, as evidenced by extensive coal beds found there today.”

Duckbilled dinosaurs, generally called hadrosaurs, thrived in these



At an excavation site near Glen Rose, Laurel Wilson, a volunteer at the Fort Worth Museum of Science and History, gently cleans away rock strata containing dinosaur fossils.



In the Paleontology Lab at the Dallas Museum of Natural History, Bob Wilk cleans a neck vertebra belonging to *Alamosaurus*.

wooded areas during the Late Cretaceous, and probably swam around tidal channels and estuaries that flanked the inland seaway. Forty-two feet long and able to stand on either two or four legs, these three- to five-ton vegetarians could put away the plants, chopping up the greenery with scissor-like movements of their long jaws.

Plant-eating *Chasmosaurus* (an early relative of *Triceratops*) also roamed the Big Bend during the Late Cretaceous. Sporting a monstrous crest with scalloped edges, this animal bore three saber-sharp horns on its face. At a weight of two-and-a-half tons and a length of 17 feet, *Chasmosaurus* offered a menacing mouthful for predators as it foraged

about in family groups or herds.

Dr. Langston says that at the end of the Cretaceous Period, around 65 million years ago, the climate in the Big Bend region began to cool. In time, the land dried out and the climate became more seasonal, with alternating episodes of drought and monsoons. Flowering plants became more common, though conifers, palms, and ferns still dominated the habitat around waterways and ponds.

Alamosaurus, a sauropod similar in body form to *Pleurocoelus*, was the most spectacular dinosaur to inhabit Big Bend during this period. Columnar legs, a massive body, and a long neck and tail brought the beast to a length of 60 feet, a weight of 30 tons, and a height of more than 11 feet.

Today, despite an undisputed mastery of the planet for at least 150 million years, the dinosaurs are gone. Few puzzles pursue and perplex the paleontologist more than the question of what happened to these bodacious beasts.

Lone Star Dinosaurs

"We have good evidence that an event known as the KT (Cretaceous-Tertiary) extinction occurred some 65 million years ago and eliminated not only dinosaurs, but many other forms of life on earth as well," says Dr. Chatterjee.

"Though lots of ideas about the cause of dinosaur extinction have been discussed by paleontologists over the past two decades," he says, "two hypotheses are considered the most plausible. First, one of the most cataclysmic volcanic eruptions in geologic history. This giant volcano, which blanketed most of India with a thick coat of lava, may have ejected enough pollution into the atmosphere to disrupt the world's ecological balance and trigger mass extinctions over a period of 2 to 3 million years."

Chatterjee says the second and most popular hypothesis suggests the impact of a giant meteorite about 10 kilometers (6.25 miles) in diameter. The hole this space-hooligan left behind, known as the Chicxulub Crater, is at least 180 kilometers (112.5 miles) wide and lies beneath thick sediments in the Gulf of Mexico near the Yucatán Peninsula.

Thousands of times more lethal than simultaneous detonation of the world's entire nuclear war chest, this meteorite could have generated a cloud of debris dense enough to blacken the sky for months. A series of horrible tremors, tsunamis, and raging fires may also have ravaged the planet. Acid rain fell upon land and water. Deprived of sunlight, many green plants became dormant or died, followed by the animals that had depended on them for food. Within a relatively short time, the entire food web probably collapsed.

Added to this holocaust was a second meteorite, whose impact site is twice the size of Chicxulub. Shiva crater rests in the Arabian Sea off the west coast of India. Some scientists believe these two meteorites were originally part of an even larger piece of space debris.

When the original meteorite broke apart, each fragment struck the earth

To fathom "in your face" dinosaur fossils, visit one or more Texas museums offering a variety of authentic specimens, casts, and informative displays, including the Fort Worth Museum of Science and History, the Dallas Museum of Natural History, the Houston Museum of Natural Science, the Texas Memorial Museum at the University of Texas at Austin, and the Museum of Texas Tech University in Lubbock.

For more information about museum hours, admission fees, group tours, and types of dinosaur fossil exhibits, write to the Fort Worth Museum of Science and History, 1501 Montgomery St., Fort Worth 76107-3079 (817/732-1631); the Dallas Museum of Natural History, Box 150349, Dallas 75315 (214/421-3466); the Houston Museum of Natural Science, One Hermann Circle Dr., Houston 77030 (713/639-4629); and the Texas Memorial Museum, 2400 Trinity, Austin 78705 (512/471-1604). The Museum of Texas Tech University, 4th and Indiana Ave., Lubbock 79409-3191 (806/742-2490), currently has dinosaur displays and will open a permanent dinosaur gallery in the year 2000.

Dinosaur Valley State Park

Dinosaur Valley State Park is 4 miles west of Glen Rose off FM 205. Hours: Daily 7 a.m.-10 p.m. The dinosaur exhibit at the Visitor Center opens 8-5 daily.

Admission: \$5, free age 12 and younger. Campsites with water/electricity hookups are \$15 per night, plus \$3 per adult. Primitive campsites are \$8 per night, plus \$3 per adult. Reservations highly recommended. Visitor Center is wheelchair accessible, trails are not. For reservations, call 512/389-8900. For more information, write to Box 396, Glen Rose 76043; 254/897-4588. Web site: www.tpwd.state.tx.us.

Books

To learn more about Texas dinosaurs or dinosaurs in general, check your local library for the following books: *Lone Star Dinosaurs* by Louis Jacobs (Texas A&M Univ. Press, 1995), *The Dinosaurs of Dinosaur Valley State Park* by James O. Farlow (Texas Parks and Wildlife Press, 1993), *Learn About Texas Dinosaurs* by Elena T. Ivy and Georg Zappler (Texas Parks and Wildlife Press, 1994), *The Complete Dinosaur* by James O. Farlow (Indiana Univ. Press, 1997), *The Mistaken Extinction: Dinosaur Evolution and the Origin of Birds* by Lowell Dingus and Timothy Rowe (W.H. Freeman and Co., 1998), *Bones for Barnum Brown* by Roland T. Bird (Texas Christian Univ. Press, 1985), *Encyclopedia of Dinosaurs*, edited by Philip Currie and Kevin Padian (Academic Press, 1997), and *The Rise of Birds* by Sankar Chatterjee (Johns Hopkins Univ. Press, 1997).

thousands of miles apart, but simultaneously, because of the planet's rotation. According to Chatterjee, these collisions and their dreadful effects may have shoved dinosaurs over the brink of extinction within as little as 100 to 1,000 years. Considering the incredible number of catastrophic events that occurred during the Late Cretaceous, it's amazing that any evidence of dinosaurs survived at all.

Imagine the final hours of the Texas dinosaurs as they innocently roamed the Big Bend that fateful day. Perhaps a warm sun was setting on the far horizon and a gentle breeze stirring the fronds of towering palm trees. Sensing a sudden flash of light, *Alamosaurus* may have turned its head just in time to see a blaz-

ing fireball soar across the sky and smash—out of sight—into the sea, sending a shock wave so powerful it dealt instant death to the monstrous metazoan, along with millions of its counterparts, and condemned survivors to slow starvation. This apocalyptic episode offers much for us to ponder about survival and extinction. And when we go for an evening stroll on Texas soils where dinosaurs once roamed, we can almost hear a distant thunder, the footfalls of giant feet. ★

Husband-and-wife team STEPHAN MYERS and JAN EDWARDS took us on a natural history tour of Big Bend National Park in the February issue. Look for their stories next month on Brackettville's Fort Clark Springs and Alamo Village.

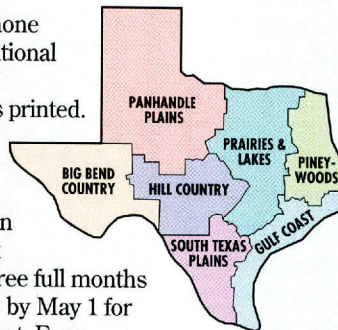
Fun Forecast

May 1999						
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16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30	31					

In Fun Forecast, we provide events and telephone numbers for next month, so that you'll have additional time to plan your outings.

Sometimes dates change after the magazine is printed.

Before you drive miles to an event, confirm the date by calling the number listed next to the festivity or by contacting the local chamber of commerce. If you wish to submit an event for Fun



Forecast, please send the information to Fun Forecast, *Texas Highways*, Box 141009, Austin 78714-1009; fax 512/486-5879. Submit information at least three full months before the first of the month in which the event will take place (for example, by May 1 for August festivities). Space is limited, so we may not be able to print every event. For a quarterly, more detailed schedule of events, write for a free *Texas Events Calendar*, Box 149249, Austin 78714-9249, or fax 512/486-5944.

Texas Highways' Web site (www.texashighways.com) includes an expanded Fun Forecast that gives descriptions of the events.

For free routing assistance or details on any destination in Texas, call 800/452-9292 toll-free from anywhere in the United States and Canada, any day between 8 a.m. and 6 p.m. Central Time. A travel counselor at one of the state's travel information centers will be on the line to provide travel information, send brochures, and advise you of any emergency road conditions.

Panhandle Plains

1
ABILENE Philharmonic 915/677-6710 or 800/460-0610
BANGS Mayfest 915/752-7517
CROWELL (began Apr 30) Cynthia Ann Parker Days 940/684-1670 (began Apr 30) Foard Co 4-H/FFA Open Rodeo 940/684-1919
LUBBOCK (began Apr 30) Symphony 806/762-1688
PAMPA Golf Tournament 806/665-6677
POST Tower Theater Music Show 806/894-3552
SAN ANGELO Sonrisas Polo in the Park 915/481-2646
SILVERTON Caprock Jamboree 806/823-2524
VERNON Doan's May Picnic 940/552-9361
WICHITA FALLS KFDX Kids' Fest 940/691-0003

1
WINTERS Mayfest 915/754-5210
BRECKENRIDGE (began Apr 30) Stephens Co Frontier Days 254/559-2801
CHILDRESS (began Apr 30) Rolling Plains Heritage Festival 940/937-2567
COLORADO CITY Golf Tournament 915/728-3403
GRAHAM Lake Country Arts Festival 940/549-2943
LUBBOCK (began Apr 29) <i>The Cherry Orchard</i> 806/742-3603
Iris Show 806/793-3542
PLAINVIEW Roadrunner Car Show 806/296-7431
POST (began Apr 30) Old Mill Trade Days 806/495-3529
SAN ANGELO Craft Guild Show 915/949-5421
Railfair 915/658-3120

1-2
WICHITA FALLS Wrangler Barrel Race Classic 940/855-8999
1, 7-8 ABILENE (began Apr 29) <i>The Cemetery Club</i> 915/673-6271
1-2, 7-9 LUBBOCK (began Apr 30) <i>The Grass Harp</i> 806/742-1887
5 LUBBOCK Cinco de Mayo Celebration 806/747-2555
5-8 MINERAL WELLS Palo Pinto Co Livestock Assn Pro Rodeo 800/252-6989
6-9 ABILENE Western Heritage Classic 915/677-4376
7 SAN ANGELO Cactus Hotel Jazz Series 915/653-3162 or 888/200-5620
7-9 SWEETWATER International Arabian Horse Show 915/235-3484

8
ELECTRA Goat Barbecue 940/495-3577
10-15 GRAHAM Lions' Carnival 940/549-2211
12-15 VERNON Santa Rosa Roundup Rodeo 940/552-6868 or 552-2564
13 ABILENE Artwalk 915/677-8389
14-16 WICHITA FALLS American Quarter Horse Show 940/766-5352
15 ARCHER CITY MayFest 940/574-2489
PLAINVIEW Pioneer Roundup 806/291-5267
VERNON Chuck Wagon Cookoff 940/552-2564 or 800/687-3137
15-16 BRECKENRIDGE KEAN Big Bass Bonanza 915/676-7711
SWEETWATER Paint Horse Show 915/235-3484

22
AMARILLO Astronomy Day 806/355-9547
SLATON Opry 806/828-6238
WICHITA FALLS Southwest Chili Champion Five-State Open 940/767-8273
22-23 SWEETWATER Cutting Horse Show 915/235-3484
WICHITA FALLS Team Roping 806/358-7797
29-30 ABILENE Quilt Show 915/676-6211
SWEETWATER Ponies of America Horse Show 915/235-3484
31 AMARILLO Funfest 806/374-0802

Prairies and Lakes

1
BELLVILLE Market Day 409/865-3407
BRYAN March of Dimes WalkAmerica 409/846-3470

1
DALLAS African American Museum Family Day 214/565-9026 (began Apr 23) <i>Gypsy</i> 972/554-8534
DENTON Cinco de Mayo Celebration 940/349-8289
ELGIN Citywide Garage Sale 512/285-5721
GRAND PRAIRIE Cinco de Mayo Celebration 972/642-2621
PALESTINE Great Texas Bicycles vs Train Race 800/659-3484
PARIS Uncle Jesse Big Bass Classic 800/727-4789
RICHARDS Founder's Day 409/851-2279 or 851-2678
SHERMAN Celebrating Herbs at C.S. Roberts House 903/893-1184
TERRELL Historical Tour 877/837-7355

1-2
CANTON (began Apr 29) First Monday Trade Days 903/567-6556 or 567-2991
DALLAS Cinco de Mayo Celebration 214/670-8400
Dallas Zoo Endangered Tiger Habitat Grand Opening 214/942-3678 (began Apr 7) <i>South Pacific</i> 214/522-8499
DENISON Arts & Crafts Show 903/465-9447 or 463-2487
DENTON MS 150 Red River Challenge Bicycle Tour 214/373-1400
FORT WORTH (began Apr 29) Mayfest 817/332-1055 (began Apr 29) Pate Swap Meet/ Autofest 817/244-2340
GAINESVILLE Kite Festival 940/726-5070
GRAND PRAIRIE (began Apr 30) May Day Regatta 817/640-4200

1-2
LEXINGTON (began Apr 29) Homecoming 409/773-0008
MARLIN (began Apr 30) Festival Days 817/883-2451
MESQUITE MayFest 972/216-6468
PLANO (began Apr 30) Quilt Show 972/491-1580
WACO Gem & Mineral Show 254/666-4077
WAXAHACHIE (began Apr 30) <i>Oklahoma!</i> 972/217-1791
WEATHERFORD (began Apr 30) First Monday Trade Days 817/594-3801
1-8 FORT WORTH (began Apr 23) <i>Sweet Phoebe</i> 817/924-9454
1, 7-8 SALADO (began Apr 30) Shakespeare Up the Creek 254/947-9178
1-23 DALLAS (began Apr 30) <i>Heidi</i> 214/978-0110 (began Apr 7) <i>South Pacific</i> 214/522-8499
DENISON Arts & Crafts Show 903/465-9447 or 463-2487
DENTON MS 150 Red River Challenge Bicycle Tour 214/373-1400
FORT WORTH (began Apr 29) Mayfest 817/332-1055 (began Apr 29) Pate Swap Meet/ Autofest 817/244-2340
GAINESVILLE Kite Festival 940/726-5070
GRAND PRAIRIE (began Apr 30) May Day Regatta 817/640-4200




2
SEGUIN Arts & Crafts Show 800/580-7322
SOUTHLAKE Harp & Dulcimer Music 817/283-3406
6 GARLAND Day of Prayer 972/205-2790
IRVING Community Band Concert 972/252-7558 or 214/634-3403
6-8 BRENNHAM Maifest 409/836-3687
6, 13, 20, 27 LANCASTER Heritage Park Musicfest Concerts 972/227-1112
6-30 GARLAND <i>The Pirates of Penzance</i> 214/349-1331 or 972/205-2790
7 GARLAND Symphony 214/553-1223
SEGUIN Carnival 800/580-7322
7-9 DALLAS <i>Coppelia</i> 214/369-5200
7-22 IRVING <i>Bus Stop</i> 972/252-ARTS
8 BELTON Donkey Show 254/859-3724 or 830/537-4227
CALDWELL Old Theater Peddlers Market 409/272-3404
CLARKSVILLE Springfest 903/427-3044
DALLAS African American Museum Ball & Auction 214/565-9026 Angela Shelf Medearis 214/922-1219

8 DENTON Air Fair 940/349-7702 HICO Downtown Garage Sale 800/361-HICO IRVING Las Colinas Symphony 972/580-1566 LANCASTER Second Saturday on the Square 972/218-1101 PARIS Art Fair 903/785-5221 Run for the Arts 903/785-5221 Tune into the Arts 903/785-5221 SALADO Classic MG Register Sports Car Meet 254/947-5040 WALNUT SPRINGS Trade Day 254/797-2176 or 797-4019	8-9 FORT WORTH Mother's Day at Weston Gardens 817/572-0549 GATESVILLE Antiques Show 254/865-6826 GRAND PRAIRIE Mother's Day Celebration 972/647-2331 RICHARDSON Cottonwood Art Festival 972/231-4798 SALADO Texas 100 Fine Art Show 254/947-5321 9 CYCLONE Flag Hall Mother's Day Barbecue 254/985-2393 SEALY Mother's Day Picnic 409/885-3222 10 FORT WORTH Texas Bound 214/922-1220	11 YOAKUM Country Music USA 512/293-2309 13-15 WACO <i>Red, White and Tuna</i> 254/752-9797 or 800/701-2787 13-16 FORT WORTH <i>Sleeping Beauty</i> 817/212-4281 or 800/654-9545 13-16, 20-23 WACO <i>A Midsummer Night's Dream</i> 254/776-1591 14-15 SOMERVILLE Run for Wheels 409/596-1616 WEATHERFORD Spring Creek Musical Festival 817/594-8616 or 596-4640 14-16 CANTON Antique & Classic Auto Swap Meet 972/276-1790	14-16 COLUMBUS Springtime Festival/ Magnolia Homes Tour 409/732-5135 or 732-8398 GRAPEVINE Main Street Days 800/457-6338 15 CLIFTON "Syttende Mai" Norwegian Constitution Day Celebration 254/622-3395 or 597-2453 ENNIS Chili Cookoff 972/878-4748 FORT WORTH Bird Mart 817/884-2222 or 478-8320 Herb Festival 817/488-7262 15-16 FORT WORTH Fairmount Historic Homes Tour 817/927-8004 GRAND PRAIRIE Cajun Fest 972/647-2331	15-16 McKINNEY Mayfair on the Square 972/562-6880 ROCKWALL Historic Homes Tour 972/771-1196 16 DALLAS "Canaday! Eh?" 214/922-1220 GRAND PRAIRIE Triathlon 817/355-1279 or 214/821-0909 ROCKWALL Antique/Classic Car Show 972/771-1196 17-23 FORT WORTH Colonial Golf Tournament 817/927-4278 18 IRVING New Philharmonic Orchestra 972/252-ARTS LOCKHART Country Music Jamboree 512/376-3430	19-22 DALLAS Transportation History at Age of Steam Museum 214/428-0101 20-23 PLANO Science Fiction Show 972/578-0123 21-23 DALLAS Debbie Reynolds 214/692-0203 FORT WORTH Peruvian Paso Horse Show 817/871-8150 IRVING Paper Bag Players 972/252-ARTS WACO Big 12 Track & Field Championships 800/229-5678 21-Jun 20 FORT WORTH <i>Johnnie B. Goode</i> 817/338-4411 22 LANCASTER Kids' Triathlon 972/227-1112	22-23 NAVASOTA Trade Days 409/825-8490 24 LOCKHART Opry 512/601-2154 27 HURST Winds of Note 817/283-3406 IRVING Irving Chorale 972/579-0074 SEGUIN Agri-Feast 800/580-7322 28 DALLAS Texas Black Invitational Rodeo 214/565-9026 28-30 DALLAS ArtFest 214/361-2011 ENNIS National Polka Festival 972/878-4748 or 888/366-4748	28-30 FORT WORTH Team Roping 817/871-8150 29 GONZALES Courthouse Trade Days 830/672-6532 LANCASTER Splash Day 972/227-1112 29-30 ARLINGTON Holistic Fair 817/465-6661 SOMERVILLE Stampede 409/596-2383 or 567-3218 WACO Car Show 713/932-8806 29-31 HUBBARD Trade Days 254/576-2521 30 CLEBURNE Doll & Toy Show 817/641-8600 ELLINGER May Festival 409/378-2347 or 378-2315	30 FORT WORTH Memorial Day Street Dance 817/626-7921 HALLETTSVILLE Sacred Heart Parish Picnic 512/798-5888 SHINER Catholic Church Spring Picnic 512/594-3836 31 DENISON Memorial Day Parade 903/465-1551 Pineywoods 1 CROCKETT (began Apr 29) PRCA Rodeo 409/544-2181 HUNTSVILLE Herb Festival 409/291-7090 MINEOLA (began Apr 30) May Days Bean Fest 903/569-2087
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THE TRAVEL MAGAZINE OF TEXAS
TEXAS
HIGHWAYS

1
OVERTON
Gospel Music
903/834-3542

1-2
JEFFERSON
(began Apr 30)
Historical Pilgrimage
903/665-2672

1, 7-8, 14-15, 21-22, 28-29
LIBERTY
Orry on the Square
800/248-8918

2
TYLER
Cinco de Mayo Celebration
903/595-0066

5-8
JASPER
Championship Rodeo
409/384-5109

6-8
PITTSBURG
Rodeo
903/856-3442

7
NACOGDOCHES
Choral Masterworks Concert
409/468-6407

PITTSBURG
Dallas Wind Symphony
903/836-3771

8
CONROE
The Diamonds
409/441-2787

LIVINGSTON
Bluegrass
409/327-3381

14-15
ATLANTA
Oakdale Park Bluegrass Picnic/Arts & Crafts Fair
817/897-2321

SAN AUGUSTINE
PRCA Rodeo
409/275-3610

14-16
TYLER
Trade Days
903/595-2223

15
GILMER
Cherokee Rose Festival
903/843-2413

SAN AUGUSTINE
Pinefest Arts & Crafts Fair
409/275-3610

15-16
MARSHALL
Stagecoach Days
903/935-7868

16
GILMER
Cherokee Rose Festival
Trail Ride
903/843-2413

21-23
NACOGDOCHES
Trade Days
409/564-2150

22
NACOGDOCHES
Garden Gala Day
409/468-3705 or 564-7351

28-29
CONROE
The Unsinkable Molly Brown
409/441-2787

Gulf Coast

1
BEAUMONT
(began Apr 30)
Lamar University Dance Company
409/880-8912

(began Apr 29)
RODEO
409/832-9991

FULTON
Mayfest
512/729-0386

GALVESTON
Bill Cosby
409/763-7173

ORANGE
(began Apr 30)
International Gumbo Cookoff
409/883-3536

RICHMOND
Historic Walking Tour
281/342-1256

SWEENEY
Pride Day
409/548-3249

1-2
BEAUMONT
Spring Garden Tour
409/860-5119 or 898-3515

CORPUS CHRISTI
(began Apr 14)
Buccaneer Days
512/882-3242

1-4
VICTORIA
Art Show
512/572-0825

1, 4, 7
HOUSTON
Resurrection
713/227-ARTS

1-2, 8-9
GALVESTON
Historic Homes Tour
409/765-7834

1-11
DICKINSON
(began Apr 18)
The Nerd
281/337-7469

1-15
CORPUS CHRISTI
(began Apr 30)
How to Succeed in Business Without Really Trying
512/882-5500

2
BEAUMONT
Cinco de Mayo Celebration
409/833-6592 or 784-5560

Crawfish Festival
409/866-2400

CORPUS CHRISTI
Cinco de Mayo Festival
512/883-0639

PORT LAVACA
Cinco de Mayo Celebration
512/552-2959

2-4
LEAGUE CITY
Village Fair
281/332-5005

2, 5, 8, 11, 14, 16
HOUSTON
Mefistofele
713/546-0246 or 800/346-4462

2, 9, 16, 23, 30
CORPUS CHRISTI
Spring Garden Classical Concerts
512/883-0639

3-4
SEABROOK
Boat Show
281/474-2511

4
EL CAMPO
Crawfish Boil
409/543-2713

4-9
GALVESTON
Red, White and Tuna
409/763-7173

6-7, 9
HOUSTON
Burt Bacharach with Symphony Pops
713/227-ARTS

7-9
CRYSTAL BEACH
Texas Crab Festival
409/684-3345

HOUSTON
Coin Show
281/558-1540

7-8, 14-15, 21-22
BEAUMONT
Murder on the Nile
409/842-4664

8
CORPUS CHRISTI
Ballet
512/991-8521

HOUSTON
Juilliard String Quartet
713/524-5050

PASADENA
Strawberry Festival Parade
281/991-9500

VICTORIA
Symphony
512/576-4500

10
PASADENA
Bayou Boil
281/474-2551

10-11
SEABROOK
Clear Lake Greek Festival
281/326-1740

19-15
PORT LAVACA
Calhoun Co Bay Days
512/552-2959

13-23
GALVESTON
Born Yesterday
409/765-4591

14
GALVESTON
Symphony
409/765-1894 or 800/821-1894

14-16
PASADENA
Strawberry Festival
281/991-9500

VIDOR
Barbecue Festival
409/769-6339

14-16, 21-23
SPRING
Crawfish Festival
281/353-9310 or 350-6678

15
BAY CITY
Market Day
409/245-8333

BEAUMONT
Charlie Pruitt's Country Music Show
409/727-2955

15-16
ALVIN
Great Outdoors Expo
409/864-1541

15-16
PORT ARTHUR
Trade Days
409/982-4950

ROCKPORT
Texas State Kite Festival
512/729-6445 or 800/826-6441

16
ORANGE
Smoky Joe's Cafe
409/886-5535 or 800/828-5535

21
CORPUS CHRISTI
Cultural Sunset Festival
512/883-0639

21-23, 28-30
BROWNSVILLE
The Sunshine Boys
956/542-8900

21-23, 29-30
GALVESTON
A Bloomin' Event/Oleander Festival
409/762-9334

21-22, 27-30
VICTORIA
The Senator Wore Pantyhose
512/576-6277

22
KATY
Daylily Trail & Garden Day
281/391-6400 or 391-6960

22-23
GALVESTON
Texas Nationals Pro Jet Ski Races
409/762-3930

RICHMOND
Red Stegall Cowboy Celebration
281/343-0218

TEXAS CITY
Trade Days
409/643-5707

22-24, 28-30
HOUSTON
Symphony
713/224-7575

25
HARLINGEN
Spring Concert
956/427-3027

28-30
PORT ARTHUR
SALT Fishing Rodeo
409/985-5583 or 722-0865

29
ROCKPORT
Festival of Wines
512/729-1271

30
CORPUS CHRISTI
Arts & Crafts Market
512/767-9333

31
RICHMOND
Decoration Day at George Ranch
281/343-0218 or 342-6478

South Texas Plains

1
FLORESVILLE
Heritage Day/Mission Tour
210/362-5200 or 830/393-0074

SAN ANTONIO
Alamo-La Bahía Corridor Classic Car Cruise
210/362-5200

(began Apr 30)
SYMPHONY
210/554-1010

1-2
SAN ANTONIO
(began Apr 30)
Cinco de Mayo Festivities
210/207-8600

1-5
GOLIAD
(began Apr 30)
Cinco de Mayo Festivities
361/645-3540

1-8
SAN ANTONIO
(began Mar 26)
Man of La Mancha
210/733-7258

1, 8, 15, 22, 29
SAN ANTONIO
Guadalupe Cultural Arts Center Folkloric Dancers
210/225-0000

1-31
SAN ANTONIO
San Antonio Dances!
210/212-7775

2, 9, 16, 23, 30
SAN ANTONIO
Mariachi Los Caporales
210/225-0000

4
THREE RIVERS
Brush Country Music Jamboree
512/449-2636 or 786-3334

5
LAREDO
Cinco de Mayo
800/361-3360

5-29
SAN ANTONIO
Pinocchio
210/408-0116

7
SAN ANTONIO
Cinco de Mayo Dance Performance
210/351-7787

8
BIGFOOT
Market Trail Day
830/665-5054 or 665-2419

GOLIAD
Market Day
512/645-3563 or 800/848-8674

SAN ANTONIO
Donald Byrd Dance Company
210/207-2234

8-Jun 5
SAN ANTONIO
Laura
210/408-0116

9-10
LAREDO
Mother's Day Concert
956/795-2185

10
LAREDO
Philharmonic
956/795-2185

11-16
SAN ANTONIO
Tejano/Conjunto Festival
210/271-3151

14
SAN ANTONIO
Gartenkonzert
210/222-1521

14-15
SAN ANTONIO
Cloggers' Showcase
210/492-8700

Symphony
210/554-1010

18-19
SAN ANTONIO
Floating Feast-ival
210/226-2891

Rhythm in Shoes
210/207-2234

21-22
LAREDO
Powwow Festival
956/795-2185

21-31
SAN ANTONIO
Raising the Dead
210/227-5867

22
EAGLE PASS
Bull Riding
830/757-2531

26-Jun 26
SAN ANTONIO
Wait Until Dark
210/222-9694

28-30
SAN ANTONIO
Arturo Sandoval
210/554-1010

28-31
SAN ANTONIO
Arts & Crafts Show
210/227-4262

29-31
SAN ANTONIO
Return of the Chili Queens
210/207-8600

31
LAREDO
Memorial Day Ceremony
956/721-2233

Hill Country

1
AUSTIN
(began Apr 30)
Rodeo
512/476-9051

Maifest
512/482-0927

Spamarama
512/834-1827 or 416-9307

BULVERDE
Arts & Crafts Show
830/438-7439

HONDO
Hootenanny
830/426-3438

KERRVILLE
(began Apr 30)
Cowboy Artists of America Museum Roundup
830/896-2553

LAGO VISTA
Texas Songbird Festival
512/267-7952

MARBLE FALLS
Howdy-Roo Chili Cookoff
830/693-3492

Rhythm in Shoes
210/207-2234

21-22
LAREDO
Powwow Festival
956/795-2185

21-31
SAN ANTONIO
Raising the Dead
210/227-5867

22
EAGLE PASS
Bull Riding
830/757-2531

1
WIMBERLEY
Market Day
512/847-2201

1-2
AUSTIN
Zilker Garden Festival
512/477-8672

GEORGETOWN
Mayfair
830/997-8515 or 512/930-5302

NEW BRAUNFELS
Folkfest
830/629-2943

SAN MARCOS
Tours of Distinction
888/200-5620

VANDERPOOL
Volkssport 10-K
210/496-1402

1-31
LAGO VISTA
(began Apr 1)
Wildflower Trail
512/267-7952

MASON
(began Apr 1)
Bluebonnet & Wildflower Drives
915/347-5758

2
AUSTIN
Big Sky
512/476-9051

FREDERICKSBURG
Children's Choral
830/997-0212

NEW BRAUNFELS
Mid-Texas Symphony
830/629-0336

5-8
AUSTIN
Cinco de Mayo Festival
512/499-6270

6, 13, 20, 27
GEORGETOWN
Farmers Market
512/863-8706

7
GEORGETOWN
Pop Goes the Jazz
512/869-7469

7-8
MARBLE FALLS
Springfest
800/759-8178

8
BURNET
Market Day
512/756-6074

CASTROVILLE
Market Trail Day
830/931-2331

FREDERICKSBURG
Founders Festival
830/997-2835

8 GEORGETOWN Market Day 512/930-5302 Opry 512/869-7469	15 WIMBERLEY Celebration of the Arts 512/847-5010	15-16 PFLUGERVILLE Deutschen Pfest 512/251-5082	22-23 AUSTIN Bonsai Show 512/266-2655	29 NEW BRAUNFELS Schlitterbahn Race for Habitat 830/625-2351 or 800/572-2626	1-2, 8-9 ODESSA <i>Snoopy</i> 915/362-2329	7 EL PASO Sharon Isbin, Guitar 915/541-4481	9 ODESSA Lindsayan String Quartet 915/563-0921	15-16 ODESSA Depression Era Glass Show 915/337-1297
JOHNSON CITY Cowboy Poetry & Song 830/868-7128	15-16 AUSTIN Antique & Collectible City-Wide Garage Sale 512/441-2828 or 888/441-7133	SAN MARCOS Texas Natural Festival 512/393-5900	27-Jun 13 KERRVILLE Kerrville Folk Festival 830/257-3600	29-30 BANDERA Arts & Crafts Show 830/796-8369	2 MIDLAND Landis & Co Theater of Magik 915/563-0921	7-9 BIG BEND NATIONAL PARK Birds of the Chihuahuan Desert 915/477-2236	14-16 MIDLAND Celebration of the Arts 915/687-1149 or 682-2544	28-Jun 13 EL PASO <i>The Philadelphia Story</i> 915/532-3799
WIMBERLEY Garden Club Tour 512/847-9592	11-16 AUSTIN <i>Chicago</i> 512/471-1444 or 800/731-7469	18-23 AUSTIN <i>Red, White and Tuna</i> 512/478-3603	28-30 MOUNTAIN HOME Texas Longhorn Cattle Drive 830/640-3222	NEW BRAUNFELS Arts & Crafts Show 830/629-5959	7-22 MIDLAND <i>Heaving Bosoms, Hairy Chests</i> 915/682-4111	15-16, 21-23 EL PASO <i>Edith Stein</i> 915/544-0625	29-30 FORT DAVIS Christian Music Festival 915/426-3971	
14-16 KERRVILLE Fly Fishing & Outdoor Show 830/895-4348	CASTROVILLE Antique Show 281/373-9977	20 NEW BRAUNFELS Comal Country Music Show 830/629-4547	28-31 KERRVILLE Texas State Arts & Crafts Fair 830/896-5711	1 VAN HORN Car Show 915/283-2682	4-5 BIG BEND NATIONAL PARK Cacti of Big Bend 915/477-2236	8 EL PASO Carlos Barbosa-Lima 915/541-4481	15 MIDLAND "D-Day to Berlin" 915/563-1000	
15 LLANO Monarch Madness Butterfly Festival 915/247-5354	GRUENE Old Gruene Market Days 830/629-6441	20-23, 27-30 GEORGETOWN <i>On Golden Pond</i> 512/869-7469	29 KINGSLAND Memorialfest 888/505-3350	1-2 ODESSA Quarter Horse Show 915/687-2454	6 EL PASO Fabio Zanon, Solo Guitar 915/541-4481	MIDLAND String Quartet 915/563-0921	15-16 EL PASO Fort Bliss Armed Forces Day Weekend 915/568-2497	
	LLANO Team Roping 915/247-5354		LEAKEY Cowboy Breakfast 830/232-5199			8-9 ODESSA Arts & Crafts Show 915/366-3541	29-31 ANTHONY International Balloon Festival 915/886-2222	
							31 MIDLAND Memorial Day Ceremony 915/563-1000	

Big Bend Country

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Pictures of a Lifetime

Through January 2, 2000, the LBJ Library and Museum in Austin features a grand tribute to one of America's most important photojournalists, David Douglas Duncan, who recently donated his \$15 million archive to the Harry Ransom Center at the University of Texas. **David Douglas Duncan: One Life, A Photographic Odyssey** contains some 400 items, including award-winning photographs, cameras, lenses, field equipment, correspondence, and book materials.

In 1934, Duncan, then an 18-year-old University of Arizona archeology student, heard on the radio that Tucson's Congress Hotel was in flames. He rushed downtown and, with a 39-cent camera given to him by his sister, snapped images of the hotel's frantic guests. When he found out the identity of one guest—the infamous John Dillinger, escaping with a suitcase full of guns and money—a photojournalist was born. Years later, he referred to this impulsive photo-shoot as “the most significant single move of my life.”

As a Marine Corps photographer in World War II's Pacific Theater and a star shooter (1946 to 1956) for *LIFE* magazine, Duncan made a name for himself and for his profession—photojournalism was then in its infancy. He covered the Korean and Vietnam wars, became the first Westerner to train a camera inside the Kremlin, befriended Pablo Picasso and created several intimate portraits of him, brought to life the tumultuous events of the 1968 Democratic national convention, and over the years produced 21 books.

This exhibit contains some of Duncan's most striking 20th-Century images: a Marine at Con Thien, a combative Rich-

COURTESY HARRY RANSOM CENTER, UT AUSTIN



Photographer David Douglas Duncan shot this image of General Eisenhower in Greece in 1952.

ard Nixon, General Eisenhower clowning around in Greece, a Turkish cavalry marching in the snow, Pablo Picasso on his balcony in France, Ava Gardner resting on a movie set, and more.

The LBJ Library and Museum, at 2313 Red River (78705), on the campus of the University of Texas at Austin, opens seven days a week from 9-5. Admission is free. Wheelchair accessible. Call 512/916-5136.

Dig Right in the Garden of Dung and Beetles

In the last week, I've mulched my garden with Texas hardwood chips, planted a cluster of crimson salvia in an old cedar cask, fashioned a handy compost bin, and scheduled a day for roto-tiller rental. Wanna know what has caused the flurry? I've been reading J. Howard Garrett and C. Malcolm Beck's *Texas Organic Vegetable Gardening* (Gulf Publishing Company) and Julie Ryan's *Perennial Gardens for Texas* (University of Texas Press).

It's practically guaranteed

that after you've thumbed through the well-written (and photographed) pages of Howard and Malcolm's paean to organic growing, you'll sniff at such preposterous ideas as chemical fertilizers and pest-eliminators. After all, doesn't the idea of a ladybug squadron taking care of bug patrol sound much more pleasant? After reading a chapter on Howard's basic organic program (essentially, working within nature's carefully designed system), you'll learn how to plant, grow, and harvest fruits and vegetables with nary a noxious substance in sight. Find *Texas Organic Vegetable Gardening* in your library or bookstore (\$21.95 paper), or call 800/392-4390, ext. 300.

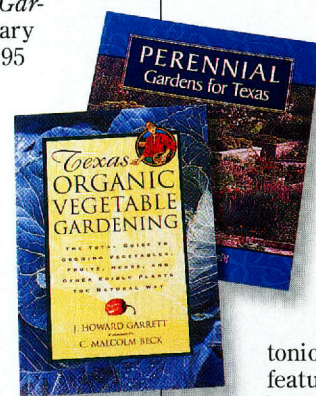
Perennial Gardens for Texas focuses on gardens for personal enjoyment, offering up profiles and photos of dozens of inspirational public and private green spaces, as well as advice on establishing your own outdoor oasis with native plants. Author Julie Ryan describes and shows more than 300 perennial plants suited for Texas climes, providing details on where they grow best and what they need to thrive. Find *Perennial Gardens for Texas* in your library or bookstore (\$27.95 paper, \$50 hardcover), or call 800/252-3206.

Party with a Purpose

Most of the year, the quaint river-front area known as San Antonio's La Villita (little village) imbues visitors with a sense of calm. You can stroll the cobblestone streets, popping into the family-

owned shops and restaurants that occupy buildings from the mid-1800s. But during the city's annual Fiesta! celebration (April 16-25 this year), La Villita explodes with activity, especially during the four-day gastronomic marathon known as NIOSA, or Night in Old San Antonio (April 20-23).

A fund-raiser for the San Antonio Conservation Society, which works to preserve historic places and structures citywide, NIOSA began (under a different name) in 1938 with modest attractions and cookies baked by volunteers. Sixty-one years later, volunteers (16,000 at last count) still run the show, but NIOSA has grown up. Fifteen themed areas, such as the Mexican Market and Tin Pan Alley, represent elements of San Antonio culture. Each features food galore (everything from knackwurst to fruit shish-kabobs), drinks, live music, dancing, and no-holds-barred revelry. A kids' area, called Clown Alley, offers games (lawn bowling and Hula-Hooping, to name two), arts activities, and kid-friendly



COURTESY SAN ANTONIO CONSERVATION SOCIETY



A four-day tradition in San Antonio, *NIOSA* (Night in Old San Antonio) has revelers dancing—and dining—in the streets.

treats like corn dogs and pizza puffs.

NIOSA tickets are for sale at the festival gates, on Nueva, Presa, and Alamo streets (\$8, \$2 ages 6-12, free age 5 and younger). Hours: 5:30-10:30 nightly. For more information and for details on advance ticket sales, write to NIOSA, 511 Paseo de la Villita, San Antonio 78205, or call 210/226-5188.

By the Way...

If you take pleasure in treasure, head to Pasadena on April 10-11 for the **Texas Treasure Expo '99**. Here, you can see the latest in prospecting gear; see discoveries like shipwreck artifacts, coins and tokens, and Civil War relics; learn how to research the histories of your own rare finds; and participate in organized treasure hunts.... call 972/270-8696.

Now that the 66-foot statue of Sam Houston towers over the town of Huntsville, the annual **General Sam Houston Folk Festival** has a year-round spokesman. Join the fest April 16-18 on the grounds of the Sam Houston Memorial Museum, where exhibitors will demonstrate skills needed to survive in pioneer Texas (including blacksmithing, hide-tanning, sheepshearing, pottery-making, and basket-making), storytellers and historical reenactors will entertain, and the 45-minute live production *Gone to Texas* sheds light on the lives of Sam and his contemporaries.... call 409/294-1832.

Through August 8, the Houston Museum of Natural Science will showcase the largest collection of Amazonian tribal artifacts and photos ever assembled in the United States. **Vanishing Arts of the Amazon** includes ornaments, ceremonial masks and full-body costumes, figurines, shields, pottery, baskets, and carved wooden furniture from some 70 cultures of the Amazon Basin. Photos, video footage, and maps help convey to visitors the vanishing life-ways of the indige-



COURTESY HOUSTON MUSEUM OF NATURAL SCIENCE

Vanishing Arts of the Amazon showcases the largest collection of Amazonian tribal artifacts ever assembled in the United States.

nous peoples of the rainforest. ...call 713/639-4629. Web site: www.hmns.org.

The Rio Grande Valley consistently ranks high as a springtime destination for birders and wildlife-watchers. From April 8-11, McAllen hosts the 3rd annual **Texas Tropical Nature Festival** to celebrate the region's flora and fauna. The event includes lectures and seminars (led by such experts as entomologist John Acorn), field trips to area wildlife preserves, and a nature marketplace, where you can browse merchandise from binoculars to walking sticks and books galore.... call 956/682-2871 or (toll-free) 877/MCALLEN.

The **Armand Bayou Nature Center**, a 2,500-acre wildlife refuge and wilderness preserve outside of Houston, hosts its annual **Down on the Farm** event April 3. Visitors can participate in butter- and cheesemaking, ropemaking, and carding and spinning wool; watch demonstrations of roping, sheepshearing, wood-stove cooking, and blacksmithing; and hear talks about Texas history. The festival offers plenty of food and drink, too.... call 281/474-2551.

The Texas Panhandle, dubbed "The Great American Desert" by explorer Stephen Long in 1820, now provides important

cropland for cotton, wheat, sorghum, soy, and corn. At the Panhandle-Plains Historical Museum in Canyon beginning April 17, **The Cow, the Plow, the Sow, and the Hen: Agriculture in the Texas Panhandle** delves into some 800 years of the area's farming and ranching history, using photos, documents, farm equipment, and other artifacts. The exhibit will remain up through December.... call 806/651-2244.

Every visit to Houston's Menil Collection is different, thanks to the museum's vast numbers of always-rotating artworks. Through May 16, the museum hosts **Joseph Cornell/Marcel Duchamp... in resonance**, an assemblage of 82 works that trace the artists' friendship and personal visions. *The New York Times*, which covered the show's opening at the Philadelphia Museum of Art, dubbed the two men "connoisseurs of the commonplace object." The little-known *Duchamp Dossier*, a cardboard box in which Cornell kept some 117 mementos of their friendship, is part of the show.... call 713/525-9400. Web site: www.menil.org.

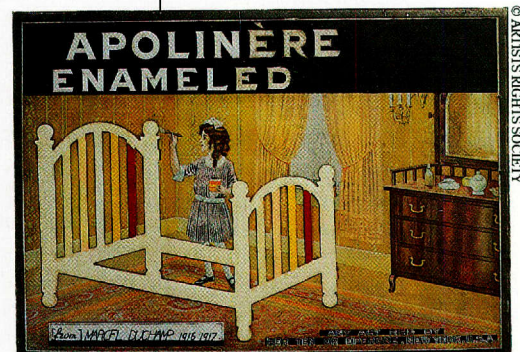
The 33-acre **San Antonio Botanical Garden** explodes in wild color in springtime. Year round, of course, visitors can stroll the landscaped grounds and regard with awe the cacti, rainforest plants, and other rarities in the impressive conservatory complex. On April 10, the center hosts the horticultural fair **iViva Botanica!**, which features plant vendors (exotic offerings include papayas, hibiscus, and gingers), gardening lectures, live music, ethnic-food booths, and activities for kids.... call 210/207-3255.

Through April 11 at the Modern Art Museum of

Visit our Web site at <http://www.texashighways.com>

Fort Worth, the world of Walt Disney takes center stage in **The Architecture of Reasurance: Designing the Disney Theme Parks**. Some 350 objects from the Disney archives, including park models, photos, drawings, posters, and advertisements, examine Disney's parks in Tokyo, Paris, Anaheim, and Orlando. A master of "fantasy architecture," Disney designed many attractions based on the fairy-tale settings of such films as *Peter Pan* and *Pinocchio*, and later delved into futuristic "tomorrowlands" and animatronic figures.... call 817/738-9215.

Craving quartz? Mooning for hematite? Mark your calendars for April 15-18, and make tracks to Alpine for the 10th annual **Big Bend Gem and Mineral Show**. Crystals of all shapes and sizes steal the show this year, with exhibits and demonstrations focusing on hundreds of varieties. You can buy items ranging from jewelry to fossils, vie for prizes in a silent auction, or embark on field trips to collect treasures of your own.... call 915/837-2326.



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The Menil Collection in Houston showcases works of Marcel Duchamp and Joseph Cornell through May 16. This is Duchamp's *Apolinère Enameled*.

TEXCETERA brings you readers' tips and timely travel tidbits. Because we're unable to check out every item in "Readers Recommend," and because details can change, we encourage you to call ahead for more information. When we mention new places, products, or publications, we try to include only those with promise; keep in mind, however, that problems can occur with start-up businesses.

If you run across a noteworthy Lone Star attraction, restaurant, event, or product, we'd love to hear about it. Write to Readers Recommend, *Texas Highways*, Box 141009, Austin 78714-1009. Email: editors@texashighways.com. Remember that space constraints prevent us from running every suggestion we receive. We reserve the right to edit items.

READERS RECOMMEND...

For the finest Mexican food served in a friendly atmosphere, we recommend **Mama Chole's Mexican Restaurant in Leakey**. And the Hill Country scenery getting there is simply beautiful.

Gene and Gwen Proft, Leakey
Mama Chole's is on US 83 in downtown Leakey; 830/232-6111.

As an additional resource to Joe Grey's article on old gas stations [January issue], I recommend the relatively new **Shell Oil Company Museum**, located in the lobby of Shell's corporate headquarters in **Houston**. The museum traces the history of Shell in the United States [and covers] all aspects of the petroleum and chemical business. Most people enjoy the early marketing memorabilia, which includes several old pumps, a 1928 horse-drawn tank-wagon, and numerous small displays of service station items dating to 1912.

There are also some wonderful models of offshore drilling platforms and chemical plants.

Edson D. Dronberger, Houston, via email

The Shell Oil Company Museum (open weekdays 9:30-4:30) is in One Shell Plaza, at 900 Louisiana Street in Houston; 713/241-4900.

During a pleasant Sunday drive through the Hill Country, we enjoyed a beautiful afternoon at **Enchanted Rock State**

Natural Area, and dined at the splendid **Hill Top Cafe**, near Fredericksburg.

Morgan Rhodes, Austin
Enchanted Rock State Natural Area is on RR 965, north of Fredericksburg; 915/247-3903. Hill Top Cafe is on US 87, 10 miles northwest of Fredericksburg; 830/997-8922.

NEW DIGS

South Padre Island's **Sea Turtle, Inc.**, dedicated to saving the shelled reptiles (see *For the Road*, August 1998), is on the move. Awaiting completion of a brand-new facility in about a year, the organization recently moved to a temporary location, at 6617 Padre Boulevard. Volunteers have resumed their "Meet the Turtles" shows on Tuesday and Saturday mornings at 10. Ask about special programs held for groups during the week. Write to Box 3987, South Padre Island 78597; 956/761-1720. Web site: www.seaturtleinc.com.

UP AND RUNNING

That indispensable Lone Star reference, **The New Handbook of Texas**, is now available online at www.tsha.utexas.edu. With these few keystrokes, folks can access the Texas State Historical Association's comprehensive compilation of information on Texas history, geography, and culture. The online edition includes all 23,400 articles published in the 1996 print version (and corrections made

in the second printing), as well as 400 new articles. Eventually, browsers will enjoy illustrations, expanded links for additional information, and the ability to communicate with *Handbook* editors. Write to the Texas State Historical Association, SRH 2.306, University Station, Austin 78712; 512/471-1525.

CHAMPIONS, INDEED

In the November/December 1998 issue, *Audubon* magazine named **Lyndon and Lady Bird Johnson** to its list of 100 Champions of Conservation, honoring those "who shaped the environmental movement and made

COURTESY FORT WORTH ZOO



At press time, a naming contest was in the works for this new cutie at the Fort Worth Zoo.

the 20th century particularly American." The Johnsons were the only married couple on the list, which also included John Muir, Dian Fossey, Jacques Yves Cousteau, and Richard Nixon.

DOWNTURN

We're sad to report that the mega millennium celebration, **The Turn: America at the Millennium**—scheduled to run November 26, 1999, through January 2, 2000, at Dallas' Fair Park—has been **cancelled** for financial reasons.

BIGGER AND BETTER

Folks at the **Amon Carter Museum in Fort Worth** are finalizing plans for a major expansion

that will more than triple the museum's gallery space, to 27,000-plus square feet. The new design also calls for a 170-seat auditorium, expanded library and research facilities, a larger retail space, and another public entrance. Museum officials expect to announce a completion date this spring. Write to 3501 Camp Bowie Boulevard, Fort Worth 76107-2695; 817/738-1933. Web site: www.cartermuseum.org.

Also in Cowtown, the **Fort Worth Zoo** has broken ground on **Texas Wild**. The \$35 million, 8-acre exhibit will reflect Texas' diverse landscapes and animal life, and detail our

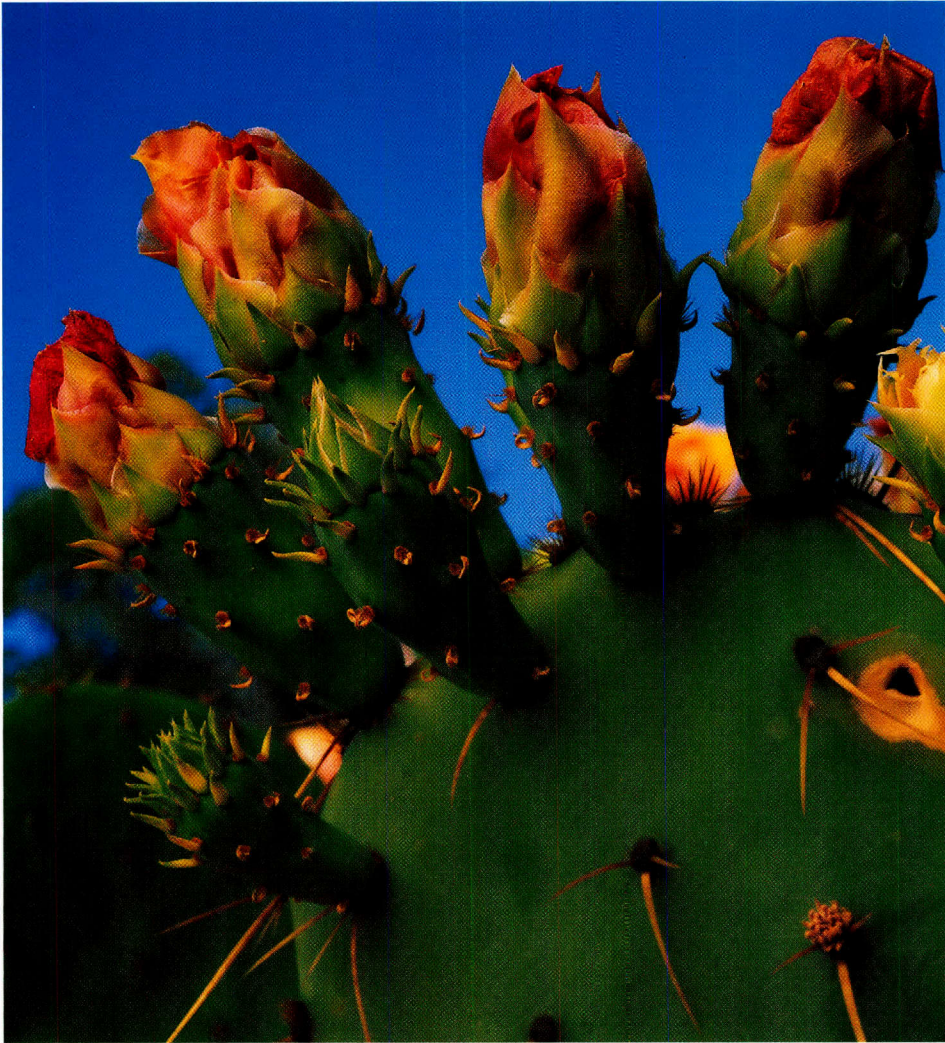
role in protecting the environment. Look for the grand opening in the fall of 2000. Meanwhile, the zoo is ecstatic over the recent birth of an elephant—the first in the zoo's 90-year history.

Mother Rasha—the talented paintin' and NFL prognosticatin' pachyderm—and baby are doing fine. Write to 1989 Colonial Parkway, Fort Worth 76110; 817/871-7050. Web site: www.fortworthzoo.com.

Down the Road

In May, you'll find us on location at Brackettville's Alamo Village, and splashing into the past at nearby Fort Clark Springs. We'll reel in a story on Rockport, and bring you an amazing array of images by our favorite photography editor, Mike Murphy.

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A close-up view of a prickly pear in Kerr County reveals flower buds about to pop into full blossom. In 1995, state legislators honored the thorny, prolific cactus by designating it as Texas' official state plant.

