



Austin Chapter Celebrating 13 years
of outdoor fun!

“Our mission is to provide all women the opportunity to learn and experience outdoor activities in natural surroundings through a safe, non-threatening, and supportive environment.”

TOWN LEADERSHIP TEAM

Coordinator/President – Jacque Austin
jsaustin54@sbcglobal.net

Membership Chair – Jenn Trivette
jltrivette@yahoo.com

Club Treasurer – Janet Fitzsimon-Barr
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Webmaster - Jacque Austin
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Club Newsletter – Dawn Goodall
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Outings Coordinator – Judy Dunavant
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Publicity Chair – June Apprill
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Club Secretary – Cindy Frey
cef0490@yahoo.com

Club Historian – Paulette Boudreaux
pboudreaux@eccwireless.com

Austin TOWN P.O. Box 300494
Austin, TX 78703

Next Meeting is Tuesday, Jan. 27th at 6pm.

We'll have pizza at 6pm with our short business meeting to follow at 6:30.

Our speaker, Ashley Matthews, will begin about 7pm.

Ashley has been employed by TPWD for nine years and managed the BOW program for seven of those. Most of you will recognize BOW as Becoming an Outdoor Woman and the reason the TOWN groups exist. We owe who we are to BOW and TPWD. Ashley will share details about upcoming BOW weekends and past events of past weekends.

If you have not attended a BOW weekend, come hear Ashley and I expect you will be hopping on one foot to experience it. I attended two – the first at Camp Ben McCullough near Ink Lakes and the second at Camp for All near Brenham. I took classes in: archery, horseback riding, kayaking, geocaching, Texas natural plants, backpacking, and nature journaling. I'm looking forward to attending again to take mountain biking and a redo of the nature journaling.

Jacque TOWN-Austin Coordinator



Learn more about
your TOWN board members...see page 8

TOWN Meetings are held the 4th Tuesday of each month, in conference room 225 at the LCRA Red Bud Center.

Outings discussion at 6PM, meeting starts at 6:30PM.

Directions to 3601 Lake Austin Blvd. The LCRA Red Bud Center is located at the corner of Lake Austin Blvd and Red Bud Trail. Park in front of the building. The front entrance is located on the 2nd floor. We will meet in conference room 225.

Here's a list of upcoming speakers for our TOWN meetings:

February -REI – Backpacking 101

March-Intro to Scuba Diving

(with outing scheduled the following Saturday)

April- NOAA Weather

May-Blue Birds

June-Wind Power and Wildlife

**Check out all the fun outings
already scheduled for this year
on the following pages!**

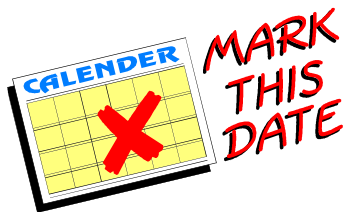
**Important from Jenn Trivette,
our membership chair.**

**Last reminder to turn in your
membership dues by February 1st.**



I just realized that I haven't paid yet, that would be embarrassing. I'm hoping to have the new roster by mid-February, so it will take me a couple of weeks to go through the renewals. If you are having a problem with the date...if it is too soon for you, just email me and let me know. I would rather extend the date for someone than to delete them and have to add them again later. If I accidentally delete you and you stop receiving emails, let me know that too. If you have any questions or comments, feel free to contact me.

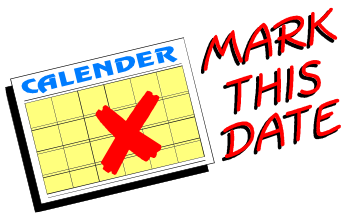
Please go to our website

(www.townaustin.org), download a copy of the membership form (the join TOWN! link), write a check for \$20 and either: mail it to the PO Box on the membership form or hand it to an officer at the January general meeting (preferably to myself or Janet Fitzsimon-Barr)




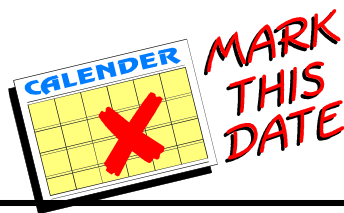
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<p>Bird Island Kayaking & Dinner Open to TOWN women and men and children. Dogs will not be allowed in the restaurant. We will meet at "Town Lake Park," (not sure if that is the official name) at the end of Nash Hernandez St. in East Austin. This parking lot has a nice boat ramp into Lady Bird Lake. We will put in at that boat ramp by 3:45 pm or 4:00 pm and paddle down toward Bird Island. We will explore the edges of Bird Island as birds come home to roost for the evening. According to Audubon folks, we should see some birds in January. Some of our birding people can get us excited about what we might see. Around 5:15 pm we will paddle the short way back to our put-in site, load up our kayaks, and proceed to Juan-in-a-Million for an excellent Mexican dinner at 6:00 pm. Contact Marilyn 512.851.9000 cell 512-964-3153 mjfowler@austin.rr.com</p>	<p>Saturday, January 31 3:30- 7:30 p.m.</p> 
<p>Pedernales Falls State Park Hike Open to TOWN members and their friends/family. We will hike the seven mile Wolf Mountain Trail. During the hike we will stop for a snack/lunch break along the trail. You will provide your own food and water. RSVP Vanessa Verstuyft (verstuyftv@yahoo.com) Cell # 512-294-7233</p>	<p>Saturday, February 7 10:00 a.m.</p>
<p>Camping at Lake Georgetown COE Park Cedar Breaks Campground Everyone Invited Let's try some winter camping at a nearby campground in Georgetown. We will be camping at Cedar Breaks campground within the park This campground has a really nice nearby hiking/biking trail that goes over the dam as well as a nearby boat ramp for kayaks if the weather is good. If you are a tent camper, do not make a reservation – just camp on one of the RV sites already reserved. This is a Corp of Engineers park, so if you are 62 or older you get ½ price camping - when you arrive get a senior pass for \$10 at the admission station, if you don't already have one. Call 1-800-444-6777 or go to www.recreation.gov to make your reservation at the Cedar Breaks campground. Reservations are the same as at State Parks – you can't reserve a particular site. When you arrive, ask for a site near #38. Come for the weekend or come for the day. RSVP Amelia Greene ameliatx@hotmail.com</p>	<p>Fri. Feb. 6 – Sun Feb. 8</p>
<p>12th Annual Celebration of Whooping Cranes in Port Aransas. Ladies, pets, family members invited. Tours fill up fast - make reservations before arriving. A \$20.00 registration fee that permits you to attend all speaker sessions at the UT Marine Science Institute Visitor Center Auditorium and allows you discounted rates on the birding and nature trips. There is a free Bird Nest Trade Show located in the Port Aransas Civic Center from 9-5 Friday through Sunday. Whooping Crane Boat Tours are available for \$30.00. They are 4.5 hours long on the Wharf Cat Boat and are led by the different speakers at the festival. The guided boat tour goes to the Aransas National Wildlife Refuge to view the endangered Whooping Cranes in their winter habitat. Update – some of us have reserved the Sat 12:30 Whooping Crane Boat Tour (This tour leaves Fisherman's Wharf.) Animal Rehabilitation Keep (ARK Tours) are \$10.00 and are 1 hour long. The UTMSI is dedicated to the rescue, rehabilitation, and release of injured and sick sea turtles and aquatic birds. You will see some of the rarest sea turtles including Kemp's Ridley's, hawksbills, loggerheads, ornate box turtles, tortoises, and green turtles. Pelicans and gulls can be seen. Tour proceeds provide funding for the program. Some of us have reserved the Sat 10AM ARK Tour at the UTMSI building. \$8.00 <i>(see next page of calendar for addtl. info!!!)</i></p>	<p>Thursday - Sunday, February 26 - March 1</p> 




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<p>12th Annual Celebration of Whooping Cranes in Port Aransas. (cont.from previous page) Fennessy Ranch Tours are \$40.00, last 6 hours, water and snacks provided. The Ranch is part of a legendary 750,000 acre Texas land empire that has remained in the same family for 171 years. The ranch consists of 4,000 acres of abundant wetlands, meadows, natural lakes, riparian woods, and brush land bordered by three sides by the Mission River.</p> <p>Some of us have reserved the Fri 6AM Fennessy Ranch Field Trip \$40.00 A bus will take us from the Port A civic center to the ranch and back. This is a guided field trip with a host that is knowledgeable with the bird sanctuaries on the Fennessy Ranch. Also you will be riding on a hay wagon while on the tour RSVP to Paulette pboudreaux@eccwireless.com</p>	
<p>Becoming an Outdoor Women (BOW) Weekend This is an incredible experience for women. Email this link for additional information. BAOW@tpwd.state.tx.us</p>	 <p>Friday - Sunday, March 6 - 8</p>
<p>Scuba Diving for the beginner –at Tom’s Dive and Swim Shop</p>	<p>March 28th</p>
<p>Outing to Washington on the Brazos State Park. Barrington Farms will have Real Texas Women's day. More info and RSVP to Lisa King stephenweezy@eccwireless.com</p>	<p>March 28 and 29</p>
<p>TOWN Outreach Event Lake Somerville, Birch Creek Unit Families, friends, and well behaved dogs are invited We are inviting Waco, Houston, and San Marcos TOWN groups to join us, as this is a central location. Activities available include kayaking, canoeing (rentals available), hiking trails, biking roads, and a fishing pier. Also there is another part of the park that allows horses and has a horse trail. The Lake Somerville Trailway, located around the west end of the reservoir, connects Birch Creek State Park with Nails Creek State Park via 13 miles of trails for hiking, mountain biking, horseback riding, backpacking, birding, and nature study. Flag Pond, located approximately 4 miles from Nails Creek State Park and 9 miles from Birch Creek State Park along the Somerville Trailway, provides wildlife viewing opportunities in conjunction with a system of interpretive trails, nature study, outdoor classrooms, and wildlife photography. The Flag Pond Nature Theater provides an excellent wildlife-viewing platform. TOWN AUSTIN is renting the very nice Group Dining Facility for Friday and Saturday, useable 10:00 a.m. to 9:00 p.m. The facility includes AC/Heat, BBQ grill, refrig, stove and oven, microwave, double sink, tables and seating, and bathroom (toilets only) By renting the dining area, there will be 14 RV sites with electric and water available only for our group, and up to 20 tent sites around the perimeter. RV sites cost \$16/ per night, tent sites are \$10/ per night. There is a \$3 per day use fee if you don't have a TX Park Pass, which admits anyone in your vehicle. Sites are first come first served paid at the facility upon arrival. We will take names of definites, so we will know if we need overflow reservations. The showers are in different parts of the park, with sites 31-60 (Post Oak) being closest--short trail thru woods, and by road. We are planning to utilize the Dining Hall for educational classes that our members with special knowledge or experience can share with interested TOWNIES--Please let Beverly or Paulette know what you might be interested in teaching or learning or anyone willing to lead an excursion is welcome to volunteer. Beverly Travis 254-421-3896, brtravis@hot.rr.com Paulette Boudreaux, 512-589-3438, pboudreaux@eccwireless.com</p>	<p>Thursday- Sunday, April 2-5</p>



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<p>Texas Sand Sculpture 3-Day Festival (Texas Sandfest) Trip open to everyone. Dogs allowed as long as they are well behaved. Location: Port Aransas, Texas on the beach, one mile south of Horace Caldwell Pier, near beach marker 9 - 11. Benefits: Art Center For The Islands, Port Aransas Community Theatre, Port Aransas Food Pantry, & Port Aransas Preservation & Historical Association It is highly recommended that you book your place to stay soon as possible as the island gets sold out very quickly for this event. We will weather pending include a kayak trip, bike riding, souvenir shopping, boogie boarding, pier fishing and a campfire on the beach at night with s'mores etc. More details to follow. Those interested in camping, I recommend: http://www.surfsiderv.com/ I have camped here. Unfortunately they don't allow tenters; however they have excellent showers and restroom facilities and a very helpful staff. It is located one block from the beach which is within walking distance. Tenters check this link http://www.onthebeachrvpark.com/ This campground allows tenters. I have not camped here before, but will be physically checking out the facility when I am in Port A for the Whooping Crane Festival at the end of February and will report back with the pros and cons of the facility. For those who need a condo/hotel I recommend: http://www.alaughinghorselodge.com/ This facility allows pets. Please make your own reservations and then let me know how many in your party are coming, a phone number and what day you will be arriving. If you have any questions please don't hesitate to contact Paulette. 512-589-3438. pboudreaux@eccwireless.com Check this link for more information. http://www.texassandfest.com/</p>	<p>Friday - Sunday, April 17 - 19</p> 
<p>Palo Duro/Caprock Canyons Camping Trip TOWN members and guests invited Do you want to get away from it all? Go somewhere that I like to refer as "the middle of nowhere"? Hear the coyotes howl and see a billion stars at night? Please come join me in the Panhandle of Texas! I am camping in Caprock Canyons and Palo Duro State Parks the week of May 17-23. <u>Schedule:</u> Arriving Caprock Canyons the afternoon of Sunday, May 17th Leaving Caprock and driving 90+ miles to Palo Duro On Wed, May 20th – camping there until Sunday, May 23rd RSVP Gloria Blagg 512-426-9740 (cell) gloria_blagg@sbcglobal.net</p>	<p>May 17-23</p>

Pictures of Palo Duro taken by Dawn 2008...it was beautiful and I am going again on Gloria's trip!



Trip Reports



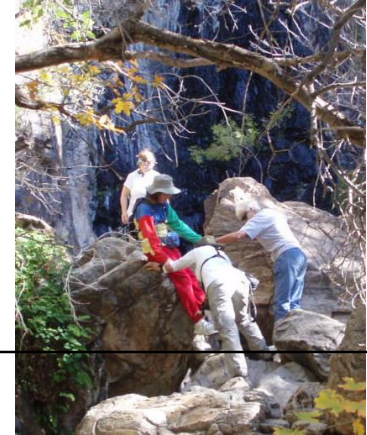
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Big Bend November outing

This photo taken by Marilyn shows some of the at an oak tree near the trail to Cattail Falls. I was the photographer, so was not in the photo.

The others are, left to right:

- Amelia Greene
- Cindy Frey
- Linda Barnett
- Jacque "Cameraface" Austin
- Gloria Blagg



Here's one I took - also at Cattail Falls hike. I like the picture because it shows teamwork – women helping each other over some large boulders. Marilyn is in the rear, Cindy is sitting on the rock and Amelia and Jacque are helping her. Linda is hidden off to the right - you can see her through the trees.
Submitted by Gloria Blagg



Inks Lake State Park Campout Sept 2008 submitted by Marie Wilson

McKinney Roughs - 12/14/2008 Submitted by Jenn Trivette

Where did yesterday's weather go? I do recall sweating yesterday. Diana, JanetE, Jacque, Jane, and Carole joined JanetC and me at McKinney Roughs at noon yesterday to enjoy the unusually warm weather. What a beautiful day for a walk in the woods, and walk we did.

We started out on Coyote Road, to Riverside, around Pine Ridge and out Bobcat (go Bobcats!) Ridge. I'm thinking we walked about 4 miles or so, hard to tell without high tech equipment. Since it is December (Christmas is next week!) there wasn't much blooming, but a lot of pine needles and leaves on the ground. We also saw FOUR armadillos...yes, 4 armadillos. I guess it could have been just the one following us around, but I don't think so. We were all kind of surprised at how quickly those creatures moved, what with all the armor they have to carry around.

The Colorado River still had some water left in it and we went down to get a closer look. Of course, after we were looking around, Jacque decided to lead us back to the path via the rocky route. I hear she is becoming a fan of bouldering. :) Towards the end of the walk, we saw the damage from last spring's fire; there was a very definite desolate stretch that is only now beginning to be born again.

Carol, Jane, Jacque, Janet, Jenn, Janet,
Pictures taken by Diana Halcomb



Trip Reports



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Lake Georgetown Goodwater Loop - 10 mile hike Veteran's Day - Nov 11th
Vanessa, Jenn, Lisa Picture taken by Diana Halcomb

Enchanted Rock hike, on Nov. 22

The day was cool and overcast, but eleven adventurous women and two very cute dogs, set out on a hike up a very big granite dome. At the top of this large granite dome was a cave. Four of the eleven ladies ventured in to the dark cave and made it out the other side with minor bumps and scrapes. The group scrambled about the top of the dome before they headed down for a quick snack to recharge themselves for heading out on the Loop trail. The loop trail was full of cool little rock out crops to explore. The day, was a day full of fresh air, cool rocks, and awesome trees, what more could you ask for. Thank you ladies for joining me and my boy's on our hike. Smile, Vanessa, Kramer and Cosmo :O)



Paulette, Adela, Janet and Beverly
at Lake Belton Camp Out in
December.
Submitted by Adela

All photos below are from Holiday Party at McKinney Falls...more on next page!





**TOWN-Austin
Holiday Party**

Well, did we plan this right or what! The weather was totally cooperative for Thursday morning – Sunday morning. I must admit the 44 degree greeting this morning was a bit brisk, but we TOWNies are tough.

This is certainly the most diverse group to attend a TOWN-Austin Holiday Party.

Thirty TOWN members, five husbands, five grandchildren, one 3 month old baby girl daughter, an adult daughter, a sister-in-law, one additional guest, and seven dogs gathered at various intervals during the four days to enjoy: visiting, hiking, munching, biking, eating, game playing, dog walking, playing football, snacking, coyote listening, birding, geocaching, making music, reading, and just sittin' in the sun.

TOWN-Austin members attending were: Amelia, MarieW, CarolB, Sabine (with 3-month baby girl Eva), JudyD (with hubby Mr. Mike), GloriaB, HeidiB, StacyK, CarrieL, SandyB, Adela, SuzanneH, Jacque (with Sweet Steve), CJ Vaughn (from Aransas Pass), PauletteB (with the ultimate "I'll help you do that" husband Henry), JanetF-SB (with photographer husband Bruce), LisaW, BeverlyT (with her geocaching grandkids Joseph, Joshua, Rachel, and Rebekah), JuneA (with daughter Tara and grandson Elijah and friend Jack), Dawn, JoanF, JennT, JanetC, AndraC (a very good sport with her brave husband Duane), JanisK (with sister-in-law Virginia from Midland who is a extremely good sport), MarilynF, and SandyO (who we welcome back from way-too-long hiatus).

Three San Marcos TOWN members joined us: AnnaF, Dorothy, and LindaL. Bring more of your compatriots next time!

Seven canines enjoyed the companionship and coyotes: Sassy (Stacy & Heidi), Camper (from Aransas Pass with CJ), Max and Beaver (Janet's two sweeties), Snuggles and Shotzy (Amelia's tough twosome), and Zoe (my sweet baby girl on her first camping overnight).

The pot-luck dinner was almost too perfectly healthy with widely varied selections for everyone to sample. Next time though we might need to assign desserts! Thanks to each of you who: cooked and warmed food, cleaned the kitchen, washed dishes, set up/ took down tables and chairs, swept the floor, locked/unlocked doors, opened/closed shutters, shuttled food between cars – this TOWN team works so well together! Paulette had a special kitchen assignment at which she excelled – counting furry creatures.

And thanks to Stacy and Janet for leading our outdoor activities (hiking and cycling). No one got lost and we all returned in time for lunch on Saturday. The White Elephant Gift Exchange is always memorable, especially when some gifts return year after year. (The foot with its leg returned from last year's party.) The marsh mellow popping gum was very popular as were some squeeze-me animal toys. And thanks all you adults for allowing our kid guests to steal your toys! My favorite was the monkey carved from a coconut – Amelia was hiding it.

And thanks from me to everyone who attended and asked "what can I do to help?"

It makes my job sooo much easier and the event more enjoyable.

What would we do without our TOWN-Austin Holiday Party to initiate our new year!

Submitted by Jacque TOWN-Austin Coordinator



**Meet your Volunteer
TOWN Board Members!**



Check website for updated info
www.townaustin.org



June Apprill -Publicity Chair

My company, AT&T, moved me from MO to Austin in 1995. I retired Nov 07 and loving it! My favorite activities are traveling in my Sportsmobile with my dog Misha, kayaking, hiking...almost anything outdoors. My daughter and grandson live in Wisconsin. (that's when I head North).



Jacque Austin - Coordinator/President – member of TOWN-Austin since 2003;

Web Woman in 2007, and currently coordinator/president; enjoy bicycling, geocaching, kayaking, and just being outside; married to Sweet Steve who found TOWN-Austin and forced me to attend a meeting; retired from DSHS – currently work as a consultant for WIC and State of Texas; moved to Austin from Houston when I married Steve and the boys; pets - sweet girls Zoe and Poquito – both adopted from Town Lake Animal Center; volunteer at Town Lake Animal Center since 2001 *TOWN-Austin, its members, and the activities we share enhance my life, and in doing so, provide encouragement for what we can accomplish as women for women.*



Janet Fitzsimon-Barr - Club Treasurer

Favorite outdoor activity - biking
Husband Bruce loves outdoors and is owner by a black lab named Max and Cat Extraordinaire Junior; other pets are Shih Tzu Beaver and cat Moonshadow
Manager at NW Veterinary Hospital off 2222
Originally from a big family in San Antonio
TOWN is the best group of people I have ever met in one place!



Paulette Boudreaux – Club Historian

Favorite Outdoor Activity:
Horseback Riding
President,
Environmental Consulting Firm
Originally from Lafayette, LA
Pets: Horses, dogs, cats, chickens, calves, goats, donkey

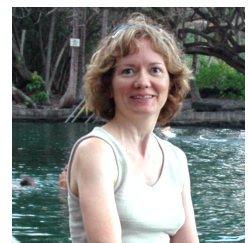


Judy Johnson Dunavant – Outings Coordinator

Camping, hiking, birding, backpacking, biking, anything outdoors. Family includes husband, Dr. Michael Dunavant; 2 grown sons, 4 grandchildren, 3 and nearly 4 great grandchildren. Real Estate Agent with Carrie L. Lasseter, Real Estate Broker. Retired school district Technology Director. Born in Paris, TX, moved to Austin 3 1/2 years ago from Corsicana, TX. No pets except the birds we feed in the backyard.

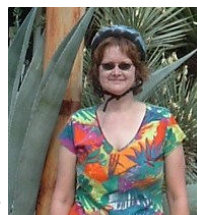
Cindy Frey – Club Secretary

Favorite outdoor activities, they are mtn. biking and kayaking. I am an Information Resource Support Specialist for the State of Texas, which means I install and support hardware & software. Originally from Michigan where most of my family lives, lived in Austin for 24 years. Graduated from St. Edward's University with a Bachelor's degree in CIS in 2006, am a Big Sister for Big Brothers/Big Sisters, have a Great Dane/Lab mix named Megan.



Jenn Trivette – Membership Chair

Favorite outdoor activity: walking/hiking
Immediate Family: 1 significant other, 1 daughter
Work: Microbiologist,
Texas Animal Health Commission
Origins: I grew up in Seattle, Washington, but have lived in the South Austin area for 6 years now;
Austin has a vibe similar to Seattle (I love them both).
Pets: I have a 7 year old daughter, Jessie :)



Dawn Goodall - Newsletter

Favorite activity – snorkeling...
hiking, camping, kayaking, landscape and wildflower photography
Self-employed (place advertising for clients)
Grew up in Houston and graduated from UT, lived in the Smokies for 15 years, now back in Austin.
have a black Lab named Lady