



www.townaustin.org

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  
janetfb@austin.rr.com

**Webmaster** - Jacque Austin  
jsaustin54@sbcglobal.net

**Club Newsletter** – Dawn Goodall  
2emailDawn@gmail.com

**Outings Coordinator** – Judy Dunavant  
judydunavant@sbcglobal.net

**Publicity Chair** – June Apprill  
japprill@swbell.net

**Club Secretary** – Cindy Frey  
cef0490@yahoo.com

**Club Historian** – Paulette Boudreaux  
pboudreaux@eccwireless.com

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

**May 26** - Our speaker is **Pauline Tom of the Texas Bluebird Society** who is a self-trained "bluebirder". Her passion for bluebirds and bluebirding started before she ever spotted a bluebird. She spreads "Bluebirds Across Texas ... one nest box at a time" through a weekly local newspaper column. Pauline will talk about "Managing for Bluebirds" which will include how to: locate, create, and enhance bluebird habitat in Central Texas; wisely select and easily install bluebird nest boxes in Central Texas in a manner that will attract various native species; monitor and report through Cornell's "NestWatch" program; recognize nests and eggs; and manage predators and problems (including House Sparrows).

Join us to learn more from Pauline - a super source.

**From our April meeting** – (submitted by Lisa Sands) Eighteen members and one guest gathered to hear **Paul Yura, Warning Coordination Meteorologist, with the National Weather Service Austin/San Antonio** discuss weather hazards of south central Texas. The mission of the National Weather Service is the protection of life and property, and the enhancement of the national economy. The second part of that mission may seem strange but through more precise forecasting, the impact of hurricanes on refineries (when to shut down), blizzards (affect on air travel), and weather that affects shipping and trucking, (i.e., the economic impact of storms) can be minimized. Paul's job involves ensuring that weather warnings are issued in a timely fashion, conducting educational sessions with schools, community groups, etc., and general public relations. There are 122 National Weather Service field offices and all areas of the US fall under the jurisdiction of some office. The Austin/San Antonio office (which is in New Braunfels) is responsible for 33 counties. Duties for each office include issuing severe weather warnings and watches, public forecasts (the seven day forecast), river stage monitoring and warnings, aviation forecasts, air quality/hazmat (e.g., wind effect on chemical spills), and fire weather (e.g., prescribed burns based on forecast). The offices are open 24 hours a day. His office has only 25 staff (including 10 meteorologists) and they work rotating shifts (including weekends).

(See Lisa's email for additional details and information that he provided which are very applicable to safety outdoors.)

**Kayaking and beginner lessons** at The Rowing Dock.

Don't forget to sign up for **next Wednesday evening**.

There are a few spaces left. For more info contact

Joy at jle0987@yahoo.com

**TOWN Meetings are the 4th Tuesday of each month**, 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 2<sup>nd</sup> floor; in conference room 225.

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

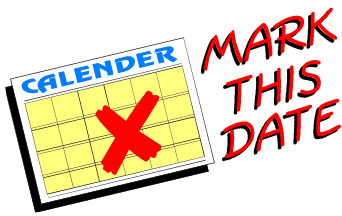
**June - Kathy Boydston** from TPWD will talk about wind power and its effect on wildlife.

**July - Jeff Connelly** will share with us the details of his Appalachian Trail adventure hiking.




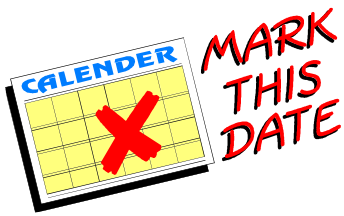
Picture from Lisa Sands... "the fawn came from the house next door to mine.

A doe has been leaving it in our yards for a few hours each morning."





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<p><b>Sunday May 31 Birding (8am) and Hiking (9am) at Pedernales Falls State Park Everyone is welcome - family and friends. \$5 entry fee into the state park.</b> Join me at the bird blind at 8am and we'll check out the winged fauna. Then at 9am we'll meet to hike the Wolf Mountain Trail. Stop by the park office and pick up a map or ask staff about locating the Wolf Mountain Trail. Think carefully before bring dogs and young children. The trail will be hot as there is limited shade. <a href="http://www.tpwd.state.tx.us/spdest/findadest/parks/pedernales_falls/">http://www.tpwd.state.tx.us/spdest/findadest/parks/pedernales_falls/</a> <a href="http://www.tpwd.state.tx.us/publications/parkguide/rgn_hc_014.phtml">http://www.tpwd.state.tx.us/publications/parkguide/rgn_hc_014.phtml</a> <b>Bring:</b> sunscreen, water, snack/food. <b>Wear:</b> hiking boots or strong tennis shoes. <b>Prepare:</b> Wolf Mountain Trail is about 4.5 miles. If you bring your dog, provide water. Watch your email for additional details as the date approaches. We will be watching the weather.</p>	<p>RSVP to Jacque jsaustin54@ sbcglobal.net</p> 
<p><b>Saturday June 6 Kayaking on Lady Bird Lake 9am</b> Let's meet at the Rowing Dock off Stratford Dr. where we meet at on Wednesday. That way ladies who can't come on Wednesday can rent a kayak and join us. We will go to Red Bud Island and see the most beautiful part of the lake - the part with the cliffs. We will meet at 9:00 - just in case it is hot that day. Please RSVP so we will know to wait for you. If you don't RSVP - just be there on time. <a href="http://www.rowingdock.com">www.rowingdock.com</a>. (map available)</p>	<p>RSVP to Amelia ameliatx@ hotmail.com</p>
<p><b>Monday - Wednesday June 8 - 10 Camping at Inks Lake State Park.</b> Anyone who can join us is welcome. I will have an RV on the site, but there should be plenty of room for tents. We can have 8 people per site. I know it will be hot but we can spend most of the day in/on the water to stay cool. Bring fishing equipment, bikes, kayaks, canoes, floating chairs, etc. We can hike, bird watch, fish, kayak, or just chill in the heat, etc. Also, if anyone is interested, we could tour some of the surrounding towns. Inks Lake website is: <a href="http://www.tpwd.state.tx.us/spdest/findadest/parks/inks/">http://www.tpwd.state.tx.us/spdest/findadest/parks/inks/</a>. You can go to <a href="http://www.reserveamerica.com">http://www.reserveamerica.com</a> to reserve your own site. Otherwise, let me know and you can tent on my site. Hope you can join me.</p>	<p>RSVP Judy judydunavant@ sbcglobal.net</p>
<p><b>June 12, 13 and 14 Camping at Lake Mineral Wells,</b> (I reserved my site for the night of the 14 too so I could stay until dark and then drive back that night). This is open to all members and their guests. This park has it all!!! Drive time from North Austin is 3 hours; it is west of Dallas. There is: 1.) a very pretty lake (with kayak and canoe rentals) 2.) a fun hike along a cliff with huge boulders (where a lot of people rock climb) 3.) a Trailway for hikers, bicyclists, and equestrians. (Since the Trailway is located on a railroad bed, the grades are very flat and curves are very gentle, making it popular for trail users of all ages and abilities fairly level bike trail). 4.) Campsites ON the water (some have lots of shade trees, and very level so that you can ease your kayak into water). I have not been able to reserve on the Reserve America site for the last 2 weeks, so do as I did and call the T P &amp; W number to reserve - 389-8900 (Mon and Tues are their busiest days, so plan on calling when you can hold with a remote phone, or leave a call back number). I plan to organize kayaking, hiking &amp; birding (170 species of birds there...see their birding list) and bike riding (on the level trail) events, generally for early morning and late afternoon times...that will be done closer to the dates when I see weather details. I am not a potluck dinner organizer 'cause I will want to be out enjoying the park as the day cools until nightfall... <a href="http://www.tpwd.state.tx.us/spdest/findadest/parks/lake_mineral_wells/">http://www.tpwd.state.tx.us/spdest/findadest/parks/lake_mineral_wells/</a></p>	<p>RSVP to Dawn 2emildawn@ gmail.com</p>



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<p><b>Saturday June 28 Hiking at Walnut Creek Metropolitan Park 9am</b></p>	<p>Led by Jenn jltrivette@yahoo.com &amp; Jacque jsaustin54@sbcglobal.net</p>
<p><b>Saturday July 4 Fourth of July Fireworks Flotilla at Lady Bird Lake 8pm.</b> Everyone and their firework non-fearing dog is invited. Launch site to be announced. <b>Three cheers for the Red, White and Blue!</b> Come and catch the Austin 4th of July fireworks from a new cooler perspective on Lady Bird Lake! We will paddle our kayaks (canoes or rafts) just before sunset in Austinesque style to catch the bat emergence, listen to the orchestra music, and watch the fireworks display in TOWN style! The paddle back will be by almost a full moon, but bring a headlamp or boat light just in case. Bring water/nonalcoholic beverage of choice, snacks, and PFD. This year let's compete for the most patriotic theme, with a small token gift to the winner. <u>Sorry, no boat rentals are available.</u></p>	<p>RSVP to Lisa lisamarengo@hotmail.com</p> 
<p><b>Sunday July 5 Death March at Bastrop State Park 9am</b></p>	<p>Led by Jenn jltrivette@yahoo.com</p>
<p><b>Saturday July 11 Hamilton Pool Swim (early)</b></p>	<p>Led by Jenn jltrivette@yahoo.com</p>
<p><b>Saturday July 19 Hiking at Mary Moore Searight Park 9am</b></p>	<p>Led by Jenn jltrivette@yahoo.com</p>
<p><b>Saturday July 25 Hiking the Greenbelt 9am</b></p>	<p>Led by Jenn jltrivette@yahoo.com</p>
<p><b>August 7-9 Camping at Guadalupe River State Park</b></p>	<p>RSVP to Dawn 2emaildawn@gmail.com</p>
<p><b>August 11-15 Camping at South Llano River State Park</b></p>	<p>RSVP to Amelia ameliatx@hotmail.com</p>
<p><b>September 4-7 Camping at Davis Mountains State Park and Hot Air Balloon Bash in Alpine (photo taken by Dawn a previous year)</b></p>	 <p>RSVP to Dawn 2emaildawn@gmail.com</p>
<p><b>October 16-19 Camping at Fort Parker State Park and Limestone Bluffs Paddling Trail on the Navasota River.</b></p>	<p>RSVP to Marilyn mlfowler@austin.rr.com</p>
<p><b>November 13-22 Festival of the Cranes, Socorro, NM (details on TOWN website now so that you may plan)</b></p>	<p>RSVP to Marilyn mlfowler@austin.rr.com</p>

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## McKinney Roughs Hike – May 16

Eight women (Bev T., Carolyn D., Anita S., Jenn T., Janet C., Sue A., Susie A., and guest Liz C.) joined me at McKinney Roughs for about a five mile hike Saturday morning. We saw a flock of white birds and fields of beautiful yellow flowers. Obviously we need to go on more TOWN outings so we can improve our animal and plant identification skills. Several hikers actually had a reference book and identified many of the native plants and flowers but, in our haste to depart before the torrential rain started, I didn't end up with the list. Anyway, we had a great time. Much of the trail was shaded and we had a nice lunch down by the river. We saw a couple of people swimming and three people who were on their horses in the river. Liz, who is a teacher, taught us about "antlions" and even gave us a demonstration so that we could see the antlion in action. If we were not such firm believers in the "Leave No Trace" principles, we would have considered taking some home to get rid of the ants in our lawns. On our return trip, we heard some thunder and, although Jenn wanted to sit, we picked up our pace. Remember what Paul Yura said at the meeting last month? If you can hear thunder (even if it is not raining), you are in danger of being hit from a "bolt from the blue." We made it back to the parking lot, ate our cold watermelon, and scattered before it started raining. Unfortunately, I did not get to go on the demonstration trail to see labeled examples of the native plants and flowers but McKinney Roughs is a wonderful park and there are still miles of trails that we need to explore so we will head back there again sometime. The plants around the headquarters building have markers so that you can identify them easily.

Hope to see you outside soon!

**Report & cactus photo  
submitted by Lisa Sands**



## Birding at Hornsby Bend, Sunday, May 10th

Five of us (Amelia, CarolH, Gloria, JanetFS, and Jacque) met at Hornsby Bend this morning to enjoy birding before the temps rose. We had fun and enjoyed the companionship.

We spotted: cardinals, blue-winged teals, Wilson's phalaropes (at least 50), eared grebes (3), scissor-tailed flycatcher, starlings, black-necked stilts, killdeer, savannah sparrows (2), barn swallows (TNTC), coots, spotted sandpiper, semi-palmated sandpiper, snowy egret, pied-billed grebe, mallards, cinnamon teal, ruddy duck, yellow warbler, Eastern kingbirds, Eastern bluebird, mockingbird, and one loud squawking bird (per Gloria).

Also spotted: red-eared slider turtles, mud turtle, one squirrel, and a snake.

Thanks to you four for joining me. Next time maybe you too will join us! **Submitted by Jacque**

## SOS Tree Tour at Barton Springs, Wed., May 13 Submitted by Marilyn

Larry and I and about 100 other interested people followed an independent arborist around the trees near Barton's that are marked for removal. He confirmed that a few of them had such root crown rot they couldn't be saved, but the most fabulous trees (the ones I have been hugging and threatening to camp out in) could be saved with removal of the hardscape walkways and hard-packed dirt around them. I hope the city listens. Can you imagine if Barton's started looking like Northwest Pool or one of the other concrete-clad parks?



It was informative and attended by some well-known folks.

## Kayaking at Walsh Boat Landing –

The weather was just right for being on the water, mostly cloudy so it wasn't too hot. After launching our kayaks at Walsh Boat Landing, Janet Hubble and I decided to head across the lake to a cove. We surmised that the other fellow kayakers were exhausted after yesterday's trip down the Bastrop paddling trail and Janet was a little sore also. We had to work our way to the other side around motorboats and the Duck Tours amphibious vehicle. The cove turned out to be quite a bit longer than we expected so we spent most of the time in there. It was more secluded than the coves on the other side of the lake that we've ventured into on other outings and there weren't as many houses in this one. The most interesting creatures we saw were several vultures hanging out near the shoreline.

We discovered there were two separate inlets and headed down both of them. One of them was very tropical and we came upon an area with ferns growing down the rocks with water dripping from them. It reminded me of Hamilton Pool even though I haven't been there in years. We met another kayaker who had a Springer spaniel mix rescue dog (yeah!) who I think was named Elsa. She was very energetic and climbed into my kayak to greet me! It was amazing to see how agile she was, climbing onto the kayaks and all over the rocks on the shoreline. This particular cove ended with a bunch of layered rocks and a little waterfall. Then we headed out of the cove and went near the dam, keeping a safe distance from the designated danger buoys. By then, several boats were in the water creating waves.

**Submitted by Cindy**

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## Chaetura Canyon

Our outing to Chaetura Canyon Bird Sanctuary and the visit with Sanctuary Stewards, Georgean and Paul Kyle, was definitely an inspiration. These two folks have worked for 40 years to develop this eight acre bird sanctuary and nature preserve located on private property near Hudson Bend. The purpose of Chaetura Canyon is to preserve a natural habitat within a rapidly urbanizing area and provide a safe place for birds to forage, raise their babies, and rest during migration. Chaetura Canyon Bird Sanctuary is open by special invitation only via the Travis Audubon Society. The sanctuary was legally transferred to TAS in 2008.

Eleven TOWN-Austin members (Adela, Dawn, LisaS, JanetC, JanetFS, Jacque, Jenn, Joan, JudyW, [it's the invasion of the J's!], Marcia, and SandyO) met to enjoy the property hike, description of the Kyle's efforts, and the surroundings.

We began by gathering on the deck to enjoy coffee and Paul's description of how he and Georgean began by purchasing five lots and building their home from scratch on the property. Let's talk scratch here – no electricity for six months. He described their initial research in Chimney Swifts, construction of 12 different swift towers on the property, publication of the books A&M requested they write about their findings, and the bird banding station they operated 15 years. We began our hike near the banding station and had a good look at the Chimney Swift tower design. The sanctuary site is rugged, steep, has a creek, and it's the first time I can recall appreciating juniper trees. The Kyles have worked diligently to remove non- native plants, preserve existing native trees, discourage deer, encourage bird feeding locations. In their spare time (!) the Kyles specialize in crafting wooden toys to sell at their toy store at 26 Doors.

After our hike, we all enjoyed lunch prepared by Georgean (pasta salad and great bread) and watched a video of chimney swifts building their nest in a tower, raising their babes, and then the family departing. We learned swifts are here March – Nov, and then migrate to the South American for winter. Georgean shared her garden growing skills with us. Every step these folks take is impressive and we certainly enjoyed our morning with them. **Submitted by Jacque**



photos by Dawn



## Paddle 4/25 Moral of the story: Be prepared to change your plans!

Four of us, Amelia Green and her friend Ruby, Odella and Annie (her dog) and myself set out to brave the winds and rains. (sorry if I misspelled your name) After struggling through winds under the bridge, we found it too difficult to get across the river. Resorting to Plan B, we paddled into a protected cove with beautiful houses, yards and boat docks. We again considered Plan A, of crossing into Bull Creek, but other boaters told us it was still too windy. As we continued further past the golfers, winds settled and it was a beautiful day. Soon the winds picked back up and it was if we were paddling on a treadmill, not going anywhere, so we turned around and quickly drifted back to the bridge. We caravanned up to Berryhill Baja Grill for a leisurely lunch. All said, it was a great adventure. See ya' on the water. **Submitted by Janet Hubble**

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Hi all, 21 Austin Town women, 2 husbands, 2 guests from Louisiana, one kid, and 2 dogs participated in the **2009 Sand Fest Weekend**. 24 Master Sculptures and 18 amateurs participated in the Sand fest Contest.

Due to impending rain and winds we started Friday off by meeting at 7:00 pm and took part in a pot luck supper. Everyone met each other and it was decided that due to weather issues the kayaking trip would be cancelled. It was replaced by a group of us discussing meeting on the beach the next morning to go boogie boarding instead.

The next morning the boogie boarding group met for breakfast to discuss the huge waves and it was decided that boogie boarding was a go even though it was overcast and looked like it was going to rain. The waves were huge, the water was cold at first but we were able to get used to it and had a great time. After wards everyone split up for lunch and some headed to the beach while others to the pool and still others went shopping.

Saturday night the group met up again for supper at the Spaghetti Works Restaurant to discuss their experiences of the day. Some of us departed to hear music at the Back Porch Bar and others decided to build a campfire and eat smores. The weather was overcast and cool on Saturday which we all decided we really liked. Somehow we missed the rain all weekend.

Sunday morning one group went boogie boarding again while another group went bike riding. The sun finally came out and it was an absolute gorgeous day. Afterwards the group met on the beach and looked at the sculptors one last time and then we went to the tent to see who the winners were. It was 3:30 and it was time to head home. A great time was had by all. Several of us have sunburns to attest to our great weekend. **Submitted by Paulette**

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Please be advised...the following trip report is for adult readers only!

Four of us headed out last Sunday to **kayak at Brushy Creek Park**...Dawn, Marilyn, Beverly and Nancy. The grey clouds gave way to blue skies as we set out along the shore.

The recent heavy rains had filled up the placid little lake nicely. We were initially intrigued by the spotting of first one snake, then another along the shore.

Little did we know that we would end up seeing dozens (yes A LOT) of snakes hanging out in the trees...Marilyn would get realllllly close to commune with them, and kept assuring us

they were not poisonous. We were able to go far up into the creek because of all the recent rain. We even got to do the limbo as we paddled underneath a bridge, clearing the few inches between the bottom of the bridge and the top of our heads. (no Reggae music was playing though).

We eventually had to turn back around because the current carrying the recent rains out into the lake got pretty strong to fight against. On the way back, we stopped and got out of our kayaks, and walked out on the very nice hike/bike trail, chatting with some of the folks out on the trail.

We saw bunches of turtles and bunches of birds... what kind of birds we did not always know for sure...

where is Jacque and Janet when you need them?

We saw herons, ducks, coots, cormorants (sp?)...

on the last leg of our paddle there were droves of what we thought were cormorants hanging out in the tops of the trees.

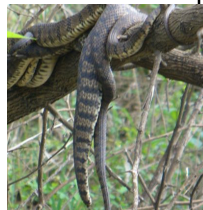
Oh, and what about the mature content of our kayak you ask? We were privy to see snakes doing what Marilyn described as the hootchy cootchy I believe...

writhing and intertwined with each other, with what I could only phrase as bumping and grinding...ahhhh, Spring is in the air!

**(photo taken by Nancy)**

We also saw numerous flowers and even some blackberries (or maybe dewberries). There were numerous people fishing on the bank, and we even saw someone catch a very good-size bass...I think he said it was about 7 pounds.

The slow pace was very enjoyable so that we could take in all the sights. Afterwards three of us went to Z Tejas and had some wonderful food and conversation. **Submitted by Dawn**



Around 30 campers, 3 kids, and several dogs gathered at **Birch Unit of Lake Somerville for an outreach outing of TOWN AUSTIN**.

Members from Austin, San Marcos, Waco, Houston, and Fort Worth joined the festivities and educational demonstrations. We enjoyed two blazing campfires (thanks to recent rain) and shared camping stories as well as ideas about different TOWN groups. The weather started out like a lion with winds blowing and cold, warmed up significantly, and ended with roaring waves and winds! But in between we were blessed to enjoy some kayaking and a kayak introduction for lesser experienced campers. (Thanks to Donna and Sophie for impromptu lessons) Beverly presented "survival kit in an altoid can". Jackie presented an awesome power point intro to geocaching followed by a simulated geocache find, with trinkets provided by Paulette. Of course the kids liked this so much we had to find the hides twice! Janet and Dawn led biking outings, as there are roads and trails for biking and hiking. Several San Marcos women are avid fisherpersons and actually caught fish from their kayaks! Carrie, Beverly and grandson Josh were motivated and left by way of the fishing pier to catch a few brim. Most everyone enjoyed bird and animal watching, walking, talking, and just being peaceful!

The Pot luck was awesome as usual, and we had the luxury of a full kitchen/dining hall. The weather held though, and we enjoyed outdoors the most! The highlight was a hands on Dutch Oven cooking demonstration by Adella, who has built her own Chuck Wagon!

Participants learned to cook on coals and the rest of us enjoyed eating 3 tasty dishes (Annie's stew my favorite), peach cobbler and funnel cakes!

Thanks Adella for all the work on this!

Several members drove up just for the day to experience this activity. And as usual TOWN women help one another, are good sports when Mother Nature isn't, and leave looking forward to the next event. A big thanks to Paulette for all the organizational headaches she endured! **Submitted by Beverly**

