

Austin Chapter **Celebrating 10 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 - Marcia Cross
marciaskier@clearwire.net

Membership Chair – Sandy Thompson
sandy.thompson@fefc.org

Club Treasurer – Janet Fitzsimon-Barr
janetfb@sbcglobal.net

Webmaster - Jacque Austin
jsaustin54@sbcglobal.net

Club Newsletter – Dawn Goodall
lita45@aol.com

Outings Coordinator –
Amelia Greene ameliatx@hotmail.com.

Publicity Chair - Crystal Helmstetler
crystalhelmstetler@yahoo.com

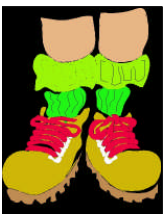
Club Secretary – Helen Sabin
hsabin@sbcglobal.net

Club Historian – Penny Mudgett
pmudgett@austin.rr.com

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

Tuesday October 24 Monthly Meeting

Our speaker is Dr. Ed Epperson a retired veterinarian who will discuss his travels on Amtrak.



That same night we will have a swap meet of outdoor gear hiking, camping, fishing, clothing, cooking – anything outdoors or sort-of outdoors stuff. So gather up all your used/don't need/don't want/doesn't fit/surplus stuff together and bring it with you. No item is too small or too large. Remember to show prices on your stuff – you get to keep the money. Or if you prefer, you can swap with other members or give stuff away.

**Elections for Officer Positions
at November 28 Meeting**

You can be an important part of your Austin TOWN group, by becoming an Officer with the Board.

See Helen at the October meeting for specific questions, or feel free to speak with the person currently in the position of your interest.

The Officer Positions that we will vote on are:

**Membership
Secretary**

**Publicity
Historian**

Newsletter

TOWN Meetings are held the 4th Tuesday of each month in the Board Room of the LCRA Hancock Building. Pizza courtesy of Mangia Pizza on Lake Austin and outings meeting at 6PM, meeting starts at 6:30PM

Directions -3701 Lake Austin Blvd, between Redbud Trail and Enfield, across from the Hula Hut (the middle building when you drive in the main entrance. The Board Room is easy to find. Enter the main building in the center of the courtyard on the south side of the complex



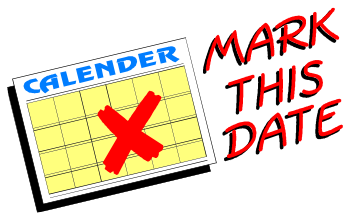
Looking Ahead –

There is **no December meeting**. Enjoy the holidays!

January Town meeting

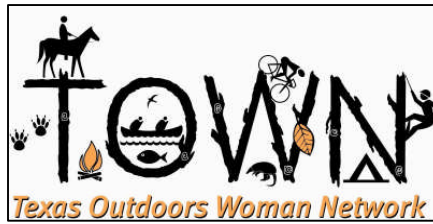
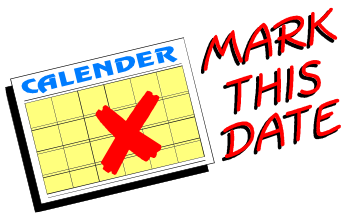
The speaker in January will be Sheila Anderson, president of the Texas Women Fly-Fishers, a state-wide group of ladies who are interested in fly-fishing. By the way, the TWFF was started by Constance Whiston, who also started the Austin TOWN group.







Check our website
for updated info
www.townaustin.org

EVENT	Date/Time	Contact
<p>Kayak on Town Lake Wednesdays (weather permitting) will end at the end of this month when the time zone changes, so come and join us if you want to try it out this year. We will begin again in April when daylight savings time returns.</p>	<p>Wednesdays 6pm Bring your boat!</p>	<p>Amelia Greene ameliatx@hotmail.com</p>
<p>Kayak on Town Lake Saturdays (weather permitting) will continue throughout the winter but check to see if anyone is going on a specific Saturday. In October, we plan to paddle to Bird Island to see if any birds are there, or paddle the other direction toward the Congress Ave. bridge or put in at the boat ramp behind the Holiday Inn.</p>	<p>Saturdays 9 am Bring your boat!</p>	<p>Amelia Greene ameliatx@hotmail.com</p>
<p>Bike the Outlaw Trail Join us for a 25- mile ride at your pace. The route is flat with a few rollers. We will not leave anyone behind. The ride is a fund raiser for Round Rock, so plan to register. The event is fun, not competitive (at least at my level), and sag wagons are provided. This is an excellent opportunity to test yourself and ride 25 miles. Details about registration, packet pickup, mileages, and pasta dinner are available at http://www.roundrocktexas.gov/home/index.asp?page=635</p>	<p>Saturday October 21</p>	<p>Contact Jacque at jsaustin54@sbcglobal.net or Janet at janetfb@sbcglobal.net</p>
<p>Star Party at McKinney Roughs LCRA Park Bring your friends and family (no dogs) and join the park naturalist at McKinney Roughs park for a night under the stars. Constellations, planets and other celestial objects will be revealed. The new moon will be up and we may see the Orionids Meteor Shower! Binoculars often work for looking at celestial features so bring those if you have them. We will meet at the park. Admission is \$3 per adult. McKinney Roughs is an LCRA park located on highway 71 between Austin and Bastrop. Allow at least 1/2 hour for travel beyond the airport.</p>	<p>Saturday October 21 7-9 pm</p>	<p>For more information contact Debbie. (Please check website for her contact details.)</p>
<p>Kayak and Enjoy the Stones <i>Tell Me</i> how does one find <i>Satisfaction</i> ? Especially when <i>You Can't Always Get What You Want</i> and <i>Time is on Your Side</i> ? Like those \$100-\$500. Stones' tickets? Well <i>Wild Horses</i> may not be your preferred <i>Beast of Burden</i> to get us to Zilker, but a paddle around Town lake can get us close enough to double the pleasure. The plan is to paddle around Town Lake while enjoying the music from Zilker park . Bring a picnic that you can enjoy afloat. You may rent kayaks at the Rowing Dock; bring cash only. No reservations permitted. The dock is public access so you can bring your own kayak/canoe. Guests & all genders welcome!</p>	<p>Sunday October 22 3:30 pm</p>	<p>Contact Lisa (Please check website for her contact details.) Meet at : The Rowing Dock (www.rowingdock.com); 2418 Stratford Drive (behind the Nature Center and under the Mopac bridge)</p>



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EVENT	Date/Time	Contact
<p>Becoming an Outdoor Woman (BOW) Weekend This is a super experience. This BOW Weekend is located at Camp for All near Brenham. For additional information: www.tpwd.state.tx.us/learning/bow/ Apply as soon as possible as the spaces fill quickly.</p> 	<p>Friday - Sunday October 27-29</p>	<p>www.tpwd.state.tx.us/learning/bow/</p>
<p>Letterboxing Hike at 360 Bridge Enjoy the last day of daylight savings time with a great hike at hidden jewel in Austin with heavily wooded area overlooking gorgeous Lake Austin. Hike is about 4 miles round trip on uneven, rocky terrain so good hiking boots required. We will go up tall limestone steps to top of the cliff first so not for people with leg or feet problems. For those who haven't tried letterboxing, this would be a fun experience. Men allowed but <u>no children or dogs</u> as there are sheer cliffs involved. Afterwards, we will eat dinner at nearby Waterloo Ice House. . For more info about letterboxing, please visit letterboxing.org</p>	<p>Sunday, October 29 3pm</p>	<p>Please RSVP to RoxAnn roxann4tx@aol.com</p>
<p>Camp & Fish at Buescher State Park Enjoy and improve your fishing skills on a 15 -acre lake stocked with large mouthed bass, catfish and sunfish. Trying to find a couple of women fishing experts to join us and help us brush up on our fishing skills! One for fly fishing and one for regular rod- N- reel fishing. We will campout and on Saturday, hopefully, catch a whole bunch of fish together then have a big fish fry for supper! We can also show anyone interested how to clean fish. No fishing license required. You can fish from shore or from a canoe/kayak with pole and line only -no trotlines or other special setups. People are leaving at various times on Friday to head over to the park so let me know your approximate time of arrival. Maximum of 8 people per campsite. Daily entrance fee is \$4/person + Camping fee is \$12/night for campsite with water, \$15/night for water and electricity, screened shelters are \$20/night. Park closes at 10pm for those who want to just come for the day. <u>No children, men or dogs allowed.</u> Directions: The park is located 2 miles northwest of Smithville on State Highway 71 to FM 153, then north on 153 for .5 mile to enter Park Road 1. http://www.tpwd.state.tx.us/spdest/findadest/parks/buescher</p>	<p>Friday – Sunday Nov. 10-12</p>	<p>Please RSVP as soon as possible to roxann4tx@aol.com.</p>  <p>(Picture of RoxAnn from Lake Belton Campout)</p>

FUN TRIP REPORTS!



Seven of us met at Cypress Creek Park to participate in the Keep Austin Beautiful program. Travis County provided bags, gloves, and hosted lunch which followed the effort. Trust us, there is lots of garbage where there was once water at this park. We worked 2.5 hours gathering bottles, cans, tires, plastics, cement anchors, boat and car parts, pvc, and just plain garbage. Afterward we went to Carlos & Charlie's for lunch, music, and door prizes. Some of the more unique items collected by shoreline and dive groups included: a horse saddle, digital camera, front of a Ford, and a checkbook. We all enjoyed the effort and agreed it was worthwhile even though we sweated bunches. Presented by Jacque

TOWN had a strong presence at the 15th annual TX Parks and Wildlife Expo.

We actually had 3 booths to man: 1 for TOWN, 1 for BOW, and 1 for Become an Outdoors Family. There were over 60 tents on everything from wildscape design, bird of prey show, shooting sports, mountain biking for kids, rock-climbing wall, etc. You name it, if it was an outdoors thing, it was there. TP and W's new slogan is "It's Better Outside". There were over 120 vendors (that's us) under 4 huge tents. Parking was difficult but there were regular shuttles. The TP and W staff was awesome and always helpful. We met many nice people and especially made contact with lots of potential speakers. Thanks to everyone who helped with the booths: Crystal (who was there both days and brought tons of flyers to hand out), Helen, Penny, Jacque, Paulette, Joan, Jane Ireland, Barb, and Marcia. We got 4 new members, sold 4 T-shirts and 32 women signed up for more info.

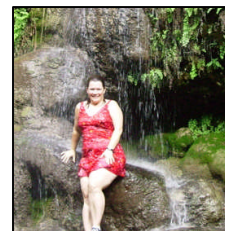
I strongly recommend that we do this every year. The women we met were exactly what TOWN was made for. Oh yeah, and thanks to my husband Bruce for the awesome TOWN banner. Presented by Janet Fitzsimon-Barr

The outing to the coast was amazing!!! Thanks to Paulette, Dawn, Janet & Jacque for putting this outing together!! There were a total of 10 ladies who participated in this outing and we sort of went our separate ways except for Friday night supper at the Big Fisherman, Saturday lunch at Charlotte Plummer's in Fulton Beach and Sunday breakfast followed by the Hawk Watch in Corpus Christi. We spent the afternoon going to three houses with spectacular hummingbirds. We were able to sit 3 feet from some of the feeders and could hear the birds squabbling among themselves and heard their wings move. The 3rd house was where they were banding the hummingbirds. Some people were able to hold the hummingbirds before they flew away at the end of the banding process. On Saturday, Carol, CJ and I went kayaking near CJ's house in Aransas Pass. Other ladies went to the Lighthouse Lakes Trail. It was pretty windy for the kayak trip and it took us about 1.5 hours to get to the farthest point and about 10 minutes to return - due to the change in wind direction :-). We saw a flock of white ibis on the shore and lots of cranes and herons. We then joined the group lunch and then headed over to Aransas Pass to the beach. We walked on the jetty and saw quite a few sea turtles about 18 inches in diameter and walked on the beach and went to the birding area at the treatment plant. On Sunday, we headed over to the Hawk Watch park. What a wonderful place! Members of Hawk Watch were there and let us use their spotting scopes. They also led us on a short bird walk and identified the birds for us. Presented by Amelia

9 Townies, 2 guests, and 2 very adorable dogs went hiking at Southeast Metro Park for a very sweaty 2.2 miles. I had every intention of going twice, but my body had other ideas...it wanted to sit down and drink Gatorade. The primitive trail is an easy, clean, and quiet hike. I think there was only one other car in the parking lot when we arrived. There are a couple of little lakes along the trail where a fisherperson could do a little catch and release. That might be fun, in say, October or November when it is not so hot so early. Presented by Jenn

Lake Belton Campout Trip Report Sept 22-24

There were 8 of us and we had a great time camping. 2 nights, hiking, swimming, sailing, bike riding, sitting around the campfire, eating good food and just enjoying each other's company. Glad to say that 1 of our 8 was from the Waco TOWN chapter. We rented a tent site and 2 screened shelters and they were the nicest any of us had seen in a park before - roomy, with a counter running down one wall, a sink with running water, ceiling fan, and roll up tarps on all the windows in case the weather gets bad or cold (which we did use cause a big rainstorm came thru) but it didn't dampen our spirit - we still had a great time together! Presented by RoxAnn



Outing to Krause Springs (submitted by RoxAnn)



**MORE TRIP REPORTS...
THERE WERE JUST SO MANY
WE ADDED A PAGE!**



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Oct 2006
Austin TOWN**

**Black & Blue in Wimberley Tour
August 19, 2006**

This had to be one of the best events of the summer! We had 16 people join us for a fun day of exploring Wimberley, Texas. There were 13 women from Austin TOWN, 2 from San Antonio TOWN, and 1 from Houston TOWN. Woo-hoo!!

First, we went to Blue Hole, one of the best swimming holes in Texas. Glad to report not one thing has changed since the city took over the property and saved it from developers. We swam, played on the rope swing, floated in tubes, enjoyed the shade trees and eating watermelon.

There was a contest for who wore the coolest thing that was black and blue and the winner was Janice Togonal with a beautiful gypsy outfit, complete with scarf. The runner up was Karoline Spence with a lovely blue and black pareo and lots of attitude! A very cool prize was awarded to each of them for having TOWN spirit!

After the pool, we went to the town square and went shopping for a little while then had a nice meal at the Cypress Creek Cafe. Then headed to the Corral Theatre for showing of the Devil Wears Prada. This was like an outdoor drive-in except that you walk in with lawn chairs. The movie was funny and a great time was had by all. Plus, another 2 women from San Antonio TOWN joined us for the movie.

Thinking we might make this an annual event since we had such a super time. Thanks to everyone who participated! TOWN rocks!
Presented by RoxAnn

Several members of TOWN attended the following field trip...

Travis Audubon Society conducted a field trip to the Balcones Canyonlands NWR and the Jonestown Chimney Swift roost on Saturday, September 9, 2006.

15 birders observed 16 species of birds (details below), two Texas Greater Earless Lizards and two Texas Spotted Whiptail Lizards, a Red-striped Ribbon Snake, Monarch and Pipevine Swallowtail Butterflies, several Black Saddlebags Dragonfly and one Blue-ringed Dancer Damselfly, one White-tailed Deer, and numerous plant species in two hours on a warm and humid afternoon on the beautiful Penn tract of the Balcones Canyonlands National Wildlife Refuge

(<http://www.fws.gov/southwest/refuges/texas/balcones/>).

Although most of us did some unplanned exploring on the way back, we all safely returned to our cars and proceeded to the True Grits restaurant in Jonestown where an additional 11 people joined us for dinner. When dusk arrived, we walked across FM 1431 and an additional five people joined us to watch the Chimney Swifts enter their roost. On 9/15/2006, the following trip reported was submitted to the Driftwood Wildlife Association

(<http://www.chimneyswifts.org/>):

The Chimney Swift roost is an abandoned cement cistern in Jonestown, Texas directly across FM 1431 from the True Grits restaurant.

Number of swifts counted = approximately 1,990
The first five or so entered the cistern at 8:00 PM CDT.
All but about ten were inside by 8:10 PM CDT.

Bird species observed:

- Great Egret, 1
- Black Vulture, 1
- Turkey Vulture, 7
- Cooper's Hawk, 1
- White-winged Dove, 1
- Mourning Dove, 1
- Chimney Swift, 1990
- Ladder-backed Woodpecker, 2
- Eastern Phoebe, 2
- swallow, species, 1
- Western Scrub-Jay, 1
- Northern Mockingbird, 1
- European Starling, 1
- Wilson's Warbler, 1
- Summer Tanager, 2
- Lesser Goldfinch, 3

Presented by Kathy McCormack



**Get outside with TOWN and
enjoy
our beautiful area!**