



Wanted: Newsletter Apprentice

Happy August, TOWNies!

I'm happy to announce that I'll be starting graduate school this fall at Texas State University (where I currently work full time). I will study in the *Masters of Arts in Technical Communications* program. For starters, I'll be going to school one night a week and will likely have lots of out-of-the-classroom projects that will take a great deal of time and effort.

With that said, I'm sorry to announce that I'll be tapering back on other extracurriculars including the TOWN newsletter. I've really enjoyed performing this function for TOWN Austin these past couple of years, and I appreciate the positive feedback that I have received. Knowing that you enjoy reading the newsletter brings joy to my world!

The TOWN Austin news must go on, and I'm very eager to teach someone how I do what I do. It's actually pretty darn easy! What's wonderful is that you can make it your own. So, if you have great ideas or techniques, then go for it! I'd love to work with someone to share my knowledge and newsletter creation process. If you are interested in learning and taking the reigns, I'm interested in teaching. I will gladly hand you the torch when you feel that you are ready.

If you are interested, please e-mail me at jenlagrange@yahoo.com. We can set up a session (or sessions) to go over a few things. I use Microsoft Publisher to create the newsletters. If you have Publisher or a similar publishing software on your computer, then we are good to go!

Thanks for the consideration. I really enjoy being a TOWN Austin member and plan to continue my involvement as much as possible!

Cheers,

Jen LaGrange

Your TOWN Austin Newsletter Editor

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Upcoming Events

EVERY WEDNESDAY

Kayaking on Lady Bird Lake @ 6 p.m.

SEPTEMBER

Sep 1 (Sat): Full moon paddle on Lady Bird Lake. 7 :45 p.m.

Sep 4 (Tues): Hiking subgroup planning meeting. Time TBD.

Sep 22 (Sat): End-to-end kayaking @ Lady Bird Lake. 9 a.m.

Sep 25 (Tues): Monthly Meeting @ 6 p.m. Speaker Claude Morris.

Sep 28-30 (Fri-Sun): Caddo Lake Outing.

Sep 29 (Sat): Full moon paddle on Lady Bird Lake. 7 p.m.

OCTOBER

Oct 11-15 (Thu-Mon): Fall Festival & Camping @ McKinney Falls SP

Oct 23 (Tues): Monthly Meeting @ 6 p.m. Speaker TBA.

Oct 28 (Sun): Celebrate TOWN @ Brushy Creek Lake Park. 9 a.m.— 2 p.m.

NOVEMBER

Nov 1-4 (Thu-Sun): Camping @ Goliad SP & Flotilla.

Nov 9-11 (Fri-Sun): BOW Weekend @ *Camp for All* near Brenham. 40+ waitlist.

Nov 9-11 (Fri-Sun): Camping @ Lost Maples SP.

Nov 15-28 (Fri-Sun): Camping @ Inks Lake SP & F1 Retreat

Nov 27 (Tues): Monthly Meeting @ 6 p.m. Speaker TBA.

DECEMBER

Dec 6-9 (Thu-Sun): Camping @ Live Oak Ridge Park on Lake Belton

JANUARY 2013

Jan 4-6 (Fri-Sun): Traditional Holiday Party weekend @ McKinney Falls SP.

Jan 17-20 (Thu-Sun): Camping @ Palmetto State Park.

Jan 20 (Sun): Thank You Outing for Leaders @ Cabella's in Buda. 1-4 p.m.

FEBRUARY

Feb 15-18 (Fri-Mon): Camping @ Fort Parker SP.

MARCH

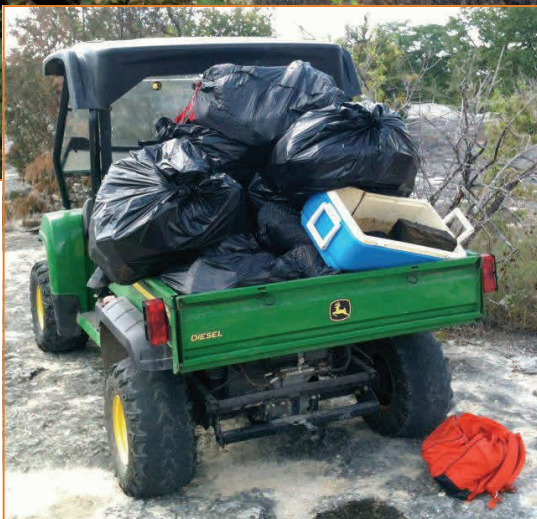
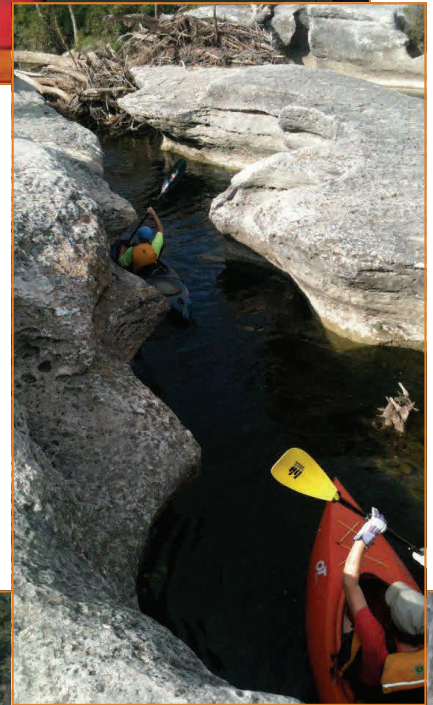
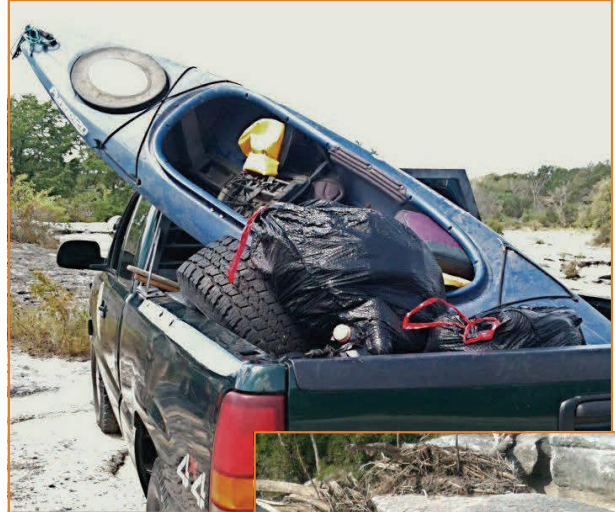
Mar 3-10 (Sun-Sun): TOWN Cruise from Galveston

Mar 23-25 (Fri-Sun): BOW Weekend @ 4-H Conference near Brownwood

Volunteering

McKinney Falls SP Clean Up

TOWN Austin members along with park volunteers and employees cleaned trash and debris from a log jam below the lower falls. Way to go TOWNies! **We're proud of you!**



Get Updates on Our Website or Facebook Page!

Outings! Outings! Outings!

Kayaking on Lady Bird Lake (Jun 27)

Our TOWN Wednesday paddle was the perfect illustration of each one doing their own thing while a wary eye was kept on the comings and goings-on from the eastern point of Redbud Island among the interwoven roots of the cypress trees. New member SamieM joined LindaY on the water in their own boats, while LindaBW, GailG, SusanW, VickiZ and LindaF launched in a variety of boats from the Rowing Dock.

Some of us were fast and made the circuit around the island and some made part of it again, and some of us were not so fast at all, just enjoying the atmosphere on the water, the cool breeze after such hot days and the spectacular views. Linda Y showed foster-dog Fletcher from the Russell Rescue the ropes, he seemed like an old sea dog after five minutes, standing proudly on deck to see what was coming next, turtles . . . or . . . ? No nutrias sighted this year so far.

Unable to face the traffic back toward town and the Blues on the Green crowds, further discussion and fellowship was held at Rudy's Barbecue on 360. Gail and Vicki discussed some practical safety tips that they have been learning in their classes with a local kayak expert. A plan is being hatched to host a safety class later on in July or August.

Watch This Space for announcements from Gail G. about Sea Kayaking adventures in the Corpus Christi / Aransas Pass / Ingleside area. Lady Bird Lake would be one of the best venues in town from which to watch the fireworks from whatever watercraft you are able to rustle up. For the various put-in points, check the map at the following site:

http://www.tpwd.state.tx.us/fishboat/fish/recreational/lakes/lady_bird/access.phtml

~LindaF

Tubing on the San Marcos River (Jun 28)

MarieW, LindaY, LorettaD, and DeboraG joined me tubing on the San Marcos River. This was the most adventurous tubing trip I have ever been on.

The water was very cool and clear and we commented how the river seemed to be flowing faster than normal. The first clue to our adventurous float was one person not being able to do the limbo in her tube to get under the bridge, then jumping out and not being able to get back in (Linda to the rescue). Another person decided to go under the lowest point of the bridge and barely squeezed through. Floating sunscreen was the second retrieval of many.

The first chute was done by Linda except she didn't go down the chute but off the side while a couple of us were yelling "NO" not there! June and Marie tried to go down the chute but got caught in the rapids, couldn't get out and then flipped over and had one tube without a rider. Retrieval number three by Linda to rescue the tube, then her hat flew off for retrieval number four. Retrieval number five, Linda helped a lady go further down the river to find a run away tube. Needless to say, our hero for the day was Linda! Oh yes, Linda did tell me she flipped over in her tube going down the chute - I didn't see that one!

Our troops were hungry after all that adventure so we had a wonderful lunch on the patio at the San Marcos River Pub and Grill. Did we have a good time - YES we did!

~June

Hiking McKinney Falls SP (Jul 14)

This was originally going to be the 2.8 mile Homestead Trail, but due to water preventing our crossing to that trail, we hiked the 2.8 mile Onion Creek trail at McKinney Falls Park instead. Nine of us; JacqueA, LindaBW, LindaY, GenevaR, JuliaY, CathyC, JanetF-B, JanB and JennyF got up early and optimistically faced a summer Saturday in Texas. Though humid enough, we had overcast skies and shade for the most part. Three pets; Becca, Fletcher, and Max accompanied us.

We did a little exploring at the upper falls and found lots of little pools of water in the limestone. Janet spotted a painted bunting and awesome unidentified spider. We had new members and it was fun visiting. We hiked about 3.5 miles in 2 hours.

After completing the Onion Creek trail, 3 of us; Jacque, Jan, and Jenny found a back way to access the Homestead Trail and walked it. This trail was muddy, muddy and it felt like we were hiking in lead high heels the mud was so thick and heavy. We had to stop regularly to scrap it off. By the time we completed this trail, the cloud cover was long gone and it was getting pretty steamy. We passed ranger Amber on this trail who was marking the map for a new trail that is being added to the park. Currently unnamedstay tuned.

A good time was had by all and topped off with Jan's famous oatmeal cookies. Thank you Jan! Happy Hiking!

~Jan and Jenny

E-mail Your Trip Reports to townaustin@yahoogroups.com!

Kayaking! Kayaking! Kayaking!

Join Us on Wednesdays for Kayaking on Lady Bird Lake!

July 18

Linda BW led the Wednesday night kayaking tonight and joining her were LindaY, SusanW, CarolynD, and Carolyn's guest, DonnaB (soon to be new Townie!). Linda decided to let Carolyn be the decision maker for the kayaking adventure, so we headed to Barton Springs. There were a lot of people out enjoying the lake and springs tonight including a group of kayakers playing soccer.

The most interesting thing was watching a guy attempt to walk a tightrope backwards between two bridge support columns at the pedestrian bridge by the Nature Center. He made it most of the way but lost his balance about 5 feet from the end. He got a round of applause from the audience on the bridge and in the water.

After that, we were hungry of course, so we headed over to Taco Cabana for some Tex Mex. The wildlife sightings this time were two swans (or white birds), one gray or blue heron, some turtles and some ducks. It was a fun evening. Thanks for leading Linda!

~Carolyn D

July 25

Fellow TOWNies! Another good KaYACKIN' at Lady Bird Lake. Caught some of Blues on the Green, saw: swimmers, bridge jumpers, the rope swinging jumpers, ducks, a few turtles, herrings, polo kayakers and the baby swan is growing.

In attendance were: LindaBW, SusanW, CarrieL, JudyL, DeborahG, SamieM, VickiZ and LindaY. Carrie did partake in the Austin Canoe and Kayak (ACK) DEMO before our start. Seven boats were showcased and Stand Up Paddleboards (SUPs).

There was a head wind paddling toward Barton Springs which made the trip back easy-squeezy. More than usual "muck" in the water and felt much like an obstacle course in some areas. Too muck wind to *play ball*, maybe next week. Kim's presentation taught some experienced kayakers, just what we were doing wrong and it is appreciated.

Deborah, our newest member took an unexpected swim and rolled her "sit on top" kayak. She became my "SHERO" as this was her first outing. Deborah was able to remain calm and get back in with the assistance of Carrie and LindaY. Yep, she'll be coming again, cause TOWN members are there to make it fun and safe. Good work by all.

We celebrated the evening at RUBY's off the 360. Good times, good people and good food.

~LindaY

August 8

In composing messages about the delights of paddling, I have not run out of material, but this week, the indomitable DeborahG came up with a new reason for joining us: Food Tour. Our post-paddle destination this week was the Hula Hut, easy to get to from the Rowing Dock, ducking the crowds. Next time we'll try to get out over the Tom Miller Dam instead of staying inside.

Samie brought her sister Sheri, who had the novel experience of being introduced to Linda, Linda and Linda. Fletcher the Jack Russell, was on his Farewell Tour. VickiZ and SusanW rounded out the group that was treated to a wonderfully iconic Austin Evening—the cool down by the water, the Austin skyline as we returned from Barton Creek on the 20th anniversary of the Save Our Springs alliance, serenaded by the beginning acts of Blues On the Green. See you on the water!

~LindaF

August 22

Wherever you were last Wednesday evening, I hope you were able to be outside enjoying the beautiful weather. Five of us were lucky enough to be kayaking on Lady Bird Lake. Linda BW, LindaY. and her dog Bekah, Katie G. and guest Olivia T., and Vicki Z sliced through glass-like water on our trip around Red Bud Island.

Hoping to extend the tranquility of the perfect Austin night, we headed to the outdoor picnic area at Rudy's. Whoa! Where did all these people come from? Summer as we enjoy it in Austin must be over. We found a table near the trees, and as the crowd cleared out, night settled in for an perfect ending to our day. As always we were visited by the one-eyed cat who comes for his supper whenever we are there. See you next Wednesday!

~Vicki Z

Got and Interesting Story? E-mail it to jenlagrange@yahoo.com.

Invite a Friend to Join TOWN Austin!

Now 'Til December: \$10 Membership Fee (New Members Only)



As we wrap up our annual membership campaign, we have reduced the membership fee to \$10 for any new member who joins TOWN Austin! This fee will cover membership through 2012.

We have 109 members so far and would like to reach 130 this year!

Now is the time to invite your friends who have been thinking about joining or who have dipped their toes in the TOWN Austin waters by attending a meeting or an outing.

Encourage your friends to take the plunge and become an official TOWNie!

Our 2012 Membership Drive Update

2012 Goal: 130 members

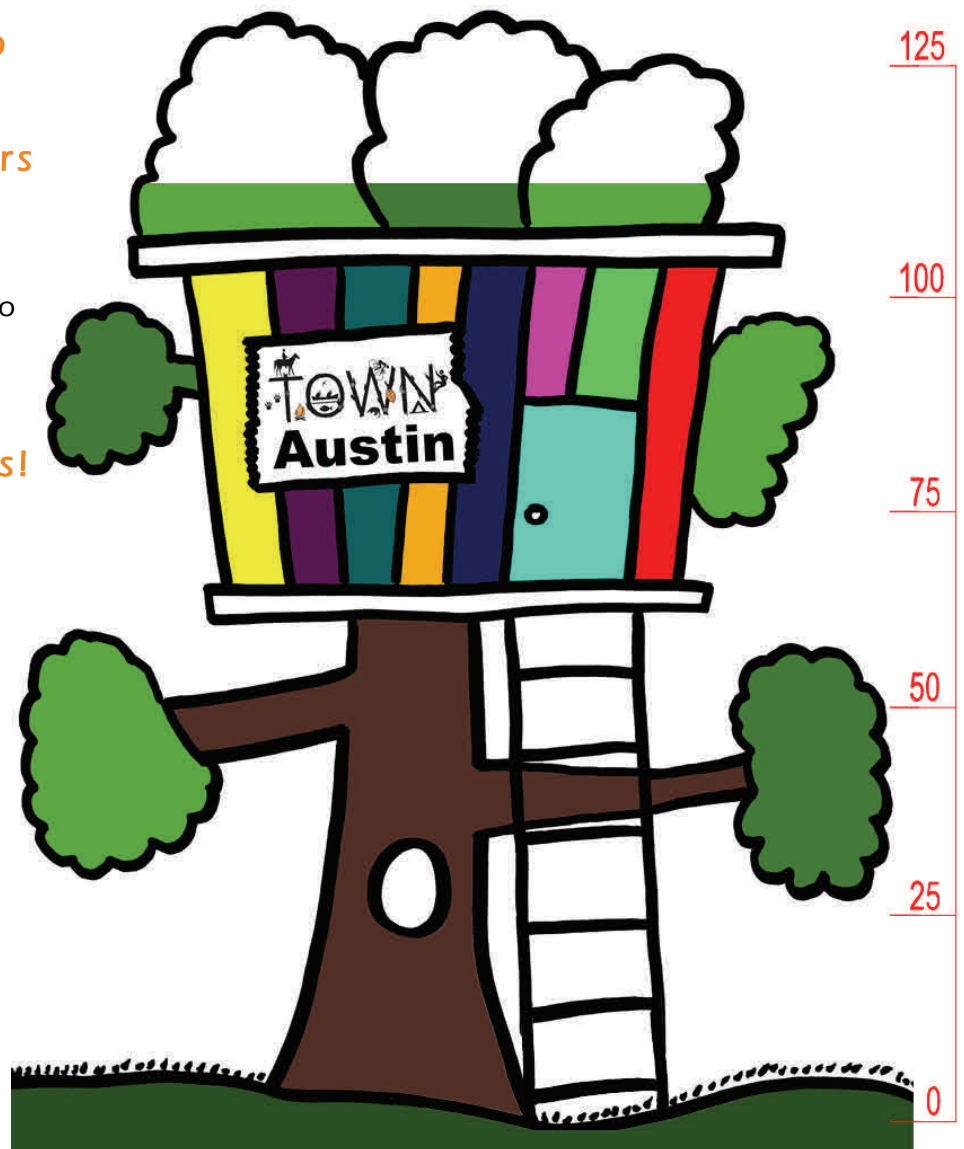
We're currently at **109** members!

Please invite your friends and family to be part of TOWN Austin!

Welcome New Members!

We'd like to welcome these new members to TOWN Austin! Thanks for joining the club!

- * Patricia Baker
- * Aimee Mayer
- * Samie Martinez
- * Julia Youngblood
- * Debra Lawson



Please help us fill the TOWN Austin clubhouse!

Invite a Friend (or Three) to Join the Club!

TOWN Austin

P.O. Box 300494
Austin, Texas 78703-0009
townaustin@yahoo.com

Monthly Meeting Location

LCRA's Redbud Center
3601 Lake Austin Blvd.
Austin, TX 78703
(512)473-3535

Our Mission

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

Your TOWN Austin Leadership Team

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Judy Dunavant - judy.dunavant@sbcglobal.net

President-Elect

Gloria Blagg - gloria_blagg@sbcglobal.net

Membership Chair

Lisa Sands - lsands@austin.rr.com

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Secretary

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Outings Coordinator

Sandy Ostiguy - sandyos@yahoo.com

About TOWN Austin

Texas Outdoors Woman Network (TOWN) is an offshoot of the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department's *Becoming an Outdoors Woman* (BOW) program. Our goal is to enable outdoor oriented women to meet and build friendships with women who have similar interests. Local chapters have monthly meetings and outings which are initiated, planned, and conducted by members. Read about TOWN Austin's history by reading about our origins online.

Monthly meetings are the fourth Tuesday of each month at the LCRA Redbud Center (3601 Lake Austin Blvd). We begin at 6 p.m. Bring a snack or your brown-bag dinner. The business meeting begins about 6:30. Bring a drink and join us for special announcements, guest speaker, and socializing. Please see our online calendar for details.

Our outings occur on a regular basis. We offer a wide variety of activities. Visit our online calendar to check out what is happening next.

We'd love to show you what TOWN Austin is all about! Prospective members are invited to join us for a couple of outings before becoming an official member!

Our activities include, but are not limited to the following:

- Archery
- Backpacking
- Bird Watching
- Camping
- Day hiking
- Kayaking/Canoeing
- Fishing/Fly-fishing
- Horseback riding
- Mountain biking and road biking
- Geocaching

Most trips are planned with minimal cost in mind. We try to carpool and donate for gas. You are always welcomed to create your own carpool when possible. Lodging costs are divided among the participants. Additional costs may be incurred such as State Park entrance fees or tour fees.

Interested in Leading a TOWN Austin Outing?

It's really quite simple and we can always use more leaders. A checklist is available to help you plan an outing so you don't forget anything. There is also a liability release form everyone should sign at the beginning of each outing. See the website for a list of outings we would like to take, but have not yet scheduled.



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