



Let it Rain, Let it Rain,
Let it Rain!

It's hot and dry out there. We're all feeling it. The few occasions that the sky has shed a some droplets, we all run to the window and look in awe...like it's snowing or something. So I thought that I'd take a few moments to give us a glimpse of what we're going to see again...sometime in the near future :-). Maybe if we all think of rain as much as we're thinking of the hot and dry we'll *will* some to come our way! Enjoy and have a wonderfully cool and rainy day!
~Jen



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Upcoming Events

EVERY WEDNESDAY

Kayaking Lady Bird Lake @ Rowing Dock 6 p.m. \$10

AUGUST

Aug 27 (Sat): Caving outing 9:30 a.m.

Aug 27 (Sat): The Trash Project. 5 p.m.

SEPTEMBER

Sep 6 (Tue): Hiking Subgroup meeting 6 p.m.

Sep 11 (Sun): Lake Travis Underwater and Shoreline Cleanup

Sep 15-18 (Thu-Sun): 23rd Hummingbird Celebration,

Rockport, TX. This is not a TOWN-sponsored event.

Sep 16-18 (Fri-Sun): BOW Outing. Open to any outdoor woman.

Sep 23-25 (Fri-Sun): Camping @ Inks Lake SP

Sep 23-25 (Fri-Sun): McKinney Falls SP. Camping, hiking, stargazing, and birding.

Sep 27 (Tue): Monthly Meeting @ 6 p.m. Emily Maline, REI instructor, introduces us to rock climbing!

Sep 30-Oct 2 (Fri-Sun): Galveston Island weekend and deep sea fishing trip (Sat).

OCTOBER

Oct 7-9 (Fri-Sun): Volkspart March

Oct 14-16 (Fri-Sun): Camping @ Garner SP's new section.

Oct 25 (Tue): Monthly meeting @ 6 p.m. Speaker from West Cave Preserve.

Oct 28-30 (Fri-Sun): Camping @ Bastrop SP

NOVEMBER

Nov 4-6 (Fri-Sun): Practice for Appalachian Trail Hiker Wanna Be Folks @ McKinney Falls SP

Nov 5 (Sat): Canoe at Goliad Flotilla.

Nov 22 (Tue): Monthly Meeting @ 6 p.m. Free stuff exchange. Election of Board members.

JANUARY 2012

Jan 6-8 (Fri-Sun): Holiday party @ McKinney Falls SP

Jan 22 (Sun): Thank you outing for leaders

MARCH

Mar 23-25 (Fri-Sun): BOW weekend in Brownsville

MAY

May 20-27 (Sun-Sun): Yosemite National Park

Trip Reports

Kayaking on Lady Bird Lake (July 20)

Wednesday's Town-Austin kayaking attracted 5 adventurous ladies among the throngs of music lovers herding toward the "Blues on the Green" event at the Park. SusanW, JaniceL, DianeF, leader EarlineS and her guest, MarinM braved the crowds as we paddled up towards Barton Springs dodging fleets of Kiddie Kayaks and canoes out for summer camp.

The water was refreshing as always. We viewed some fauna but most were probably in hiding waiting for the action to go home. The music floated above the water and serenaded our return trip. The Lake was alive with activity this evening. We had a wonderful time visiting as we paddled. See you next week!

~EarlineS

Kayaking on Lady Bird Lake (July 27)

On one of her first days home, our returning Iraq Vet, VanessaV, came out to TOWN's regular Wednesday paddle, and brought Erin and LauraAter. It was Erin's first time, piloted in a double by Vanessa. Laura, with experience kayaking all over the US, tore up the place in the Rowing Dock's new 8-foot sit-inside. To Linda W1, it looked "more like kayaks in Alaska," she has just returned from a trip there to visit her sister. JaniceTogal a past member of TOWN, came all the way from Dripping Springs, catching up to us near Redbud Island. She is a member of several area fly fishing groups, and got our attention with her bent-shaft offset paddle with cushioned grips, and clips to keep her hat and paddle with her.

A quick reminder with thanks to AmeliaG for her question: **Even on hot days, it is cool on the lake.** The two hours we spend chatting or just watching the cliffs go by, the dogs in the water or the amusements that people have made for themselves along the shore, fishing, stand-up paddlers and the variety of watercraft, is the Austin Reset button. My friend and I enjoyed a picnic supper and watched the light fade on the lake, I can't think of anything more relaxing. Hope to see you next Wednesday.

~LindaF

Kayaking on Lady Bird Lake (Aug 3)

We took off on time (no thanks to the leader) and headed toward Redbud Island at a supremely leisurely clip.

LaurieS and DeborahG, visitors, came dressed appropriately as pirates. If you can imagine someone paddling in a glamorous way, that would be CarolC who has perfected a method for doing it in full recline. Bobbi as usual, practical and fast. Deborah was very brave, on her First Paddle! She lives on Lake Travis and, with all good intentions, bought a kayak after a lot of research. She was with us for her initial indoctrination, and learned fast.

While Carol and Bobbi went in search of the evil swans and the rapids under the bridge, Laurie and Deborah and I made a circuit of the doggie side of the island.

The Statesman reported that there had been 8000 visitors to Blues on the Green that night. And yes, we did stay at the picnic tables in the shade behind the Rowing Dock and listen to the music, sharing the watermelon that Bobbi brought.

~LindaF



Bookstore and Lunch at British Cafe (Aug 11)

Six ladies arrived at the bookstore - AmeliaG, BobbiT, Jacque, NancyL, and SharonI. We enjoyed buying books and wandering around the 90,000 books at the Book Exchange on Manchaca in south Austin. We especially enjoyed the cool air conditioning in the building. Then we were joined by CarrieL and MarilynF; we walked the short distance to the English restaurant. Most of us had a pastie (stuffed crust) of some sort - lamb, vegetarian or spinach and feta cheese, but MarilynF tried out the beans on toast topped with grilled tomatoes. Sharon is married to an English gent and said that the food looked pretty authentic. We also tried out some cookies which were delicious. All in all we had a very good time.

~Amelia

Mountain Biking at Slaughter Creek Trail (Aug 21)

Hi TOWNies! Three of us (BobbiT, Jacque, and JanetFB) met Sunday at the City of Austin Slaughter Creek Maintenance area to enjoy the mountain bike trail. Obviously this is not a hidden secret; we encountered at least 18 other women and men with the same idea. The trail loop is about 5 miles with some rocky stretches, inclines, cactus to avoid, and loops. We decided it could be rated as moderate to easy since it includes some challenges followed with easy stretches. We rode about 5.5 miles in 1 hr 15 min.

We saw: a Greater Roadrunner, Northern Mockingbirds, American Cardinals, and a cotton tailed bunny.

Thank you to SusieA for the original idea of biking here. And my apologies for plagiarizing Susie's email; I couldn't help myself.

Join us next time! And there will be a next time; it's too pleasant not to revisit. And it has a potty in the parking lot! Can't ask for more.

~Jacque

Outing Leaders: Share your adventure & pictures with us!

Trip Reports

Urban Walk in Bouldin Creek Neighborhood (Aug 6)

Rather than describing a hike that has "Roughs" or "Falls" in the name, on Saturday August 6th, Carol Castlebury, walker extraordinaire and historian organized a tour of the Bouldin Creek Neighborhood, which you may not have realized was there, or held so much of interest. We had a morning of good exercise, good history and good TOWN-style fellowship. We did, however, miss seeing the neighborhood's most colorful character, the cross-dressing several-times mayoral candidate, Leslie.

An Actual Walk, our trip included a half-mile foray into the West Bouldin Creek Greenbelt, a gem of a walk right in town, and ended at the other side of James St, on the East Bouldin Creek Greenbelt, with plenty of ups and downs on narrow leafy streets. Thanks to the iPhone crowd, we had an estimate of 3.3 miles of mostly shady walking, maybe not quite enough calorie expenditure to have earned the mimosas and nachos and other good food we enjoyed afterward at El Mercado on 1st St. Although we started early and the walk was mostly in the shade, it was still quite warm; two of the group sensibly decided at the halfway point they'd had enough.

The area of our walk is the oldest section in south Austin and can be visualized as bounded by Lamar and 1st St and extending from Barton Springs Road to Oltorf. Aggressively "calmed" with planters encroaching into the roadway and roundabouts, Dawson, which becomes 5th St to the south (uphill) is a perfect street for walking; eighteen people tend to spread out. It is the heart of the 78704 zip code and has played a very big part in setting the tone for Austin's being "weird."

In 1852, Rancher James Bouldin moved to Austin from Virginia and bought the land from the Colorado nearly to what is now William Cannon Drive. After his death in 1902, his descendants began selling off and subdividing the family holdings. Frequent flooding of the Colorado River, made land to the south of it cheap, and attractive to the adventurous, impecunious and diverse. That tradition continues, with the churches of former slaves, homes of hipsters and techies, old and new residents, zany embellishments, yard art, and sleek modern infill, chickens, turkeys, and at the lovely Green Pastures, the historic Victorian mansion-turned-restaurant, peacocks. So suburban yet so close to downtown, the area is no longer cheap.

Who knew there is a mission-style stone castle on W. Mary St that is available for overnight guests? Or that Charles Whitman lived on Jewell St? That Ann Richards taught at Fullmore Middle School? That the area has the smallest of city pocket parks, the size of a vegetable garden, named in memory of Mary Jane ("Mollie") Dawson, and the park named in honor of Nicholas Dawson with the "coolest trash can container in any City park." <http://www.austinparks.org/apfweb/park.php?parkId=289> . Or, that a few blocks south of Barton Springs Road, on sleepy-seeming Dawson St, there is an impressive Elks Lodge ? Drinks by-the-glass made the private fraternal organization a popular place in years past. The present site, overlooking the downtown and the river, was dedicated by Lyndon and Lady Bird Johnson in 1958.

While it may now seem like a quiet intersection, at the turn of the century the corner of W. Mary and S. 5th St was the center of South Austin. David's is a 60-year-old neighborhood market with the original wood floors and facade, and in a particularly modern touch, now owned by Koreans. Across the street in contemporary contrast is the year-old Twin Oaks library, built on the site of south Austin's beloved first post office. The area's former character is strongly evoked by the two honey-colored limestone houses, built in 1892.

Those houses are two of five remaining that were built by members of the Dawson family, descendants of the roving Nicholas A. "Cheyenne" Dawson, who earned his nickname through a humorous brush with the Indians while blazing the first overland trip to California in 1841. Over the years since leaving Pennsylvania in 1838, he had proved himself unusually adaptable, but of his many jobs in many places, his first work had been as a teacher. After settling in Austin, he took seriously the education of his children; unusual for the time, two daughters attended normal schools (college for teachers), and his son had an engineering degree from A & M and law degree from U. T.

Mary ("Mollie") Dawson, the oldest daughter, and members of the family operated Dawson Preparatory School; she was the first principal of the first public school in S. Austin, the 1st female principal in Austin, and Mollie Dawson Elementary School on S. 1st St. is named for her. Her younger sister Nannie taught with Mollie. The two sisters joined with their younger brother Nicholas Amos Dawson, Jr. to form the Home Builders Association to build in the 44 acres of former Bouldin property that is the Bouldin and South Heights Addition, which they purchased from a Bouldin descendant. Nicholas was a well-known developer, briefly served in the 22nd Texas Legislature, and established and operated the streetcar company that tied the growing S. Austin together.

Saturday traipsers, from TOWN Austin and other area TOWN groups were JacqueA, SandyB and DonB, JanB, NancyB, guest RobinC, ClaireDeV, JennyF, LindaF, AmeliaG, guest RitaH, TaraH, CarrieL, DebraL, NancyL, SandyS, BobbiT and Linda W1. Lunch at El Mercado involved a toast to Saturday's leader, CarolC, around-the-table introductions, and gave leaders of upcoming events a chance to talk about them with a very attentive, if a little sweaty, group.

~LindaF



E-mail your trip reports to townaustin@yahoo.com!

TOWN Austin

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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.



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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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