



## Appreciating & Supporting Our Friend, Vanessa

Vanessa Verstuyft, a TOWN-Austin member and outing leader, is currently serving in Iraq with the Army National Guard. She arrived in Iraq a few months ago and will be there most of 2011. Vanessa is running an IT service desk. She works 12 hour days, six days a week.

A few of us have decided to bring a little sunshine Vanessa's way by sending her a care package of goodies.

If you would like to join in this effort, please bring a few items to our next TOWN meeting on Tuesday, February 22, 2011.

- Tap lights with sticky backing (power goes out a lot)
- Wet wipes, dust wipes, Clorox wipes
- Puffs plus with lotion
- Starbucks VIA instant coffee (any flavor)
- Coffee-mate creamers
- Kashi instant oatmeal & hot cereal (any flavor)
- Almond Milk (unrefrigerated)
- Cliff MOJO bars (any flavor)

We wish to extend a big **THANK YOU!** to a fellow TOWN Austin member who has paid for Vanessa's 2011 membership. Now she can stay connected while in Iraq.

Thank you, TOWNies, for all that you do! I'm proud to be a member of this great organization!

Warmest Regards,  
~Jen LaGrange

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2011 Membership Drive Update



The items to the right will make Vanessa smile!

## Upcoming Events

### FEBRUARY

**Feb 26 (Sat):** Hike Enchanted Rock. 10 a.m.

### MARCH

**Mar 6 (Sun):** Perdarnales Falls SP. Birding @ 8 a.m. Hiking @ 9:30 a.m.

**Mar 13 (Sun):** Hike Barton Creek. 10:30 a.m.

**Mar 18-20 (Sun):** Camping @ Brazos Bend State Park.

**Mar 22 (Tue):** Monthly Meeting @ 6 p.m. Kelli Hardin will share experience hiking the entire Appalachian Trail.

**Mar 25-27 (Fri-Sun):** BOW Outing open to members of any TOWN group.

### APRIL

**Apr 1-10 (Fri-Sun):** Camping @ Big Bend National Park.

**Apr 3 (Sun):** Hike McKinney Roughs LCRA Preserve. 12 noon.

**Apr 10 (Sun):** Tour Benini Sculpture Ranch. 10:30 a.m.

**Apr 14-17 (Thu-Sat):** Old Settlers Music Festival.

**Apr 17 (Sun):** Touring Chaetura Canyon (members only). 8 a.m. - 12 noon.

**Apr 23-24 (Fri-Sat):** Easter Hill Country Tour hosted by the

Austin Cycling Association (ACA). *Note:* not a TOWN sponsored event.

**Apr 26 (Tue):** Monthly Meeting @ 6 p.m. Karen Blizzard is a hiker and biker and works for Texas Parks and Wildlife Department. Karen's presentation is *Preparing for a Day Hike*.

**Apr 29 - May 2 (Fri - Mon):** Friends of Balcones Songbird Festival and Camping.

### MAY

**May 1 (Sun):** Hike @ Walnut Creek Metropolitan Park. 10:30 a.m.

**May 13-15 (Fri-Sun):** Camping @ Inks Lake SP.

**May 13-15 (Fri-Sun):** Outreach TOWN Texas: Birch Creek Unit Lake Somerville.

**May 24 (Tue):** Monthly Meeting @ 6 p.m. Dr. Dale Schaeffer will talk about skin protection, skin cancer, and what we should look for on our skin from poisonous plants and insects.

### JUNE

**Jun 28 (Tue):** Monthly Meeting @ 6 p.m. Speaker TBA.

### JULY

**July 8-18 (Fri-Mon):** Camping @ Davis Mountains State Park in Fort Davis, TX.

**Jul 26 (Tue):** Monthly Meeting @ 6 p.m. Speaker TBA.

# Trip Reports

## Hiking Bastrop State Park (Feb 5)

Five ladies (JaniceH, KathyK, Donna, Bonnie, and Nancy), one kid - Lena (Donna's daughter), and three dogs (Jax, Mayla, and Ivy) enjoyed amazing weather and awesome company as we hiked the eight mile lost pines loop.

Did I mention the perfect weather? The trail was in really good shape with a few small patches of snow left to please the eye. We made really good time and finished in about 3.5 hours.

After, we went across the street and ended our afternoon with burgers, fries, and malts from the Roadhouse Grill. I'm guessing we consumed more calories than we burned, but what the heck?

I'd like to say thanks to a fine group of individuals (two and four legged) for sharing a wonderful day with me!

~Nance



## Hiking Wild Basin Preserve (Feb 6)



What a companionable group of hikers! Seven of us (CarolC, Evie, Jacque, KimH, LindaF, LindaW(1), and Marie) met at Wild Basin Preserve to walk, talk, and enjoy our lovely winter surroundings.

Evie and KimH offered to lead the hike; CarolC was nominated to be the official map reader (the one who can read small print). Someone (who recently enjoyed a class on mammals) suggested we focus on tracks and scat for this hike and the group agreed.

So we set off with our leaders in front selecting our route. We successfully arrived at the creek and falls where ice still decorated the rocks. The sounds from the creek were very enticing. LindaW(1) promptly tossed her sunglasses (or dropped by mistake - we voted) in the creek and challenged us to retrieve them. Of course we had to accept that challenge and did a bit of rock climbing. Then across the creek we marched; we returned across the creek and climb the hills to

our starting location. LindaF was particularly interested in the flora.

Trail runners preceded us, so any tracks we might have seen were lost. We debated over two samples of scat seen. We agreed the first sample was raccoon. The debate lingered over the second sample. So I submitted two photos to Mitch at Wild Basin who identified the scat as likely from a coyote and the plant at Evergreen sumac.

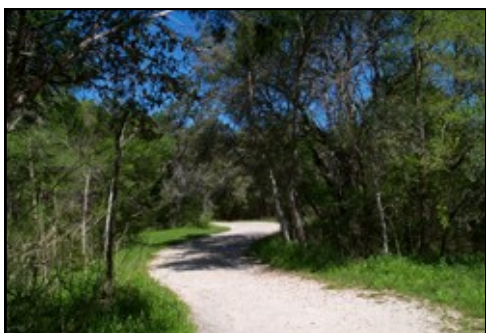
Evie believes she saw a ringtail cat prior to joining us, but so far the id is elusive.

If you plan to hike this area, print the flora handout from the website. Copies are unavailable at the trail head.

We walked 2.11 miles in 1:18. The terrain was challenging in some areas and level/easy in others. Afterward six hikers set off for Rudy's BBQ for lunch. It was a fun outing. Thanks everyone for attending!

~Jacque

## Strolling Through Mary Moore Searight Park (Feb 12)



Eight of us enjoyed the weather to take a stroll through this South Austin park that is a hidden treasure. Joining me was JennT, JanetC, JudyD, EvieT, LisaW, JaniceH, JudyL and two furry friends.

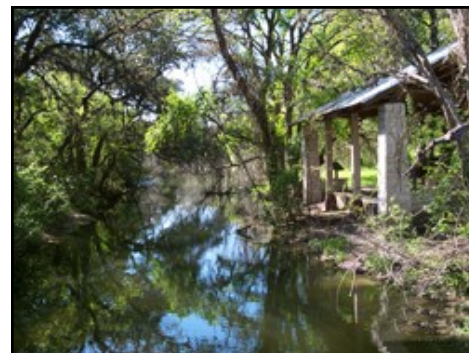
We started out on the main trail then veered off the beaten path to the

equestrian trail. That trail takes you alongside Slaughter Creek. There was a little bit of water in the creek, just enough that we had to step over a little stream near the rocky entrance. JanetC even saw some ice in the water! We walked to several of my favorite places in the park. We did hear some birds in the trees, but the most interesting was a roadrunner on the ground. It ran into the bushes then stayed there, which gave all of us a chance to admire it for a short while.

Before going our separate ways, we walked over to the pavilion to read the plaques about the history of the park. It's always fun taking others to a place

they've never been before and how delighted they are to see it; it makes you appreciate it all the more! Thanks, ladies, for an enjoyable morning walk!

~Cindy



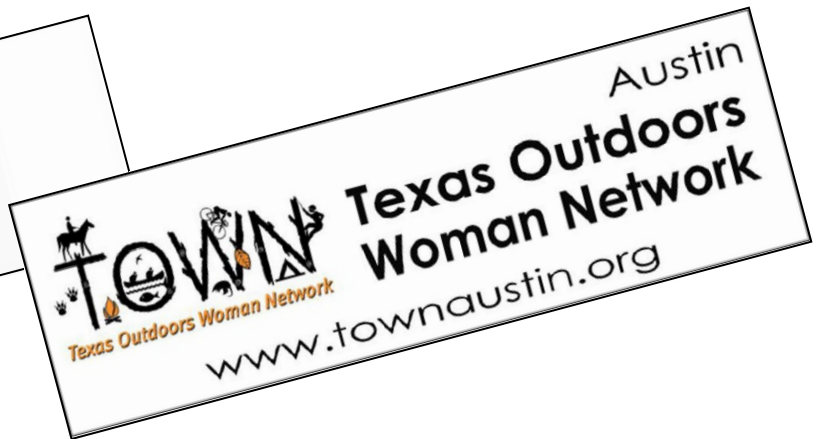
**Tell your friends about TOWN! Membership is only \$20 a year!**



## An Outstanding Suggestion: Bumper Stickers!

Let's get TOWN Austin stickers! It will be an easy and inexpensive way to find each other when gathering for an outing! The more we order, the better price we can get for our members. Price per sticker: \$3.50 or less (depending on the quantity ordered).

A short and sweet poll: Are you interested in purchasing a TOWN Austin sticker? Please e-mail Judy Dunavant ([judy.dunavant@sbcglobal.net](mailto:judy.dunavant@sbcglobal.net)) if you are interested. Displayed are some proposed designs (subject to tweaking a bit, but you get the general idea!).



## Welcome New 2011 Members!

- ◆ Adrienne Austin
- ◆ Leigh Byford
- ◆ Nickey Cushman
- ◆ Debra Doerflein
- ◆ Faye Gibson
- ◆ Robena Jackson
- ◆ Jen LaGrange
- ◆ Eola Lewis
- ◆ Gwen Oberholtzer
- ◆ Sandy Smith
- ◆ Evie Tate
- ◆ Bobbi Trumbo
- ◆ Annett Waller
- ◆ Tammy West

We're so glad that you've become a TOWN Austin member!

## Let's Get Others to Join in the TOWN Austin Fun!

We're currently at 83 members strong! Help us reach our 2011 membership goal of 125+. Spread the word!

Ask a friend, family member, or co-worker!

Just in time for the spring, let's get more wonderful ladies outside!



See a board member or go online for info and a membership form.

## TOWN Austin

P.O. Box 300494  
Austin, Texas 78703-0009

## 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

### Coordinator/President

Jacque Austin - jsaustin54@sbcglobal.net

### Membership Chair

Lisa Sands - lsands@austin.rr.com

### Club Treasurer

Janet Fitzsimon-Barr - janetfb@austin.rr.com

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### Historian, Scrapbook, Web Photos

Sandy Ostiguy - sandyos@yahoo.com

### Outings Coordinator

Judy Dunavant - judy.dunavant@sbcglobal.net



## 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/Flyfishing
- 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.



## Find us on Facebook

Texas Outdoor Woman Network, Austin Chapter

Visit us on the Web  
[www.townaustin.org](http://www.townaustin.org)



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