



Texas Outdoors Woman Network

## Texas Parks and Wildlife Videos

Check out the TPW YouTube channel. There are lots of interesting videos! Here are a few! Grab some popcorn and enjoy the show(s)! <http://www.youtube.com/user/TexasParksWildlife/>

<http://youtu.be/36xmtGhyOeM>



<http://youtu.be/y4deOZaE3bQ>



<http://youtu.be/Sa19kiCo99w>

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## Upcoming Events

**EVERY WEDNESDAY**  
Kayaking on Lady Bird Lake @ 6 p.m.

### JUNE

**June 28 (Thur):** Tubing on the San Marcos River @ 9:45 a.m.

### JULY

**July 1 (Sun):** Hike Turkey Creek Trail at Emma Long City Park & Lunch at Ski Shores @ 8:30 a.m.

**July 14 (Sat):** Hike the Homestead Trail @ McKinney Falls SP

**July 21 (Sat):** Hike the Turkey Creek Trail at Emma Long City Park @ 8:30 a.m.

**July 24 (Tues):** Monthly meeting @ 6 p.m. Speaker: Kim Sorenson

**July 28 (Sat):** Krause Springs Hike, Potluck Picnic & Swim @ 10 a.m.

### AUGUST

**Aug 1 (Wed):** Evening Picnic & Swim @ Barton Springs Pool then live music poolside & Full Moon Howl @ 6:30 p.m.

**Aug 18 (Sat):** Hike @ Bright Leaf Preserve @ 8:45 a.m.

**Aug 18-Sept 1 (Sat-Sun):** New Mexico Camping Trip

**Aug 25 (Sat):** Picnic, Swim, Shop, Dinner, & Movie @ Wimberley & Blue Hole @ 11 a.m.

**Aug 28 (Tues):** Monthly Meeting @ 6 p.m. Speaker Pat Bowen.

### SEPTEMBER

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

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

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

### OCTOBER

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

### NOVEMBER

**Nov 9-11 (Fri-Sun):** Camping @ Lost Maples State Park

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

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

### MARCH 2013

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

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

### MAY 2013

**May 20-27 (Sun-Sat):** Trip to Yosemite National Park

# Outings! Outings! Outings!

## Hiking Pedernales Falls State Park (Apr 28)

GloriaB, SandyS, LindaY (& Becca), joined Jan and me for a 5 mile hike over Trammel Crossing and around the cemetery loop. Janet F-B. (& Max) joined us on the last leg of the hike. JuneA joined us for lunch and another hike on the Nature Trail after lunch.

It was a beautiful hiking day with a nice breeze for most of the day. We saw thistle, antelope horns, Indian blanket, winecup, coreopsis, prickly pear cactus and Tasajillo (Christmas cactus) in bloom. There were also a number of yellow blooms that haven't been identified. A painted bunting and cardinal were spotted and many other birds were heard. The water was higher this day and just so wonderful. We crossed it twice, once going and once on the return. We also visited Twin Falls on the Nature Trail. All and all, a good hike and good day to be out of doors. Hope to see you on the trail soon.

~Jenny and Jan

## Kayaking Bull Creek (Apr 29)

Seven Townies and Tom left Pennybacker Bridge Sunday morning, braved the choppy water of Lake Austin and enjoyed a beautiful, serene float down Bull Creek with (of course) a stop for lunch @ County Line BBQ. We saw herons, lots of turtles, 2 redtail hawks, a snake and a mermaid. RonnieC (a new member-to-be) joined us for the first time. LindaF debuted her new inflatable kayak. GloriaB jumped in to save.....oh wait!.....nothing needed saved.....maybe the mermaid? JudyL, GailG, LisaM and I sat back and watched it all happen. By the time we returned back out to the lake, the big-boat folks were out in abundance. We gathered as a group and took an e-ticket ride (no one but I knew what that referenced) back across to the boat ramps. Thank you, ladies for a beautiful time. I am so blessed to spend time with you all!

~LindaBW

## Hiking Wild Basin Wilderness Preserve (May 5)

Hi TOWNies! I was joined by three Townies (JacqueA, LindaY, and SandyO) and 4 guests at the Wild Basin on Saturday morning. We had a nice 2 mile hike covering almost all of the 2.5 miles of trails.

There was a trickle of water flowing at the Waterfall and lots of fern growing around it. Jacque logged an EarthCache near the end of our hike and it was fun helping to answer the questions as we learned more about the geological history of the Wild Basin.

We saw a young cottontail bunny and a Texas Spotted Whiptail lizard. I posted a group photo on the Texas Outdoor Woman Network FB page. I really enjoyed the morning hiking with everyone and hope to do it again soon! Enjoy the outdoors!

~CarolynD

## Kayaking on Lady Bird Lake (May 9)

Dear All, JaniceB, LindaBW, DarleneS (visitor from Atlanta, Ga), and Linda Y. joined in Ka-yackin' at the Rowing Dock. What did we see? We are calling it: Several male and female "Wood Ducks" (purdy black and white heads and orange beaks). My personal favorites "Mud Turtles" they dive off the shore and would dive to avoid you hitting them. A "Carp" that was at least 24" long and 5" thick that darn near landed in Linda BW's kayak (close to a heart attack for her and no fishing license). Several dogs were "retrieving" off of Red Bud Island and having a good time. The Linda's and Darlene sealed the evening at the Shady Grove on Barton Springs Road. Proud to be a TOWN-ie!

~LindaY

## Hiking West Cave Preserve (May 20)

Twelve of us enjoyed the beauty of West Cave Preserve this morning. We began with the evolution of West Cave from 250,000 years ago to present. West Cave is on the Pedernales River. Pedernales is Spanish for flint and named that because of the abundance of flint stone on the river.

Our journey took us from 7 species of trees and prickly pear down to 25 plus species of trees and fern. At the bottom of the trail, we were treated one of nature's treasures. The pool and grotto were pristine with travertine pools and lots of green flora.

The following were sighted on this outing: White-eyed vireo, White-eyed vireo nest with a bird in it, Golden-cheeked warbler & fledgling, Summer tanager, Golden-fronted woodpecker, Canyon wren, Parula, Phoebe, Bobcat, and Fox. This was definitely a treat for the senses! Thanks!

~Jan and Jenny

**Read Complete Trip Reports Online!**

# Fun! Fun! Fun!

## Camping in Colorado Bend State Park (May 4-6)

Eight TOWN women spent a glorious weekend at Colorado Bend State Park. GloriaB, SusanW, Eola, JudyL, PatN with friends Nancy (Waco) and Barbara (Ft Worth) and yours truly, all had a great time. If you are into roughing it a little, and love to really get away from it all, this place is for you! Even the trip to the park was beautiful with all the wild flowers. The Indian Blankets were blanketing the sides of the road all the way from Lampasas to the park! It was a sight to see!

We kayaked down the river and enjoyed some beautiful sights. We birded, and did some hiking, including a little geocaching. Susan even picked up a Cowboy. No wonder you all like geocaching! Of course he was only 2 inches tall.

Saturday, Pat, Nancy and Barb took the guided hike to Gorman Falls, and warned us it was a rough trail but worth the effort. And she was right. Sunday morning, the rest of us hiked the 1-1/2 mile each way trail. I know that doesn't sound so bad, but that last part of the trail was nearly straight up and down and a real rock scramble! But the treasure at the end was amazing!! Gorman Falls is one of the prettiest sights I've seen in Texas, and I've seen some wonderful things! A spring at the top of the canyon cascades down the rocks. Lots of green moss, ferns, and other plant life everywhere. Cool and shady.

All in all I would say it was a wonderful trip, despite the big thunderstorm Saturday night. Some of the tent campers were a little damp the next day, but still in good spirits. And poor Claire (the dog) picked up a bunch of burrs in her hair, and I suspect ended up with a cute little doggy hair cut this week. I will be adding an album of the photos I took. Be sure to check it out. I really enjoyed this place and hope to go back again.

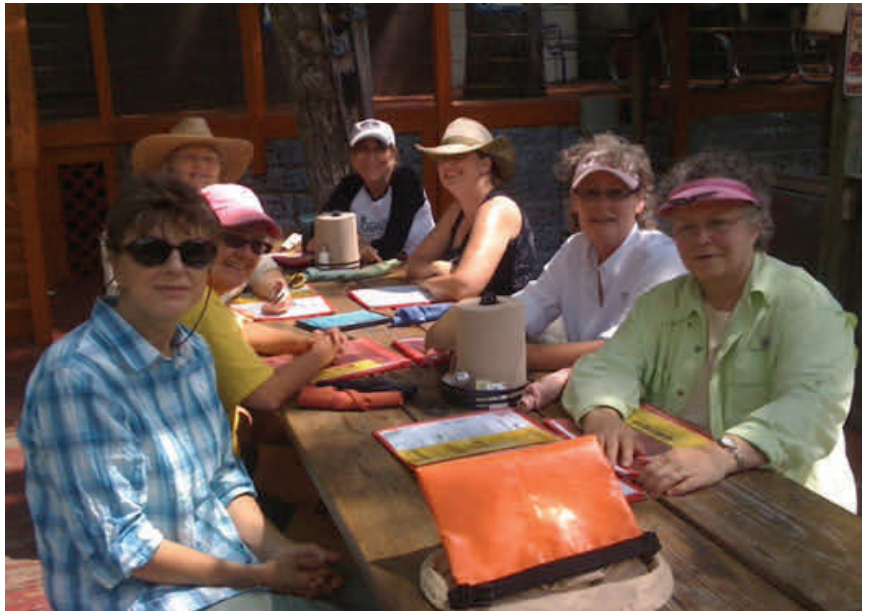
~LindaW2

## Hiking Turkey Creek Trail (May 19)

Saturday, May 19, was a beautiful morning and our hike along Turkey Creek in the Emma Long City Park began on a sun-dappled path. There were eleven of us including Janet., DebraG, NancyL, LindaY, LisaM and her guest DeanneK, SallieN and her guest CurtisN and his three children (Madeleine, John, & Isaac). We had 2 dogs along as well.

The children and dogs thought they were in heaven as there were 9 creek crossings and the opportunity of getting wet! The last part of the trail was quite rocky, but the peacefulness and beauty of the setting made all challenges worthwhile. We didn't see or hear a lot of birds but met many friendly, happy people and dogs along the way. Thanks!

~Jenny for Sallie who is without a computer at the moment



## Introduction to Geocaching (Jun 2)

Four members (actually three members and one wanna be) met at my house for an Introduction to Geocaching. CarrieL, Gail, JanB, and LindaF joined me for a **Geocaching 101**, a PowerPoint program. We followed that with locating two temporary caches in my yard. Then we went in hunt of three genuine caches. We located **Living under Ground** with little difficulty. **A Start** provided a challenge and since none of us had our repelling equipment, we passed it by. We will be back! Our third cache was **Diabolical #3** hidden by Sweet Steve. It was rusted together, but we found it. A little WD40 and pliers will solve the problem. We enjoyed delving into the new challenges of digital technology!

~Jacque

E-mail Your Trip Reports to [townaustin@yahoo.com](mailto:townaustin@yahoo.com)!



# More Outings!

## Camping and the World at South Llano River State (May 24-28)

Thirty-one brave souls joined us at South Llano River State Park on Memorial weekend (that count included a family with beautiful twin boys). Our first big laugh was Jenny trying to ride Jan's bike and coming to a roaring stop against the picnic table and then crashing to the ground. With no injuries we had a good laugh. Since it was a little warm, Jacque tried to make a swimming pool in her Casita. Opening the door helped drain all the water out successfully. Of course, SandyS provided us with her famous rum cake.

Saturday sixteen of us had a five hour kayaking trip down the S. Llano with Linda and Tom hauling the kayaks and JudyL and Gloria hauled the people in their truck. Everyone maneuvered the rapids without tumbling over although a couple people went face first into the poison oak bushes.

Our appetizer pot luck was out of this world which included ribs, pasta and much more and special drinks with the blender going by Gail, Jan, and Jenny. Carol provided banana boats for dessert. Birders enjoyed the variety of species in the four blinds. Plus the park provides several water features in the campground. Among the birds seen were: Great Blue Herons, Green Heron, Vultures (black & turkey), buntings (Indigo, Painted), cardinals, Vermillion Flycatchers, doves (Inca, Mourning, & White Wing), sparrows (Lark, Rufous-crowned), Black Throated Hummingbirds, Ladder-backed Woodpeckers, Bewick's Wren, Scott's Oriole, and Summer Tanagers.\*

SusanW led us in retirement of an American flag. The color guard (Eola, Gloria, JudyL, and LindaBW) assisted in preparing the aged flag by excising the blue field with stars. Then, the group cut the stripes one by one and these were burned. After all the stripes were burned, the blue field was submitted to the flame.\* This was the first time I ever saw a bunch of women and men silent for an extended period of time.

We began Sunday morning at JudyL campsite with boiled eggs in a bag including all the fixings. We never stopped eating! Seven kayakers took off to the 1st crossing while Jacque led others geocaching. We decided we liked this section better because it had more rapids. It was scary for me as Carrie and I went down the worst rapids backwards.

Geocachers had a super day finding 27 caches, that's 100% of our list. Eight TOWNies (Deborah, Eola, Gloria, Jacque, JaniceB, PatB, SandyO, and SusanW) toured Junction, Texas Tech campus, the state park, and a cemetery to locate our finds.\*

Carrie led a hike Sun afternoon and of course we put all our food together and had another potluck. We gathered at Gloria's campsite to celebrate SandyO's birthday with angel food cake and strawberries.

Monday morning ranger Jason led the remaining on a hike thru a creek to a grotto - since we didn't see any snakes on that hike Jason showed us a rattler he caught on a campsite. I know I forgot a lot of things as I couldn't be everywhere but we had a blast birding at the four bird blinds, geocaching, hiking, swimming, and floating on inner tubes behind the campsite. The final few left the campsites Tuesday morning.

A big thanks to everyone for pitching in and providing, transportation, potluck meals, special drinks, desserts, flag retirement ceremony, different hikes and events. What a tremendous group of women and men!

~June with notes from Jacque

## A Night at the Met (Jun 20)

When you exercise your funny bone, there are no sweaty clothes, sore muscles or a bunch of dirty gear to put away. A TOWN outing was scheduled for the Arbor Cinema Wednesday the 20th: A Rossini comedy broadcast originally from the Metropolitan Opera. There was a salacious count, a castle full of virtuous ladies, "nuns" with mustaches and beards exploring the castle's wine cellar, a 3-way seduction scene . . . and wonderful music. Even without the TOWNie delight--food!--a wonderful time was had by TinaT and LindaN meeting for the first time, enjoying another TOWNie delight: friendship.

~LindaF

**Got and Interesting Story? E-mail it to [jenlagrange@yahoo.com](mailto:jenlagrange@yahoo.com).**

# More Fun!

## Hiking Barton Creek Greenbelt (Jun 23)



Six of us, HopeL, SusieA, JenL, JanB, LindaY, and JennyF braved the heat for this great walk. We traveled from Gaines Creek trail head to the end of the trail at Camp Craft Road, about 6 miles round trip. Good thing we didn't leave any later as it was warm when we returned to the trail head. I think we were all surprised to find a little water in Sculpture Falls and above. No dogs joined our group; however, there were enough on the trail to compensate. Busy day for dogs, bikers, and hikers. Jan and Hope turned back after an hour as they had other obligations.

This is a pretty trail and mostly shaded. We heard some birds but didn't see many.

It was a good walk for exercise, experiencing nature, and visiting. The last part of the hike to Camp Craft Road brought flash backs of River Place trail. It will get your heart rate up!



~Jenny and Jan

## Our 2012 Membership Drive Update

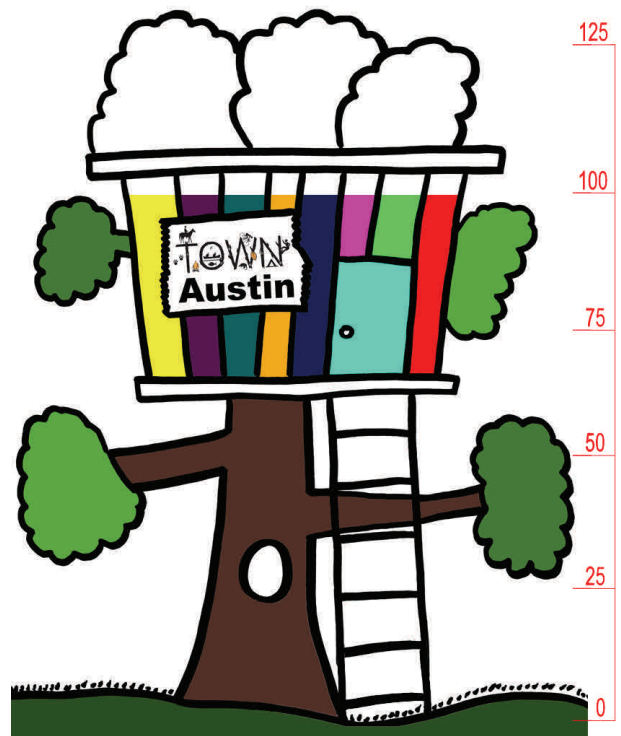
This Year's Goal: 130+ members

We're currently at **98** members! Invite your friends and family to be part of TOWN Austin!

We'd like to welcome these new members!

Thanks for joining the club!

- \* Jamie Claypool
- \* Gail Runyan
- \* Barbara Walters



## 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

### President

Judy Dunavant - judy.dunavant@sbcglobal.net

### President-Elect

Gloria Blagg - gloria\_blagg@sbcglobal.net

### Membership Chair

Lisa Sands - lsands@austin.rr.com

### Club Treasurer

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

### WebWoman

Jacque Austin - jsaustin54@sbcglobal.net

### Publicity Chair

Carolyn Doolittle - cadoolittle5@gmail.com

### Newsletter Editor

Jen LaGrange - jenlagrange@yahoo.com

### Secretary

Marsha Karrass—marsha.karrass@yahoo.com

### 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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Texas Outdoor Woman Network, Austin Chapter

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