



Stickers and Magnets Have Arrived! Purchase Yours at the May TOWN Meeting!

Stickers and magnets are here and will be available to purchase at the May TOWN Austin meeting (Tues, May 24). We will have them at each monthly meeting while supplies last!

The 4"x4" sticker is only \$1.25 each. Put 'em on your car, kayak, tent, cooler, RV, or wherever you'd like to show off your TOWN Austin pride!

For those of you who wish to have a temporary TOWN presence on your vehicle, **the magnet is awesome!** The 3"x11" magnet is beautiful and durable! Magnets are only \$4 each!!

Be sure to bring your sticker/magnet to each outing and place it on your car. That way you can find other amazing TOWN women and they can find you too!

Quantities are limited and are already selling fast! Please see Judy Dunavant or Jen LaGrange at the May TOWN meeting. **Please bring exact change.** Thanks and see you Tuesday!

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4"x4" sticker (\$1.25 ea.)



3"x11" car magnet (\$4.00 ea.)



Show off your TOWN Austin pride!

Upcoming Events

EVERY WEDNESDAY

Kayaking Lady Bird Lake @
Rowing Dock. 6 p.m.
Only \$10! What a bargain!

MAY

May 27-30 (Fri-Mon):
Camping @ South Llano SP.

JUNE

Jun 17-19 (Fri-Sun): Camping @ Blanco SP.

Jun 18 (Sat): Night @ the Ponds. Not a TOWN event. 7:30-9:30 p.m.

Jun 28 (Tue): Monthly meeting @ 6 p.m. Speaker Pamela LeBlanc, fitness columnist for the Austin

American Statesman, will share her outdoor adventures.

JULY

Jul 4 (Mon): Holiday Fireworks & Kayaking on Lady Bird Lake.

Jul 4 (Mon): Camping in Lago Vista

Jul 8-18 (Fri-Mon): Camping @ Davis Mountains SP.

Jul 26 (Tue): Monthly meeting @ 6 p.m. Speaker Matt Zaldivar will share details of his caving adventure in Mexico.

AUGUST

Aug 23 (Tue): Monthly meeting @ 6 p.m. Speaker Ruthann Panipinto will share her knowledge of native

snakes and will explain the difference between venomous and non-venomous snakes.

SEPTEMBER

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

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

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

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

DECEMBER

No monthly meeting. Happy Holidays!

JANUARY

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

Trip Reports

Touring Chaetura Canyon (Apr 17)

Twelve TOWNies (CarolS, KarenP, Jacque, JanB, Jenny, JudyL, JuneA, LindaW(1), RoxAnn, SandyS, SusieA, and SusieW) gathered at Chaetura Canyon to tour the preserve and enjoy the companionship of Paul and Georgan Kyle.

Georgan started our morning in fine fashion with a homemade breakfast of fruit, muffins, tacos, juice, and coffee. Afterward, Paul led our tour of the preserve with Georgan adding her insight as we walked. We learned about the construction of various styled Chimney Swift towers, how the couple purchased the initial acreage using a \$70 loan from a friend, what birds and mammals frequent the property, work after recent storm damage, the role of Travis Audubon Society at the preserve, and the identification of various plants. After our walk, Georgan served a healthy lunch of pasta. We, of course, had to sample the brownies.

What's impressive and continues to amaze me is the dedication of Paul and Georgan to the progress and nurturing of Chaetura Canyon Preserve. The number of bird and plant species continue to increase each year as changes are made in the preserve. Partnering with TAS ensures the future of the Preserve. Each of us enjoyed the experience and benefited from it.

Paul and Georgan shared, "We say it every year, and say it again: TOWN groups are our favorite visitors! One of the great pleasures of being Stewards of Chaetura Canyon is being able to spend a pleasant Sunday morning with such a bright, inquisitive group. Thanks so much for your interest and support!"

~Jacque



Outing Leaders: Share your adventure & pictures with us!

Trip Reports

Kayaking on Lady Bird Lake (Apr 20)

Eight adventurous TOWNies (LindaF, BobbiT, JaniceH, EarlineS, TerriE, LisaM, JoannK, myself and one guest DeAnnK) took off from the Rowing Dock at 6:00 and headed for Barton Springs. The sun had not made an appearance all day so the weather was cool and the lake was exceptionally peaceful.

We [Earline] saw four alligator gars swimming together. We all saw lots of turtles, birds and fish. On the way out of Barton Springs the black swan came up to us for a snack, poor guy was out of luck as we didn't have anything for him. Then we got a real treat to see a nutria (looked like a beaver with a rat tail). Earline spotted him also. He swam all around like he knew us all his life, no fear. Thanks to LisaM for the pictures. If you ever fear kayaking Lady Bird Lake, come along with Bobbi who survived a rattlesnake bite at the age of 12 and is brave enough to stand up to any all snakes that come her way. See y'all at the meeting on Tuesday back at Lady Bird Lake on Wednesday for more kayaking fun.

~LisaW



Kayaking on Lady Bird Lake (May 4)

Fortified by zucchini, squash and cucumbers generously supplied by Linda, the weather was perfect as eight of us paddled: Susan, Linda, Linda, Anne, Marsha, Bobbie, Lisa and Earline. The Austin piano project provided a serenade at the mouth of Barton Springs. The rascally nutria was spotted along with mute swans, turtles galore, American coots (duck with white bills), a variety of herons (Yellow night crowned hero, little blue, and green). Lastly a momma grebe with little ones came to wish us all a good night.

~LisaM



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

Build a Nest Box for Small Cavity Birds

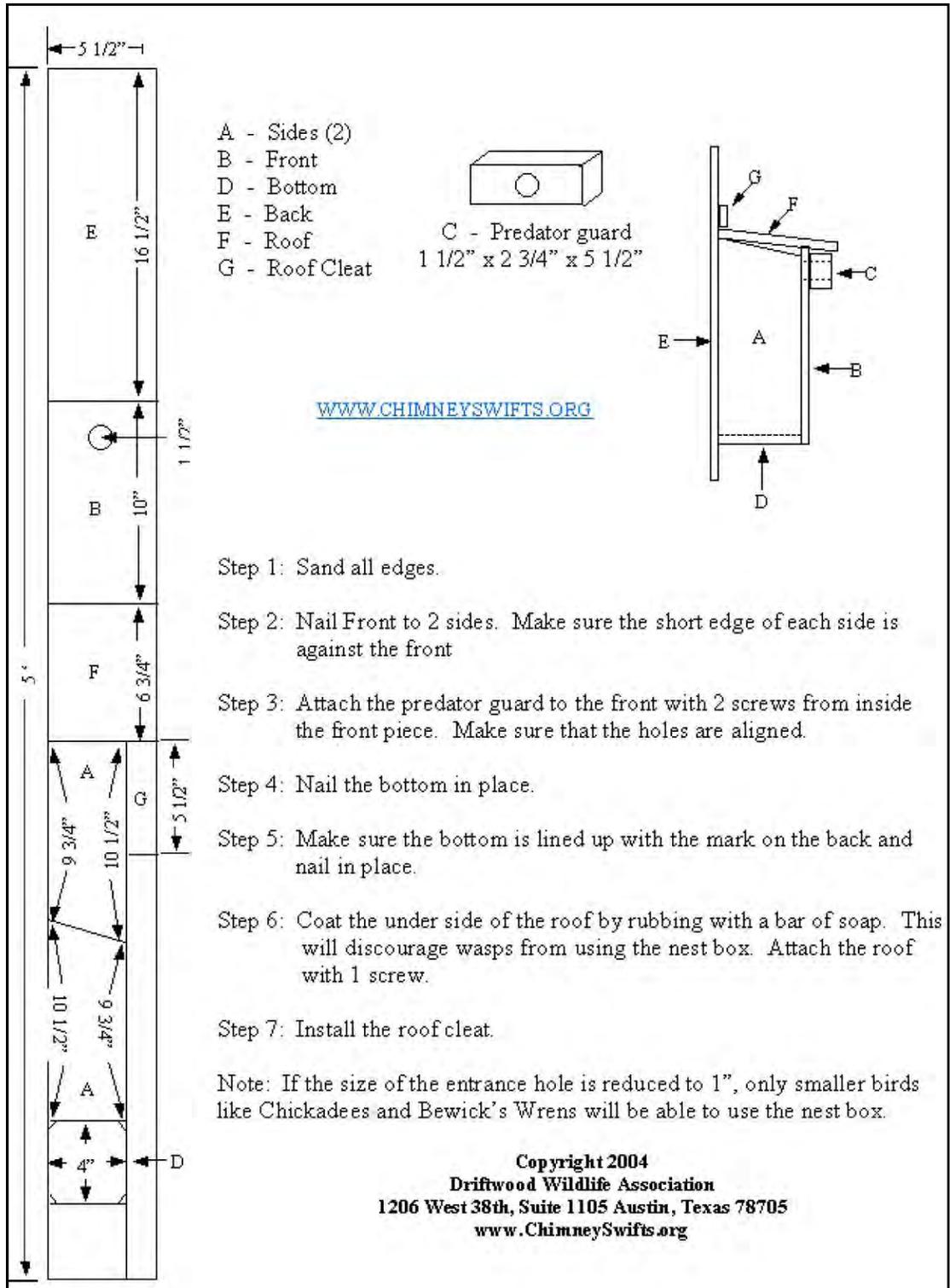
This nest box is most likely to be used by the following bird species in the Central Texas area: Eastern Bluebirds, Carolina Wrens, Bewick's Wrens, Black-crested Titmice, Carolina Chickadees, and Ladder-backed Woodpeckers.

It is important to attach this box securely to a tree, post or building. For the species listed above, place the box between six and ten feet from the ground. Only the wrens will utilize a box that is hanging by a cord and allowed to swing freely.

When securing a box to a tree, it is important not to use wire that wraps around the tree. As the tree grows the wire will become imbedded in the bark and may kill the tree. Instead, use lag screws and washers or deck screws. As the years pass, gradually unscrew to allow for the trees growth.

The block of wood on the front of the box is a predator guard. It will prevent squirrels from chewing around the entrance hole and enlarging it enough for the squirrel or other species to gain entry. Additionally, it will prevent a raccoon or cat from reaching in and down to the nest inside.

Should wasps take up residence in the nest box, remove the wasp nest and then spray the interior with a disinfectant like Lysol to dissuade them from rebuilding. Take care not to be stung during the process. Aerosol insecticide may be used on wasps outside of the box but should not be sprayed on the interior of the box.



Once a nesting pair of birds has appropriated the box, you will be able to observe their activities as they shuttle construction material inside. Most species of birds resent interference during their breeding period. Consequently, observations should be made from a distance.

If House Sparrows displace the native species, remove their nest. This may have to be done repeatedly before they give up and move to another location. At the end of nesting season, (or between November and January), open the box and remove the nest. This is a good time to check to make sure the box is secure and ready for the birds for the next year.

Got a recipe or tip to share? Submit to jenlagrange@yahoo.com.

This and That

Welcome New 2011 Members!

- ◆ Seema Balwani
- ◆ DeAnn Kiser

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



125 or Bust: We're Getting Closer, and We Need Your Help!

We're currently at 104 members strong....well on our way to 125!

Summer is around the corner and there are lots of outdoor activities planned! Let's get more wonderful ladies outside!

Ask a friend, family member, or co-worker to join! Bring a buddy to a monthly meeting!

Together We Can Make It Happen!

The Daffodils

I wandered lonely as a cloud
That floats on high o'er vales and hills,
When all at once I saw a crowd,
A host, of golden daffodils;
Beside the lake, beneath the trees,
Fluttering and dancing in the breeze.

Continuous as the stars that shine
And twinkle on the Milky Way,
They stretched in never-ending line
Along the margin of a bay:
Ten thousand saw I at a glance,
Tossing their heads in sprightly dance.

The waves beside them danced, but they
Out-did the sparkling waves in glee:
A Poet could not but be gay,
In such a jocund company:
I gazed—and gazed—but little thought
What wealth the show to me had brought:

For oft, when on my couch I lie
In vacant or in pensive mood,
They flash upon that inward eye
Which is the bliss of solitude;
And then my heart with pleasure fills,
And dances with the daffodils.

~William Wordsworth



Chimney Swifts Videos

Check out these amazing videos of Chimney Swifts. There are 13 videos in all ranging from going to roost, mating, nestling, feeding hatchlings, and playing kissy face too!



[Grab some popcorn, click here, and enjoy the show!](#)

Spotlight on TOWN-Austin Leader: Jen LaGrange

Jen is new to TOWN Austin and new to the board. She is the woman behind the newsletter. 😊 Originally from Breaux Bridge, Louisiana (Cajun Country!), Jen now makes San Marcos her home and is frequently soaking up all that Austin has to offer! Jen enjoys kayaking, cycling (road and mountain biking), hiking, and outdoor photography. Check out her website at www.jenlagrange.com. Thus far, her favorite TOWN outing has been visiting Benini Studio and Sculpture Ranch. She is purely ecstatic to be part of TOWN Austin and looks forward to meeting each and every TOWN member!



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

TOWN Austin

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

Coordinator/President

Jacque Austin - jsaustin54@sbcglobal.net

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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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Texas Outdoor Woman Network, Austin Chapter

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www.townaustin.org



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