



Texas Outdoors Woman Network

## Austin Trash Project

Fourteen TOWNies & friends met at Which Wich near the old Mueller Airport for sandwiches before heading down the road about a mile to the old Mueller runway. We braved the hottest day of the year (to date) and some of the women even came after the cave outing earlier that day! The group consisted of SusanW, EolaL, SusieA, JenLaG, CarolC & friend, LindaF & son Will, CarrieL, LindaW, Sandy Behrman & friend, CindyF & friend.



[Click here to see Trash Dance—The Movie](#)

With the temperature at 107 degrees, we were seated about 6:30 pm with our umbrellas & neck wraps (Susan & Eola) and for a few minutes, there was a sliver of clouds that blocked the sun. Eventually, the sun went down but it was still 100 degrees at 9 pm.

How do you define a *Trash Project*? Well, essentially there were about 14 refuse trucks (garbage, recycling, animal control) that were driving in formation choreographed to various types of music. There was classical, blues on harmonica, rap and even some breakdancing! The most unusual was the crane dancing in slow motion to a mellow piece of classical music. It was nice to see the City of Austin employees show off their talent & display a sense of pride with their daily jobs of cleaning up Austin! A big thanks to Marilyn for initiating & submitting updates for this event even though she was not able to go (she was there in spirit though)! Thanks for attending.

~CindyF

## Pumpkin Poem

One day I found two pumpkin seeds. I planted one and pulled the weeds. It sprouted roots and a big, long vine. A pumpkin grew; I called it mine. The pumpkin was quite round and fat. (I really am quite proud of that.)

But there is something I'll admit  
That has me worried just a bit.  
I ate the other seed, you see.  
Now will it grow inside of me?

(I'm so relieved since I have found that pumpkins only grow in the ground!)

~Anonymous



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**TOWNIES:** Thank you for your generosity & support of our fellow members displaced by wildfires! You've really stepped up for your TOWN sisters! Well done!

## Upcoming Events

### OCTOBER

- **October 30 (Sun):** Hike at Barton Creek Greenbelt the Brunch. 8 a.m.

### NOVEMBER

- **Nov 5 (Sat):** Canoe at Goliad Flotilla.
- **Nov 12 (Sat):** Hike at Bull Creek. 9 a.m.
- **Nov 22 (Tue):** Monthly Meeting @ 6 p.m. Free stuff exchange. Election of Board members.

### DECEMBER

**Dec 4 (Sun):** Hike @ Lake Georgetown

**Dec 10 (Sat):** Hike @ Bright Leaf 8:30 a.m.

**Dec 13 (Tue):** Hike Planning Mtg. 6 p.m.

### 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

## Caving in Whirlpool Cave (Aug 27)

Twelve TOWN-Austin women went on an adventure inside Whirlpool cave in South Austin. The group (Robin, Carrie, Bobbie, Linda, Janis, Susie, Jen, Debra, Janet, Nancy, Sima, and Carolyn) was led by our July speaker, MattZ (aka Spidy) and another experienced caver who also happens to be named Matt. Most of us had never crawled through a cave before today so this was a great first experience. Although some said this is their first and LAST caving experience.

After we put on our knee pads, elbow pads, helmets and headlamps, we headed over to the cave opening and Matt showed us where we would be going on a big map posted there. To get into the cave you have to go down a ladder inside a small opening one at a time. The first challenge was a corkscrew passage that you had to slide feet first to then twist around however you could to get through. We crawled through most of the passages but there were some areas that you had to propel yourself with your elbows on your stomach. The first room we got to is called the *Star Wars* room. Matt said it was named that because there is a formation on the ceiling that looks like the Millennium Falcon pointing the way back to the cave entrance.

Next we did some more crawling and belly sliding, this time through a muddy water puddle. We climbed up through a twisty area into a larger room called the *Travis* room. At this point we were 50 plus feet underground. This was a really large room with plenty of standing space. We rested here, had snacks, then we all turned off our headlamps to experience total darkness for a few minutes. It was weird not even being able to see your hand in front of your face.

Matt shared the fact with us that the rocky ceiling over our heads was actually separated from the rock above it and was only being supported by a pillar of rocks in the room. On that note we all decided to get out of the cave.

It was strenuous and challenging for everyone. We all survived! Some of us saw a few cave creatures - a little centipede and some cave crickets. There were also many live formations which were dripping.

Everyone was hungry after all the strenuous activity. Linda brought some cold watermelon for us then after cleaning up a little we all met at P. Terry's for burgers, fries and shakes. Thanks Linda for organizing this outing. It was great!

~CarolynD



**Outing Leaders: Share your adventure & pictures with us!**

# Trip Reports

## Galveston Deep Sea Fishing (Sep 29-Oct 2)

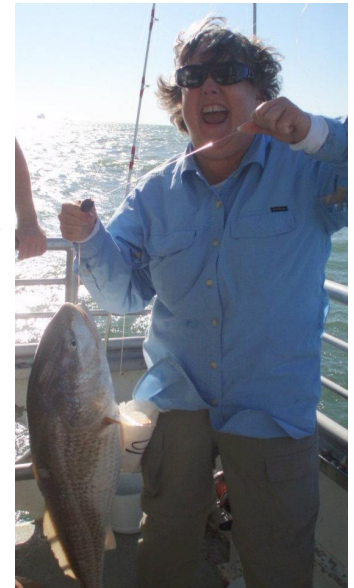
Big fish, lots of laughs, and great Galveston experiences sums up the Galveston Deep Sea Fishing Trip. The outing began with Carrie, Susan, and JudyD carpooling together to Galveston on Thursday. A stop at Buc-ee's in Luling, a heavy downpour with wind and hail, auto accidents (not us), and Houston traffic made our usual 4 hour trip turn into a 6 hour trip. Our first stop in Galveston was the Cajun Greek Restaurant for boiled shrimp and salads.

The next day the other 11 ladies began arriving. Twelve of us gathered at Gaido's Restaurant that evening for dinner. Gaido's was definitely a hit as usual. Saturday morning came early for us. We met at the Capt. John boat at 6:45 a.m., to get our passes and await our departure. We were warned that our deep-sea trip might turn into a bay and jetty fishing trip because of wind and rough seas. After an exciting boat ride to the edge of the bay, I think most of us were glad to fish closer to home.

Our fishing began with several of us catching and releasing Hard Head Catfish. Then Susan landed a 36", approximately 25 lb Red Drum. I think the boat rocked from the squeals and excitement that came from our group of 14. Not long after Janet landed her Red Drum. We were definitely an enthusiastic group. Our trip ended around noon since we weren't able to go as far out as first planned. That left us with a free afternoon. I think most of us spent part of the day sleeping off Dramamine and excitement. Afterward 7 of us went to the Black Pearl for dinner and then took a free walk-on ride on the ferry to Port Bolivar and back.

Sunday, five of us went to Galveston Island State Park for a guided bay walk. Our guide discussed the Short Cord Grass that is prevalent in the bay area, the Fiddler Crab; we saw Hermit Crabs, and snails and the effects of the drought on the area. We learned that the bay is now saltier than the gulf waters. In between times we enjoyed shopping Murdoch's and sitting in their breezeway with cold drinks and snacks; visiting the railroad museum, the Strand, and touring the tree sculptures around the city.

The 14 ladies attending were JudyL, Carrie, Susan, Gloria, LisaM, Connie, Jeannie, Deanne, Anne and Janet from East Texas, Barbara, Norina, Gail, and JudyD. All in all it was a successful outing with a wonderful group of ladies, one I hope to repeat sometime soon. Visit our [TOWN Austin Facebook page to see more pics!](#)



~JudyD

## Cow Parade (Oct 1)

Nine TOWNIEs (KimH, LindaW1, Eola, DebraL, SandyS, AmeliaG, CarolynD, JaniceH from San Marcos, led by CarolC) met downtown Saturday morning to corral a herd photographically of custom-painted fiberglass cows: [CowParade Austin](#)

Our 3-hour, 3.5 mile route along Congress Avenue, the south side of Lady Bird Lake, and the 2nd Street District gave us the opportunity to see and photograph 33 of the custom-painted, fiberglass cows.

Our favorites were Cowbella, Cowjunto Music, Flowerida, Gilded Lily, Hill Country Beaux Vine and Cheese, Cookies and Milk: 100 Years of Girl Scouts (celebrating the 100th Anniversary of Girl Scouts U.S.A.), I Love Moo and Texas Moosicians.

Seven of us chose to enjoy a *last meal* (not ours, but one of the last to be served) at Hickory Street Bar and Grill. Saturday was the final day of business for the 28-year old eatery at 800 Congress Avenue. Breaking ground next summer, in two years the restaurant will be replaced with a 28-story tower that's expected to house offices, a 210-room boutique hotel, several restaurants and a coffee bar.



**E-mail your trip reports to [townaustin@yahoo.com](mailto:townaustin@yahoo.com)!**

# Trip Reports

## Aquarena Springs Glass Bottom Kayaking & River Float (Sep 11)

Five of us met at Aquarena Springs to try out the glass bottom kayaks and tour the grounds. Attendees were Karen, Laura, Teresa (all 3 from San Marcos TOWN), Cindy (from Austin TOWN), and Carrie (from both TOWNS). Five people is the limit they will take out at one time, so we were all able to do the tour together.

Spring Lake is quite deep but the water is so clear you can see all the way to the bottom from your kayak. Bubbling up from the sandy bottom, we saw many springs that form the headwaters of the San Marcos River. We had a close up look at aquatic life and saw Texas River Cooters, Guadalupe Bass, catfish, spotted gar, green heron, a kingfisher family, along with several other birds and fishes. Our guide identified several aquatic plants and explained that Texas wild rice only grows in the San Marcos River. We floated over an underwater archeological dig site where thousands of artifacts have been found. There has been a recent discovery of a burial site just north of the springs that may date back 10,000 years. After kayaking, we walked the floating boardwalk and toured the wetland habitat and the aquarium with an endangered species exhibit.

Next, three of us headed over to the River Pub for lunch. Later, Donna (San Marcos TOWN) joined us for tubing on the San Marcos River. We walked up the river as far as we could to the dam just below Spring Lake with our tubes in tow. It was lovely and very peaceful! Then we just let the current float us down the river and even made it through Rio Vista Falls without anyone flipping over. A relaxing and refreshing day was had by all!

~CarrieL

## McKinney Falls Camping and Weekend Events (Sep 23-25)

Friday afternoon Mike and I arrived at the park and set up camp. Saturday morning Dawn and her friend and TOWNIE Karen joined us for the guided nature hike. The hike was led by two TOWN members, Dolores and me. The hike turned into somewhat of an adventure when the group wanted to walk the now dry creek bed from the upper falls to the lower falls. This was a diversion from the usual nature hike but was fun.

After the hike Dawn and Karen set up camp and we all enjoyed the afternoon. Later, Robin, a brand new TOWNIE joined us. Robin didn't spend the night but wanted to spend time with the group and attend the star party being held that evening. For the star party our member SandyB's husband Don and a number of other astronomers from the Austin Astronomy Club brought their telescopes for wonderful views of objects in the sky.

Sunday morning, bright and early, Carrie, Dawn, Karen, Mike & I joined members of the Travis Audubon Society for a bird walk. In all the group spotted 30 species. All of the weekend events were sponsored by the Friends of McKinney Falls State Park, a volunteer organization that supports activities in the park.

~JudyD

## Gun Safety Class (Oct 2)

Eight women attended the Gun Safety class that my husband Frank taught. No one was shot and the only accident was that Willie, the Rat Terrier, jumped up on the table and ate some date nut candy from the Persian Gulf. Millie, the Rat Terrier, also joined in the restricted treats but was blaming Willie for starting it. Belly aches to follow.

The class was attended by Alisa, Amelia, Irene, Lisa, Joan, Jacque, LindaW1, LindaW2, and Marsha. Frank went over the basics of gun safety (muzzle direction!) and the basic parts of the gun as well as the differences between revolvers, pistols, rifles and shotguns. He also discussed ammo size and stayed on to show how to make a bullet. He answered questions and then took each woman to the shooting range set up in the garage and each marksman was able to learn how to aim iron sight BB gun and fire away. Frank declared that all were "excellent shots and wonderful women and students". Marsha's kayak was spared from being shot.

A possible booking of Red's was discussed for a future outing. Lunch was served with Mexican Harvest quiche, roasted broccoli!, marinated carrots, pumpkin pudding, and spiced apples. Mulled cider was also the first of the season. This has left me planning the next cooking adventure..... hiking on 10/30 from my house and with stew and cornbread afterward. Thank you all for the canned goods for my little church.

~MarshaK

**Outing Leaders: Share your adventure & pictures with us!**

# Trip Reports

## Kayaking Diaries at Lady Bird Lake

### August 31

Did you know that Redbud Isle was formed in 1900 from the rubble of the bursting of the McDonald Dam during a flood? The Rowing Dock is a calmer place now that school has started, the only other people we ran into were five Pakistani students celebrating the end of Ramadan. LindaF ran into them. Returning member GailG ditched her inflatable for a rental and tried out the Dock's new paddles; lighter and more effective. In her first voyage as a TOWNie earned her a fly-by from a majestic blue heron as she neared the dock. BobbiT and LindaW, recounted highlights of their recent caving adventure, and JuneA did not get lost on the way to Shady Grove.

### September 7

What a glorious evening we had! The water was calm, the weather was pleasant and the company was, as always, outstanding! At 6 p.m, six ladies launched from The Rowing Dock....3 in kayaks and 3 on paddle boards. LisaM (newlywed and proud Mom of a staff sergeant) took a break from her Grandma duties and traveled with BarbaraD (Lisa's friend and best hat winner of the evening) to the Austin Rowing Dock to meet with DeAnn (who had the sense to steer clear of the paddle board carnage). They traveled up to the springs, but reported the water to be "yucky" and did not go completely in.

Bobbi T. (the best athlete of the group) jumped on the paddle board like a pro while LindaF and LindaW1 took a more cautious approach. GailG (new member and picnicker extraordinair) stayed with the boarders to pick up the pieces and offer encouragement. Throughout our evening, LindaF kept jumping off her board to practice her re-entry mount... (show-off!). Afterward, 4 ladies stayed for a pleasant picnic and even got to share with some of the awesome staff from the dock. I have attached pictures courtesy of GailG....(again, a most awesome picnicker). Come out and enjoy this experience when you can. You'll really enjoy it! LindaW(1)

### September 14

JuneA was our cheerful impromptu leader this week, a paddle that was the perfect illustration of the informal nature of TOWN's weekly trips. June's daughter and a friend were here from Wisconsin for the ACL festival. From slightly closer Lakeway, NancyP and her trainer KayS came to enjoy the cool green lake and celebrate Nancy's increased physical abilities Paddlers often begin as strangers but we will always find something to talk about and leave as friends. LindaF

### September 21

The change of seasons seems to have occurred in the distance between the Barton Springs inlet and the return to the Rowing Dock on Wednesday. LindaW1 picked up the change in the air, and picnic time between paddling and the fading of the light over the lake was very short.

Three big silver birds were sighted, probably 727s and there were coots and cormorants at the Barton Springs end of the paddle and bunches of ducks. Among the wildlife were a gentleman and his friend making their way through the water with individual hand-held paddles. They were happy to lend them to new member GailG and LindaW2 for a short trial . The possibility of working out different muscles during a trip is intriguing. "Guaranteed to take the doldrums out of paddling," it says on his website. <http://tubepaddles.com/>

We have not yet found any doldrums on these trips. Each week there are different boats (two of ours looked like Persian slippers) different birds and a new configuration of companions and the lake. TOWN Austin's kayak program will finish at the end of October. If you have been waiting to come until the weather cools off, or meaning to try it out *some time*, put it on your calendar now! LindaF

### October 5

JaniceB arrived at the Rowing Dock early--she had taken a BOW kayaking class and thought she'd like to try it out; JaniceH had a rapt audience as she prepared for our paddle by inflating her boat and installing passenger Marley. LindaW, and GailG, and LindaF and the two Janices, paddled down to the Barton Springs outfall. You can see in the photo, forwarded by LindaW, how smooth and glassy the water is. We TOWNies were the only boats on the water there, and enjoyed the peace and beauty of that spot in a new way . . .so quiet and calm that we were finally able to see the Earline's nutria along the western bank. LindaF

Only a few weeks left in our kayaking season! Come and join in the paddling fun!

**E-mail your trip reports to [townaustin@yahoo.com](mailto: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

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## 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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## Your TOWN Austin Leadership Team

### Coordinator/President

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### Club Treasurer

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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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