



TOWN-Austin Member Campaigns for Local Park to be Named After Her Father, Tom Lasseter

Our very own TOWN-Austin member, Carrie Lasseter, petitioned City of Austin council members to have a neighborhood park off South Lamar named after her beloved father, Tom Lasseter. The names being considered are the South Lamar Neighborhood Park and Del Curto Park. Carrie has petitioned city leaders to consider a third, more fitting, name: The Tom Lasseter Park. Here's an excerpt from Carrie's impassioned plea to the Austin City Council:

Tom Lasseter was a very well known, recognized, and respected Austin citizen and businessman from as early as the 1960's until his death at age 85 in 2011. He was always very involved in community affairs and volunteered much of his time. He was a WWII and Korean War veteran, an active member of the Naval Reserves, and President of the Greater Austin Council. As a longtime Austin architect, he was involved in the design and construction of many Austin commercial buildings, downtown restorations, and downtown revitalization projects and was a member of the local chapter of the AIA. He served on the Board of Directors with the Austin Jaycees, served on the Board of Directors of the YMCA of Austin from 1966-1975. He was Federation Chief of the Austin Indian Guide Program. He was General Chairman of Austin Upturn, a two day symposium in 1980 on the revitalization of Downtown Austin. He was the first Charter member of the Kiwanis Club of Greater South Austin in 1974, and in 1994, he organized the Shady Hollow Kiwanis Club. He contributed much to this community for over 60 years.

This park is located on the exact parcel of land that Tom Lasseter purchased in the early 1960's. When he purchased the acreage, it was outside the city limits and was a thick woods, barely walkable, with the middle of the land in a very low lying area as a creek ran through the center of the land. Tom Lasseter cleared the land by hand, carefully trimming all of the oaks and elms. He saved as many trees as possible. He then built a rock wall on both sides of the main creek bed to channel the water. Then he hauled in many, many loads of dirt to build up the entire center of the land on both outsides of the rock retaining wall. He literally "built the land" that the current park sits on. He also designed and built the bridge to drive across the creek.

As a licensed architect and contractor, Tom Lasseter designed and built a two story rock home - designed in the style of an old German farmhouse. This house was constructed mostly from architectural salvage gathered from the demolition of "historic" buildings in downtown Austin. This house remained on the present park property until several years ago when it was demolished. Even though the home is gone, the history lives on. Let's preserve the meaning, the character, and the soul of this property by naming it after a person—an individual—who was directly involved with the property and who contributed so much in the way of community service to Austin—my dad, Tom Lasseter.

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Upcoming Events

EVERY SUNDAY

Weekly 4-5 mile hike at Barton Creek Greenbelt from Marsha K's house in Southwest Austin @ 7:30 am.

EVERY WEDNESDAY

Kayaking on Lady Bird Lake (Rowing Dock) @ 5:30 pm (6 pm launch).

August

Aug 26 (Tue): Monthly Meeting @ 6 pm. Speaker: Michael J. Kallstrom, geologist and gemology specialist.

Aug 28—Sept 2 (Tues—Tues):

Devil's Sinkhole & Kickapoo Caverns.

September

Sept 13 (Sun): Hiking at Wild Basin Wilderness Preserve @ 9 am.

Sept 20 (Sat): Hiking Lower River Place Nature Park @ 8:30 am.

Sept 23 (Tues): Monthly Meeting @ 6 pm. Speaker: Jennifer Koonz, instructor in basketry.

Sept 25-30 (Thurs-Tues): Camping @ Mustang Island State Park & Hawk Watching at Hazel Bazemore County Park in Corpus Christi.

Sept 27 (Sat): Hiking Bull Creek Inga Trail (TBD).

October

Oct 4 (Sat): Hiking Lower River Place Nature Park @ 9 am.

Oct 18 (Sat): Hiking Barton Crk Greenbelt –the Hill of Life (from Scottish Woods Trail & Camp Craft Rd entrance) @ 9am.

Oct 25 (Sat): Hiking at Peder-nales SP—Wolf Mtn Trail @ 9am.

Oct 26 (Sun): Celebrate TOWN-Austin @ 9 am—2 pm.

Oct 28 (Tues): Monthly Meeting @ 6 pm. Speaker (TBA).

Oct 31—Nov 2 (Fri –Sun): Go-liad Flotilla and Campout.

Oct 31—Nov 2 (Fri –Sun): BOW Weekend at Concan, TX.

November

Nov 8 (Sat): Hiking Turkey Creek Trail @ 9 am.

Nov 11 (Tues): Hike Planning Mtg @ Central Market @ 6 pm.

Nov 25 (Tues): Monthly Meeting @ 6 pm. Annual potluck and Board elections.

January 2015

Jan 9-11 (Fri-Sun): Annual TOWN-Austin Holiday Party @ McKinney State Park.

March 2015

March 22-29 (Sun-Sun): 7-Night Caribbean Cruise to Cozumel, Mexico; Roatan, Honduras, & Belize City, Belize.

Kayaking! Kayaking! Kayaking!

June 11—Lady Bird Lake

What a great evening to kayak Lady Bird Lake! The temp was in the 90's but on the water it was cooler. We shared the Rowing Dock with CYCFITNESS group who were doing a spin demonstration. We benefited from some lively music, free power bar, and sun screen sample!

We also were greeted by several geese who were not at all afraid of people as they mingled with the crowd! We kayaked toward downtown, then turned in toward Barton Springs pool. We ran into many boaters, turtles, geese, and ducks. You had to pay attention as several young guys were kayak racing with each other. All in good fun. In attendance was JudyA, SusanWar, LindaF, DianeN and her daughter Robyn. ~GailPC

July 2—Lady Bird Lake

We had a very lively group on the 2nd. Jacque brought McKenna Keele and her younger brothers Marshall and Grayson, who kept us all laughing. JaniceB joined us, LoisK made a surprise appearance. She and LindaY brought their own boats, launching from behind the Rowing Dock. The water was wonderfully smooth, so we cleared Redbud Island in good time, even with Jacque towing Marshall. Along the way, LindaY hauled a forty-pound exhausted dog out of the water without even a wobble. The break from the week's business is always appreciated, and so is the slushy Margarita at Taco Cabana. ~LindaF

July 9—Lady Bird Lake

Nine TownAustin women and friends leisurely kayaked on Lady Bird Lake Wednesday. We kayaked around Red Bud Island and found nice shade and a breeze that made you forget the heat. We visited along the way and enjoyed light traffic on the lake.

JudyA, DebraC (TownAustin memeber came from Marble Falls!), SusanW, and her two friends Jackie and Alejandra, Jacque and her dog Sheba, LindaY and DianeN enjoyed the evening paddle. Sheba did well and wore her PDF as required by TownAustin. Afterwards most of us went to Able's on the Lake for a bite to eat and visit. Join us next Wednesday! ~GailPC

July 12—Webberville Park

What a beautiful day on the Colorado River with 9 awesome women, NancyP, GloriaB, SandyS, CarrieL, AdelaR, RachelA, LindaBW, plus her guest Jenny, and myself. Only the first-time-in-a-kayak newbie, Jenny, flipped and came up laughing in shallow water as her kayak continued down river. Luckily, she hung onto her paddle. She continued to laugh as she successfully got back in the kayak as evidenced by our picture. ~JudyL



August 9—Lady Bird Lake on Full Moon Night

The native Americans called this moon the full buck moon, as deer still have velvet on their antlers. No deer were sighted, however, on this peaceful paddle last night. We did witness the sunset migration of both people and Mx freetail bats at the Congress avenue habitat! Also sighted was an impromptu concert by the Texas River School <https://texasriverschool.org/programs/>.

Townie JudyL and friend Gary were the only people agile enough to keep up with my disorganization of this particular paddle. The intrepid three also paddled on the darkside=East of IH35. See ya on the water! ~LisaM

August 13—Lady Bird Lake

Although Wednesday the 13th was hot, on the water it felt cool, and smelled green and wet. As JaniceB and I took off toward Redbud Island, the wind was in our faces. We paddled in the shade, chatting about our week, and admiring the texture of the limestone cliffs and the variety of trees and greenery. Janice has a special laugh, and in the quiet and narrow part of the lake where it goes under the Redbud Bridge, it made a gleeful echo. We saw a Night Heron fly into some trees, as if there was a nest there, and a Great Blue Heron standing on a curve of tree trunk, perfectly posed.

The water was being released from the dam. As we headed around the island and back toward the lake, we had a nice push from the current, perfect for lazy paddlers. For no reason we could figure out, the wind was in our faces on the return trip, too. Janice sets a determined place, we had enough time left on the clock to watch the water polo for a bit before bringing the boats back in. On our trip we didn't hear any early music from the Blues on the Green; the downtown buildings, bathed in the gold of the sunset would have made a beautiful background for the evening's performances. ~LindaF

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Outings! Outings! Outings!

Memorial Weekend at South Llano River State Park (April 23-26)

Is it June already? Seems like we just got back from the Memorial weekend campout! And "No, we didn't get rained out". A little rain (well maybe a few inches of rain) doesn't stop the TOWN women! Luckily most of the rain was at night, and all of the tents stayed dry - only Carrie's trailer leaked through a window. The nights were unseasonably cool, & the days also very comfortable.

On this annual favorite, we enjoyed the fellowship of 17 women and some canine companions. Carrie's son also braved the TOWN women. With many campers arriving on Fri., the fun began with visiting & eating, birding & biking, & watching for wildlife. Sightings included Axis & Whitetail deer, armadillo, Mexican Ground Squirrel, birds of many colorful varieties including a velvety red Vermillion Fly Catcher that must have been nesting right in the campground. At dusk, many of us walked the short trail from camp to listen to an informative ranger talk about porcupines.

On Sat., many of our group went kayaking down a favorite stretch of the S. Llano River past tall cliffs and through small rapids & even over a waterfall. It was a beautiful paddle & everyone did great on the river including the blond Aquarius who was a little tipsy (well maybe it was only the kayak that was tipsy). It was another member's second time to ever be in a kayak. I would have never guessed it! Those who didn't kayak went birding, biking, & made Bar-B-Q and ice cream runs into town. A good time was had by all! For dinner, we shared a wonderful potluck meal, then some went to hear a ranger talk about endangered birds. One camper had made a huge pot of potatoes in a Dutch oven which were not done until bedtime. I think she ate potatoes for the next week at every meal. Later that evening, our group had a very special Memorial weekend ceremony with the retiring of an American flag.

Sun. morning, many Townies headed out for a tour of the Native American Seed Farm just outside of Junction. This is a family owned & operated farm which grows & harvests seeds of only native to America flowers & grasses & packages them to sell to retailers across the country. It was very interesting to hear about the process & see inside the facilities. Afterwards, some of the group headed for the local Mexican Food restaurant.

Sun. afternoon - it rained. We read, we napped, we made more Bar-B-Q and ice cream runs into town. Three brave souls hiked five miles in the rain wearing hooded ponchos. The sun would break through & birds would begin singing. Then rain, then sunshine. In the distance there were purple & white clouds on the mountain's horizon. It was springtime green on the woodsy trails, & on the hillsides cactus were opening up their bright yellow & pink blooms from the rainfall. The air was somewhat chilly, but so fresh & clean. What glorious scenery around Junction - on the edge of the rugged Texas hill country & almost the beginning of West Texas desert, with springs & flowing rivers!

Sun. evening - still rainy, but "no problem." Did you know that eight women can fit into a Casita for Dominos & card games? Mon. - most headed home, with a few staying one more day for more kayaking, birding, biking, & hiking. River flow had gone from 90+ CFS on Sat. to 140+ CFS. And great weather!
~ CarrieL

Hiking at Turkey Creek Trail (June 1)

Turkey creek in Emma Long park was a busy place as early as 8:30 on Sunday morning June 1. Water level was not too high and so crossings were uneventful (lucky me). Hiking Townies were Jacque, LindaY, Geneva, and Sallie as well as guests Steve and our canines Sheba, Maggie and wayward Becca who decided midway that she preferred the company of other dogs and hikers. "All's well that ends well" however. Linda and fickle Becca were reunited and the morning ended with a delicious lunch and chat alongside the water at Ski-Shores.
~SallieN

Kayaking Inks Lake & Lunch at the Bluebonnet Cafe (June 4)

It was a beautiful day to be on Inks Lake: not too hot, not too sunny, a pleasant breeze, and no crowds. Coming together for the short paddle trip were Jacque, JaneC, DebraC, and Marilyn. You may know that Inks Lake campgrounds are full almost every weekend from now until Christmas, over 500 campsites! So the weekday visit was quite nice. We met at the Park Store and boat ramp around 9 am, at least most of us did; Marilyn was late. Something about having to stop a couple of times on the way to check and recheck kayak tiedowns.

We put in and started to head for Devil's Waterhole, but the wind was persuasive that if we go the other direction first, it would blow us back to the ramp when we were tired. So we paddled toward Stumpy Hollow, into the wind and chop, staying close to shore for least resistance. Went near a couple of pretty camping loops, people swimming off of rafts in the water, kids splashing—lucky kids already out of school ahead of the crowds. We saw a gaggle of Canadian geese and goslings on the grassy shoreline near the cabins and a few turtles stuck their noses above water. The water was clean and the lake was full. We never made it to Stumpy Hollow. Three of us headed to the Bluebonnet Cafe for lunch and pie. Marilyn has two kittens to feed.
~MarilynF

E-mail Your Trip Reports to townaustin@yahoogroups.com!

Outings! Outings! Outings!

Fearless Friday the 13th Paddle (June 13)

Just before sunset, the fearless five set out to catch the bat emersion from the Congress avenue bridge. The sounds of nature were challenged by the ribaud growl of Harley Davidsons...what? ...yeah I know. Friday the 13th & the ROT rally was in town-oh well. We caught the bats emerging just be fore darkness descended then promptly paddled away from the cacophony into a bongo playing session then blessed quiet. We turned just in time to see the moon peering over the bridge & lighting the way over then city. ~LisaM

Hiking the Lower River Place Nature Trail (June 22)

Four of us, CarolynD, her sister Kristy, her niece Brianna and JennyF enjoyed a 3.6 mile, 2.5 hour hike beginning at the lower trail-head. We hiked up the new alternative trail for a little over one mile and turned around there to hike back. The alternative trail is more challenging than the original trail. There were several places where you were safer being on all fours or your bottom. We proudly dominated.

We had a good cleansing of the pores and donated small amounts of blood compliments of heat, high humidity and hungry mosquitoes. In good TOWN form we weren't daunted and continued on to do the Little Fern Trail out and back to finish off our 3.6 mile total. This is a beautiful trail with running water and unique limestone pools.
Happy Hiking! ~JennyF

Swimming & Picnicking at Krause Springs (June 28)

Seven of us gathered Sat. at Krause Springs in Spicewood, TX. DebbieW (guest), GloriaB, SheilaM, JacqueA, JaniceB, TerriR(guest), and KimK-D (guest). Shortly after 10am we set off on the hike.

At the northern waterfall, we encountered a kaleidoscope of Queen butterflies. There were probably 20 or more fluttering around. We found a butterfly wing. It's not from the Queen's that we saw, but a Red Admiral.

We ended the hike at the gardens by the house. Where we saw this large centipede. With Jacque's help, Gloria and I found a geocache hidden in the garden.

From there we broke into 2 groups. One going to the pool area, and the other down to the natural swimming hole. We got back together at noon for a scrumptious pot luck lunch.

We had a Summer Tanager come down and land just a few feet away. After lunch Jacque had to head out, and rest of us spread out again. Some to swim, some to just sit or enjoy the gardens. Sheila stayed the longest down at the swimming hole.

When she came up to our area, she told us there was a snake in the water, and she took that as a sign to get out. Though the crowd didn't seem to mind it.
~JaniceB



This is a picture of us measuring this Cypress tree. The seven of us holding hands could not reach around it.

Game Night (July 5)

Eleven townies and 3 guests were present for a night of fun, food, and games. We had another very special guest, Lynne's new labradoodle puppy, Chloe. Of course we had to eat first with lots of good food.

We played Taboo with two teams of seven and the challenge was on. I am not going to say which team lost. In our usual tradition we played Trains dominoes until our eyes couldn't stay open any longer. Almost everyone won a game and the one male, Eric, in our group took the award with three wins.

Townies are the most helpful group of people when the host needs lots of assistance. Thank you all for coming at such a late notice and helping the evening to be lots of laughs. We will certainly do it again.
~JuneA

Got an Interesting Story? E-mail it to sra0911@yahoo.com.

And Drum Roll, Please.....More Outings!

Hiking the Lady Bird Lake Trail (July 19)

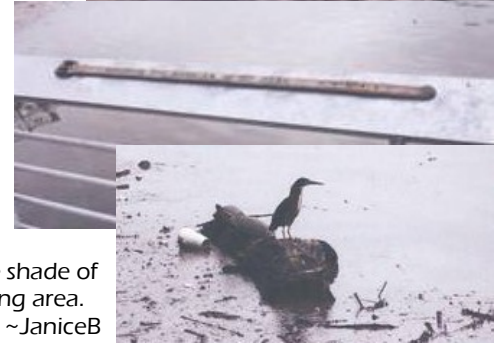
Eight of us TOWNies did the hike: me (Janice), LindaY, JanetF-B with pup Gracie, GloriaB, Jacque, JoanB, LisaS, and JudyL. I woke to hear the weatherman say that Sat morning would be a great time to get outside, and it was. The high temperature for the day didn't hit 90 degrees. We met up at the Park and Recreation offices on S Lamar and headed to Auditorium Shores that are still under construction. We then went under the Congress Ave bridge, and on to the new section of the trail.

We slowed to read several of these belts that had been attached to the railings. This one says "Watching the bubbles in my beer". They are leather, so it might be interesting to see them again after they age more.

We also saw a few herons. The boardwalk in away from the shore, so these birds were between the boardwalk, and the shore. I think everyone was surprised how long the boardwalk is.

At IH35 we crossed to the north side of the lake. We made good time as we enjoyed the shade of the trees. Crossing back over the lake at Pfluger pedestrian bridge, and back to the parking area. For me it was a fabulous way to start the day.

~JaniceB



Visiting Aquarena Sprgs & Tubing the San Marcos River (July 22)

GenevaR & JudyL (TOWN Austin), Laura & husband John, JudyA & friend Beverly with daughter Michaela (TOWN San Marcos), & CarrieL enjoyed a fun day on Tues.! We began with a glass bottom boat tour of Aquarena Springs. The water is sooo clear! We hovered over high pressure & low pressure springs, fish & turtles, & a large spotted gar. We saw cormorant, egret, & heron. Our tour guide was very knowledgeable & talked about the geology, archeology, & history of the area.

After our boat ride we walked the wetlands boardwalk & then toured the aquariums & archeological displays in the Rivers Center (built in 1929 as a hotel). The grounds have sure undergone changes in the last couple of years. Even the old rock building by the parking lot & the St. Augustine lawns are gone. It's now Texas native grasses.

By mid day, we were all ready for Mexican food & fish tacos at Chimy's Porch - a great suggestion by JudyA! We then headed for the river putting in below the Spring Lake dam near Salt Grass, & floating down the river to Rio Vista Falls past lots of Texas Wild Rice (protected as an endangered species - it only grows in the San Marcos River). The river banks have changed too - some fenced off to prevent erosion & other areas with lots of huge stones placed for sitting near the water. Most of the large Elephant Ears have also been removed from along the banks. At the Rio Vista dam, some of us splashed through the series of falls, & found the new steps at the end making it easier to get out. It was a refreshing way to spend a hot July day!

~Carrie L.

Biking Lake Bird Lake Trail (July 26)

Well, we (CarolC, CarolynD, DeborahT, GailPC, Jacque, and JaniceB) enjoyed our ride this morning. We rode 10+ miles in about 92 minutes. Everyone was in a good mood, glad to be out, and enjoying the new boardwalk surface.

The trail was quite congested this morning with joggers, bikers, walkers, tourists, & young kids learning to ride bikes. That is a danger zone! But a good one. Next time we will add the section from Longhorn Dam to Hwy. 71. That will give us about 14-15 miles.

Keep on peddling!

~JacqueA

Pot Luck & Swim (Aug 8)

We bobbed, gabbed, and chowed down, and in typical TOWN fashion had a fabulous time! It was the perfect evening for lounging by the pool and visiting until after dark. No mosquitoes and only a few neighborhood kids (tee hee!). The pot luck worked out so well, too - we couldn't have planned it better.

Thanks to CindyF, MarshaK, SusieA, JenLaG, SusanW, AmeliaG, TinaT, CarrieL, and NancyL (who drove down from San Antonio) for joining me.

~ SandyB

E-mail Your Trip Reports to townaustin@yahoogroups.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. Questions? Contact Sandy Ostiguy, Outing Coordinator, at sandyos@yahoo.com.



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