

Outings! Outings! Outings!

Introduction to Geocaching (September 7)

Well, I can report that Jim's Restaurant at the Y in Oak Hill does quite a busy on Sunday mornings. Four TOWNies (Birdie, DebS, Jacque, and Vicki) met to enjoy egg dishes, review a Introduction to Geocaching 101 PowerPoint, and then find five geocaches.

We focused on caches at the Y at Oak Hill area and discovered a cemetery that we all four just loved. Resting there were several Spanish American War veterans which is unusual. The second cemetery was more modern, but interesting in its own right. The cache was located in an area where cremated remains are spread which we found unusual.

We were successful and went five for five cache locations. We didn't see any other cachers out working the area. We did a bit of bush-whacking, skirted poison ivy, and each woman had an opportunity to lead and find the cache first. TOWNies have such fun together!
~JacqueA

Kayaking Lady Bird Lake (September 10)

Kayaking on Lady Bird Lake was calm, cool and relaxing. We had a nice breeze and shade as we kayaked around Red Bud Island. LindaF, SusanW and I enjoyed having the lake nearly to ourselves! School is back. We saw a crane, several wood ducks and a few turtles. We stopped to look at a large tree that had fallen into the lake. The water was calm which made us feel like we were gliding as we leisurely paddled. We had a good visit all along the way. We decided not to eat afterwards and headed home a bit after 8pm. Join us next Wednesday!
~Gail P-C



Hiking at Wild Basin Preserve (September 13)

Well the cooler weather I ordered arrived and ten ladies (JuneA, Jacque, JoanB, PamC, ChrisH, DianeN, GailP-C, KarenP, NancyW, and VickiZ) joined me for a delightful hike at Wild Basin. The trail is composed of various loops and we wandered about checking out the views. Since we received some much needed rain, we had to pick our way down a few places but were fortunate enough to see some water in the creek.

Did I say it was cooler? Such a refreshing change! Everyone seemed to enjoy walking along, visiting, and checking out the scenery. The American beautyberry plants were especially pretty. The Driftwood Wildlife Association built a chimney swift tower, and Jacque provided some interesting info about chimney swifts and those who work diligently to conserve these special birds. After the hike, we had a chance to visit a little more and enjoy some watermelon. At the conclusion of the hike (11 AM), it was only 59 degrees! Looking forward to more invigorating hikes this fall. Hope you can join me!
~LisaS



Hiking Lower River Place (September 20)

It was a cool misty early morning hike we took on Saturday. The ponds were full and lots of water in the stream. Beautiful scenery and even better company. Jacque brought Steve and roadrunner Sheba and Geneva came and June and Carolyn and Sallie with steadfast Maggie.

Oh, we hiked 2.4 miles (at River Place) at a leisurely one hour twenty four minutes. (We had a good time talking).
~SallieN

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Hiking Bull Creek and Inga's Trail (September 27)

What a beautiful day for a hike! I was joined by SallieN, KarenP, KimH, DottieS, and canine companions Maggie and Shadow, for a 5 1/2 mile hike at Inga's Trail (Bull Creek). Although it wasn't hot, it was humid but we had cloud cover and some breezes. Evidence of recent flooding was evident and we could sometimes tell how high the water reached by the debris lodged in trees and bushes. We had several water crossings but were treated to some beautiful views.

After the hike, Dottie and Karen took off but JoanB joined us at Waterloo Ice House. Everyone seemed to enjoy their breakfast/lunch and we had a very nice visit. It was so nice to see so much water in the creek today. Check out the pictures below. I think I'll head back sometime soon while the water is still flowing. Hope you can join me next time!

~LisaS



Camping at Palmetto State Park (Sept 30– Oct 2)

LindaBW, NancyL, and AmeliaG and I met up at this lovely quiet park on Tuesday afternoon. We had a nice visit over dinner and a walk that evening.

Wednesday morning we went for a hike on the San Marcos River trail with dogs, Diesel and Snoopy in tow. We spotted some great native plants and enjoyed a shaded walk. We all relaxed after our walk and agreed to meet up at 11am for a ride into town.

We headed into town with our obligatory visit to Buc-ees. (Amelia's first time.) After lunch at La Carretas (a hole in the wall Mexican food restaurant which was decent) we stopped at some shops, made a liquor store run and Nancy convinced us all to stop at Dairy Queen for dessert. It didn't take much convincing.

We gathered back together for dinner at 5pm. It was margarita time! Linda started a fire and before we knew it it was 7pm. We decided we should get our chicken fajita dinner going which was pretty quick and simple. After dinner it was time to play a new card game. So we all four collected into the Shasta for a fun evening of 3-13.

Thursday morning we decided to go Geo Caching and found three in the park. We had a nice long walk in the process along the very nice Mesquite Trail. Upon arrival back at the camp grounds, everyone stated to slowly pack up and head home. As we were leaving the Get Away Gals were arriving some with vintage trailers which were fun to look at. I still love mine! During our stay we visited with some of the campers and it was fun to hear their stories as full time RVers. The host couple was headed to Arizona to host a park there for three months. Another couple was originally from Florida, travelling across Texas.

Everyone agreed we would endeavor to do more mid-week outings. It was quiet and relaxing.

~MarieW

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

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

Hiking the Upper Barton Creek Greenbelt (October 18)

What a nice day for a hike in Austin, Texas. Nine of us (LisaS, MarshaK, Daine and MikeN, LindaMc, JudyL, SusieA, JenL and JennyF) enjoyed hiking along the creek in the beginning and later along the dry creek bed as the water ended. Four hikers had to turn back after several miles due to other commitments. The remaining five of us completed the 6.38 miles round-trip in 2 hrs. and 45 minutes.

There was not too much foot or bike traffic this morning making our hike a pleasant one. The Maximilian daisies and aster daisies gave an awesome show of color. Several times we were surrounded on both sides of the trail by these wonderful flowers. You haven't been hugged until you've been hugged by a bunch of happy, yellow Maximilian daisies. What a treat!

This was LindaMc's first outing with TOWN Austin and we hope she will join us again and often. Mike was a great sport and left smiling which I took as a good sign. Hope to see you on the trail.
~Jenny

Walking the Boardwalk at Lady Bird Lake (November 30)

Four TOWN members (LindaF, CarolC, AmeliaG, CindyF) along with guest Dale ventured down to the boardwalk on a pleasant Saturday morning. It was sunny but comfortable. We saw the familiar cormorants, great blue herons and a snowy egret. We noticed the cypress trees seem to have a more brilliant fall color than usual. Traffic was light on the trail as we walked all the way to the TxDOT parking lot.

When we arrived back at our starting point, we all agreed that it is a great place to walk.

~Cindy and Amelia

Tour of Benini Sculpture Ranch (December 7)

Five of us made it to Benini's in Johnson City: AmeliaG, me (JaniceB), MarieW, CindyF, & NancyL. We started at the gallery where a helpful employee named Sasha showed us around, and answered our questions. He even showed us an area behind the gallery that used to be Benini's studio. At the gallery they had a lovely table of food set out, so we had a snack before starting the walk around the grounds.

The day was overcast and cool. Thankfully it was dry. I enjoyed going for a walk where I could bundle up a little. We walked for about an hour around the grounds admiring the wide variety of sculpture. Benini has a great sense of humor which you see at the ranch. There is a beautiful oak tree with a marker like the ones used on the art pieces that says, "Great Mother, by Mother Nature".

Sasha told us when we returned to the building that there are at least 100 pieces there. We visited the table of cheeses, grapes and crackers again. The group decided that we weren't that hungry, so instead of a restaurant we would go have coffee. We took Sasha's recommendation and went to the Black Spur Emporium on Main Street (Hwy 290). I think it got a thumbs up from everyone.

~JaniceB



Dinner and the Blue Genie Art Bazaar (December 10)

JuneA, GloriaB, GailPC, LindaF, and JacqueA joined me for dinner at the Sea Dragon. Everyone enjoyed their dinner and we had a nice time just catching up. I certainly enjoyed getting to know Gail. We headed over to the Bazaar around 7pm. This is my second time and again, I thoroughly enjoyed it as did everyone else. It was so nice to just zip into a parking space and enjoy the wonderful pieces of handy work displayed in an uncrowded atmosphere. They also had a great guitarist there. They offer adult beverages and food as well. The Bazaar is opened until Christmas Eve so if you haven't been, give it a shot. It's free!

I found a great picture of a Shasta vintage trailer entitled Oceanfront Property that I had to have for my camper. Others found some things they couldn't live without or made purchases for Christmas presents. A fun outing which that has the makings of a yearly event.
~Marie

Walking the Trail of Lights (December 18)

8 Townies (NancyP, Gloria, June, Karen, Adela, Paulette, and NancyL) braved the Trail of Lights in spite of forecast rain and thunderstorms. We first prepared for the unknown by eating and drinking at Shady Grove seated outdoors on a platform just for Valkyries. The evening was calm and beautiful, the lights spectacular. Where else do you find lighted bats soaring above the tunnel of lights?

Afterwards, Paulette and Adela rode the Ferris wheel while the carpoolers were treated to the backroads only NancyP knows. My cheeks hurt from all the laughter by the time we reached Randall's. We always have a good time together.
~JudyL

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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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