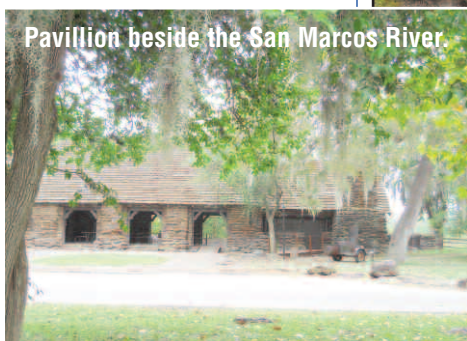


Happy New Year!

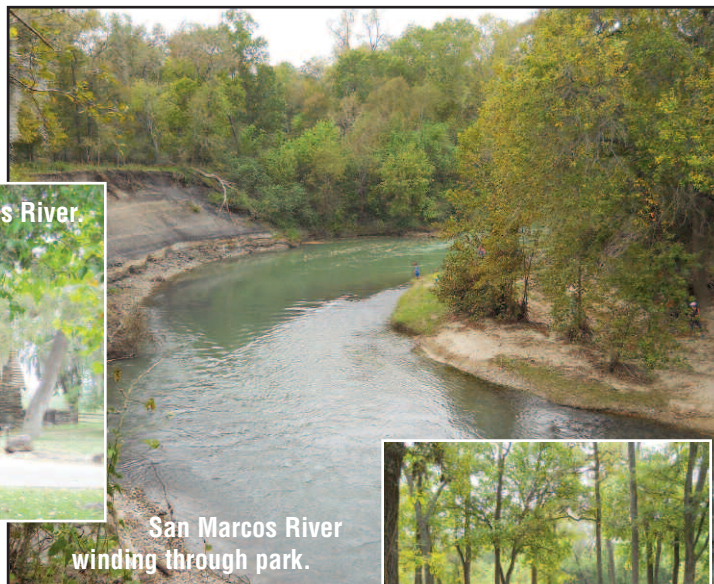
New Adventures & Loads of Fun!

Mark Your Calendar!

February 22-25, Camping
Palmetto State Park



Pavillion beside the San Marcos River.



San Marcos River winding through park.



Come join us at a new camping destination for TOWN Dallas members!

Palmetto State Park is a small gem of a park located near Luling, Texas, about 5 miles south of Interstate 10, off Hwy. 183. The park is about 50 miles from both Austin and San Antonio. The drive is 4 hours from Dallas.

In addition to Palmettos, the park is in a deciduous forest of very tall trees and has a small lake with kayaks, canoes, and paddle boats for rent. The park lies within the looping curves of the San Marcos River and has about 5 miles of lovely clean meandering hiking trails of various lengths. An interpretive trail winds amongst the Palmettos. Fishing from the concrete trail crossing the river or along the river's

banks is an option.

Palmetto State Park is a gorgeous Civilian Conservation Corp built campground containing a large stone pavilion with arches and picnic tables under cover as well as tables on the veranda outside overlooking the San Marcos River running beside the pavilion.

Those who have the time may choose to stay over at Palmetto or share campsites at McKinney Falls State Park or Pedernales State Park the following week – en route to our annual trip to Inks Lake Campout planned for the following weekend of Mar. 1-4. During the “stay over” we may choose to visit San Marcos and/or Austin sites.

The TOWN Dallas Palmetto trip coincides with TOWN Austin's annual trip to Palmetto State Park. Austin townies will be camping in the RV area the same weekend. Dallas Townies will tent camp in the water only tent area.

This will be a great opportunity for us to meet and say hello to our Austin “sisters” in the TOWN network.

A sign-up sheet will be at the TOWN Dallas January meeting.

Trip Leader:
Judy Shaw
JShawTX@AOL.Com

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Start the New Year with a hike.

**Saturday, January 6,
2018 at 10 AM**

Meet at the parking lot for the Oak Point Amphitheater (2801 E Spring Creek Pkwy, Plano, TX 75074)

We will be hiking on a natural surface (dirt) trail which runs through the heart of a low lying wooded area along Rowlett Creek. We'll hike for an hour or two. If the trail is too wet we can walk on the nearby concrete path.

The Preserve and trail map is at <https://www.plano.gov/DocumentCenter/View/14360>

Trip Leader:
Shirley Meurer
sameurer@yahoo.com



March 1-4, Camping — Inks Lake

We have been camping at Inks Lake in February for several years, always having beautiful weather. This year we are going a little later. Things to see near by are Longhorn cavern and Enchanted Rock. Contact Barbara or sign up at next TOWN meeting.

Trip Leader:

Barbara Minyard

barbara_gran@yahoo.com

June 11-15, Camp Mary White Women's Retreat

Last year Robbie and nine (9) other TOWN members made the drive to Mayhill NM for the annual Women's Retreat at Camp Mary White. Awesome time had by all. Many of them mentioned that they would like to come back and Robbie has just been sent the dates of the Retreat.

Robbie is definitely going, and she knows other TOWN members also hope to return this year. This year we have been assigned our camping area, near a restroom facility – same as last year) last year we were in the cabins, this year we have a choice, tents or cabins.

They averaged 12 hours driving time going there and 12 hours back but was well worth it. The cabins were made of wood, 3.5 walls to be exact the other half wall was open to the sky. Much like camping really, no electricity in the cabins and the toilets were down the hill. The only places that had electric were the main lodge, showers and arts and craft room.

There was a different activity/art project every day, everything from

painting wine bottles (my personal favorite) to making leather goods and jewelry. Hiking every day for those that wanted too. Trips to White Sands and Carlsbad were also undertaken. A professional masseuse on hand for these aches and pains or just plain spoiling. We had a SPA evening, a camping cookout on the grill, a night or two around the fire and on the front porch. Lots of casual evening activities from jigsaw puzzles to just plain good old fashioned conversation.

The horseback riding was pretty awesome as well, you could go morning or afternoon. Two well-seasoned and knowledgeable cowboys both leading and bringing up the rear. The cowboys were attached to the local goat ranch which we had access too, corrals within easy distance from the main lodge and more importantly to many of us there were dogs, lots of Pyrenean Mountain dogs, 23 to be exact. And when they were not working or sleeping they were all round our huge outside porch, all perfectly mannered but enjoying our treats anyway.

The meals were three times a day by a dedicated cook and staff, plentiful and varied, snacks available constantly and as we all know this group moves on their stomachs, which were well filled.

Details still to be finalized, so mark your calendars!

Trip Leader:

Robbie Chandler

rbbchandler@yahoo.com

August 4-9, Camping — Rocky Mountains / Explore Colorado

Visit and explore Colorado for a

week in Colorado Springs and Rocky Mountain National Park or choose to stay an extra week and visit Vail, Breckenridge, Glenwood Springs, Carbondale, Aspen, and the Gunnison/Crested Butte area for a real central Colorado adventure!

WEEK 1

The first week we'll stay 3 nights, Sunday, Monday, and Tuesday at Springdale Campground, Pike National Forest, Woodland Park, just north of Colorado Springs to get acclimated for higher altitudes. Sites include Garden of the Gods Park, Visitor and Nature Center/Museum, Pikes Peak, Seven Falls, and US Air Force Academy. Then we'll move onto Rocky Mountain National Park and stay three nights, Wednesday, Thursday, and Friday, at Moraine Campground. We'll drive over Trail Ridge Road and visit sites at Estes Park.

WEEK 2

The second week we'll camp Saturday and Sunday nights, at Gore Creek Campground 6 miles east of Vail, then venture to the Carbondale/Aspen areas, camping at Bogan Flatts or Difficult Campground Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday nights, then move to Lottis Creek Campground at Williams Lake, Alta, in the Gunnison NF, staying Thursday, Friday, and Saturday nights to visit Tin Cup, Crested Butte, and the Black Canyon of the Gunnison.

Information on campgrounds and further details with sign-up sheets for a choice of one week or two weeks will be available at TOWN's next meeting.

Trip Leader: Judy Shaw

jshawtx@aol.com



Inks Lake 2016

NEXT TOWN MEETING

**MONDAY
JAN. 8, 2018**

**LA MADELEINE
5290 BELT LINE RD
ADDISON, TX**

**6:30-7:00 Social Hour
Meeting 7:00**

2018 Trips

Feb 2-4, 2018 – Camping (Tent and Cabin) at Daingerfield SP – Shirley Meurer
(If you are interested in a spot in a cabin for Daingerfield SP please contact Shirley ASAP. Space is limited but we may be able to get a second cabin.)

April 25-29, 2018 – Camping at Pedernales SP – Nancy Lee – nlee003@tx.rr.com



Photos by Barb

Mission Statement

The TOWN 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.

Lake Whitney



Photos by Judy

