

Robbie Chandler has set up a ZOOM call for anyone who would like to join. In order to participate, send Robbie an email at [rbbchandler@yahoo.com](mailto:rbbchandler@yahoo.com). She will send you a link to join the meeting. With this link you do not need to download the ZOOM app. The call will last 40 minutes max and it would be great to see you on a call!

## NEW COMMUNICATION TOOL

As you know, Yahoo! closed their group listserv on December 15. After some limited research into various options we have chosen to set up an account with [groups.io](https://groups.io).

All TOWN members will soon receive an invitation from TOWNDALLAS to join the Groups.io list and a separate email from Shirley with information about Groups.io and how to use it for future communications. Look for an invitation any day if you haven't received one already.

**Join us for our traditional first hike of the year** on Saturday, January 2nd, at 10:00 AM. We'll be walking a concrete trail in the Spring Creek Nature Area. Meet at the park and playground area at Plano Rd and Braeburn Drive in Richardson. Parking is on Braeburn Drive. Bring a mask.

This is an easy 4.5 mile paved trail through a dense natural hardwood forest along Spring Creek. There are many options for shorter hikes for anyone that would like to hike a little less distance. We'll do a route that is about 3.5 miles. For a map of the trail go to:

<https://www.dallascounty.org/Assets/uploads/docs/plandev/trails/26-SpringCreekRichardson.pdf>

## ZOOM Meeting in January

**Monday January 11th  
at 7:00 PM**

**Guests always welcome**

**ANNUAL DUES ARE \$20**

Dues paid in 2020 will cover your membership through 2021

## February Hike

**Cedar Ridge Preserve**

**7171 Mountain Creek Parkway, Dallas, TX 75249**

**Wednesday, February 10<sup>th</sup> at noon.**

**Meet outside the restrooms for a 4-5 mile hike on dirt trails. We'll do a route combining the Cattail Pond, Cedar Brake, Fossil Valley and Escarpment Trails. Bring a mask, water and maybe a snack to enjoy by the Cattail Pond.**

**The preserve will close if the trails are wet due to recent rains. For a trail map and other information go to <https://audubondallas.org/cedar-ridge-preserve/>**

**Trip Leader Shirley Meurer  
[sameurer@yahoo.com](mailto:sameurer@yahoo.com)**



## Here's what midweek camping at Cooper Lake State Park in December looks like



Sunset at Cooper Lake



Armadillo



Campsite view

Due to the continued and increasing rates of infection of the coronavirus, we are not yet ready to plan any group camping trips for TOWN. (No Inks Lake trip for the group this year)

Camping is regarded as a low risk activity but social distancing is still required. One way to get outdoors would be a small group campout. A few people could share a couple of campsites, bring own meals and drive separately. Most parks and campgrounds are less crowded during the week so a weekday camping trip would limit risk further. If you are interested in a small group camping trip and you don't have the experience to plan one yourself, let Shirley know and she will try to help set something up.

[sameurer@yahoo.com](mailto:sameurer@yahoo.com)

Reservations at Texas State Parks are open now with a five month window. Weekend dates at the State Parks fill up quickly so you have to plan ahead. Temporary guidelines for State Park use:

- \*Face coverings are required inside all state park buildings.
- \*Maintain at least a six-foot distance from anyone not in your group.
- \*No groups larger than 10 people are allowed, except for families or people living in the same household.



Wildlife