

# TOWN



# NEWS

## Dallas Chapter – July 2025

*NO MEETING THIS MONTH*



**Several Townies enjoyed Mary and Mar's little piece of heaven on Cedar Creek Lake!  
Kayaking, swimming and Mary's famous burgers! It was a great day on the lake!**

# TOWN ACTIVITIES

## *Mark your Calendars!!*

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Saturday, July 19<sup>th</sup>

Pool Party Noon - 5 PM

Karen Turbeville's Home

7222 Lakehurst Ave Dallas

RSVP to 214-213-7196  
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Thursday September 4th – 7th

Cooper Lake

Reserving our favorite screen shelters. Please let  
Barb know if you're interested.

Send \$20 deposit via Zelle or PayPal.

Contact Barb Minyard 214-538-1375  
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Poros Island - Greece Adventure

Sept 13-20 Wait list started

Contact Barb Cutter

817-832-0549  
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Saturday August 16<sup>th</sup>

Pool Party 2PM

Barb Cutter's Home

2915 Scarborough Ln West

Colleyville, TX 76034  
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Thursday, October 16th - 19th

Wichita Mountains National Wildlife Refuge

Contact Nancy Lee to sign up nlee002@tx.rr.com  
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Thursday, October 30th - November 2nd

Pedernales State Park

Contact Marie to sign up 214-733-3222  
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Wednesday, November 12th - Sunday November  
16th

Palo Duro

Contact Melissa Brown

254-582-1528  
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Monthly Meetings

6pm – 7:30pm

Second Monday of the Month

Contact Shirley to host 972-890-2491





SHARON, KAY AND MJ



KAREN AND ROSIE

**Barb Cutter and Melissa Brown adventured down the Brazos river for two days. They spent the night on one of the islands being aware of leave no trace rules. It was a lovely two days on the water!**







# THE FANTASTIC WORLD OF SLIME MOLDS

Tandy Hills is filled with strange and bizarre-looking organisms. **Slime Molds** may be the *most* bizarre of all. There are about 1,000 species that come in a vast array of shapes and colors. They are also among the least studied or understood organisms. Even though they lack eyes, ears and brains, they can keep time, exhibit memory and can make complex decisions. According to **Dr. Chris Reid** of the *University of Sydney*:

***“Slime molds are redefining what you need to have to qualify as intelligent.”***

But what exactly ARE Slime Molds? They are one of the oldest organisms on Earth, first evolving more than 600 million years ago. Until recently, scientists had them classified as fungi. Some species do resemble fungi or lichens. Currently, they are classified as **protists**, a taxonomic group reserved for “*everything we don't really understand*,” says Dr. Reid.

For example, in the early 2000's, a biophysicist in Japan chopped up a blob-like species known as, **SpongeBob SquarePants** (*yellow Physarum polycephalum*) and scattered the pieces throughout a plastic maze. The various pieces of slime mold began to grow and find one another, filling the entire labyrinth. They then placed a food source at the start and end of the maze. A few hours later the slime mold had retracted its branches from dead-end corridors, growing exclusively along the shortest path possible between the two pieces of food.

In another Japanese experiment, the slimes were able to recreate the hyper efficient path of the Tokyo subway system when their favorite food, oat flakes, was placed where population centers are found on a map. They can also move or ooze from place to place, but not blindly. Just like in the maze experiment, they carefully explore their environment, finding the most efficient route to their next food source.

**Life Cycle:** Slime molds are typically found in shady areas, usually under damp, decaying logs or forest litter and feed on bacteria, fungal spores, protozoa and other microscopic organisms. They do so by “*enveloping*” their food source. They reproduce via released spores which stay dormant but viable for years. When conditions are moist and cool, the amoeba-like



spores germinate and fuse together into a mass known as a **plasmodium**. They then begin to “flow” across their environment in search of their next meal. When conditions get warmer and drier, they undergo a metamorphosis into a mass called a **sporangium** where new spores are formed. At this point, the process starts over again as new spores are released. Even though they may appear gross or scary to some people, they are harmless to other plants and people. Some cultures actually eat them.

No doubt, slime molds were the inspiration for the 1958 sci-fi/horror movie, **The Blob**, starring *Steve McQueen*. The way they “ooze” across the landscape and “envelop” their food source made them perfect critters for a sci-fi flick.

Below, are photos of the **9 species** of Slime Molds found, so far, at Tandy Hills including two new species found in June by sam Kieschnick.











**Prairie Notes Friends of Tandy Hills Natural Area**