

TOWN TOWN NEWS

Texas Outdoors Woman Network

Dallas Chapter – May 2026

Monthly Meeting May 11th

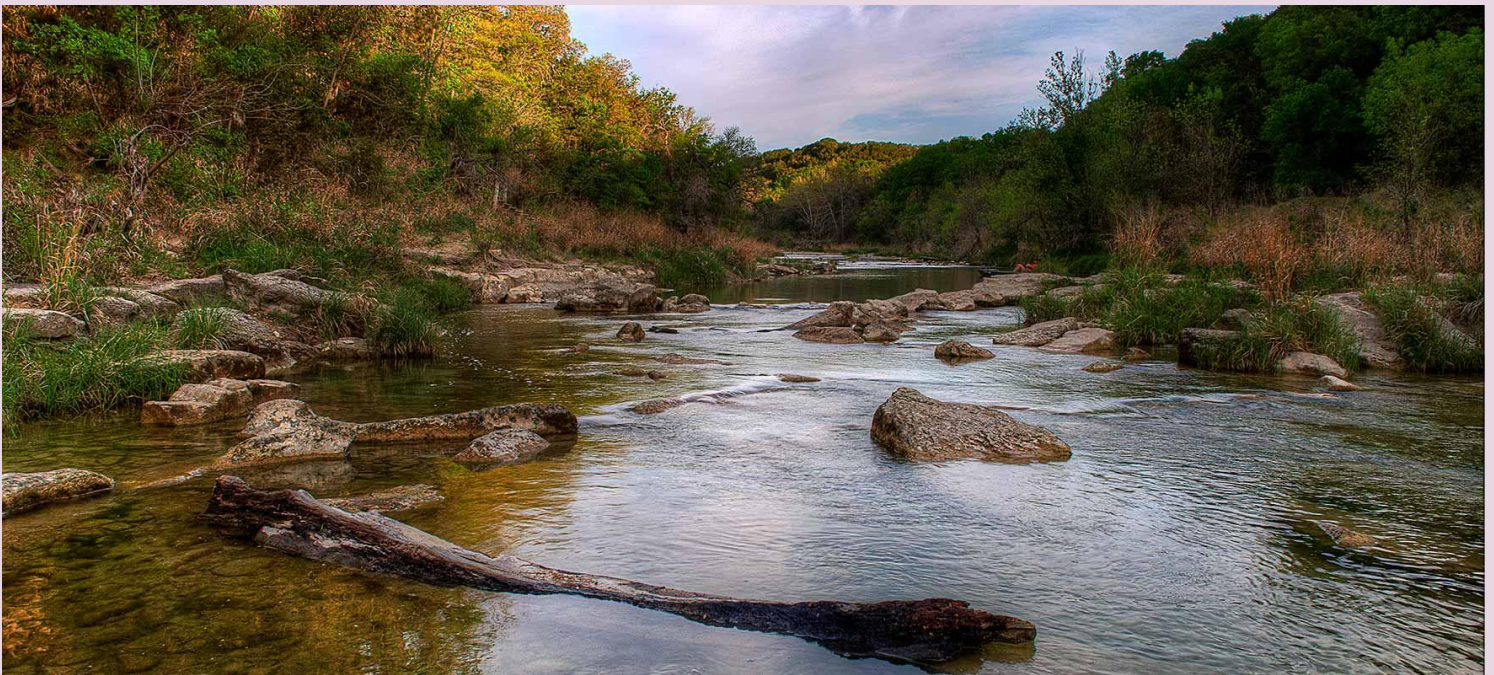
6-7:30

Barb Minyard's home.

336 Melrose Dr.

Richardson TX 75080

Light refreshments provided



The Paluxy River

TOWN ACTIVITIES

Mark your Calendars!!

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**Hike Cedar Ridge Preserve**

**Tuesday, May 19th**

**Ready to hike at 10AM, approximately 2 hours**

**Meet near the bathrooms.**

**Be prepared: water, sunscreen, hat, sturdy shoes, hiking pole, snack.**

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July 13th thru 18th

Kayaking/Rafting Trip on the Rogue River in Oregon

Contact Shirley for details 972-890-2491

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**Saturday June 6th from 1-5 PM**

**Pool Party**

**Join us at Karen King's for a relaxing day in the country.**

**247 Barnes Bridge Road, Sunnyvale, 75182.**

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**Saturday, June 27th 10-4 PM**

**Day of fun on Cedar Creek Lake**

**2182 Hickory St., Mabank, TX 75156**

**Hosted by Mary Nester and Mar Burris**

**RSVP to 214-316-8960**

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August 15th, 2-5 PM

Afternoon at the Pool

Barb Cutter's Home

2915 Scarborough Ln W

Colleyville Tx, 76034

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**September 30th - October 4th**

**Wednesday through Sunday**

**Camping at South Llano River SP**

**Save the dates**

**Melissa Brown 254-582-1528**

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Monthly Meetings 6pm – 7:30pm

2nd Monday of the Month

Contact Shirley to host

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## HAPPY BIRTHDAY DALE!



**We celebrated Dale's birthday at Huntsville State Park.**

Photos were too late to make the previous newsletter.

## Dinosaur Valley State Park



## **History of the area**

### **Earliest visitors**

**Archeological evidence suggests humans have occupied this area for many centuries. Native American Indians lived at sites in the park from about 6,000 years ago until Europeans arrived. They came here for the water and the abundant game, fish and mussels. They were probably ancestors of the Tonkawa, who lived in this region in later times.**

**The Tonkawa were bands of hunter-gatherers. Besides hunting game and catching fish and mussels in the river, they harvested pecans and walnuts, wild grapes and other local foods.**

**In the 1700s, Wichita groups migrated south from the high plains into this area. Wichita people built villages of conical huts, hunted buffalo and farmed.**

**Nomadic bands of Comanche also moved south into Texas about this time. The Comanche were highly skilled horseback riders. One of the largest bands of Comanche, known as “Wasps” or “Honey-Eaters,” rode through present-day Somervell County. They spent winters in this area, grazing their ponies on the grass prairies, protected from the cold north winds by limestone bluffs.**

**French traders and explorers were likely the first Europeans to travel through this area, also in the 1700s. They traded with and gained the support of the Comanche and Wichita. In part, this was because the French would supply guns and ammunition.**

### **Anglo settlement**

**Charles E. Barnard was one of the first permanent Anglo settlers in this area. He and his brother established a trading post in the late 1840s. In the 1850s, pioneers began pouring in, altering this area forever.**

**In 1860, Barnard bought a tract of land on the Paluxy River, in what would later become Glen Rose. He established a grist mill and store there. Stop by the square to view the statue of Barnard and his wife, Juana Josefina Cavasos, and to read their story. Evidence in stone**

**In 1908, a flood of epic proportions roared down the Paluxy. It washed out all bridges and culverts on the river and scoured the riverbed.**

**A year later, nine-year-old George Adams discovered something amazing in the river: large, three-toed tracks - theropod tracks**

Nearly 20 years later, a fossil collector for the American Museum of Natural History in New York named R. T. Bird saw one of the theropod tracks in a shop in New Mexico. He decided to come to Texas and check out the site. While exploring in the river, he was amazed to discover what looked like sauropod tracks, along with the theropod tracks. The tracks were the first proof that sauropods walked on land.

### Saving the tracks

The 1,587-acre Dinosaur Valley State Park opened in 1972. Its mission: to preserve these valuable dinosaur track sites and to allow people to learn from and enjoy them. The National Park Service has designated this park as a [National Natural Landmark](#) because of the outstanding display of dinosaur tracks.

You can't miss the models of an Apatosaurus (70 feet) and Tyrannosaurus rex (45 feet) near headquarters. The fiberglass models were on display at the 1964-65 New York's World's Fair. The Atlantic Richfield Company donated them to the park in 1970. Read more on [From Dinoland to Dino Valley](#).

Tracks from the park are on display at the American Museum of Natural History in New York and at the Texas Memorial Museum in Austin. You can see a copy of the tracks at park headquarters.



Relaxing at camp



Karen's niece Jessica comes to visit and help with dinner

Dinner is served

Karen K, Mary, Kay, Ann, Jessica, Barb,  
Melissa

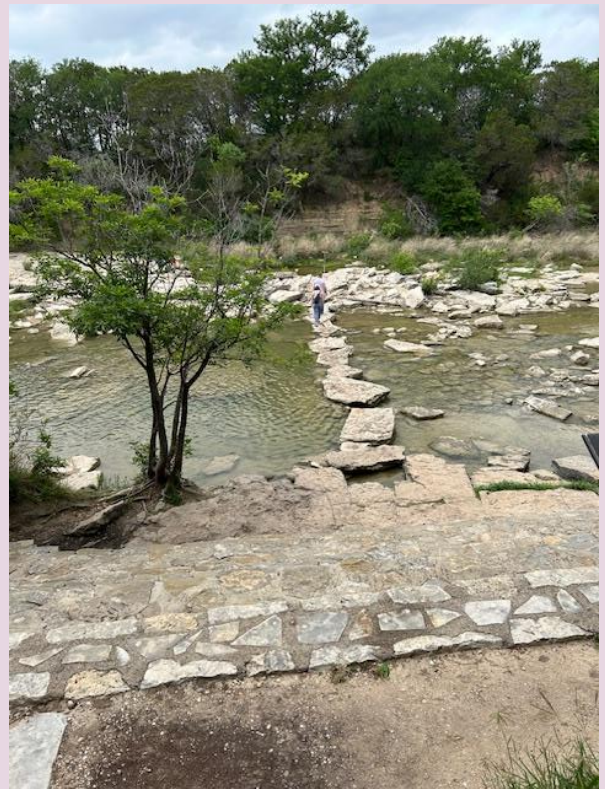


Melissa, Ann,  
Lisa, Jeanne,  
Shirley, Dale,  
Marie, Kathy  
enjoy a hike



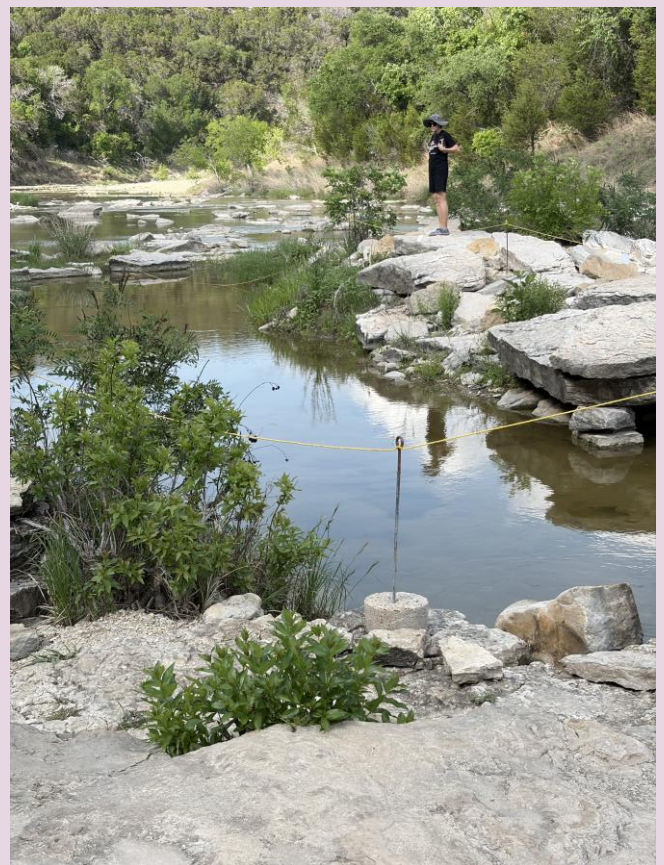


Lisa in the river looking for tracks. (on left)



Track site location (on right)

Sharon on the left, Melissa on the right looking at the tracks in the water





A mold of the dinosaur tracks in the upper left and the rest of the photos are the actual tracks we saw on our hike.



Our own monarch butterflies: Karen T and Marie



Park Activities for the day



Ants carrying leaves



On left – Range land outside the park with dinosaur figures.

On right – a snake observed on the hike



## Fossil Rim Wildlife Center

Some of us took a jeep tour of the Wildlife Center. Here is a little history:

Fossil Rim Wildlife Center, located in Glen Rose, Texas, originated in 1973 as "Waterfall Ranch," a private exotic game ranch owned by Tom Mantzel. It transitioned into a conservation-focused facility in 1982, becoming the first ranch to participate in a Species Survival Plan (SSP). In 1984, it opened to the public as "Fossil Rim Wildlife Ranch" and officially became "Fossil Rim Wildlife Center" in 1987. [[1](#), [2](#), [3](#)]

### Key Historical Milestones

- **1973 (Founding):** Businessman Tom Mantzel purchased 420 acres, originally known as "Waterfall Ranch," which served as a private retreat and home for exotic hoofstock.
- **Early 1980s (Conservation Shift):** Driven by concerns over species extinction, Mantzel pivoted toward breeding endangered species.
- **1982 (First SSP):** The ranch brought in Grevy's zebras for its first Species Survival Plan program with the American Zoo and Aquarium Association (AZA).

- **1984 (Public Opening):** Due to a downturn in the Texas oil industry and the high costs of breeding programs, Mantzel opened the ranch to the public to fund conservation efforts.
- **1987 (Rebranding):** The facility was purchased by Jim Jackson and Christine Jurzykowski, who renamed it "Fossil Rim Wildlife Center" and grew it to 1,800 acres.
- **2000 (Nonprofit Status):** Daily operations were transferred to "Earth Promise," an independent 501(c)3 nonprofit organization, ensuring long-term conservation goals. [[1](#), [2](#), [3](#), [4](#)]

## Conservation and Impact

Fossil Rim is widely recognized for its impact on endangered species preservation, including pioneering captive breeding for the African addax and contributing to the recovery of the Attwater's prairie-chicken. [[1](#), [2](#)]

- **Cheetah Breeding:** It hosts one of the most successful cheetah breeding programs in the world, with over 175 cats born there.
- **Research Partnership:** Since 2005, it has served as the headquarters for the [[Conservation Centers for Species Survival \(C2S2\)](#)] consortium.
- **Today:** The 1,800-acre park operates a 9.5-mile scenic drive, offering visitors a chance to see and feed exotic wildlife in a natural habitat. [[1](#), [2](#), [3](#)]



Suzi and Sharon awaiting our tour



Our chariot for our tour





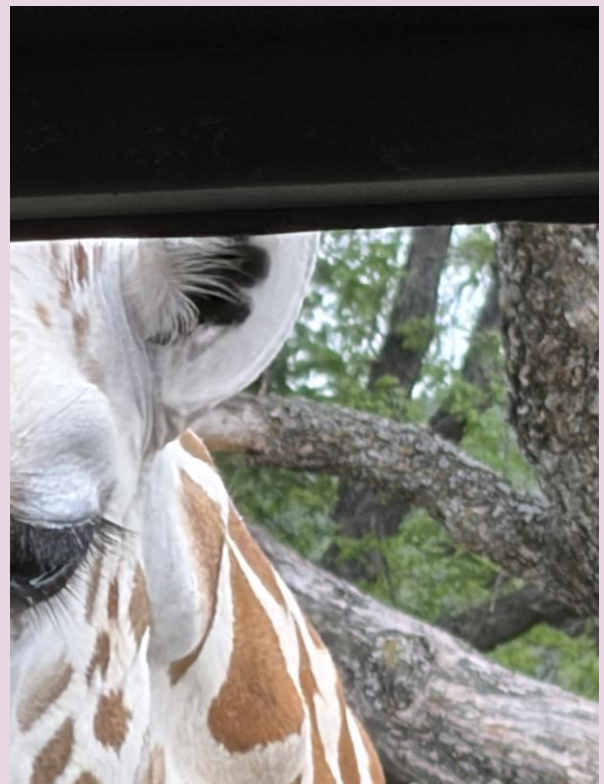
Barb and Suzi admiring the giraffes



Barb feeding the giraffe



Emu looking for food



Giraffe up close and personal



Karen feeding the giraffe (notice the long tongue). Mary waiting her turn to feed it



Suzi enjoying the tour



Giraffe enjoying the lettuce