



OUT & ABOUT

IN THE CENTRAL PLAINS

FIRST QUARTER 2016 EDITION

BASTROP, FAYETTE, LEE & WASHINGTON COUNTIES



Welcome to *Out & About*

Nestled in the Central Plains, Bastrop, Fayette, Lee and Washington Counties offer visitors plenty of rich history and old fashion country charm. There's something for everyone with plenty of museums, art, theatre, antiques, excellent dining and parks for recreational activities.

The county seat of Bastrop County, Bastrop, is an authentic small town in the heart of Lost Pines nestled on the banks of the Colorado River with wonderful historic homes, historic churches, parks, and trails. The city of Smithville is a still-rural area of eastern Bastrop County that's ideally situated in a central location between Houston and Austin. Buescher State Park is just outside of the town along with some of the best city parks anywhere!

Moving along to Fayette County, the county seat, La Grange is nestled along the Colorado River and features something for everyone to enjoy, including rich history, festivals, museums, concerts, shopping, great dining, and an annual county country fair. While in Fayette County, be sure to visit the city of Schulenburg. Schulenburg is well known for its German and Czech culture and beautiful painted churches. Also don't forget to visit the Texas Polka Music Museum while you're in town!

Lee County is a short drive from the major population centers of Texas and provides all the benefits of a small community. The charm of the county supports good country values and strong sense of community among its inhabitants. Stop by to discover all of the county's hidden gems of Texas!

Finally in Washington County, visit the place renowned as the "Birthplace of Texas." This special area completely embodies Texas history, culture and beauty. The county seat, Brenham, is a small community with a lot of heart located in between Houston and Austin. Visit one of the local wineries and take in the sights during a scenic road trip of beautiful bluebonnets and other wildflowers in the Spring.

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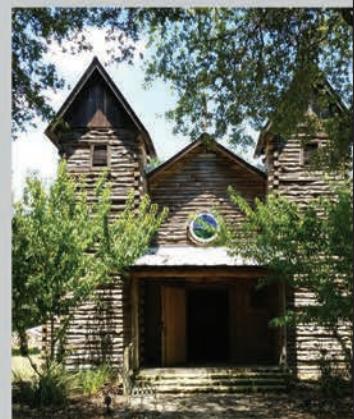
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OUT & ABOUT

IN THE CENTRAL PLAINS

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Bastrop Convention & Exhibit Center
Bastrop, TX 78602
www.farmstreetopry.com • 512-332-8981

Lone Star Opry

See website for Show Dates
Giddings High School Cafetorium
2337 N Main St, Giddings, TX 78942
www.lonestaropry.com • 979-366-9341

Fayette County Country Music Opry

See website for Show Dates
Knights of Columbus Hall
190 Brown St, La Grange, TX 78945
www.lagrangekc.com • 979-966-3568

Flag City Opry

Held 3rd Tuesday of every month
\$7 catered meal at 6pm
Jackson County Services Building Auditorium
Edna, TX 77957
www.flagcityopry.com • 361-782-9211

Friends of Bluebonnet Opry

Held 3rd Thursday of every month
Silver Wings Ballroom
4100 TX 105, Brenham, TX 77833
www.friendsofbluebonnetopry.com • 979-836-4347

The Four County Opry

Held the last Monday of each month
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CALDWELL LIVESTOCK COMMISSION

Caldwell Livestock Commission has been serving Burleson, Lee and surrounding counties since 1983. Weekly sales are held every Wednesday at 1pm. For hauling or sale information, contact Carl Hermann at 979-820-5349 or Hank Hermann at 979-820-5277.

Lee County is served by holding pens located on FM 141 in Giddings. For receiving cattle or hauling information for holding pens, contact Max Ebner at 979-540-8676.

SPECIAL DATES FOR 2016

Saturday, March 19, 2016

ABBA National F1 and TBA Brahman Sale

Saturday, April 16, 2016

Spring Replacement Female and Premium Bull Sale

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979-567-4119

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Giddings Holding Pens FM 141

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★ Events, Festivals & Shows ★

January

Red Hot Chili Cook Off

Jan 16, 2016 -12pm

Downtown Round Top, Texas 78954

979-249-2700 • ilovetoread.org

Tickets for the all you can taste chili go on sale at noon. They will have activities for the kids, cold drinks, a silent auction and music by the Black Cat Choir.

Winter Antique Show

Jan 22-23, 2016 - 9am to 5pm

Big Red Barn Event Center

Round Top, Texas 78954

www.roundtoptexasantiques.com

Chelsea's Meadow Winter Show

Jan 22-24, 2016

Chelsea's Meadow, Round Top, Texas 78954

713-385-8778 • On Facebook

Our bi-annual multi vendor antique show specializes in unique antiques, primitives, furniture, home decor & collectibles from all over the world.

Big Chill Adventure Race

Jan 23, 2016

South Shore Park, Lake Bastrop, Bastrop, TX 78602

toocoolracing.com/big-chill

Back for the 12th year running, come see why this incredibly fun and challenging race is so popular. Teams will bike, paddle and run through the beautiful piney woods of Central Texas. The Big Chill Adventure Race offers something for veterans and beginners alike. The Chill is the race that started it all. This year we serve up all new stuff as well as some old favorites. Expect a tough as nails race, awesome shwagg, cool special tests and more. Back to the Chill this year is Too Cool's famous skip point. Teams that bring in 5 canned goods per racer are permitted to skip a checkpoint during the race. The race will happen rain, snow or shine, so be prepared for any type of weather.



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February

Sherwood Forest Faire

Weekends Feb 13 - Apr 3 & Mar 18, 2016

McDade, TX 78650

Started in 2010, Sherwood Forest is a 23 acre permanent village set in the beautiful Lost Pines region of Texas. It features over 100 permanent buildings including shoppes, pubs, restaurants and stages. Visit for family fun, music, theatre, comedy, drama, magic, Robin Hood and his merry band, food and 120+ shoppes featuring handmade crafts and lots of delicious food and beverage choices. sherwoodforestfaire.com

Run For the Bluebonnets 5K/1K

Feb 20, 2016

Fishermans Park, 1200 Willow St, Bastrop, TX 78602

runsignup.com/Race/TX/Bastrop/RunfortheBluebonnets5K1K

The tenth annual Run for the Bluebonnets will be Saturday, February 20th, 2016. This event began as a fundraiser for our school, but has evolved into a community wide event, promoting health and fitness, in which over 400 people participated in last year. Even if you've never run a 5K before, you can start a training program today, and you can do it! Here's another super easy training plan for new runners.

Best Little Quilt Show

Feb 26 & 27, 2016

Fayette County Fairgrounds

400 W Fair Grounds Rd, La Grange, TX 78945

www.cvquiltguild.com

Wild Wendigo Adventure Race

Feb 27, 2016

Dana Peak Park, Harker Heights, TX 76548

toocoolracing.com/wild-wendigo-2015

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Teams of 2 or 3 will paddle, bike and run all while seeking out checkpoints using the trail map. This course is designed for beginners. This year we will also offer the Super Sprint course. Now choose from the Wild Wendigo 4 hour sprint or the 8 hour Super Sprint. Too Cool will be providing the boats, real hard sided canoes, racers just need to have a bike and a camelback. For the Sprint Race, be prepared for 1-2 miles of paddling, 8-12 miles of biking an 3-5 miles of trekking plus some surprises. Estimated winning times is 2.5 hours. Entries will be capped at 20 teams. For the Super Sprint Race, teams of 2-3 will run, bike, paddle, facing team challenges and obstacles along the way. This course is designed for racers looking for a little extra in a sprint course. Teams must provide their own boats. Be prepared for 6-10 miles of paddling, 15-20 miles of biking and 5-7 miles of trekking plus surprises. Estimated winning time is 4.5 hours.

March

Pedal Thru the Pines

March 12, 2016 - 9am

Family Crisis Center, 431 Old Austin Hwy, Bastrop, TX 78602
www.pedaltrupines.org

Participating cyclists may choose from routes of 24 miles, 40 miles, or 70 miles. The event takes place each year in early March. All event proceeds support the programs and services offered by the agency. The event is organized and directed by the agency with support from board members, volunteers, and community partners who volunteer their time, provide donations, and serve as event sponsors.

La Grange Uncorked – Wine & Food Festival

Mar 19, 2016 - 4pm to 8pm

Fayette County Courthouse Square
 151 N Washington St, Bastrop, TX 78602
www.lagrangeuncorked.com

TXGA Texas Challenge & Geocaching Festival

Mar 10-13, 2016 - 9am to 5pm

Washington County Fairgrounds
 1305 E Blue Bell Rd, Brenham, TX 77833
vb.texasgeocaching.com

On March 12, 2016 from 9am to 5pm, the Brenham/Washington County Chamber and Visitor Center in conjunction with the SETX Region of the Texas Geocaching Society (TXGA) want geocachers from around the world to come and enjoy their hospitality at the 14th Annual TXGA Texas Challenge and Geocaching Festival. Since 2002, the TXGA Texas Challenge has pitted regional teams from around Texas in a fun intense geocaching competition. Each year a different region of Texas hosts the event and rules change often depending on the location and other situations. YOU DO NOT HAVE TO PARTICIPATE TO ATTEND. In fact, we encourage non-competitors to join us for the fun activities created especially for them. This year, your SETX-TXGA Hosts have planned a weekend that will not only include a challenging race, but numerous activities planned specifically for those cachers who do NOT wish to compete. Everyone is invited and we guarantee that everyone will have fun.

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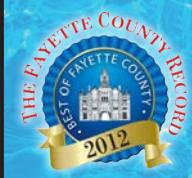
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Explore

// Attractions, Culture & History

Bastrop County

Bastrop Fine Arts Guild Gallery

1009 Main Street, Suite 7, Bastrop, TX 78602
512-321-8055 • www.bastropfineartsguild.com

Hours: Tues-Fri 11am-4pm, Sat 11am-5pm

Emerging, amateur, and professional artists' work is on display, with most items available for purchase. A new artist is featured monthly, and a special artist reception is held during the "First Friday" event.

Bastrop Opera House

711 Spring Street, Bastrop, TX 78602
512-321-6283 • www.bastropoperahouse.org

Hours: Call or check web site for performance hours

The historic 1889 Bastrop Opera House, known as the Strand Theatre during World War II and the Teen Tower in the 1950's, offers wonderful award-winning stage performances of vaudeville, melodramas, musicals, and comedies.

Bastrop Public Library

1100 Church Street, Bastrop, TX 78602
512-332-0068 • www.bastroplibrary.org

Hours: See web site for hours

Besides having a large collection of books, the Bastrop Public Library offers fun activities for children, including a preschool story time on Wednesdays & Fridays at 10:30am, a monthly Super Saturday event, brown bag movie nights, open video game nights and other activities for teens, and more.

Capital of Texas Zoo

376A Jenkins Road, Cedar Creek, TX
512-303-6675
www.capitaloftexaszoo.org

Hours: Check web site

Lions and tigers and bears, oh my! The Capital of Texas Zoo is home to over 500 rare and beautiful wild animals. It is a small, intimate zoo that includes a petting area where you may feed the animals.

Dinosaur Park

893 Union Chapel Road, Cedar Creek, TX
512-321-6262
www.thedinopark.com

Hours: Sat-Sun 10am-4pm
The Dinosaur Park features a unique outdoor museum setting with realistic life-size dinosaur replicas.

James H. Long Railroad Park & Museum

100 NW 1st Street, Smithville, TX 78957
512-237-2313 • www.smithvillerrailroadpark.org

Hours: Mon-Fri 10am-3pm

Filled with items from the grand railroad past of Smithville, the museum also has replicas of the first railroad depot in Smithville. There are items from the MKT days and Union Pacific.

Jerry Fay Wilhelm Center for the Performing Arts

1401 Cedar Street, Bastrop, TX 78602
512-772-7800

Hours: Call for upcoming performances

The Jerry Fay Wilhelm Center for the Performing Arts was named for Jerry Fay Wilhelm, who directed Bastrop High School's U.I.L. One-Act-Play competition for 27 years. Her memory will live on during the student productions performed in this beautiful facility.

Lost Pines 8

1600 Chestnut Street, Bastrop, TX 78602
512-321-2007 • bastrop.schulmantheatres.com

Hours: Daily 10:30am-11pm

Schulman Theatres Lost Pines 8 offers new release movies, bowling, black light mini-golf, pool tables, a full bar and lounge area, a video game arcade, and a fully stocked snack bar and grill. Call or check the web site for movie times.

Mary Nichols Arts Center

301 Burleson (Intersection loop 230), Smithville, TX 78957
512-237-9299

Gallery Hours: Fri & Sun 1pm-4pm, Sat 10am to 4pm



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This wonderful historic building at 301 Burleson has come back to life and is open once again for art classes and workshops. Special exhibits and receptions are held. The Art Center features local artists and encourages creativity in children. The center is home to the Lost Pines Artisans Alliance and hosts a variety of shows throughout the year.

Party Palooza Family Fun Center (formally Giggle N Jump)

1102 College Street, Bastrop, TX 78602

512-321-5867 • www.facebook.com/GiggleNJump

Party Palooza - Indoor Play with large inflatables, a castle loft with tube slide, imagination areas, even a bouncer dedicated to little ones! You can come play for the day or celebrate your next birthday with us!

Petty Paintball Field

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512-601-3235 • www.pettypb.com

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Playhouse Smithville

110 Main Street, Smithville, TX 78957

512-360-7397 • www.playhousesmithville.com

Hours: Call or visit web site for upcoming performances

This community black-box theater performs 10 plays/musicals a year of all genres with community actors and singers.

Smithville Heritage Museum

602 Main Street, Smithville, TX 78957

512-237-4545

Containing artifacts and photos from Smithville's early days, the Smithville Heritage Museum is itself a piece of history. Guided tours are available by appointment.

Fayette County

Bugle Boy

1051 North Jefferson Street, La Grange, TX 78945

979-968-9944 • www.thebugleboy.org

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Depot Museum & M-K-T Railroad Depot

260 North Washington Street, La Grange, TX 78945

Hours: Sat 10am-4pm (except on holidays)

Learn the history of the local railroads and their importance to the area.

Fayette Public Library & Fayette Historical Museum & Archives

855 South Jefferson Street, La Grange, TX 78945

979-968-3765 • 979-968-6418 • www.cityoflg.com

See web site for museum and library hours

Museum, archives, a computer lab, and full library along with an outside playground.

Historic Faison Home

822 South Jefferson Street, La Grange, TX 78945

979-968-5756 • www.faisonhouse.org

Hours: Second Sunday of each month 1pm-4pm

The N.W. Faison House, one of the oldest in Fayette County, boasts original furnishings of the wealthy Faison family, whose members occupied the home for nearly 90 years. Relatively unaltered since its construction in the Mid-19th century, it was the home of one of the earliest settlers of the area, Nathaniel W. Faison (1817-1870), a military hero, land baron, and benefactor of the African American community after emancipation.

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Monument Hill & Kreische Brewery State Historical Sites

414 State Loop 92, La Grange, TX 78945
979-968-5658

tpwd.texas.gov/state-parks/monument-hill-kreische-brewery
Hours: Open daily 8am-5pm

The park houses a stone monument commemorating heroes of the Texas War for Independence that are buried on the park grounds along with the ruins of the third largest brewery in the State at the peak of its popularity. Group tours by staff and volunteer docents are available with advanced scheduling, and regularly scheduled tours of the brewery are available on the weekends.

Rohan Meadery

6002 FM 2981, La Grange, TX 78945
979-249-5652 • www.rohanmeadery.com

Hours: Wed-Sun 12pm-6pm

Rohan Meadery specializes in the re-creation of honey wines or meads, mankind's oldest beverage, using the finest Texas honeys available.

Rosemary's Vineyard & Winery

5521 Highway 71 East, La Grange, TX 78945
979-249-2109 • www.wines-made-in-texas.com
Hours: Daily 12pm-6pm

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Schulenburg Historical Museum

631 N. Main Street, Schulenburg, TX 78956
979-743-3614 • schulenburgchamber.org
Hours: Fri & Sat 10am-2pm

Stanzel Model Aircraft Museum

311 Baumgarten Street, Schulenburg, TX 78956
979-743-6559 • stanzelmuseum.org
Hours: Mon, Wed, Fri & Sat 10:30am-4:30pm
The main Museum features interactive exhibits and 30 static displays. The factory wing of the Museum gives visitors an opportunity to experience the development and manufacturing of model aircraft in an era when aviation and rocket technology was in its infancy. Adjacent to the Museum is the historic home of Victor and Joe Stanzel's grandparents, restored and furnished as it appeared in the late 1800's.

Texas Polka Music Museum

625 N. Main Street, Schulenburg, TX 78956
979-743-4752 • www.texaspolkamuseum.com
Hours: Thur-Sat 10am-3pm
The Texas Polka Music Museum, Inc. (TPMM) is dedicated to preserving the history and legacy of polka music in Texas by honoring Texas polka bands and musicians of Czech, German and Polish ancestry.

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Texas Quilt Museum

140 West Colorado Street, La Grange, TX 78945

979-968-3104 • www.wines-made-in-texas.com
Hours: Thur-Sat 10am-4pm, Sun 12pm-4pm
With changing exhibits in three spacious, high ceilinged galleries, the museum also features a period "town" garden alongside a beautiful outside mural.

Lee County

Ashley's Attic

687 E. Austin St., Giddings, TX 78942

979-542-4345 • On Facebook

Hours: Mon-Fri 10am-6pm, Sat 10am-5pm, Sun Noon-5pm
A unique little shop where every room in this old home turned gift shop is decorated accordingly. Ashley's Attic consists of a variety of merchandise from purses to jewelry, candles, cloths, kitchen items and tons of different accessories.

A Blast From the Past

115 W. Austin St., Giddings, TX 78942

979-542-2590

Hours: Mon-Fri 10am-6pm, Sat 10am-1pm

Once of Giddings best hidden gems, A Blast From the Past has things to look at in every little nook and cranny at the store including vintage items and their amazing homemade fudge.

Giddings Public Library & Cultural Center

276 N. Orange St., Giddings, TX 78942

979-542-2716 • www.giddingstx.com

Hours: Mon-Fri 10am-6pm, Sat 10am-1pm

Our goal is to provide a diverse selection of information and resources. From books on families to the more than 2400 Native American artifacts in the Arnold Smith Collection, there is something for everyone!

Lee County Court House

200 S. Main St., Giddings, TX 78942

www.giddingstx.com

Hours: Open to the public during business hours 8am-5pm
Completed in 1899, this courthouse replaced the original from 1878 which was lost to fire. The architecture is Richardsonian Romanesque. It is said to be octagonal in shape with the four sides facing the four points of the compass.

Lee County Museum

183 E. Hempstead St., Giddings, TX 78942

979-542-3455 • www.giddingstx.com

Hours: Open by appointment

A unique stroll through the past of furnishings, clothing, toys and tools donated by Lee County families. All kinds of collectibles.

RoadHouse Antiques

901 E. Austin St., Giddings, TX 78942

979-540-0285

Hours: Sun-Tue, Thurs-Fri 10am-6pm, Sat 1pm-6pm

You never known what you may stumble upon at RoadHouse Antiques! This little store boasts a variety of interesting inventory items including rustic antiques, furnishings, porcelain knickknacks, tin signs, and more!

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Texas Wendish Heritage

1011 Country Rd., Giddings, TX 78942

979-366-2441 • texaswendish.org

Hours: See web site for hours and admission

The Texas Wendish Heritage Museum preserves the history of the Texas Wends, Slavic immigrants from Lusatia, an area in eastern Germany. The museum is a complex of buildings which are connected by porches and hosts both indoor and outdoor exhibits. Exhibits include relics from the old country and Texas.

Union Station Transportation Museum &

The Rural Texas Tourism Center

289 W. Railroad, Giddings, TX 78942

979-542-3455 • www.giddingsxtx.com

Hours: Mon-Fri 8am-5pm, Sat by appointment

The RTTC is connected to the Union Station Transportation Museum which takes a look back at Giddings and its railroad history.

Washington County

The Antique Rose Emporium

208 S. Park St., Brenham, TX 77833

www.antiqueroseemporium.com

Recipient of the Great Rosarian Garden Hall of Fame, The Antique Rose Emporium features a store and is a wonderful place to visit for delightful stroll. Enjoy its interesting historic buildings as well the beautiful gardening.

Blue Bell Aquatic Center

1800 E. Tom Green St., Brenham, TX 77833

979-337-7250 • On Facebook

The Blue Bell Aquatic Center features a large outdoor recreation pool, 25-yard 6-lane indoor pool and an indoor therapy pool. Both the indoor and therapy pools are open year round.

Blue Bell Creameries

1101 S. Blue Bell Rd., Brenham, TX 77833

800-327-8135 • www.bluebell.com

Hours: Mon-Fri 8am-5pm

Browse the Tour Center that is filled with historical Blue Bell pictures, videos, advertising, and more! Visit the Country Store for a special gift and the Ice Cream Parlor for a generous scoop of ice cream!

Brenham Fire Museum

101 N. Chappell Hill St., Brenham, TX 77833

979-337-7300 • cityofbrenham.org/fire/museum.php

Hours: Open for tours Saturdays 10am-5pm

Brenham Heritage Museum

105 S. Market St., Brenham, TX 77833

979-830-8445 • www.brenhamheritagemuseum.org

Hours: Wed-Fri 10am-4pm, Sat 10am-5pm

The Brenham heritage Museum is committed to fostering and promoting the history, art, and culture of Washington County, Texas. Visit our web site to see current exhibitions and information about the Munz Gallery. Group tours available. Call to schedule.

Chappell Hill Lavender Farm

2250 Dillard Rd., Brenham, TX 77833

979-251-8114 • www.chappellhilllavender.com

Hours: Open on weekends March through October

Stroll through fragrant fields, cut your own fresh lavender, indulge in a relaxing picnic by the pond, and enjoy our heavenly gift shop.

Home Sweet Farm Market & Biergarten

307 S. Park St., Brenham, TX 77833

979-530-7994 • www.homesweetfarm.com

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community events. Promoting local farms, beer and music, visitors from across Texas enjoy this unique setting with the charm of a Texas small town and the tragically hip atmosphere.

Horseshoe Junction Family Fun Park

2080 Hwy., 290 W., Brenham, TX 77833
979-251-8701 • www.horseshoejunction.com

Hours: Fri 5pm-11pm, Sat 10am-11pm, Sun 12pm-9pm
Miniature golf, bumper boats, go-karts, an arcade, laser tag, a 26ft rock wall, jumpers, and mini bowling. Reservations for birthday parties available!

The Painted Palace

222 E. Alamo St., Brenham, TX 77833
979-353-1193 • www.paletteandpairings.com

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Peeka Ranch

13350 FM 389, Burton, TX 77835
713-628-9297 • www.peekaranch.com

Peeka Ranch is on 60 acres of hay meadows and some large oak trees. The ranch is home to lovely alpacas and a gift shop with alpaca wool products. Come out and enjoy seeing, petting and feeding the alpacas! Just give us a call before you come to make sure we're at the ranch and ready to greet you!

Pleasant Hill Winery

1441 Salem Rd., Brenham, TX 77833
979-830-8463 • www.pleasanthillwinery.com

Hours: Sat 11am-6pm, Sun 12pm-5pm

Pleasant Hill Winery is the oldest winery in Washington County, and one of the oldest in Texas. We serve award-winning wines proudly made from Texas Grapes and offer an informative tour included in the price of the tasting. Visitors are welcome to tour, taste, and browse the well-stocked gift shop on weekends year-round. See web site for tour times.

Texas Cotton Gin Museum

307 N. Main St., Burton, TX 77835
979-289-3378 • www.cottonginmuseum.org

We invite you to join us ...step back in time when cotton was king. The historic 1914 Burton Farmers Gin is nestled in the heart of Burton, Texas. Two tours daily offer guests a fun and educational presentation about cotton and the cotton industry. Visitors are offered the opportunity to actually "pick cotton", discover its impact on Texas and American history, and learn how the seed are separated from the soft white fibers.

Today and Yesterday Antiques

101 W. Alamo St., Brenham, TX 77833
979-830-0707 • todayandyesterdayantiques.com

Today and Yesterday is located in the historic 1872 Brenham Grand Opera House and has a large variety of gift items and antiques from. Today and Yesterday is also the exclusive dealer of Alpaca clothing from Bluebonnet Hills Alpaca Ranch.

Toubin Park

208 S. Park St., Brenham, TX 77833
cityofbrenham.org

To combat fire fighting, in the late 1800's, large systems of cisterns were built beneath the streets of Brenham to store rainwater. Today the historic cisterns are a State Archeological Landmark. At the time they were built, these systems were considered very progressive to fight fires as no other city in Texas were known to install any or provide public services so early. Learn about the cisterns and enjoy the Wild West story of why they were built with this self-guided tour through the Historic Brenham pocket park.

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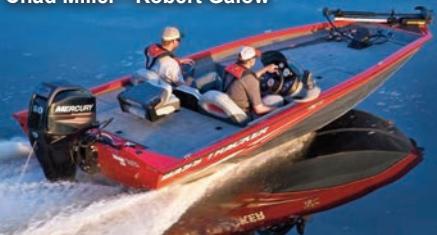
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PERMANENT MESQUITE & HUISACHE REMOVAL BY PULLING TAP ROOT

PROBLEM:

Controlling and eradicating invasive trees and shrubs especially those with tap roots continues to be a big problem for ranchers and farmers in Central Texas. Those without tap roots such as cedar and juniper are problems but are much easier to control in that they can be cut off at the ground and will die. Mesquite and Huisache – those with tap roots are a much bigger problem in that cutting by mowing or shearing does not kill the plant but seems to just exacerbate the problem because they sprout out from the stump with many more stems than original. Almost like stirring up a hornets nest.

METHODS OF CONTROL:

Many methods have been developed over the years to control and eradicate the most invasive species – those with tap roots. Depending on soil type a 20 year old mesquite tree can have a tap root of 10 feet or more.

In the good old days the prevalent treatment for mesquite was to cut the tree at the ground and pour kerosene or diesel on it. If it was a small plant, one inch in diameter, diesel was poured around the base in the summer time when tree was in stress.

Today methods used to control invasive trees and shrubs can be categorized 1) mechanical such as plowing, pulling, grubbing or cutting/shearing and 2) chemical – applying herbicides at the proper time of the year. In some cases both mechanical and chemical methods are used for example shearing the tree and then applying a herbicide such as Remedy and diesel to the stump within 30 minutes of cutting.

BEST METHOD:

The best method is the one that permanently eradicates the plant. Pulling a tree beneath its root ball will eliminate it. It will not grow back. When using other methods, mechanical and chemical, a substantial percentage of the trees that are cut grubbed or sprayed will come back – some with a vengeance.

The size of tree that can be effectively pulled by its tap root is determined by soil type, soil moisture and size of machine. Tap roots may be broken or cut if soil is clay and dry. Range Scientist have conducted field test and have concluded that if root ball with

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the nodes are still attached to the tree when pulled even if its tap root is broken, tree will die.

Grubbers and excavators with claws may not extract trees by their tap roots. They leave large holes and disturb the vegetation. Mowing and shearing trees does not kill the tree sprout and multiply by sprouting with multiple stems

Effectiveness of killing trees by spraying with herbicides is expensive and percentage of kill is determined by many variables including, soil temperature, size and condition of plant, chemical including amount used. In most cases a 60% kill with a herbicide is considered good even with small trees. Those that are not killed also multiply.

Extractor – A Tool Bar with Extractor tool pinned to has been developed – patent pending – to pull trees by their tap roots permanently removing them. This invention takes advantage of a bit designed to get good penetration to insert beneath the root ball in most soil conditions. A fulcrum which is part of the Tool Bar

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PERMANENT MESQUITE AND HUISACHE REMOVAL BY PULLING TAP ROOT

- Tool Bar mounted on Skid Steer or Tractor front end loader
- Pull up to 3 inch diameter trees by tap root (root ball)
- Other tools such as hydraulic bucket, hay spear, boom, ball hitch can be attached to Tool Bar in place of Tree Extractor



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512-753-4944

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design increases the mechanical advantage when pulling trees by their roots. Trees are pulled – dirt shaken out of roots back into the small hole left with very little damage to surface of soil and vegetation. When trees are stacked and burned there is very little dirt left in burn pile.

The Extractor tool is attached to a Tool Bar in just a few minutes with high strength steel pins. Many other tools have been developed to also pin to the Tool Bar – for example an hydraulic activated bucket to dig ditches, a boom to lift loads, hay spear for large hay bales, universal ball hitch to move trailers are a few examples. See the Tool Bar in action in our ad on page 14.

The Tool Bar is compatible with all front end loaders on both tractors and skid steer loader that have the universal skid steer hitch. Tool Bars attached to the front end loader of a tractor come

with a wifi camera that is attached to the tractor grill to allow operator to have good visibility when inserting the Extractor bit beneath the root ball of the tree. Camera sends image to a tablet/monitor in the tractor cab. Tractors can pull larger trees because of their increase leverage. A front wheel drive assist tractor is recommended in that it has a heavy front axle and tires.

All trees and shrubs – those without tap roots can be easily and quickly pulled with the Extractor. Juniper for example, those up to 10 inches or more in trunk diameter are easily pulled. Again the dirt is shaken from the root prior to throwing the tree down. Dirt is pulled back into the hole to leave surface smooth with little disturbance to vegetation and no tree stump.

Contact us for more information
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Outdoors

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Bastrop County

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512-988-1154 • www.bastropriverco.com

Oct-Feb Hours: By reservation only

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Bastrop State Park

3001 Hwy 21 East, Bastrop, TX 78602

512-321-2101 • tpwd.texas.gov/state-parks/bastrop

Bastrop State Park has some of the best camping and hiking around! Enjoy fishing, boating, and biking, or play a few rounds at the Lost Pines Golf Club. There is also a group picnic pavilion and dining hall, a fun play area for kids, and a swimming pool that is open seasonally.

Bob Bryant Park

600 Charles Blvd., Bastrop, TX 78602

512-321-1313 • tpwd.texas.gov/state-parks/bastrop

Enjoy the beautiful walking trails or take your kids to the play area, which includes a playscape and swings. You'll also find a large picnic pavilion, soccer fields, clean public restrooms, and more.

Buescher State Park

187 FM 153, Smithville, TX

512-237-2241 • tpwd.texas.gov/state-parks/buescher

Buescher State Park offers over 50 campsites, a group picnic area, a large recreation hall with a kitchen, and more. Whether you're planning an overnight camping trip, a day of fishing at the lake, or a family reunion, Buescher State Park has it all.

Colorado River Refuge

375 Tahitian Drive

Bastrop, TX 78602

512-308-1911 • www.pplt.org

The Colorado River Refuge offers a true nature experience just minutes from downtown Bastrop. With over 2 miles of riverside and cliff side trails, there is something for everyone. Even folks with limited mobility, strollers, and young children can all enjoy these trails. A downloadable Trail Guide is available on the website.

Fisherman's Park

1200 Willow Street, Bastrop, TX 78602

512-321-1313 • www.cityofbastrop.org

Fisherman's Park is Bastrop's largest park and features a playground, a splash pad, basketball and tennis courts, a soccer field, a boat dock and fishing pier, swings and benches overlooking the Colorado River, picnic tables, a large pavilion, and the June Pape Riverwalk, which extends 1/2 mile along the Colorado River.

June Hill Pape Riverwalk Trail

Just beyond the public library on 1100 Church Street, the riverwalk is a one-half mile stroll from Fisherman's Park to Ferry Park.

Lake Bastrop North Shore Park

603 FM 1441, Bastrop, TX 78602

512-498-1922 • www.lcra.org

North Shore Park on Lake Bastrop appeals to campers, anglers, and nature lovers alike. There are 17 RV campsites available, a group picnic area, a fishing pier, boat ramp and boat dock, play area, sand volleyball courts, tetherball courts, picnic tables, grills, and showers.

Lake Bastrop South Shore Park

375 South Shore Road, Bastrop, TX 78602

512-498-1922 • www.lcra.org

South Shore Park on Lake Bastrop offers 38 campsites that accommodate both RV and tent campers. Featured activities include sailing, skiing, canoeing, and swimming, as well as a hike and bike trail, tetherball courts, and Osprey Point Hall.

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McKinney Roughs Nature Park

1884 Hwy 71 West, Bastrop, TX 78602

512-303-5073 • www.lcra.org

McKinney Roughs is an 1,100 acre nature park where visitors can explore close to 18 miles of trails by foot or horseback or take part in one of the park's many community programs.

MLK Park

Located at the corner of Marburger and MLK Jr. Drive
Smithville, TX 78957

The MLK Park has a playscape, basketball court, picnic tables and barbecue grills, and is host to a number of community events. Public restrooms are open during the day.

Reach Out Ranch

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512-517-1123 • www.horse123.org

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306 Industrial Blvd., Bastrop, TX 78602

512-677-2305 • www.risingphoenixadventures.com

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Sunset Trail Rides

591 Watterson Road, Bastrop, TX 78602

512-304-8945 • Visit On Facebook

Sunset Trail Rides invites you to come explore some of our thousands of acres of gently rolling, wooded ranchland located in historic Bastrop. Everyone is welcome.

Veterans Memorial Park

311 NW 2nd Street, Smithville, TX 78957

512-237-3282 ext. 2109

Enjoy the Memorial to veterans as a "place to pay tribute; a place to pray for peace." The beautiful fenced park includes historical plaques of Bastrop County veterans from all wars, a splash pad, bathrooms, a detailed statue of an angel and a cherub, created by sculpter Bill McGlaun which watches over the fallen.

Vernon Richards Park

311 NW 2nd Street, Smithville, TX 78957

512-237-3282 ext. 2109

Vernon Richard's Park is the city's finest outdoor recreational spot and borders the Colorado River. The park has a walking trail, fishing pier, barbecue pits, and picnic tables near the river. There are also washer and horseshoe pits, a 9-hole disc golf course, softball field, and volleyball pits.

Fayette County

Camp Lonestar

2016 Camp Lone Star Road, La Grange, TX 78945

979-247-4128 • www.lomt.com

Canoe and kayak rentals. Call for a reservation.

Kruschel Park

480 West Colorado, La Grange, TX 78945

979-968-5600

Hours: Open daily dawn-dusk

Swimming pool (fee applies), walking trail, two little league baseball fields, playground, picnic tables, and volleyball court.



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Oak Thicket Park

4819 TX 159, Fayetteville, TX 78945

979-249-3504 • www.lcra.org

Hours: Open daily dawn-dusk

Oak Thicket Park is located next to 2,000-acre Fayette Lake and provides excellent fishing, boating, and swimming. The park has RV and tent campsites, screened shelters, cabins, boat ramp, picnic facilities, a large pavilion, restroom and shower facilities, hiking trails, a sand beach, a playground and an interpretive nature exhibit. Visit website to make reservations.

Park Prairie Park

1250 Park Prairie Road, Fayetteville, TX 78945

979-249-3344 • www.lcra.org

Hours: Open daily dawn-dusk

Park Prairie features 12 camp sites, a boat ramp, and picnic facilities. There is also a 3-mile multi-use trail along the lake and connects Park Prairie to Oak Thicket Park.

Plum Park on the Colorado

1517 Prairie Valley Road, West Point, TX 78963

512-498-1922 • www.lcra.org

Hours: Open 24 hours, day users: dusk to dawn

Enjoy a day picnicking, fishing, and canoeing at Plum Park on the Colorado! The park offers a great place to access the river between Smithville and La Grange. Open range primitive camping is available on a first-come, first-served basis.

Lee County

Giddings Veteran's Park

One block off Hwy 290 at the intersection of North Montgomery St.
Giddings, TX 78942

www.giddingsx.com

Home to the Lee County Little League, city swimming pool and tennis courts.

Nails Creek State Park

800 W. Independence St., Giddings, TX 78942

www.giddingsx.com

Nails Creek State Park boasts a multitude of recreational activities such as camping, picnicking, boating, fishing, hiking, biking,

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volleyball, horseshoes, basketball, backpacking, and horseback riding. More than 20 miles of trail are open to hikers, mountain bikers, and horseback riders while water lovers can enjoy fishing, boating and swimming on Lake Somerville. The Lake Somerville Trailway connects Birch Creek State Park with Nails Creek State Park with 13 miles of trails. The trailway is located around the west end of the reservoir.

Simmang Park

800 W. Independence St., Giddings, TX 78942

www.giddingsx.com

Home of the Hilton Lee Smith Field, Lee County Soccer fields, covered basketball courts and picnic pavilion.

Washington County

Fireman's Park

901 N. Park St., Brenham, TX 77833

979-337-7250 • cityofbrenham.org/parks

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located just blocks away from downtown Brenham. The kitchen and pavilion can be rented for various events, including reunions, birthday parties, or special occasions. The park also includes playground areas, picnic areas, a skate park, Veteran Memorial Plaza, volleyball court, Fireman's Park Baseball, Greenwade Field, and more.

Henderson Park

500 E. Blue Bell Rd., Brenham, TX 77833
979-337-7250 • cityofbrenham.org/parks

Henderson Park is located just blocks away from downtown Brenham, across the street from Fireman's Park. The 22 acre park is part of the 2 mile Hike n' Bike Trail and has played a significant part in Brenham's Park history. Henderson Park features the Henderson Baseball Field, Fink Softball Field, Korthauer Softball Fields, playground areas, a kitchen with an open-air canopy, basketball court, and picnic areas. The kitchen and fields are available for rent by calling the City of Brenham at 979-337-7250. Rental policies and athletic field information can be found on the website.

Holt Park

2425 N. Park St., Brenham, TX 77833
979-337-7250 • cityofbrenham.org/parks

Holt Park is the newest addition to the Brenham Park System as well as the largest covering 85 acres. The park features 9 holes of disc golf, 3 sand volleyball courts, 8 baseball/softball fields, 11 soccer fields, an approximately 1 mile trail, the Dr. Bobbie M. Dietrich Memorial Amphitheater, and All Sports Building.

Jackson Street Park

1300 S. Jackson St., Brenham, TX 77833
979-337-7250 • cityofbrenham.org/parks

The Jackson Street Park is perfect for a family day outing with playgrounds and BBQ pits! Other amenities include practice fields with lights, basketball courts, tennis courts, a kitchen, and a half mile walking trail.

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Chamber Headquarters, 314 S Austin St, Brenham, TX 77833
www.visitbrenhamtexas.com

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