



# TOWN Rockport

September 2009

## Our Next Meeting

When: Tuesday, September 22

Time: Social—6 p.m.;

Meeting—6:30 to 7:30 p.m.

Where: Poor Man's Country Club

Stacy Whitehead of Goose Island State Park will speak on the interpretive programs and tours available at Goose Island, as well as the Texas Master Naturalist program. Stacy is a Master Naturalist and has been a park ranger for 22 years. and has a wealth of experience to share with us.

Bring your friends and win possible door prizes!

## Take Our TOWN Rockport Survey!

Go to:

[http://www.surveymonkey.com/s.aspx?sm=CkC56tq77q10doGAvzq4IQ\\_3d\\_3d](http://www.surveymonkey.com/s.aspx?sm=CkC56tq77q10doGAvzq4IQ_3d_3d)

and let us know what you think!

## Wildlife Photography with John Martell: Recap

Seven enthusiastic amateur photographers met with John Martell on Sunday, Sept. 13 to soak up his wisdom gained from a lifetime of professional photography. Even the most experienced among us benefitted tremendously from his tips, tricks, guidelines, and real-world examples. John drew from his own archive of photos and those of his students to illustrate his principles. He showed us how just a little bit more patience, attention to detail, and understanding your subject matter can turn an OK photo opportunity into an outstanding one. In the hands-on outdoors portion of the class, we focused on hummingbirds, for the simple reason that, "If you can successfully capture a hummingbird, everything else is gravy." Here are some comments from the attendees:



*Male ruby-throated hummingbird.  
Photo taken by John Martell.*

"John is a very talented artist; he "paints" with his camera, telling a story with his chosen subjects. The visiting of his home to see his photos hanging on the wall gave added meaning to his teaching."—*Carol Bryant*

"John's enthusiasm and approach to the basics were fabulous. I loved his direct and to-the-point style. This was a great class for me as a beginner."—*Eileen Bonner*

"I never make it past page 2 in the camera manual...John made it all so clear and easy to understand. With a point-and-shoot, the photos are always good, or acceptable anyway. But he made me see what I've been missing."—*Sharron Flood*

"As someone who has never taken a photo class, I was able to understand all of the material taught in the camera overview, and loved everything that was taught in photo composition. I was very impressed that he could teach all levels of students...My attention was held because Mr. Martell was so likable and highly motivated. Most of all, I learned to be patient, observe the behavior of the wildlife, and control the shot."—*C.J. Vaughn*

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### Speaker Coordinator

Carol "C.J." Vaughn  
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"I started taking photographs upon receiving my first Kodak Instamatic camera in junior high school. I have taken many photography classes in my life, including college level. But never have I met a teacher with so much enthusiasm and motivation for his chosen profession. John had us all itching to get out there with our cameras to try out our new-found knowledge. I know the lessons I learned from him will stay with me for a long time."—*Gail Bergan*

### Trailer Backing recap

Eight women joined in for the second trailer backing class held on Aug. 9 at the Old Wal-Mart parking lot. TOWNs Outdoor Expert Brandi Reeder, a game warden, and other TWPD wardens met with the ladies to help them learn and improve their trailer backing skills. The groups levels varied, but each woman was able to learn something new and to feel more confident in their trailer backing skills. Another class will be scheduled in the future.



### Fantasy Football recap

The first ever TOWN group Fantasy Football is in full swing. On Sept. 16, ten ladies got together to try out their hand at a predominantly male activity. Many of the women were hesitant to join, but when eight out of the 10 women didn't know how to play the comfort level went up. Though they didn't know much about how fantasy

football worked, they all share a love for football in general. The ladies had a quick introduction and explanation on the rules and drafting procedure before a live draft took place. The ladies took turns drafting their teams, which included quarterbacks, running backs, wide receivers, tight end, kickers and defenses, with the hopes of getting the best all around team. The league is heading into its second weekend of competition and all the ladies are enjoying being competitive and learning more about how fantasy football works and enjoying football with friends.

### First Friday get together recap

First Friday Get Together has started. Many of the women wanted a time to get together and chat. No classes or meetings, just social time. We answered with this new social activity once a month. The first one was held on September 4<sup>th</sup> from 6-8pm at Poor Man's Country Club. Ten women and their friends and spouses joined together for an evening of food and drink and great socializing. It was a relaxed evening where many of the members were able to get to know each other more. This will be a monthly occurrence going forward. October's get together will be held on Oct. 2 at Moondogs. For more information please contact [info@townrockport.org](mailto:info@townrockport.org).

### Landscaping: Dealing with the Coastal Elements

When: Sept. 26

For more information contact Stephenie Cochran at 361-205-4000 or [scochran@cochranlandscapes.com](mailto:scochran@cochranlandscapes.com)

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## *Kayaking on Little Bay*

**When:** Wednesday, Sept. 23, 30

**Time:** 5:30 p.m. arrival and preparation; 6 p.m. shove-off

**Where:** Little Bay boat launch, next to McDonald's

Join us on Wednesday afternoons for a paddle around Little Bay. Bring kayak, paddle, personal flotation device/whistle (required), bottled water, snacks, hat, quick-dry clothing, and sunscreen. Tommy Moore of [Rockport Birding and Kayak Adventures](#) (877-TX-BIRDS) has provided his rentals for our TOWN group to use. We have a limited number of kayaks and paddles available for those who do not own their own. To reserve a kayak, call C.J. Vaughn at 361-758-2453/cell 512-484-3723. We sometimes go out for dinner after kayaking, an added opportunity to get to know your new kayaking buddies.

Since starting this kayaking program, more than 40 women have participated, many of whom had never set foot in a kayak before. Thanks to C.J. Vaughn for her dedication to helping a group of women get comfortable on the water!



*Sunset after kayaking at Ingleside.  
Photo taken by Gail Bergan.*

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## *Adopt-A-Beach Clean Up*

**When:** Sept. 26, 8 am to 4 pm

**Where:** Aransas National Wildlife Refuge

Join CCA and other local organizations as we band together for the Annual Adopt-A-Beach Clean Up at the Aransas National Wildlife Refuge. Groups will be heading out by boat and foot to clean up the local wildlife refuge area. For more information contact CJ Vaughn at [cjvaughn53@yahoo.com](mailto:cjvaughn53@yahoo.com) or 512-484-3723.

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## *Pistol Shooting Class*

**When:** Sept. 29, 5:30 to 8 pm.

**Where:** Sharpshooters Corpus Christi

This women-only class will help you become more comfortable with a pistol. A 1:3 instructor-to-student ratio will give individual attention to all in this class. You are allowed to bring your own pistol and shooting gear if you have it. The class will be \$10 for the instruction plus any additional rentals that you might need. For more information please contact Cecilia Creighton at [Cecilia.creighton@thehartford.com](mailto:Cecilia.creighton@thehartford.com) or 210-422-3191.

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## *Casting Class*

**When:** Oct. 18, 5 to 7 pm

**Where:** Old Wal-Mart parking lot

This is the rescheduled class from August. Fishing guides will be on hand to show you how to cast both spinning and casting reels. The class will focus on technique, tricks on accuracy and increasing your comfort level on casting each type. Please bring a rod and reel if you have one to practice with. For more information

please contact Leslie at [info@town-rockport.org](mailto:info@town-rockport.org).

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## *Camping in the Hill Country*

**When:** Friday—Monday, October 23—26

**Where:** Garner State Park, northwest of San Antonio, Persimmon Hill campground

**Cost:** State park entrance fees (\$4/person), camping fees (~\$60 split between participants), parking fees (first 4 cars free, \$5 per car per day thereafter)

Do you like to tent camp, or want to give it a try? Gail Bergan will take a group to Garner State Park from October 23–26. We'll hike, swim, kayak, and of course, cook out on the grill and enjoy cool nights and camaraderie underneath the stars. Currently I have 12 people signed up; **EVERYONE MUST CONFIRM WITH ME BY THURSDAY, OCT. 15** or your spot will be released. Contact Gail at 361-727-2343 or [gail.bergan@bergan.com](mailto:gail.bergan@bergan.com) to reserve or confirm your spot.

Two tent campsites (water only, no electricity) have been reserved. Two vehicles and up to 8 people are allowed per campsite. You must have your own gear (see the following list); if you need to share a tent or cooking gear, please make arrangements on your own. If you wish to bring an RV, please make your own reservations for a hook-up spot. Dogs and children are welcome! But plan to comply with state park regulations (dogs must be leashed at all times, must clean up after your pet).

Many of you are old hands at camping, but for novices or for those of you who haven't gone in quite a while, the following is a list of suggested gear for car camping. You may want to split the list with your tent mate. This list is reproduced from <http://gorp.away.com/>, but note that I have omitted the kid's toys and baby gear. Adjust accordingly if you are planning a camping trip that includes infants or older children.

### Getting There

- Guidebooks and maps
- Camping reservation info
- Cell phone

### Shelter and Sleeping

- Ground cloth
- Tent(s)
- Sleeping pads for everyone
- Portable chairs and stools
- Sleeping bag (rated to 20 to 50F)
- Pillows

### The Camp Kitchen

- Stove (be sure to test it each time before you go)
- Stove fuel
- Charcoal and lighter fuel (if grilling)
- Firewood and kindling (if allowed)
- Matches/lighter
- Cooking pots and pans
- Extra water (to keep at your site)
- Utensil set (including spoons, knives, forks, plus cooking utensils, such as serving spoons, knives, spatulas)
- Can opener
- Mess kits for everyone (plates, cups, bowls)
- Cooler and ice
- Dish detergent (biodegradable is best)
- Dish towels

- Sponge/scrapper
- Plastic basin (for washing dishes)
- Paper towels
- Tablecloth
- Trash bags
- Foil
- Ziploc bags
- Hot pads
- Citronella candle

### Food Items

- Snacks
- Fruit
- Peanut butter and bread
- Butter/cooking oil
- Condiments (salt, pepper, multi-spice, and mustard/catsup when applicable)
- Beverages (juice boxes, milk)
- Coffee, tea, or hot chocolate
- Milk, sugar (if needed)
- Desserts
- Makings for s'mores (marshmallows, graham crackers, and chocolate)
- Specific breakfast, lunch and dinner items
- Ice and ice chest

### Handy Campsite Tools

- Rope
- Clothes pins
- Duct tape
- Multi-tool/utility knife
- Small handheld broom (for sweeping out the tent)
- Bungee cords
- Rain tarp

### Light Sources

- Lantern (at least one per tent makes camping much more enjoyable)
- Headlamps

### Toiletries

- Bath towels and washcloths

- Soap
- Hand sanitizer
- Shampoo
- Quarters (for pay showers)
- Toothbrushes/toothpaste
- Deodorant
- Razor
- Toilet paper and trowel
- Sunscreen
- Lip balm
- Baby wipes (very handy for campsite cleanup)

### Family Medical Kit

- Bandages
- Benadryl
- Poison ivy treatment such as CORTAID® Treatment Kit
- Antibiotic ointment/wipes
- Burn ointment
- Thermometer
- Bug repellent
- Aspirin
- Tweezers (good for removing splinters and ticks)
- Moleskin

### Clothing for All

- Trail-running shoes or hiking boots (broken in and waterproofed)
- Sandals/flip-flops (for public showers)
- Wool socks
- Synthetic long-underwear bottoms and tops
- Synthetic shorts or convertible pants
- Underwear
- Synthetic/wicking t-shirt
- Rain/wind jacket and pants
- Wool or fleece sweater or jacket (vest, if warmer)
- Pajamas
- Bathing suits
- Sunglasses

- Wool or fleece hat, depending on temps
- Wool/fleece gloves or mittens, depending on temps

### Play Equipment

- Swim towels
- Water shoes (if needed)
- Daypacks
- Water bottles
- Camera, tripod
- Video camera
- Reading material for all

## Texas Women's Fly Fishers Outing

When: Oct. 24 & 25

TOWN Rockport members are invited to join the Texas Women's Fly Fishing group for an outing in the Rockport-Fulton area. **This outing is open to men, significant others, and friends.** All types of fishing rods are welcome.

The Sanddollar Resort will be our outing headquarters (contact Lucinda at 361-729-2381). Friday night is the Mullet Mixer. Saturday, a daylight wake-up to meet with Cpt. Tommy

Moore of [Rockport Birding and Kayak Adventures](#). He'll transport 10 to 12 anglers and kayaks across Aransas Bay to Fence Lake on St. Joe's Island. We'll fish the area in and around Fence Lake. Return will be around 3:30 pm. The transport cost per angler is about \$45/person. Other options for fishing and kayaking will also be made available. Saturday evening's dinner will be at a Fulton seafood restaurant. Sunday, fish on your own or join a local excursion. For more information or to reserve your spot, please contact Mary Rohrer at [mary\\_1\\_rohrer@yahoo.com](mailto:mary_1_rohrer@yahoo.com), or C.J. Vaughn at [cjvaughn53@yahoo.com](mailto:cjvaughn53@yahoo.com).

## TOWN Member Profile



### *Kim Pendergraft, Insurance Rep and Marketing Coordinator, State Farm*

I was born in Houston, Texas on October 11, 1973. My parents, Pam & Bubba Laws, lived in a small home in Katy, Texas where my 2 younger sisters and I grew up. I met my best friend and husband, Ryan, at the University of Houston. We started our married life in Katy, Texas, then moved to Mandeville, Louisiana for 7 months. After many moves and many years later, we ended up back in Katy, where I started my own businesses.

In every place we lived I was able to learn something new. I have had jobs building homes, was a lab technician building and selling dental

crowns, was an independent insurance agent, owned my own catering company, started a business selling chocolate treats and candies, was a wedding planner, built a beautiful fitness facility from the ground up (Anytime Fitness) and owned a kayak company (Dixie Kayaks).

In June of 2008 I attended a Women's Fishing Retreat with Captain Sally Moffett in Rockport. Trying to promote Dixie Kayaks, I brought down my kayak for the ladies to try at the event. After arriving very late the night before the event, I checked into The Laguna Reef Hotel and took a walk. I could smell the salty air and hear the water moving. I woke up to the sound of sea gulls and immediately called my husband. I told him to pack his bag, load his kayak and get to Rockport as quick as possible.

After our trip to Rockport we decided to make a change. Within 5 months we sold the gym and two weeks after that we had packed up our house in Katy and put everything in storage. We moved to Port Aransas and rented a furnished beach house for 3 months until we found our home in Rockport. Ryan and I are in love with Rockport! The people are so friendly, the fishing is great and we have made some great friends! I am currently working at State Farm in Rockport as a Multi-Line Insurance Representative and Marketing Coordinator. I love to kayak and surf fish, cook, host parties, talk to anyone who will listen and spend time with my friends! I have enjoyed being a part of T.O.W.N. Rockport and look forward to the events coming up this year! A big thank you goes out to C.J. for leading us in the kayaking events.