



TOWN Rockport

April 2009

New Rockport Chapter is Formed

by Gail Bergan

The inaugural meeting of Texas Outdoors Woman Network (TOWN)–Rockport Chapter was held on February 24 at the Poor Man’s Country Club on Hwy. 35S. Starting the group, which has several other chapters across Texas, was the brainchild of Brandi Reeder and Leslie Kenfield. The initial meeting was held to gauge the interest of the local Rockport women, describe what the group could become, and how we would benefit as members. Approximately 40 woman showed up for the meeting and many signed up that night as members.

The following weeks saw a scramble to create a board of directors, establish a business identity, start a Web site, continue the membership drive, and promote our upcoming event “Women in the Wild.” By the second chapter meeting on March 24, all board positions were filled and several events were already scheduled, attesting to the power of determined and excited women!

Kayaking on Little Bay, Every Wednesday

When: April 15, 22, 29...and ongoing until further notice

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

Where: Little Bay/Rockport Beach Park

Cost: Free!

Bring your kayak and join us on Wednesday afternoons for a paddle around Little Bay. Try to arrive by 5:30 p.m. and be ready to shove off by 6 p.m. Bring kayak, paddle, bottled water, snacks, hat, quick-dry clothing, sunscreen, and a personal flotation device (required). We will have a limited number of kayaks and paddles available for those who do not own their own. To participate or to make sure we’re on in any given week, please call C.J. Vaughn at 361-758-2453 or Lynda Pouyer at 371-727-9100. (In case of high winds, we may cancel the kayaking but we can always go walking or out to dinner, so come anyway!)



Some TOWN Rockport members after kayaking on March 25. Thanks to Tommy Moore (center) of *Rockport Birding and Kayak Adventures*, and Lynda Pouyer (second from right) of *Seaworthy Marine* for providing the equipment and demonstration.

Our Next Meeting

When: Tuesday, April 28

Time: Social—6 p.m.; Meeting—6:30 to 7:30 p.m.

Where: Poor Man’s Country Club

Speaker Brandi Reeder of Texas Parks and Wildlife will recap the exciting Women in the Wild weekend. Bring your friends and win possible door prizes!

Door prize winner Terri Hudgins, March meeting.



**TOWN ROCKPORT
BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

Chapter Coordinator

Leslie Kenfield
lkenfield@live.com
361-205-5090

Secretary

Cecilia Creighton
cecilia.creighton@thehartford.com
210-422-3191

Treasurer

Eileen Bonner
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337-207-7123

Newsletter

Gail Bergan
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361-727-2343

Webmaster/Historian

Lindsey Parker
web@townrockport.org
210-473-2787

Outings Coordinator

Lorel Brumby
lorelbrumby@hotmail.com
361-463-7824

Public Relations

Terri Hudgins
terri.hudgins@charter.net
832-385-3123

Membership/Directory

Julia "Sissy" Siltmann
jfoxy72@yahoo.com
361-386-0199

Wildlife Experts

Diane Mobley
huntingdiva@sbcglobal.net
361-815-0868

Brandi Reeder
brandi.reeder@tpwd.state.tx.us
361-790-2611

Speaker Coordinators

Lynda Pouyer
lynda_seaworthy@marinemail.com
361-729-7836

Carol "C.J." Vaughn
cjvaughn53@yahoo.com
361-758-2453

Cast Net Throwing 101

When: Friday, April 24

Time: 6 p.m.

Where: Rockport Beach at the fish-cleaning station

Cost: Free!

Learn the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department's guidelines for cast-net throwing. Such as: how to pick the right size net to cast, how to throw a cast net, how to find the perfect location for catching bait, and more. Additional information provided on www.townrockport.org, or contact event leader Karen Wiatrek at karentwiatrik@yahoo.com.

23rd Annual Texas Adopt-A-Beach Spring Cleanup

When: Saturday, April 25

Time: 8:45 a.m. to 12 noon

Where: Rockport Beach Pavilion

Let's make our mark on helping keep our beaches clean. Bring heavy, puncture-proof gloves, drinking water, sunscreen, sunglasses, hat, and water shoes. A light lunch will be provided following the cleanup. For more information contact event leader Leslie Kenfield at 361-205-5090 or lkenfield@live.com.

Trailer-Backing Class

When: Sunday, April 26

Time: 3:00 to 5:00 p.m.

Where: Old Wal-Mart parking lot

Limited space: Please sign up early!

Learn how to back up trailers in a comfortable setting. Vehicles and

trailers will be provided. For more information contact event leaders Brandi Reeder at 361-790-2611 (brandi.reeder@tpwd.state.tx.us), or Leslie Kenfield at 361-205-5090 (lkenfield@live.com).

The Reel Story

When: Sunday, May 3

Time: 5:00 to 7:00 p.m.

Where: Tackletown, 3010 Hwy. 35 N.

Learn basic maintenance and upkeep of your reel. Learn what does what on the reel and how to extend its life. Learn about choosing the right line, how to spool it, and more. Learn some tricks about your reels and how they can work for you.

Bring your reel(s) and a chair. A few extra reels will be on hand for those who do not own their own. For more information contact event leader Leslie Kenfield at 361-205-5090 (lkenfield@live.com).



Door prize winner Eileen Bonner, March meeting.

TOWN Rockport Supports CCA

By Terri Hudgins

On Saturday, April 4, 2009, TOWN Rockport members Leslie Kenfield, Karen Garner, Diane Mobley, and Terri Hudgins journeyed to Port Aransas to support the Redfish Bay Chapter CCA's annual membership banquet and fundraiser. Sited at the Civic Center, this event provided TOWN with additional exposure to promote participation in outdoor activities to local women. Redfish Bay Chapter graciously provided TOWN Rockport a publicity table to display information media encouraging membership and association. C. J. Vaughn did a fabulous job with her creative table display and her abiding endorsement for TOWN's mission. Other TOWN Rockport members attending the benefit included Erin Lindell, Kay Blaha, Dawn Huff, and Dixie Doelling (our apologies if we missed anyone).



Terri Hudgins mans the information table at the CCA banquet.

We were able to network with various businesses and people involved with the Redfish Bay Chapter. The Redfish Bay Chapter is one of many Texas CCA Chapters that support the conservation of Texas coastal resources. The banquet's program included great food, fellowship, raffle opportunities, silent auction, and a live auction. Through membership and fundraising events such as this one, the monies raised by CCA Texas stay in Texas, and contribute to the protection and replenishment of our coastal habitat and resources. CCA Texas also partners with Texas Parks and Wildlife in the operation of Sea Center Texas (a saltwater hatchery and aquarium in Lake Jackson) and with American Electrical Power in the Flour Bluff Marine Development Center. Both facilities produce millions of juvenile red drum and speckled trout for Texas bays.



Left to right: Diane Mobley, Terri Hudgins, and Leslie Kenfield.

Sandcastle Building

by Lindsey Parker

Saturday, April 11 was unfortunately a less than ideal day for an outing at the beach; however, we still made it to Port Aransas to attend Lesson Mountain. Lesson Mountain is an area where local and out-of-town sand sculptors offer free lessons on the basics of sandcastle building. The experience was wonderful. We learned some great techniques (WD-40, a plastic bucket and a pastry knife help make an awesome sand sculpture!) There were several instructors on hand and ours showed us the best way to make your basic sandcastle as well as a fantastic arch (you could stick your head through this thing!).

It was a great experience and precursor to the Port Aransas Sand Fest. And while the wind, rain, and cold air kept us from doing a whole lot, we were enjoying the thought of returning on a sunny day, setting up an area to BBQ, and using the info we were given to construct some great (we hope) sand sculptures!



WANTED: LOGO AND T-SHIRT DESIGNS!

Got creativity? Send us your ideas for a TOWN Rockport logo, t-shirt designs, and other items we can brand to info@townrockport.org. All ideas will be presented at the April general meeting and those in attendance will vote for their favorites.

Meet Your TOWN Rockport Board!



*Leslie Kenfield,
Chapter Coordinator*

I was born and raised in South Texas. My father was a professional fisherman on the B.A.S.S. tour, and for the last 26 years my parents have owned and operated a fishing tackle store, making fishing a must in my family. Over the past 10 years I've lived throughout the US. Whether I was skiing in the Rockies, hiking the Cascades, tubing the Guadalupe, fishing in the Gulf, or playing beach volleyball in California, I have always been an outdoors girl. I recently returned to Texas this past year and have loved residing in Rockport where my family and friends have helped me make this my new home. I travel the US for work as a National Project Manager and do marketing work for local businesses, but I always find time for the loves of my life: fishing and my family.



*Lindsey Parker,
Webmaster & Historian*

I'm a travel agent and an amateur photographer. I love being outside taking pictures. I've lived all over Texas and have done extensive traveling in Mexico and parts of the Caribbean. I enjoy fishing and hunting and, as a member of TOWN, I am looking forward to improving on these activities as well as discovering other aspects of the outdoors.



*Cecilia Creighton,
Secretary*

I'm a recent transplant to the Rockport area and work from my home. I love to fish, walk, bicycle, and read. Looking forward to learning to kayak and other adventures.



Eileen Bonner, Treasurer

I love being outdoors! I just moved to Texas in December from the Louisiana Gulf Coast. Love being on the water, snorkeling, kayaking, hiking, camping and the indoor sport of lampworking. I'm the Small Business Advisor for the UH-V SBDC.

Gail Bergan, Newsletter

I was born and raised in North Dakota but have lived the past 30 years in various parts of Texas. My favorite outdoor activities are hiking, camping, bicycling, kayaking, cross-country skiing, and nature/wildlife photography. My professional training is in geology and I spent 10 years in the oil industry. For the past 15 years I have been self-employed as a science editor and digital publisher. My best hiking companions and best buddies are Frida and Rhoda, my two Chihuahuas. The recent addition of a female kitten completes my estrogen-charged household!





Julia "Sissy" Siltmann, Membership/Directory

I was born in Rockport, Texas to James Fox, a local legend in the fishing guide industry. I am married to my wonderful husband Justin. I have always loved the outdoors—fishing, and recently hunting, along with hanging out at the beach with good friends. I work in Ingleside as the outside sales rep for Redfish Rental, specializing in offshore oil and gas rental equipment. I look forward to learning more about the outdoors and meeting new friends.

Terri Hudgins, Public Relations

I was born and raised on a Brahma cattle ranch in Hungerford, Texas, and have always lived on the Gulf Coast. I spent most of my childhood opening gates, pushing hay off the back of a truck, gentling calves, and perfecting my chicken fried steak with cream gravy. I have swum in every creek, pond, and river in Wharton County. I can sit at the creek for hours waiting on that Yellow Cat that still eludes me. I learned to wade the bays of Rockport/Aransas Pass when I moved south in 2001.



I attended Southwest Texas State University (now Texas State) in the 70s and majored in Commercial Art. I work at Kiewit Offshore Services in Ingleside and am currently the procurement coordinator for two platforms off the coast of Brazil (not too artsy). My hobbies are stained glass and mosaic projects, cooking (outdoors or indoors), wildlife photography, personal networking, fishing, fishing, fishing, and the occasional catching. I have four children, one son-in-law, and a grandson referred to as "the Golden Child." My favorite breed of dog is the Labrador; however I am now the proud owner of a long-hair Dachshund and a Russian Land Tortoise.



Lynda Pouyer, Speaker Coordinator

I have lived in Rockport on and off for 30 years. I own and operate Seaworthy Marine Supply in Fulton. With the help of others like Laura Fox, I started Babes on the Bay, a CCA-affiliated ladies' fishing tournament. I helped start Rockport Offshore Challenge, and am a board member of the Rockport-Fulton Chamber of Commerce.

I love to be on the water! I travel a lot with husband Joe for offshore fishing tournaments in the Gulf Coast, Mexico and Panama. I am a certified kayak instructor

for the American Canoe Association.

I have two Jack Russell terriers, Penny and Bandit. When off the water we head to the ranch for dove hunting, but mostly I like to cook out on the open pit and take pictures of the brush country. Most of all I love being with my two little grandsons, Austin and Gage, who live in San Angelo, Texas with their mom and dad.

TOWN ROCKPORT MISSION STATEMENT

To provide women who participate with a safe and fun environment in which to familiarize themselves with some of the many outdoor recreational opportunities in the Coastal Bend.

Visit us on the Web at www.townrockport.org!



*C.J. Vaughn,
Speaker
Coordinator*

Fishing with my dad in Indiana and the Girl Scouts gave me my start in the outdoors. I worked with the Peace Corps and VISTA programs for 11 years and finished my 27 years of civil service with the IRS. I have been coming

to the Coastal Bend area for many years from Austin. Kamper and I finally retired and we now live here! I have been a member of TOWN Austin since 2002 and am now excited about being a member of TOWN Rockport. I love to scuba dive, snorkel, canoe, kayak, go birding, camping and of course all kinds of fishing. I am adventurous and love to travel and volunteer.

*Brandi Reeder,
Wildlife Expert*



I'm from Spring, Texas, north of Houston, where I grew up training and showing Arabian horses. I moved to Rockport after graduating from the Game Warden Academy. January will make 10 years in Rockport and I count myself blessed to be in such a wonderful community. My husband Derek will graduate from the Game Warden Academy in June. We have a beautiful 2-yr old boy and another due to arrive in August. I love to be outdoors and am game to try anything new. Also proud to be a Texas A&M alumnus!



*Lorel Brumby,
Outings
Coordinator*

I grew up in Tomball, Texas and graduated from Texas A&M-Corpus Christi with a marketing degree, I work as the Marketing and Sales Manager for Sandcastle Condominiums & Conference Center. I enjoy fishing, hunting, camping, and the beach.

*Diane Mobley,
Wildlife Expert*



My favorite outdoor activity is bowhunting. I have been hunting for almost 10 years. I love nothing more than sitting in a tripod or tree stand of any kind, waiting and watching nature unfold. I have seen some awesome things sitting in the deer woods! I moved to Corpus 3 years ago and want to learn

about bay fishing and the water sports our area has to offer. I have attended the Becoming an Outdoor Woman Weekend sponsored by Texas Parks and Wildlife. It is because of those wonderful weekends have I have a desire to help the TOWN Rockport chapter take off and succeed in the way it was designed, which is to introduce women to a variety of outdoor activities that they may never get a chance to experience.