



# The Fulbrook Focus



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## *Meet a Neighbor; Make a Friend*

### *Fulbrook Women's Club*

And, no matter what the season...

What a great time to be living in Fulbrook...and what better time to meet a new neighbor and make a new friend or two!

If you're interested in having fun, getting to know some of the other fabulous women in your neighborhood, hearing interesting speakers, and participating in a number of Fulbrook community activities, we'd love to have you join us!

**From Sue Gruber**

*From Sue Gruber*

Hot! Hot! Hot!

But, believe it or not, Autumn is on its way!

Can't wait for some cooler breezes...or at least

some of those 80 degree days.



*Butterflies by Sue Gruber*

### *Upcoming WOMEN'S CLUB Meetings*

**September 4<sup>th</sup>      Girls Nite Out!      Home of Jeanne Henckel**  
**7:00 PM**

Kick up your heels and come join us for Girls Night Out! After a long, hot summer, this will be a fun social evening – time to chat, laugh, and catch up with friends both old and new. Who knows, there might even be a door prize or two! Please bring a beverage or munchies to share.

**October 2nd      To Be Determined      Home of Liz Lindsey**  
**7:00 PM**

**November 6<sup>th</sup>      To Be Determined      Open**  
**7:00 PM**

**December 4<sup>th</sup>      Christmas Party      Home of Karen Altman**  
**7:00 PM**

Come join us at our annual Christmas Party and White Elephant Gift Exchange! Bring a wrapped \$10 (or under) gift (can be holiday-related, something silly, or whatever you'd like), plus an unwrapped new children's or teen's book to be donated to a local charity. Lots of Holiday Cheer and a good way to kick off the Holiday Season: this party is always great fun, food, and socializing.

**FOOD DRIVE: For all meetings, please bring a canned good or non-perishable food item; these items will be collected and donated to a local food pantry.**

Car pooling is encouraged, and also a great way to:

***Meet a Neighbor; Make a Friend!***

**GET INVOLVED**

**If you are looking for a way to help in our community, how about helping with the FUN RUN to benefit our Fire Department? Get in touch with Jackie and find out what you can do!**

**281-358-5858**

## ***Aerobic Septic Systems: Things to Know***

### **Aerobic System Maintenance**

It is important that mechanical components in aerobic systems receive regular inspection and maintenance. For example, air compressors sometimes need to be oiled, and vanes, filters, and seals may need to be replaced. Malfunctions are common during the first few months after installation. In most cases, homeowners do not have the expertise to inspect, repair, and maintain their own systems. Service visits will most likely be carried out by the dealer or another independent service organization that has an agreement with the manufacturer. In other cases, health departments will have maintenance management programs, such as sanitary districts, for aerobic systems and other onsite systems in their area. **\*\*PLEASE NOTE THAT FORT BEND COUNTY REQUIRES CURRENT SERVICE AGREEMENTS AND INSPECTION REPORTS ON ALL SEPTIC SYSTEMS.**

### **Aerobic System Do's and Do Nots**

- \* Do maintain the contract service arrangement offered by the manufacturer after the initial two-year period has expired (unless your community offers its own management program). It is extremely important that aerobic systems receive regular maintenance.
- \* Do have your system pumped every 3-5 years depending on usage. If you have a large family and use a lot of water then you will need to have your system pumped close to the 3 year range. Two person residents can in most instances make it to the 5 year range. Keep in mind, the longer you wait the worse your system will get and the more expensive it will be to have it pumped.
- \* Do keep your system accessible for inspections and pumping, yet protected from unauthorized entrance. If access to your system is locked, make sure that your service contractor has a key.
- \* Do conserve water to avoid overloading the system. Be sure to repair any leaky faucets or toilets.
- \* Do divert other sources of water, like roof drains, house footing drains, and sump pumps away from the aerobic system.
- \* Do become familiar with how your own particular system operates, and the way it looks, sounds, and smells when it is working correctly.

## ***Can You Spot the Snake?***

Copperheads kill more people in Texas than all other snakes combined. In the Fall when the leaves drop on the ground near fences and storage areas, the underbrush gets covered with leaves, limbs and copperhead snakes. Be careful when you rack those Fall leaves. Can you spot the snake? See if you are right on page 4.



- \* Do call a service professional whenever you experience problems with your system, whenever the alarm is activated, or whenever there are any signs of system failure.
- \* Do keep detailed records about your aerobic system, including a map of where it is, and general information, such as model name, capacity, state license, date installed, contract service agreement, records of service visits, and maintenance performed. This way, you may be able to identify problems before they become serious and alert your service provider to anything unusual.
- \* Do be sure to ask your service provider questions about how to know if your unit is malfunctioning.
- \* Don't allow anyone to drive over or park on any part of the system.
- \* Don't make or allow unauthorized repairs or changes to your aerobic system without obtaining the required health department permits.
- \* Don't use your toilet as a trash can or poison your treatment system and the groundwater by pouring harmful chemicals down the drain. Harsh chemicals can kill the beneficial bacteria that treat your wastewater.
- \* Don't use a garbage disposal without checking with

*(Continued on page 7)*

## Green Home and Garden Tip #13

By Green Home and Garden Committee, Texas Master Naturalist



### ***What are Bats Worth—To You?*** cacti flowers in West and South Texas, plus Mexico.

Most of us seldom notice bats, and we rarely think about them much unless we hear a story on the television or read about them in the newspaper. In most cases, bats make the news for something negative. But the real news story that often goes untold is the largely unseen and rarely considered economic and aesthetic value bats bring to our agricultural fields and our neighborhoods. While most people are aware of the pest control benefits of bats in general (i.e. more bats = fewer mosquitoes), new research has concluded that bats represent a gold mine in annual savings to Texas agriculture. In a study conducted in an eight county region in southwestern Texas, researchers concluded that the 1.5 million Mexican free-tailed bats (*Tadarida brasiliensis*) that captured insects over the area's cotton fields saved farmers up to \$1.7 million annually. The savings came primarily from a reduced need for chemical pesticides. The bats ate millions of cotton bollworm moths through the summer months, thus reducing the number of moth larvae that survived to eat the cotton crops. In addition to the economic value of the reduced pesticide purchases, the reduction in pesticide use also means a healthier land, with fewer chemicals in crops, soil, surface water, and groundwater.

The Mexican free-tailed bat is just one of 32 bat species found in Texas. Our bat diversity results from the wonderful variety of natural habitats here in the state. Bats are aerial acrobats, with extremely flexible wings and lightweight bodies, just made for capturing insect prey in dark skies. Bats are the only mammals capable of true flight. All the bats in Texas, with one exception, capture and eat huge amounts of insects. For example, the Mexican free-tailed bat colony from Bracken Cave near San Antonio consumes an estimated 250 tons of insects each night during summer months. Several bat species specialize in eating larger insects that are common pests, including roaches, centipedes, scorpions, beetles, grasshoppers, and stinkbugs. Texas is also home to an important bat plant pollinator, the Mexican long-nosed bat (*Leptonycteris nivalis*), which feeds on nectar from night-blooming agave and other

We share our natural space with bats every day. Bats may live nearby in both urban and rural settings using a wide variety of habitat, including cliff faces, caves, tree cavities, among tree branches, bridges, and in man-made bat houses. By erecting a bat house, you're putting out the welcome mat and encouraging bats to live and consume insects on your property. Bat house designs mimic the natural roosting preferences of many bat species, with narrow sheltered spaces between ¼ inch and one inch in width, and temperatures ranging from 80 to 100 degrees F daily. To encourage bat house occupancy, choose a site where the house receives at least six hours of direct sunlight each day, from first morning light to early afternoon. Place the bat house 12 to 15 feet off the ground, on a metal pole to discourage climbing predators. Avoid shady areas or those beneath overhanging tree limbs. Locations near ponds or other water sources increase bat house success in attracting resident bats.

Bats, like any mammal, can contract the rabies virus. In wild populations, the incidence of rabies is very low (less than half of one percent), and having one bat in a colony that is rabid does not mean the entire colony will become rabid. For more information about bats, bat house plans, bat house research results, and bat exclusion information, visit the Bat Conservation International website: [www.batcon.org](http://www.batcon.org). And the next time you spot a bat flying the evening skies, sit back and enjoy the nightly pest control in action.

If you would like to contact your local biologist, see our website at: <http://www.tpwd.state.tx.us/wildlifebiologist>.

The Texas Master Naturalists is a group of informed volunteers who are interested in learning about and educating others about the area of Texas where we live and with preserving our natural heritage. We are co-sponsored by the AgrLIFE Extension (a Texas A&M System service) and Texas Parks and Wildlife. For more information about our group, log on to <http://gcmn.tamu.edu> or [www.coastalprairie.org](http://www.coastalprairie.org).

The Green Home and Garden Workshop is an ongoing project co-sponsored by the Gulf Coast chapter and the Coastal Prairie chapter of Texas Master Naturalists. Our mission is to interest and inform people about safe and eco-friendly ways to garden and maintain their homes. We have a workshop event once a year. The next workshop will be held in February 28, 2009.

### ***Rachel Wins Big!*** Fulbrook resident Rachel Dixon participated in the R&R Aquatics summer swim program at the



Natatorium for her 3rd summer. She is 11 years old, but due to dates, she swam in the 9/10 yr. old division. Rachel was undefeated all summer in all swim meets, including the Champs meet where she broke a record in her 100 Individual medley race. She went to the T.A.A.F State swim meet in San Antonio late July and was first in her 2 individual races - the 50 freestyle and 100 IM. She also was the anchor leg for the 100 freestyle relay and all 4 girls earned a bronze medal. So for a young lady hoping to someday bring home a medal at State level - she was thrilled to bring home 3.

### **REMINDER:**

All lighting and landscaping plans must be submitted to the LLS for approval before installation. Just email your plan to Elizabeth Witte at [haroldwitte@hotmail.com](mailto:haroldwitte@hotmail.com) or drop off at the Prairie House. You may also call Elizabeth at 281/346-0688 with any questions or comments. The LLS will get an answer back to you within approximately (2) days or less. It is the LLS' goal to make this process simple and quick.

## Can You Spot the Snake?

Here it is outlined in yellow! Please be careful out there.



### LLS REMINDERS

It is not necessary for the LLS to approve pool plans but the LLS does need to approve the landscaping that is required to shield the pool and the pool equipment (along with any proposed lighting around the pool) Please submit gate plans for approval before the gate is installed. The LLS will need to know the approximate height of the gate, any decorative objects that will be placed in the gate design and the color of the gate (black, Fulbrook Green or taupe only). A drawing with this information is all the LLS needs. If you have not received the 2007 Guideline books and/or The Native Plant Society booklet, please contact Elizabeth Witte at [haroldwitte@hotmail.com](mailto:haroldwitte@hotmail.com) or 281-346-0688.

## FULSHEAR SIMONTON BRANCH LIBRARY SEPT Programs

*For more specific information on any of the programs listed, please contact the branch library at 281-346-1432*

**BOOK CLUB** The next meeting of the Fulshear Book Club will take place on Monday, SEPT 22, at 12:00 noon, in the Meeting Room at Bob Lutts Fulshear/Simonton Branch Library. The book to be discussed is *Ellen Foster*, a debut novel written by Kaye Gibbons. Anyone interested in joining this literary-review club is invited to attend and bring a lunch along, if desired.

**NIGHT READERS GUILD** The Fulshear Night Readers' Guild will meet at the Bob Lutts Fulshear/Simonton Branch Library on Monday, SEPT 29, beginning at 6:30 pm, in the Meeting Room. The first book to be discussed is *The Painted Veil*, written by W. Somerset Maugham.

**VINTAGE BOOK EXHIBIT** An exhibit of a collection of vintage books from the late 1800s and early 1900s, throughout the month of September. Courtesy of the library staff, the display features grammar and arithmetic school books, as well as other books written during that period. The exhibit may be viewed during regular library hours.

**KNITTING NIGHT** Area knitters are invited to join in an evening of fun and friendship at a new monthly

"Knitting Night" at Bob Lutts Fulshear/Simonton Branch Library. The meeting will take place on the first Monday of every month, will take place on SEPT 8, from 6:30 to 8:00 pm in the library's Meeting Room. A second special session will take place on Monday, SEPT 22 beginning at 6:30 pm. All knitters – from beginners to advanced – are invited to bring their yarn and knitting needles while they share tips, get ideas, and enjoy the camaraderie of fellow knitters. The program is free and open to the public that support the county library system.

**HOME SCHOOL OPEN HOUSE** Bob Lutts Fulshear/Simonton Branch Library invites families of home-schooled children to attend a special Open House on Monday, SEPT 8, beginning at 10:00 am, in the Meeting Room of the library. Parents and students will receive a tour of the library resources that are available to assist them in pursuing their studies. The library's collection includes resources that may be used at the library or from home via the Internet. The Open House is free and open to the public.

**CLOSURES** All branches of Fort Bend County

Libraries will be closed SEPT 26 in observance of Fort Bend County Fair Day. Regular library hours will resume on Saturday, SEPT 27.

**FREE LIBRARY CARD** September is Library Card Sign-up Month, and FBC Libraries wants to make sure that your child is among the two-thirds of Americans that carry the smartest card of all – a library card. A library card provides free access to videos, DVDs, CDs, software, and books. Libraries also offer a wide range of other items to lend to children and their families, including toys, games, and puzzles. Most importantly -- librarians are on hand to help recommend materials suitable for various ages and interests. A library card becomes even more valuable when someone wants to access many of the library's online databases from home. Since a library card is free, how can parents afford *not* to give their children such a valuable tool? For more information on how you can sign up for your library card, visit any of the branches in the Fort Bend County library system, call the library's Public Information Office at 281-341-2677, or see the library's website at [www.fortbend.lib.tx.us](http://www.fortbend.lib.tx.us).

#### TODDLER TIME

Tuesdays @ 10:15 a.m.

Offers child activities, stories & songs for older babies, from 12–36 months old.

- SEPT 2 Bath Time Fun
- SEPT 9 We Lice Mice!
- SEPT 16 Let's Go to the Circus
- SEPT 23 Time for Bed
- SEPT 30 Let's Get Dressed

#### STORY TIME

EACH THURSDAY @ 10:15 a.m.

Pre-school children, 3-6 years of age, will enjoy Story Time, where they hear stories, watch movies and participate in age-appropriate craft activities.

- SEPT 4 Soap & Suds
- SEPT 11 Mice Are Nice!
- SEPT 18 Fun at the Circus
- SEPT 25 Sweet Dreams

#### AFTER SCHOOL BREAK

4th Tuesday @ 4:00 p.m.

Crafts, movies, stories and more for school aged children.

- SEPT 23 Pond Life

#### TEEN PROGRAM

Saturday, SEPT 9 4:00 p.m.

"Scrapbooking"

# Fulbrook Deed Restrictions



A continuing series dedicated to the Deed Restrictions that govern our neighborhood. This information is found in your booklet called "Declaration of Covenants, Conditions and Restrictions" beginning with Article V: USE RESTRICTIONS.

## ARTICLE VI *continued*

### **ARCHITECTURAL STANDARDS**

**SECTION 1. PURPOSE.** In order to preserve the natural setting and beauty of the Properties, to establish and preserve a harmonious and aesthetically pleasing design for the Fulbrook project and to protect and promote the value of the Properties, the Lots in the Initial Subdivisions and within any other tract of land which may hereafter be made subject to this Declaration shall be subject to the restrictions set forth in this Article VI. Every grantee of any interest in a Lot within the Initial Subdivisions and any other tract of land which may hereafter be made subject to this Declaration by acceptance of a deed or other conveyance of such interest, agree to be bound by the provisions of this Article.

### **SECTION 2. ARCHITECTURAL REVIEW COMMITTEES.**

(a) New Construction Committee and Modifications Committee. There is hereby established the Fulbrook New Construction Committee (herein called the "New Construction Committee"), which shall have exclusive jurisdiction over all original construction on the Lots within the Properties. There is also hereby created the Fulbrook Modifications Committee (hereinafter called the "Modifications Committee") (the New Construction Committee and the Modifications Committee being herein collectively referred to as the "Architectural Review Committees") which shall have exclusive jurisdiction over modifications, additions, or alterations made on or to improvements on the Lots within the Properties ("Architectural Guidelines") and (ii) establish application procedures for its review of Homestead Plans. The Architectural Review Committees shall make such guidelines available to Owners and Builders who seek to engage in construction or modification of improvements upon a Lot and who shall conduct their operations strictly in accordance therewith. The Architectural Guidelines may impose different requirements for different portions of the Properties.

(b) Members of Architectural Review Committees. The New Construction Committee and the Modifications Committee shall each consist of three (3) members. Until the date on which it no longer owns a majority of the Lots within the Properties, the Declarant shall have the right to appoint all members of each of each of the Architectural Review Committees as well as the right to remove any member. There shall be no surrender of this right prior to that time, except by a written instrument executed by Declarant and recorded in the real property records of Fort Bend County, Texas. Upon the expiration of such right, the Board of Directors shall have the power to appoint and remove the members of the Architectural Review Committees.

The Architectural Review Committees are authorized, but not obligated, to retain the services of a consulting architects, landscape architects, urban designers, engineers, inspectors, and/or attorneys in order to advise and assist them in performing their respective functions set forth herein.

If you would like to receive copies of Fulbrook's Guideline Books (revised December 1, 2007), please contact Elizabeth Witte via email at [haroldwitte@hotmail.com](mailto:haroldwitte@hotmail.com). Please email Elizabeth your name, address and that you would like to receive the books. She will drop the books on your porch. If you have a gate, please let her know the phone number in which you can be reached so that she can make arrangements to drop off the books. **Please do not contact the Sales Office as they do not have extras of the books.**

## Numbers to Know

**HOA and SALES Offices**

<i>KPM Management</i>	Walt Dyer
(281) 685-3090	Walter@KPMManagement.com
<i>Fulbrook Sales</i>	Gayle Bowen
(281) 346-0027	gayle@fulbrook.net
<i>Fulbrook Partners, LTD.</i>	Doug Konopka
(713) 961-0033	dougg@dhkdev.com
<i>Project Superintendent</i>	Noah Worley
(281) 346-0027	Noah@dhkdev.com

**COMMITTEE CONTACTS**

<b>ARC Committee</b>	
Doug Konopka	dougg@dhkdev.com
<b>LANDSCAPE &amp; LIGHTING Subcommittee (LLS)</b>	
Elizabeth Witte	haroldwitte@hotmail.com
<b>TRAILS Committee</b>	
John Scheel	jscheel1@earthlink.net
<b>LAKES Committee</b>	
Darrel McDaniel	mcdcountry@aol.com
<b>NEWSLETTER Committee</b>	
Kathy Nida	FulbrookFocus@comcast.net
<b>WOMEN'S CLUB</b>	
Sue Gruber	smgruber1@comcast.net

THE FULBROOK FOCUS is published monthly and distributed to the residents and lot owners of Fulbrook. This newsletter is solely for the use of the members of this community. To submit an item to The Fulbrook Focus, please email the article to:

**FulbrookFocus@comcast.net**  
Kathy Nida (281) 533-0251

*The Fulbrook Focus reserves the right to edit materials submitted and print articles as space allows.*

**DEADLINE:** the 15th of every month  
**PUBLISH DATE:** the last Thursday of every month

# *Safari Texas' Salute to Fort Bend Now in 7th Year* the fu-

Safari Texas, 11627 FM 1464 in Richmond, will present its 7th Annual Salute to Fort Bend as a Celebration Breakfast on Friday, September 5, 2008, from 7:30 - 9:30 am. The beneficiary of this year's Salute is Volunteer Fort Bend, an organization that coordinates matching willing volunteers to companies and organizations that need them. The honorary chairs are County Judge Bob Hebert and Bob Brown III. Both men are well-known throughout the county for their strong support of and commitment to community and charitable organizations. This year's special honorees are Jeff Council and James Patterson, who spend many hours volunteering their auctioneering skills at fundraising events in Fort Bend County.

Seven years ago, Allison Wen, owner and general manager of Safari Texas Ballroom at Safari Texas Ranch, made the decision that, to give back to the Fort Bend community, Safari Texas would underwrite one fundraiser each year in a Salute to Fort Bend, with the recipient of the funds raised to be decided by each year's committee.

The beneficiary of the first Salute, in 2002, was the new Cinco Ranch Branch Library. The second Salute, in 2003, raised funds for the Fort Bend CORPS. The third year, 2004, the committee decided to incorporate recognition and assistance for working with



**COMMITTEE PHOTO** *Top row: Lucia Street, Allison Wen, Debbie Wedelich Next Row: Nina Schaefer, Michelle Crawley, Lyn Wicke, D'Neal Krisch, Ann Council, Gina Miller, Dee Koch Second Row: Alli Haworth, Kristina Baker, Lydia Bottom, Brenda Crump, Amy Bradford Front row: Linda Johnson, Kathy Renfrow, Emily Fisher*

ture of our county – our youth, so funds raised went to Boy Scout programs in Fort Bend County. In 2005, the Salute's Cookie Diva Gala raised funds for Girl Scout programs in Fort Bend County, and in 2007, the Salute's DreamBuilders was very successful in raising and bringing in both funds and extra baby/child necessities for Casa de Esperanza de los Niños' programs in Fort Bend County. Last year, the Salute's Spirit of Caring, raising funds for Common Threads (LCISD) and Shared Dreams (FBISD).

Allison and Cassandra Wen have shown extraordinary generosity in committing to underwriting a fundraiser to assist a Fort Bend organization each year, and that is of great benefit to the Fort Bend community. The Wens, the Safari Texas Ranch staff, and the event committee work very hard to make the event a success, and each year the Salute becomes one to "top" the following year.

Allison and Cassandra Wen extend a personal invitation to everyone to join in this special Salute to the Fort Bend community this year.

For more information about sponsorships or tickets, contact Dee Koch at 281-980-2909 or [dkoch@thegeorgefoundation.org](mailto:dkoch@thegeorgefoundation.org), or Joyce Kennerly at 713-385-5592.

## *Congratulations Fulshear!*

AUSTIN, TEXAS- AUGUST 1, 2008 – Fulshear Friday Night in Fulshear has been named a finalist in the Best Promotional Event category for the 2008 Texas Downtown Association Presidents Award Program. Since 1998, the Awards Program has recognized more than 100 projects, events and people that make a difference in Texas downtowns.

The Best Promotional Event

award recognizes excellence in creation and execution of downtown or commercial district promotional events, including festivals. The other finalists for Best Promotional Event are Bastrop's 175<sup>th</sup> Birthday Party and Sheep Spectacular in San Angelo.

Finalists will make a presentation at the Texas Downtown Revitalization Conference "Creating Partnerships for

Downtown" in Temple on November 13<sup>th</sup>. Winners will be announced at the Awards Gala to be held that evening.

Judging for the awards took place on Friday, July 25<sup>th</sup> in Austin. The distinguished jury panel included the following representatives: Scott Day, Urban Development Services, San Antonio; Carolyn Howard, Beaumont Main Street Program; Rich MacMath, HDR, Inc., Austin; and Stephen Sharpe, *Texas Architect* magazine, Austin.

The Texas Downtown Association is a statewide nonprofit organization comprised of more than 400 members involved in downtown revitalization projects. By fostering development and revitalization, TDA strives to enhance the economic vitality of Texas downtowns and neighborhood commercial districts by providing resources, networking opportunities, education and advocacy. For more information, visit [www.texasdowntown.org](http://www.texasdowntown.org).



**For Sale:**  
**Early 50's Chickering Upright Piano, Excellent condition.**  
**For more information call Sid at 281-533-9744**

## *Realty Report*

Things are HOT in Fulbrook! Sales have finally picked up again. We currently have 6 homes under construction or in

pre-construction stages, several lots under contract, and 4 potential show home sales.

After a slow "election year" start, sales are picking up and we are seeing more and more people who are getting ready to make a move!

## ***Aerobic Septic Systems: Things to Know*** continued

your local regulatory agency to make sure that your aerobic system can accommodate this additional waste.

\* Don't attempt to clean or perform maintenance on any sealed aerobic unit or any sealed aerobic unit components.

### **Do Not Flush**

\* coffee grounds\* dental floss\* disposable diapers\* kitty litter\* sanitary napkins\* tampons\* cigarette butts\* condoms\* gauze bandages\* fat, grease, or oil\* paper towels, do not use drain cleaner like "Liquid Plumber".

\* And never flush chemicals, such as:\* paints\* varnishes\* thinners\* waste oils\* photographic solutions\* pesticides

These items can overtax or destroy the biological digestion taking place within your system.

### **Warning Signs of Aerobic System Problems**

- Alarms or lights going off
- Any changes in the system's normal operating sound
- Any changes in the normal color of the wastewater in the aeration chamber (for example, if the color is greyish brown rather than chocolate brown, this can sometimes indicate problems)
- Excessive solids, foam, or scum in the unit
- Plumbing backups
- Sewage odors in the house or yard

## ***Little Known Texas Facts***

Here are some little known, very interesting facts about Texas...

1. Beaumont to El Paso: 742 miles
2. Beaumont to Chicago: 770 miles
3. El Paso is closer to California than to Dallas
4. World's first rodeo was in Pecos, July 4, 1883.
5. The Flagship Hotel in Galveston is the only hotel in North America built over water.
6. The Heisman Trophy was named after John William Heisman who was the first full-time coach for Rice University in Houston.
7. Brazoria County has more species of birds than any other area in North America.
8. Aransas Wildlife Refuge is the winter home of North America's only remaining flock of whooping cranes.
9. Jalapeno jelly originated in Lake Jackson in 1978.
10. The worst natural disaster in U.S. history was in 1900 caused by a hurricane in which over 8000 lives were lost on Galveston Island.
11. The first word spoken from the moon, July 20, 1969, was "Houston."
12. King Ranch in South Texas is larger than Rhode Island.
13. Tropical Storm Claudette brought a US. rainfall

record of 43" in 24 hours in and around Alvin in July 1979.

14. Texas is the only state to enter the U.S. by TREATY, (known as Constitution of 1845 by Republic of Texas to enter the union) instead of by annexation. This allows the Texas flag to fly at the same height as the US flag, and may divide into 4 States.

15. A Live Oak tree near Fulton is estimated to be 1500 years old.

16. Caddo Lake is the only natural lake in the state.

17. Dr Pepper was invented in Waco in 1885. There is no period after Dr in Dr Pepper.

18. Texas has had six capital cities:

- 18.1. Washington-on-the-Brazos
- 18.2. Harrisburg
- 18.3. Galveston
- 18.4. Velasco
- 18.5. West Columbia
- 18.6. Austin

19. The Capitol Dome in Austin is the only dome in the U.S which is taller than the Capitol Building in Washington D.C. (by 7 feet).

20. The name Texas comes from the Hasini Indian word "tejas" meaning friends. Tejas is not Spanish for Texas.

21. The State animal is the Armadillo. (An interesting bit of trivia about the armadillo is they always have four babies! They have one egg, which splits into four, and they either have four males or four females. Well, I thought it was interesting anyway!)

22. The first domed stadium in the U.S. was the Astrodome in Houston.