

Journey with rural reporter Casper to visit dinosaurs in Glen Rose, pick some lavender in Chappell Hill, grab some tasty veggies at the Market, listen to beautiful flute music then get a good nights rest at the Smithville Cottage.

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## BACKROADS NEWSLETTER

August 2013

Volume 23

PDF Copy of August 2013 Newsletter

Howdy Friends & Partners,

Whew! It's hot, did you notice? If you have noticed then it's probably time for a distraction and there's plenty to go around. I'm excited to say that Casper has been road tripping to Glen Rose this time. Who doesn't love a good dinosaur? But if you like your animals more lively there's always the Fossil Rim Wildlife Center. Read on!

There's more lavender and wine to be had in Chappell Hill this month, Market Days around Texas, parks and water activities to beat the heat. All historians should really check out Diboll's History Center website; they've got great stuff on there. Please also welcome our new Partner, Smithville Cottage, a lovely little VRBO (vacation rental by owner) in Smithville.

See you on the Trail

## Glen Rose, Texas Dinosaur Capital of Texas

Traveling the Back Roads of Texas

by Casper

Glen Rose [pop. about 2,500] is the county seat of Somervell County and is located in rolling hill country along the Paluxy River, about 54 miles south of Fort Worth. The area was first settled in 1849 by Charles Barnard and the community soon became known as Barnard's Mill. About 1871, the town was renamed Glen Rose. Today, Glen Rose is a quiet, friendly town which enjoys welcoming visitors to its many great attractions.



Our first stop was the Convention and Visitors Bureau, where Joyce Selby greeted us and supplied a valuable collection of maps, attraction brochures, and lists of places to

dine and stay. Then it was off to the Green Pickle Café and Texas Beer Garden, near the courthouse square, for a great country-style hamburger and sweet-potato



[Download PDF Calendar for August 2013](#)

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The 1894 Somervell County Courthouse is an attractive building in the Romanesque style, with offices downstairs and a historic courtroom on the second floor.

The building was restored in the late 1980's and is a Texas Historic Landmark. Today, many of the county offices have moved to a new building facing the square, but the oak-shaded lawn still attracts town folk and visitors with its comfortable benches, gazebo, and unique star-shaped fountain, built of local stone. The stone base of the gazebo has a great dinosaur footprint embedded in the side.

Located on the historic courthouse square are local businesses and a number of shops, most open Friday through Sunday.



After walking around the square, we drove over to Big Rocks Park, located on the Paluxy River as you enter town. As the name implies, the park features very large, rounded boulders which are fun to climb around on, if you are in relatively good condition. We saw a number of young folks enjoying the sun and splashing in the shallow river. If sight-seeing and shopping is not your favorite thing, Glen Rose is also home to the top rated 36-hole Squaw Valley Golf Course.

There are a number of great places to stay in Glen Rose, from national chain hotels, to B & B's, lodges and cabins on the river, and a number of local RV parks and campgrounds.

Glen Rose has a number of interesting places to eat. Many restaurants are family-owned and on the first evening we started with Hollywood and Vine, a popular restaurant, known for its hamburgers and other American-style food. Like the Green Pickle, guests can enjoy live music here on the weekends. Other recommended restaurants in town included Debbie's Café or the Barnard Street Bakery for breakfast, two great barbeque places, Hammond's BBQ and Ranch House BBQ, upscale dining at the Riverhouse Grill or Inn on the River, great Mexican restaurants including Chachis and Los Primos, and unique places like the kid-friendly Storiebook Café, featuring home-style meals, a playroom, and a nice bookstore.



As the next day dawned clear and cool, we headed west to Fossil Rim Wildlife Center, an 1,800- acre wildlife conservation park, with a nine-mile

scenic drive and over 1100 rare or endangered animals from all over the world. The drive takes about 3 hours,



**Stephen F. Austin's Statue** located on highway 288 in Angleton is dedicated to the man most consider to be the "Father of Texas". The monument is 76' from the base to the top and is one of the largest statues ever made of a living person. The base is engraved on all four sides and is surrounded by a large star which represents the Lone Star.

[Angleton, TX](#)

[Bartlett, TX](#)

[Bastrop, TX](#)

[Bay City, TX](#)

[Bellville, TX](#)

[Belton, TX](#)

[Blanco, TX](#)

[Bowie, TX](#)

[Bridgeport, TX](#)

[Brenham, TX](#)

[Brownfield, TX](#)

[Brownwood, TX](#)

[Burton, TX](#)



**Country Classic Music 5 in Bastrop** headlines with Dallas Wayne on August 10 at 7:30pm at the Bastrop Opera House.

[Cameron, TX](#)

[Canton, TX](#)

[Clute, TX](#)

[Columbus, TX](#)

depending on time of week you visit, and has a nice rest stop and restaurant half way through called the Overlook Café. Our favorite animals were the giraffes, many African antelopes, white rhinos [in a secure penned area], and the friendly ostriches.

The day was still young, so we stopped at the beautiful and educational Dinosaur Valley State Park, located on our way back to town. The



park is a nationally known site for viewing footprints of Cretaceous period dinosaurs, and was the site of the first Sauropod trackway ever discovered. The tracks, mostly located in the river bed, can be hard to find, but there is also a great display and museum in the Ranger's Station. The park is also a beautiful place to camp or picnic. Nearby is Dinosaur World, a kid-friendly park featuring over 100 life-size dinosaurs, a fossil dig for kids, museum, gift shop, and playground. This is a great stop before or after Dinosaur Valley State Park.



We spent the morning of our last day visiting the shops on the square. These included the Junk or Treasures Antique Mall and Texas Treasures, where we enjoyed visiting with owner Michele Clark and sampling a cup of coffee at the Jitters Coffee Bar. Also on the square is A Working Artist Studio and the White Buffalo Gallery, featuring fine art and sculpture, open only on the weekend. For history buffs, the Somervell County Heritage Center is in the historic First National Bank Building, across from the courthouse, and is open Monday through Saturday. It is home to the Paluxy Valley Archives and Genealogical Society and has a great collection of local and state research materials.

The Somervell County History Museum is on the opposite side of the square and contains many fascinating photographs and items of local history.



It is best to call the Heritage Center to check on the hours for the museum. Also on the square is the famous Pie Peddlers, open Thursday through Saturday, which has been voted the Best Pie in Texas. We also visited shops located outside the downtown area, including Angles with Attitude and Cheerful Heart Gifts, both locally owned and filled with wonderful gifts and boutique items.

Our last day ended with a visit to the educational Creation Evidence Museum, located near Dinosaur Valley State Park. This large museum highlights the

[Comfort, TX](#)  
[Cuero, TX](#)

[Diboll, TX](#)  
[Dimmit County](#)

[Elgin, TX](#)  
[Emory, TX](#)  
[Ennis, TX](#)



PLANNING AHEAD  
**Nekkid Armadilla  
Summer Fest Free  
Music Festival**

September 1 at Outrigger  
Grill Stage in Palacios  
from 2-10pm. 10 Texas  
Bands take the stage for  
a full day of music. Bring  
your lawn chair!

[Giddings, TX](#)  
[Gonzales, TX](#)

[Hallettsville, TX](#)  
[Hamilton, TX](#)  
[Henderson, TX](#)  
[Honey Grove TX](#)  
[Iraan, TX](#)

[Jefferson, TX](#)  
[Jewett, TX](#)  
[Lee County Fair,](#)  
[Giddings](#)  
[Lexington, TX](#)  
[Livingston Polk  
County](#)  
[Luling, TX](#)



**The Spring Creek  
Bluegrass Club Show**  
will be held at the  
Coushatta Recreational  
Ranch in Bellville, August  
24 from 6-9pm. Free  
event, no alcohol

[Madisonville TX](#)

scientific work of Dr. Carl Baugh and contains many fascinating archeological exhibits on two floors. Other great stops in town include Barnard's Mill, once a private residence and now a wonderful art gallery and museum, open on weekends, and Heritage Park, which features a group of historic local homes, open only during the Christmas holidays, and a nice playground for the kids.

Glen Rose is full of fun things to see and do, so plan to stay a few days and come back often. Glen Rose has two great activity venues, the Texas Amphitheatre, seating 3,200, and the Expo Center. The Amphitheatre is home to the annual September/October performances of *The Promise*, a musical based on Scripture and incorporating the music of award-winning Christian artists.

Other annual events include the PRCA Rodeo and Art on the Paluxy art show in March, the American Miniature Horse Show in April, Lone Star State Dulcimer Contest in May, Paluxy River Bluegrass Festival, September/October, and Christmas in the Park at Paluxy Heritage Park in December. Art on the Square, presented on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Saturday, March through October, features artists, artisans, and craftsmen with original, hand-crafted products and also food vendors. Also recommended is the Glen Rose Meander, a local arts and crafts tour, available on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Saturday of every month, featuring art studios, herb and flower farms, gardens, and craft and jewelry shops.

I really enjoyed my visit to Glen Rose, and look forward to another trip soon.

Web Sites:

- <http://www.glenrosetexas.net/>
- <http://www.visitglenrose.com/>
- <http://www.fossilrim.org/>
- <http://www.tpwd.state.tx.us/state-parks/dinosaur-valley>

*"Come to one trails' end, and there's always another. I kind of like it that way."* - Chick Bowdrie



**Smithville Cottage**  
*Quaint cottage where modern meets country*

Come prepared to leave renewed! In the center of it all you will find Smithville Cottage. Open to guests in March of 2013, the Smithville house was a longtime dream of owner Beverly Seffel. "I have wanted a house in Smithville for more than 20 years. I spent two years looking and a lot of time persuading my husband this was the right thing to do. Once I walked into this house I knew I had found it. I was home."

The cottage is located on a tree-lined street in the peaceful Smithville Historic District. This 2-bedroom/2-bath, 2 living areas, 1650-square foot 1930 railroad

[Magnolia, TX](#)  
[Matagorda County](#)  
[Mexia, TX](#)  
[Mineral Wells, TX](#)  
[Mt Enterprise, TX](#)  
[Munday, TX](#)

[Nocona, TX](#)  
[Onalaska, TX](#)  
[Point, TX](#)  
[Plummer Printing](#)  
[Port Lavaca, TX](#)



**Get cool at the Summer Fun Water Park in Belton** on Monday 11am-6pm Mon-Sat or Sun 1-6pm. Adult Night at the Park on August 17th, BYOB.

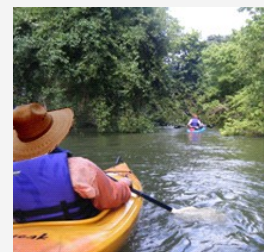
[Rockdale, TX](#)  
[Rockport-Fulton, TX](#)

[Schulenburg, TX](#)  
[Sealy, TX](#)  
[Smithville, TX](#)  
[Smithville Cottage](#)  
[Spoiled Doves of Texas](#)

[Taylor, TX](#)  
[Texas Word](#)  
[Wrangler Book Fest](#)  
[Wharton, TX](#)  
[The Village Bakery](#)



**Mike Ryan and Bleu Edmondson in Concert** at the Bowie Community Center on Aug 24 from 7-11pm. Country music at its best.



**Bridgeport Falls in**

house provides a historic feel with all the updated amenities you require -the perfect retreat for any occasion. Wi-Fi ensures you can stay connected; the gourmet kitchen has everything you need to prepare that perfect meal. "I like to make my guests feel at home, so while breakfast is not included, I provide fresh organic yard eggs from a local farm," said Seffel. The front porch is reserved for you to savor your morning coffee or read that great book. In the evening, enjoy wine on the back deck or fire up the grill.

Guests can benefit from everything nature has to offer on the Colorado River or at nearby parks: golf, hiking, fishing, bicycling, and water sports. You will find plenty of shopping, great food, art, and music close by. Smithville Cottage is only a few blocks from where the movies, Hope Floats and Tree of Life were filmed. There is no shortage of things to do, or just kick back and relax. Now all we're missing is you! Book at VRBO #458852 or [www.smithvillecottage.com](http://www.smithvillecottage.com).



## Chappell Hill Lavender and Wine Fest

The scent of fresh lavender is in the air! The Chappell Hill Lavender Farm hosts the 9th annual Lavender and Wine Fest on Saturday, August 10, 2013, from 9 a.m.-3 p.m. The festival kicks off the blooming season and guests will have the opportunity to cut their own fresh lavender and learn how to make lavender wands.

The popular Tour de Lavender and Wine Country returns featuring charming destinations in scenic Washington County.

Begin your Tour de Lavender and Wine at the Chappell Hill Lavender Farm with so much to see and do! Don't miss the wide variety of craft booths, demonstrations of lavender weaving and flower pounding, sample lavender cuisine and enjoy live music with Jill Paulsen. Tour the farm's gift shop with its wonderful selection of lavender-related items. Admission to the Lavender Farm is free.

Windy Winery provides the wine stop where, from 9 a.m.-4:30 p.m., you can participate in the grape stomp, vendors and live music performed by Mike Gallo. To participate in Windy Winery's Harvest Grape Stomp, the fee is \$25 for adults and \$15 for children and includes a hayride to the vineyard, stomping grapes and a keepsake T-shirt.

Other sponsors include Bevers Kitchen, Bluebonnet House Gift and Garden Center, Chappell Hill Sausage, Murski Bed & Breakfast and Two S Realty. For more information, call 1-888-BRENHAM or visit [www.ChappellHillLavender.com](http://www.ChappellHillLavender.com).

## Rockport-Fulton Artist Sazon Planning Trip to Hiroshima for Memorial Peace Concert

*Local artist connects to Sadako-Japanese "Girl of a Thousand Cranes"*

Bridgeport is a pleasant 5.8 mile looped paddling trail under a lush canopy of native trees and other vegetation. The flora and fauna envelopes you as you traverse the West Fork of the Trinity River.



**Drop in to Honey's Diner in Brownfield** for breakfast or lunch. Fried Green Beans, Mushroom Swiss Burger with Sweet Potato Fries, Chicken Fried Steak and homemade Soups & Pies.



**D.J. Allen Memorial Bull Riding and Muttin Bustin in Brownwood** at the Earl Q. Wilson Arena on August 17 at 6pm. Yeehaw!



**Classic Movie Nights at the Pig & Whistle Pub in Burton.** August 15, 22 & 29 from 7:30-9pm.



**Wilson-Ledbetter Park in Cameron** is a lush 25-acre city park with picnic areas, hike and bike trails. It is the site of historic Brushy Creek iron bridge and home to many species of wildlife.



Local musician, jeweler and artist [Ruben Villarreal Aiken \(Sazon\), the "Fluteplayer"](#) to the Cranes of North America", dedicates his efforts to the "people around the world and to the cranes and wildlife on our blue planet". Sazon has received

a special invitation to play for the citizens and the Crane Habitat in Hiroshima. The memorial event will honor Sadako Sasaki, and it will be held at Peace Memorial Park in Hiroshima on July 30, July 31, and August 5, 2013.

Sadako Sasaki was born in Japan in 1944. When the atom bomb was dropped at the end of World War II, she fell victim to the radiation effects. A friend had a solution for her illness and told her that if she folded 1000 origami cranes, the "gods" would make her wish for healing come true. She began folding the cranes and finished 644 of them before she died at the age of 12. The people of Japan completed the task after her death. Sadako has since been known as the "girl of a thousand cranes".

Rockport's newest gallery, [Innovations in Art](#), is pleased to host a reception for Sazon prior to his departure. The reception will be open to the public and will be held Wednesday, July 17, 2013 at Innovations, 415 S Austin Street in Rockport, from 6:00 until 7:30 p.m. At the reception, Sazon will tell the story of Sadako, will discuss his passion and purpose for the trip, and will honor guests with a sample of his flute playing.

A follow-up reception is planned for August 22, same time and place, to hear and see Sazon's story after he has returned from the event.



## Market Day Mania in Rural Texas!

A list of the Market Days of our Rural Texas Partners. It's a great time to go shopping.

- [Bastrop](#) - Aug 10, Pine Street, 9am
- [Bay City](#) - Aug 17, MC Courthouse Square, 9:30AM-4PM
- [Belton](#) - Aug 17, Downtown, 8am-5pm
- [Blanco](#) - Aug 17, Old Blanco County Courthouse
- [Brownfield](#) - Aug 24, 10am-1pm
- [Brownwood](#) - Aug 10,17,24 & 31, behind Courthouse, 10am-12pm
- [Burton](#) - Aug 3, Chamber Depot, 9am-12pm
- [Canton](#) - Aug 29-Sept 1, First Monday Grounds, all day
- [Elgin](#) - Every Sat, 109 Depot & Main, 9am-1pm
- [Elgin](#) - 1st Saturday, Elgin Memorial Park (Flea Market)
- [Hallettsville](#) - Aug 17, Knights of Columbus Hall
- [Lexington](#) - Aug 10, Dowdy House



**Cruise Night in Canton** starts on Corner of Buffalo St. & Tyler St. and around courthouse on Aug 13! Great Food, Music, and Cars! Great Family Fun! Cruise night special at Canton Square Bakery & Cafe.



**It's Dinosaur Day at the Brazosport Museum of Natural Science in Clute** on August 10 at 2pm. Join Paleontologist George Blasing for this event open to everyone, but targeted to children ages 4 to 8. Free of charge



**The Bartlett Area Museum in Barlett**, built in 1909 and used as a school til it closed in 1988 now restored as a museum. The top floor is preserved as the historic grammar school, the bottom is an area museum. Open 1-4pm on the 4th Sunday. Free Admission.



**At the Industrial Country Market in Columbus** you can find lots of products and groceries to help make life in the country easier & fun. Classes this month include learning how to utilize solar panels (Aug 24) and hydroponics gardening (Aug 25).



[Livingston](#) - Aug 16-18, Pedigo park

[Rockport](#) - Aug 17, Navigation Festival Grounds, 9am-4pm

[Smithville](#) - Aug 17, Downtown, 10am-4pm



## Learn about Diboll From Home

The [History Center in Diboll](#) has some wonderful exhibits to see at their physical location but their website is not to be missed either!

Because The History Center holds such a wealth of archival resources, highlighting them all on-site would be impossible. Their on-line exhibits allow them to showcase some of their particularly popular photograph collections and allow visitors to view them at home at their own pace. Some of the collections you can view are [Native Plants](#), [Fastrill: A Texas Logging Camp](#), and [East Texas Railroad Photograph Selections](#).

The History Center's [oral history collection](#) consists of more than 300 interviews. Most have been transcribed and these are available as PDF files on their website. Additionally, they are in the process of adding the audio recordings of each interview. Learn by listening to Diboll & Texas history from the folks who lived it.

You will see several [Finding Guides](#) which are tools that allow researchers to get an in-depth look at a collection before actually seeing the collection. Their [online collections](#) include newspapers like the [Diboll Buzz Saw](#) (a Monthly newspaper published by and for Southern Pine Lumber Company employees from June 1947 to March 1952), Railroad records and Lumber Company Records.



## World Class Bass Fishing at Lake Fork near Emory

Lake Fork Reservoir is located 65 miles east of Dallas on the

on Lake Fork Creek. At 27,690 acres and 315 miles of shoreline, Lake Fork is one of the 10 largest lakes in Texas.

Designed as a premier bass fishing lake, Lake Fork currently holds records for 34 out of the Top 50 largemouth bass caught in Texas. However, it also offers some of the best crappie fishing in the country. Brim fishing is also very good, and the catfishing is said to be nothing short of phenomenal.

The area also offers [marinas](#) for boaters and [camping](#) opportunities from cabin rentals and RV to tents in the great outdoors.



## PLANNING AHEAD

### The Texas Word Wrangler Book Fest in

**Giddings** on Sept 13 at the Public Library will feature Texas authors of all genres. Authors will be present to visit with the public. Genres so far include childrens, sports, spiritual and history.

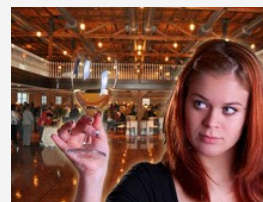
Picture of author [Candilynn Fite](#)



**The Antique Mall in Comfort** hosts 30 quality antique dealers and offers something for every collector's taste and budget. Open daily from 10:00 AM to 5:00 PM and until 6:00 PM on Saturdays.

### **The Bugtussel Trek Car Club will be stopping in Honey Grove**

around 12:30 Aug 24 on their way to Paris for a car show. Cars are available to be seen by the public while they are eating and visiting.



### **4 Hours of Wine Tasting & Shopping at the Wine Run in Cuero**

held at the Venue on Church Street, August 24th. Run begins at 1pm. Receive a Wine Bottle Tote and Official Tasting Glass! Part of the World Series of Cuero 2013 Texas Hold'em Fundraiser



Village Bakery in West gets good reviews on Yelp. Visit their [Facebook](#) page to find out all the ways they've been contributing to the town of West.



## Exploring Yesteryear with Tours in Ennis

Equipped with a map from the Ennis Convention & Visitors Bureau (located on the corner of E. Ennis Avenue and Northeast Main Street) you can explore the Ennis Historic Driving Tour. For a quaint visit to "yesteryear" stroll the downtown streets for a return to the "Golden Days of Ennis" complete with brick streets.

As you leisurely stroll along brick streets under the warm glow of our turn of the century street lights, you will admire the picturesque beauty of the Ennis National Register Historic District featuring fully restored historic commercial businesses and residential properties alike.

Pick up a map of various trails, and later stop by the Ennis Railroad & Cultural Heritage Museum to watch a brief video history of Ennis. While you are there enjoy the railroad memorabilia, the dioramas, the depot replicas, china exhibit from the old rail lines, Czech dolls from the old country & more.



## ANNUAL GUN AND HUNTING SHOW Madisonville, Texas

**Saturday, August 17 • 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.**  
**Sunday, August 18 • 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.**

**The Truman Kimbro Center  
On the Square in Downtown Madisonville  
Sponsored by: Madisonville Noon Lions Club  
Admission: \$5 per person**

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starting at 11am. Entry fee.



The annual Fiesta Guacamole in Waelder will be held Sat Aug 31 and Sun Sept 1 at Waelder City Park. Music, food and, of course, guacamole are the highlights for the weekend celebration. The food menu for the festival includes tamales, gorditas, fajitas, tacos and hamburgers.



Flip Flop Festival in Port Lavaca on Aug 30 featuring Los Palominos in concert



The Spoiled Doves hosting a Microsoft Event last month.



