

UP NEXT:

April 5-7, 2019 Friday-Sunday (Camp out Friday and Saturday nights)

Ratcliff Lake Recreation Area

located within Davy Crockett National Forest about 3 hr drive SE of Dallas between towns of Ratcliff and Kennard

I have reserved 3 campsites with electricity, water, and full bathrooms nearby. These are nestled in the beautiful Piney Woods of East Texas. Hiking, biking, lake activities, bird watching available. Saturday some of us are driving to Nacogdoches, Tx (50 minute drive) to catch the Azaleas blooming. There is a 3-week window so we're keeping our fingers crossed. SFASU has a beautiful Azalea Garden so we'll start there. We may visit other sites/activities going on in Nacogdoches.

There is a MAXIMUM of 12 campers for this trip. You may sign up at our monthly meeting. If unable to attend please email me directly at slf4545@msn.com.

Next TOWN Meeting
TUESDAY APRIL 2, 2019

La Madeleine
11930 Preston Road
Dallas, TX 75230
6:30 p.m.

Guests always welcome

ANNUAL DUES ARE \$20

This is in a National Forest so if you have a National Park Pass make sure you bring it to receive any applicable discounts. If you want to visit a website I suggest just typing "Ratcliff Lake Recreation Area" and carefully read the prompts to view what is available. There is a "print facility map" if you look carefully to pull up the campsite map. We will be part of the Dogwood Loop.

Hope you will join us. Remember to email me directly (not Town group) or sign-up at meeting. Thanks.

Sherry Flowers
slf4545@msn.com

Save the Date for Day of Fun on Cedar Creek Lake, Saturday, June 29th.

MAY TRIPS:

May 2 – May 5, Thursday - Sunday

Camping in the beautiful Wichita Mountains National Wildlife Refuge near Lawton, Oklahoma

https://www.fws.gov/refuge/Wichita_Mountains/

Nancy Lee is leading this camping trip – you can reach her at nlee002@tx.rr.com or by text at 469-264-4643 if you are interested. There will be a \$10 deposit required to hold your place if you sign up. The deposit will be refundable if you cancel on or before April 21. National Park Pass discounts apply so if you have one be sure to bring it.

May 30- June 2, Thursday - Sunday

FAMILY CAMPING TRIP - kids, grandkids, and family members that like camping.

Lake Ray Roberts - Sites 76, 77 and 78.

All fees and meals will be split by the number of people attending, regardless of age.....

Will put out a Sign Up sheet at April 2nd Meeting, OR email me and I will add you to list of attendees.

Robbie

rbbchandler@yahoo.com

Cell: 1 972 971 6711

THINGS TO DO:

Dallas Blooms Spring Festival at the Dallas Arboretum - ends April 7

Tickets are \$17 for adults and \$14 for seniors during the festival. Parking is \$15.

Lanterns in the Garden - Fort Worth Botanic Gardens

Sat, Mar 9, 2019 6:00 PM thru Sun, May 12, 2019 11:00 PM

See thousands of lights inside colorful and ornate lanterns light up the night sky when this ancient Chinese tradition comes to the Fort Worth Botanic Garden for the spring season. Lanterns in the Garden features at least 20 sets of lanterns crafted from silk, wire, and steel and offers visitors the opportunity to experience an event rarely staged outside of Asia.

Lanterns in the Garden is open nightly throughout March beginning March 9th and Thursday-Sunday evenings April 4th – May 12th (Blackout dates: April 27, May 2-5) at the Fort Worth Botanic Garden. Tickets are \$18 for adults (\$14 for members) and \$8 for children ages 2-15.

JUNE CAMPING TRIP:

Camp Mary White Women's Retreat June 17-21, 2019

It is time to register! https://www.campmarywhite.com/blank-c1i02?utm_campaign=5141b767-ae9d-42b0-a79d-80e6543633ba&utm_source=so

Several TOWN ladies have attended the last couple of years and plan to go again. Every year it gets more varied. More arts/crafts, hikes, massages, activities and of course do nothing except sit on the HUGE porch and pass the time of day.

We have a choice of taking our own tents and camping OR staying in a wooden, three and a half sided cabin. I have done both and they are both great.

Any questions and I am happy to address them?? We have caravanned in the past as it is a 10 hour drive but for 5 days it is more than worth it.

Robbie Chandler

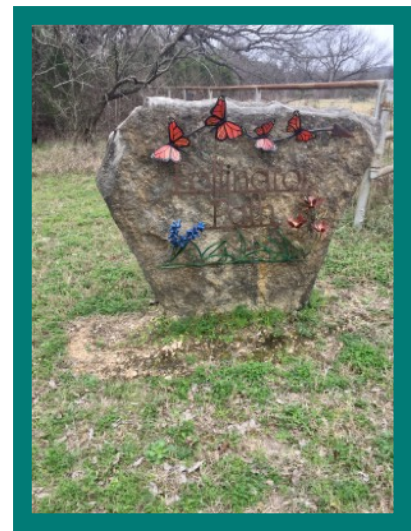
rbbchandler@yahoo.com



POSSUM KINGDOM LAKE



CAMPING AT INKS LAKE



Photos submitted by Allison

GREAT OLD BROADS FOR WILDERNESS

*Excerpted from GreenSource DFW
March 2019 publication*

Courtesy of Janet Smith

March 22, 2019

Know any fun-loving, feisty women who love wild spaces? There's a new group in North Texas for them.

McKinney resident Brenda Armstrong recently launched the Lone Star Broads, the first Texas chapter of Great Old Broads for Wilderness.

A 53-year-old registered nurse, Armstrong has long been an outdoor enthusiast. The Gainesville native got hooked on wilderness trips in her 20s, when she visited Yellowstone National Park for the first time. Since then, she's visited Yellowstone dozens of times, even volunteering a couple of seasons. "It's probably one of the best places in the lower 48 states to see wildlife," said the once-aspiring opera singer. Over the years, she's checked off 10 other U.S. national parks on her bucket list, plus five in Canada.

She discovered Great Old Broads, where else, but on a trail. "Last fall while hiking in Colorado, I ran into a woman carrying a fence post over her shoulder." Turns out, the woman was a Great Old Broad. The organization geared to older women was started in Utah in 1989 by "a feisty bunch of lady hikers," according to its website.

Early on, they committed themselves to grassroots advocacy to preserve wilderness and wild places for future generations. In addition to imparting their gender's wisdom, the women-led organization vows to bring "humor" to the conservation movement - a quality not typically mentioned in mission statements. "You have to keep your sense of humor when you're discussing things that are profound," explains Armstrong. "We don't want arguing. There's too much division in our country, especially in Texas."

The feisty founders of Great Old Broads for Wilderness who started the nonprofit in Utah in 1989.

Today the Colorado-based organization has 8,500 members in 40 chapters - called Broadbands - in 15 states, mainly in the west. There is no age limit. Younger women are welcome to join as well as men who are referred to as Great Old Bros.

To date, there has never been a chapter in Texas but there are 40 women in the North Texas area who are already members.

Armstrong said she has big plans for the Lone Star Broads, which will serve North Central Texas. She expects to host everything from happy hours and potlucks to films, speakers and a book club. One of the first meetups she has planned is to the EarthxFilm screening of *The River and the Wall* at the Perot Museum in Dallas on April 25.

As for advocacy, Armstrong said she expects the group to discuss

regional conservation issues, including what's being done with Texas' borderlands. In addition, protecting the Mexican and red wolves is an issue close to her heart. She became a wolf advocate after she worked in Yellowstone when the **grey wolf was reintroduced** into the park in the 1990s.

"Our goal as a group is to not divide people but find common ground. We want to find out what everybody's interested in. Then not splinter off but divide and conquer." And you don't actually have to be old or a broad to join, says Armstrong.

"It doesn't matter if you're young or old, or even a guy, we want to make sure the group is all inclusive."

Lone Star Broads

About: New North Central Texas chapter of **Great Old Broads for Wilderness**, a national conservation organization led by women whose primary focus is to preserve and protect wilderness and wild lands.

Who: McKinney resident Brenda Armstrong is leading the group.

Contact: lonestarbroads@gmail.com