

# TXSER ANNUAL CONFERENCE

NEWCOMBE TENNIS RANCH-NEW BRAUNFELS, TEXAS

NOVEMBER 6-8, 2009

## Field Trips!! Yea!

All Field Trips will be driven to by way of personal participants' vehicles. Estimated mileage & driving times are stated next to field trip title. Car-Pooling is STRONGLY encouraged. Box Lunch is included in price of Field Trips 1-4. Registration is limited, so sign up early and make alternate choices in the event a field trip is already full.

Field Trip Title	Price	Times	Miles	Travel
<b>1. USFWS Hatchery Tour &amp; Educational Canoe Trip on San Marcos River - LIMIT 16 People</b>				
Start your day with a private tour of the <a href="#">USFWS Hatchery</a> from Director Tom Brandt. Learn of the research & captive propagation of several of San Marcos Springs' endangered species. These springs are one of the largest outflows for the Edwards Aquifer. Discover the many restoration plans underway by the <a href="#">River Systems Institute</a> for the San Marcos Springs and the many species found in the springs, including five endangered species; the Fountain Darter, the Texas Blind Salamander, the San Marcos Salamander, the San Marcos Gambusia, and Texas Wild Rice. Have lunch in famous Landa Park and then enjoy a leisurely canoe trip down the San Marcos River. As you paddle downstream, speakers led by USFWS Biologist Patrick Connor will be stationed along your route to present various riparian restoration topics.	\$35	8:30 am - 3:00 pm	20 miles Each Way	25 minutes Each Way

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<b>2. Canyon Lake Gorge &amp; Honey Creek State Nature Preserve -</b>				
				<b>LIMIT 20 People</b>
Enjoy a guided hike through <a href="#">Canyon Lake Gorge</a> with geologist Bill Ward. Learn how the Gorge was created during a flood event in 2002. A cream-colored limestone crevasse that plunges 80 feet at its deepest spot, the gorge displays the 100 million year-old Glen Rose formation, including a fault line, footprints belonging to quadruped dinosaurs (all moving east to west along what would have been the waterfront) and three-toed dinosaur footprints (evidence of a biped carnivore strolling along the water). This is a physically demanding hike. Proper attire for hiking and adequate physical health is required. Then travel to <a href="#">Honey Creek State Natural Area</a> with TPWD's Craig Hensley to see the diverse geology, flora, and fauna that make Honey Creek a special place. Discover the research that is ongoing at this Hill Country haven, including a study into the rainfall interception of Ashe juniper and groundwater recharge. Lunch at Canyon Gorge.	\$25	8:30 am - 3:30 pm	13 miles to Canyon Lake Gorge; 30 miles to Honey Creek State Natural Area; 26 miles back to Newcombe	15 minutes to Canyon Lake Gorge; 40 minutes to Honey Creek State Natural Area; 36 minutes back to Newcombe

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Field Trip Title	Price	Times	Miles	Travel
<b>3. San Antonio River Improvement Project &amp; the Missions -</b>		<b>LIMIT 25 People</b>		
Explore the crown jewel of the City - the <a href="#">San Antonio River</a> . Listen as Lee Marlowe of San Antonio River Authority tells you about the San Antonio River Improvement Project (SARIP). Channelized in the 1950s, this ecosystem restoration project will restore an 8 mile southern stretch of the river into a quality native woodland ecosystem. You will be guided through the planned restoration phases, which include the planting of 24,000 young native trees, 334 acres of riparian and 113 acres of aquatic habitat restoration. Next, take a tour of the <i>other side</i> of the <a href="#">San Antonio Missions</a> - a peek of the ecological side. Greg Mitchell of the National Park Service will lead you on a guided hike & drive to see what has been and is currently done to restore the native vegetation around the missions, the river and historic Spanish colonial aqueducts, which are still in use today. Lunch along the river. <i>Please Note</i> - this field trip runs later than other Field Trips and overlaps Field Trip #5 to the Dry Comal Creek Vineyards.	\$25	8:00 am - 5:30 pm	40 miles to the San Antonio River; 2 miles to the Missions; 40 miles back to Newcombe	1 hour to the San Antonio River; 5 minutes to the Missions; 1 hour back to Newcombe

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<b>4. Selah Bamberger Ranch Preserve - Johnson City -</b> <span style="float: right;"><b>LIMIT 40 People</b></span>				
<u><a href="#">Selah, Bamberger Ranch Preserve</a></u> is a 5,500 acre, privately owned ranch that has been described as the largest habitat restoration project on private land in Texas. 36 years ago J. David Bamberger sought to buy the worst piece of ranchland he could find in the Hill Country with the specific intention of restoring it back to functional health. With the removal of woody species and the replanting of native grasses, long absent springs are now near constantly flowing. Overflow from these springs and seeps produces the headwaters of Miller Creek which flows into the Pedernales River, which then flows into the Colorado River, the surface supply for the City of Austin, 60 miles away. Visit the largest herd of the endangered <b>Scimitar-horned Oryx</b> in the world, and see the Chiroptorium, a man-made cave built to house 1 million bats. Lunch at Selah.	\$25	8:00 am - 4:00 pm	48 miles Each Way	1 hour Each Way

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<b>5. Dry Comal Creek Winery - <u>late afternoon</u> tour &amp; wine tasting - <u>no registrant limit!</u> :-)</b>				
<u>Dry Comal Creek Vineyards</u> is located in a small protected valley, nestled in the Texas Hill Country. TXSER has reserved the Vineyards' facilities for a wine tasting and private tour. Whether you consider yourself a wine novice or an expert, the whole point is for you to relax with local wines in a beautiful vineyard after a day of field trips, and to ready yourself for the <i>Friday Social Feast</i> to follow at Newcombe Tennis Ranch.  <b>*Special Note</b> - all other Field Trips <u>except #3</u> (S.A. River & Missions Field Trip) may consider this late afternoon additional Field Trip treat after their first Field Trip. The #3 Field Trip will be arriving back too late to catch this relaxing opportunity. So Sorry.	\$20	5:00 pm - 6:30 pm	6 miles from Newcombe	7 minutes from Newcombe