

roundup

Summertime Fun

sweet reading Before sinking your teeth into a book about Texas, check out www.txmoon.com, and order some Texas Moon Gourmet Toffee. In Tyler, Victoria White creates chocolate-covered pecan toffee from an old family recipe. Take a bite, then open *The Yankee Chick's Survival Guide to Texas* (Republic of Texas Press, \$17.95). Sophia Dembling, a New Yorker-turned-Texan, guides you through the pitfalls of "y'all." Howl over Willie Nelson's salty tales of life on the road in *The Facts of Life and Other Dirty Jokes* (Random House, \$21.95). Get the scoop on what happened between Sam Houston and his first wife, Eliza Allen, in James L. Haley's *Sam Houston* (University of Oklahoma Press, \$39.95). Then polish off that Texas Moon.



only in texas

Scenic drives elsewhere meander for an hour or so. Ours take days. The "Texas Forest Trail" brochure routes you into deep woodlands, across sunny pastures, and through small towns of 35 East Texas counties—a 780-mile odyssey. A new guide for the Chisholm Trail points visitors north, following the many paths of the cattle drives from South Texas toward Kansas. Look for the "Texas Lakes Trail" brochure soon. For copies contact Texas Historical Commission, 1511 Colorado Street, Austin, TX 78701; (512) 463-6255 or www.thc.state.tx.us.

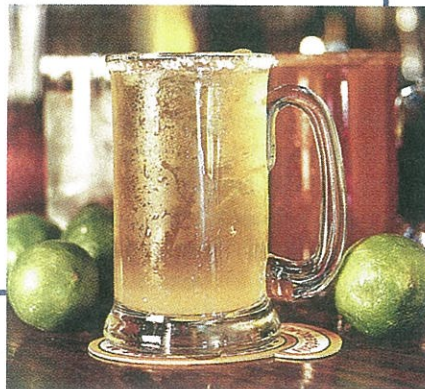


stars at night They're big and bright, and they shine from Hollywood each summer night. They're movie stars playing across the screens of the many drive-in theaters in Texas. A favorite—The Brazos Drive-in in Granbury—now celebrates its 50th year. Owners Jennifer and Stephen Miller screen two films each Friday and Saturday night, usually rated G, PG, or PG-13 (in that order). "Visitors spend the night in Granbury just to come to the drive-in," Jennifer says. Many watch from their pickup truck beds, where they sit in lawn chairs or settle back on mattresses. They mob the concessions stand for chili-cheese fries and bags of popcorn into which free passes are sometimes slipped. The cost is \$15 a carload, \$8 for singles. Call (817) 573-1311, or log on to www.thebrazos.com.

hands on a hard body Hey, it's not what you think. In Longview, contestants will gather September 10 at Patterson Nissan for the renewal of the dealership's annual Hands on a Hard Body contest. Entrants place their hands on either a shiny new four-door Frontier Crew Cab truck or a Skeeter bass boat and try not to lift them off for the next few days. The last one standing wins the truck and boat. Pit crews serve contestants on their hourly breaks, and paramedics are on hand. For more information call 1-800-256-2514.

cool tastes of texas Looking for places to cool down in Texas this month? Austin ice-cream queen Amy Miller operates Amy's Ice Creams in Houston and San Antonio. More than a dozen flavors fill the parlors' menus each day. Or step into Windflower, the new spa at Hyatt Regency Hill Country Resort in San Antonio. A shaded patio with a fountain allows relaxation after a treatment.

For cool with a kick, try a Michelada: two parts Mexican beer and one part fresh lime juice over ice, served in a salt-rimmed mug. Add Worcestershire or hot sauce for extra spice.



This issue of *Texas Living: People & Places* was coordinated by Gary D. Ford, Carolanne Griffith Roberts, Meg McKinney Simle, and Jacqueline M. Vogel; it was designed by Amy Kathryn R. Merk. "Texas Roundup" was researched and written by Gary D. Ford. Cover photograph by Meg McKinney Simle