



Bear Briefs

The Newsletter of the Heart Of Texas Bears

P.O. Box 684391, Austin TX 78768-4391

e-mail: INFO@HEARTOFTEXASBEARS.ORG

web: WWW.HEARTOFTEXASBEARS.ORG

MARCH 2007

From the President's Desk



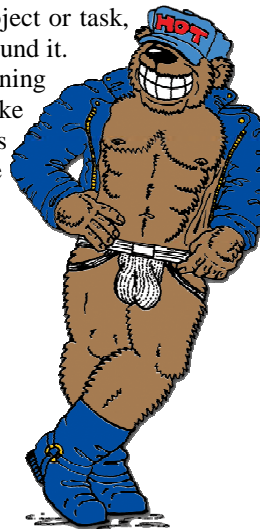
Last month I spent a couple of days working our garden spot at Buzzards Peak and I am either cursed or blessed with the ability to see a project completely finished. There are no fountains or mazes in my vision so I have a pretty good idea that I do not suffer from illusions of grandeur. And I know I am limited to drought tolerant, deer resistant Texas native plantings and of course cost. I have thrown in a couple of stone benches and a sculpture in my vision, I am not a complete realist.

As much as I enjoy gardening I caught myself grumbling about being by myself and boy oh boy if someone tells me I should have done this or that I will tell them where they can get off. I started laughing at myself because I was sitting up a negative scenario that in all likelihood would never take place. I think a lot of us do that from time to time.

One thing that did enter my thoughts is the people that have approached me about the upcoming nominations for positions on the executive board. Per our bylaws I can only serve a two year term as a board member. And as much as I have enjoyed being president I am thankful others are willing to step up to the plate. Everyone has different ideas and thoughts on directions to take but I have told them to read the bylaws and keep in mind that we are a social group. And as in any project or task, leave it better than you found it.

A life lesson gardening has taught me is if you take all the proper steps it is still ultimately up to the plant to grow.

Hugs,
Ed Burleson



March Birthday Bears

Chris Turano.....3/3	CJ L.3/20
Ed Burleson3/5	John Underwood3/21
Michael Kirk3/9	JD Collins.....3/22
Thad G.3/12	Randy Scott.....3/25
Donnie Gentry3/13	Rudy Cohen3/28
Jerry Thompson.....3/20	Troy New3/31

Sponsors

The HOT Bears are grateful for the continuing support of the following people and companies. Please support those who support us.

TapeLenders

TapeLenders Video — Outlines—Skivvies
1114 West 5th Street (78703)
(512) 472-0844
www.TapeLenders.com
10% discount with HOT Bear membership card (Sale items excluded)

Chain Drive

504 Willow Street (78701)
(512) 480-9017

Cockpit

113 San Jacinto (78701)
(512) 457-8010

Midtowne Spa of Austin

5815 Airport Blvd. (78752)
(512) 302-9696
www.midtowne-spa.com/austin

Phil Nelson

Registered Massage Therapist
(512) 301-3376

Steve Hales

Realtor — Keller Williams
1801 S. Mopac Expwy #100 (78746)
(512) 330-1055 Direct
(512) 786-9687 Mobile
SteveHales@kw.com

Amy Krause

Mortgage Consultant
11506 Boulder Lane (78726)
(512) 219-5858 office
AmyKrause@austin.rr.com

WoofWax.com

Donnie Anderson
(254) 557-1334

Chad Cardani

Realtor — Parrish and Associates
(512) 442-2000
ChadCardani.com

Wyndham Garden Hotel — Austin

3401 South I-35 (78741)
(512) 448-2444
WyndhamAustin.com

Upcoming Events

Saturday, March 3

Bears Day Out breakfast at 10am at **Trudy's North Star Restaurant & Bar**, 8820 Burnet Road, Austin, TX 78757, (512) 454-1474. Join us at Trudy's for their great breakfast buffet!

Saturday, March 3

After breakfast we'll head across the street to the Highland Lanes bowling alley. Join us for some **Bear Bowling** starting after breakfast. Highland Lanes is located at the corner of 183 and Burnet, 8909 Burnet Road, 512-458-1215.

Sunday, March 11

Daylight Savings Time begins!
Move your clocks forward an hour.

Sunday, March 11

Monthly Bear Beer Bust at the Chain Drive (504 Willow Drive, Austin, TX 78701) from **4pm — 8pm**. Join the Bears for **\$0.50** draft beer. Come on down and end your weekend enjoying the afternoon with your Bear Brothers.

Monday, March 12

Rainbow Rollerskating A monthly rollerskating event for the Austin gay and lesbian community. Held at Skate World, 9514 Anderson Mill Road, Austin, 78729 (512) 258-8886. You can rent skates or bring your own. Additional donations that night go to charity. Visit main.org/rainbowskate for details.

Saturday, March 17

2nd Bear Breakfast at 10am at **Austin Diner**, 5408 Burnet Road, Austin 78756, (512) 467-9552. This "2nd breakfast" for the month has become pretty popular. Join us for some great breakfast cooking and lots of Bear Brotherhood!

Thursday — Sunday, March 22 — 25

Texas Bear Round-Up, hosted by the Dallas Bears. This is the 12th annual bear extravaganza in Dallas. Our own Mr. HOT Bear (**Harry**) and Mr. HOT Cub (**Kelly**) are going up to compete in the TBRU bear contest. The HOT Bears will be hosting a poolside cocktail party Saturday afternoon. If you're going to TBRU, please support Harry and Kelly, and help us serve cocktails to all the bears... It's a lot of fun! See tbru.org for details.

Friday — Sunday, March 23 — 25

TCC Activity Weekend. Come up to the TCC Landsite at Buzzards' Peak, camp out, and help with projects. It's a great weekend get-away and you can help to improve the landsite.

Sunday, March 25

HOT Bear Fur Frenzy. Join us from **4pm — 8pm** at **The Cockpit Club** (2nd and San Jacinto). We'll be serving 50¢ beer on the back patio with plenty of Bear Brotherhood.

Thursday, March 29

Bears Night Out dinner central this month. We're headed to **Maudie's Too** on South Lamar for some tasty Tex-Mex. It's located at 1212 South Lamar and their phone number is 512-440-8088. Hope to see you there at 7pm (*Bear Time*).

Saturday, April 7

Bears Day Out breakfast at 10am at **Trudy's North Star Restaurant & Bar**.

Saturday, April 21

Save the date... This will be the HOT Bears' 9th Anniversary party. Don't miss it. Details next month.

The View from Buzzards' Peak



MY FIRST LONESTAR

For those of you who are regular readers of this column, you know that I try to write a little every month about the Texas Conference of Clubs (TCC). It is a place I feel good about. From the first time I stepped into the place, I made a conscious decision that I was going to get involved in some way.

Through it, I came to know the Heart of Texas Bears. As a result of these related affiliations, a great many close friendships have developed over the last 3 years.

For this month's column, I will share with you my first time attending Lonestar (the largest fundraiser for TCC) and my first introduction to the "Landsite."

My partner Pooch had told me about a campout with a bunch of leather-boys called "Lonestar." He had heard about it from Jim and Kevin another couple we had met around town. Pooch and I had not been in Austin for more than a few months.

As with everything, we looking it up online. Although I had been to my share of "gay weekend events", I had never been to a gay campout in Texas before -- much less a "leather" campout -- and I did not know what to expect. After looking at the website, it sounded like it might be a great time. Food was provided; it had been going on for 15 years, etc. I sent my money in and received a nice return note confirming two men for Memorial Day weekend, along with hand drawn directions complete with landmarks.

On the Friday before Memorial Day, we set off. I had never been to the Texas countryside, so the drive through little towns were enjoyable. We passed roadside BBQs, cotton gins, and "Jesus Saves" billboards that make up the typical landscape outside of liberal Austin. We turned off onto a smaller road, and then a smaller one -- until we saw the fake cactus described in the directions. We then turned onto a very bad dirt road that looked like it was going nowhere. It was beginning to get dark and Will was kind of concerned that we were heading in the right direction. He had not been in the country all that much and images of "The Texas Chainsaw Massacre," Deliverance," and "The Blair Witch Project" were on his mind. After a few hairpin turns, we arrived at the metal gate of TCC.

After driving in, we saw several naked men roaming about as well as trailers and tents setup in the field and in the woods. We asked where to set up as it seemed like the right place, but even then, we were not quite sure what we were getting ourselves into. Some of them men came up to us and greeted us warmly offering us a cocktail of vodka and fruit juice. One of them, Danny, showed us a campsite and we set up our tent (recently purchased at Target for the weekend). We looked at our run packets consisting of a schedule of events, condoms, and a run pin. Sandwiches were available in the walk-in cooler, beer was on tap, and a huge blow-up pool was crowded with men. A general feeling a positive energy and expectation abounded. We had arrived at Lonestar 16.

Friday night was all about meeting and greeting new folks. We were called out at the opening ceremonies in the Pole Barn and were made to feel welcome. Throughout the rest of the evening, people continued to arrive. Beer flowed freely and there were cocktail parties announced every hour or so. We explored the campground and heard stories from the "regulars" of past

Lonestars.
Bear Briefs - March 2007

In the morning, we were well fed by Hal and Jim with a breakfast of bacon, eggs, and biscuits. Field games began at 10. I roared with laughter at my partner doing a naked relay race with about 20 others. Another man, Bo, started to assemble a gigantic arch out of multi-colored balloons and helium. Another attendee, brought a huge blow-up penis and it was integrated into the arch. At some point in the late afternoon, the arch broke from its moorings and the balloons and penis floated up, up and away. I can't help but wonder what people thought in the nearby town of Cameron when that thing floated down into the little town park on Sunday morning.

It was about this time that I realized Lonestar (and TCC) was not just for Leathermen. The members and attendees consisted of nudists, bears, leatherfolks, and others who were there just to have a good time; all coming together for a weekend to celebrate our individuality. There were a few women as well. Indeed, the entire run was being managed by Diane, a person who I would become very good friends with over the next 3 years until her early death in 2006.

Saturday evening, the chefs prepared a great feast -- roast pork, chicken, fresh green beans, baked potatoes, and wine, all served outside under the stars. Afterwards, the "Mr. Lone Star" contest (similar our own "Mr HOT Bear contest) was held, along with a great show in the Pole Barn. Pooch decided to enter the contest, assisted by me- and, to my surprise, he won! We partied late into the night around the campfire and compound That energy never stopped!

Sunday morning we awoke to the breakfast bell. A little hung-over, we were still feeling great. We had met so many new friends during our time there. Closing ceremonies included awards for games played during the weekend and 'thank yous' to all who made the run happen. A special prize was given out to the "Slut of the Run." To huge applause, Pooch stepped up to accept it.

I am still close to many whom I met that weekend- including several members of the HOT Bears. Over the last 3 years, my involvement in TCC and the HOT Bears has lead me to have a permanent campsite in the grounds. It has been dubbed "The Chicken Ranch", and is located above the tent area. I am at TCC often- on average of twice a month- and have given labor as well as regular donations to keep the place alive. I serve on the Land Management Committee and have founded our own club run "Back to the Woods" in order to bring HOT Bear members and other bears an enjoyable weekend.

I encourage all of you to sign up for Lonestar this year. Go to TexasConferenceOfClubs.com for online registration. I also encourage you to get involved with "Back to the Woods"- the HOT Bear campout at TCC in October. Weekends away at TCC rejuvenate and bring us closer together in ways that are impossible in the "real" world.

Woof & Peace.

— Peter



TEXAS CONFERENCE OF CLUBS
PRESENTS
LONESTAR 19



CRUISIN' THE WOODS

MAY 25, 26, 27, 28, 2007

JOIN US FOR FUN IN THE WOODS

FOR INFORMATION AND PRICING

VISIT OUR WEBSITE

WWW.TEXASCONFERENCEOFCLUBS.COM

March

www.HeartOfTexasBears.org

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
Trudy's North Star – 8820 Burnet Road, Austin, TX, 78757 (512) 454-1474 Highland Lanes – 8909 Burnet Road, Austin, TX, 78757 (512) 458-1215 Austin Diner – 5408 Burnet Road, Austin, TX, 78756 (512) 467-9552 Chain Drive – 504 Willow Street, Austin, TX, 78701 (512) 480-9017 Daylight Savings Time begins March 11, 2007				1	2 HOT Bears Officers Nominations Due by Today (30 days before the Annual Meeting)	3 10a: Bears Day Out Breakfast Trudy's North Star 11a: Bowling Bears Highland Lanes
4	5	6	7 7:30p: HOT Board Meeting – South	8	9	10
11 DST Begins 4-8p: Bear Bust The Chain Drive	12 8p-11p: Rainbow Skate Skate World Austin 9514 Anderson Mill Rd. Austin, TX 78729 (512) 258-8886 (Rink Info)	13	14	15	16	17 ♣ St. Patrick's Day♣ 10a: 2nd Breakfast Austin Diner
18	19	20	21	22 TBRU 12	23 TBRU 12 TCC Activity Weekend	24 TBRU 12 TCC Activity Weekend Hairy Potters @ TCC TBRU Cocktails
25 TBRU 12 TCC Activity Weekend 4p-8p: Fur Frenzy The Cockpit 113 San Jacinto Austin, TX, 78701 (512) 457-8010	26	27	28	29 7p: Bears Night Out Maudie's Too 1212 S. Lamar Austin, TX, 78704 (512) 440-8088	30	31

View the latest calendar information for this month and future months on the HOT Bears web site

2007