



Backroads

Newsletter

Greetings Friends & Partners,

The Rural Texas Tourism Center is pleased to present to you our brand new newsletter Backroads. We all know rural Texas is the real Texas. This is what rural Texas is all about: those winding, twisting backroads that lead to hidden treasures of history, fantastic food and exciting festivals that few people know about. With the help of all our friends and partners, the RTTC hopes to find them all and spread the word about the delightful adventures that await in rural Texas.

Are you a representative for a small Texas town, event or tourist attraction? You might want to consider joining us in our quest of promoting rural Texas tourism! Turn to the back page to find out more about the RTTC.

See ya'll on the trail

Chocoholics Beware! Lexington Chocolate Lovers Fest

Lexington held it's 8th Annual Chocolate Lovers Fest on Saturday October 15th. The lovely town square bustled with families, children scampered after the animals in the petting zoo or tried their hand at milking a cow in the Mobile Dairy Classroom. Adults enjoyed the live music and the vendors displaying their arts & crafts.

Did we mention there was chocolate? The day began with a yummy gourmet chocolate pancake breakfast. After that, folks could stroll down Chocolate Alley for a small fee and sample a variety of chocolate goodies and dip strawberries in a luscious chocolate fountain. The Best Chocolate desserts contest brought forth a variety of delicious looking entries. The Chocolate Fear Factor Contest challenged teens and children to overcome their culinary fears such as munching on bugs. Chocolate covered, of course.



Another Miracle at the Marburger Farm Antique Show in Round Top, Texas

10.10.11 Round Top, TX— Marburger Farm has done it again. The twice yearly mega-show in Round Top, Texas has overcome hurricanes, wars, recessions and more. This Sept. 27–Oct. 1, the prospects included all of those, plus the tail end of the driest, hottest Texas summer in decades. But the not-so-little show that could pulled off a winner again.

After two hot days, about noon on Thursday, a clap of thunder sounded. “In our tent,” said Patrick Kenny of upstate NY’s South Porch Antiques, “with each clap of thunder, people clapped back. When the rain started to pour, they cheered and yehawed, as only Texans can yehaw. At Brimfield, we cried over rain. At Marburger Farm, they were cheering in the aisles.”

As the rain continued, someone turned up the volume on “Amazing Grace” and shoppers found that the 10 football field size tents and 12 historic buildings on Marburger’s 43 acre site provided perfect cover for shopping over 350 exhibitors from 38 states and several nations.

Most exhibitors reported good to utterly outstanding sales, with many setting career records. “Our closing day on Saturday, was the highest we’ve ever had,” said Rhonda Holden of 2 Girl’s Stuff from Dallas. Holden sold six rugs, Spanish Colonial iron and antique bottles topped with industrial gauges for use as bookends and sculpture.

Another Texas dealer, Ray Veazey of San Antonio, had shoppers fighting over a French canopy bed and huge metal leaves from a 1980s Neiman Marcus display by Emilia Castillo. “Of the 29 Marburger shows that we have done,” said Veazey, “this was our top 3rd in gross sales. The shoppers who come to Marburger Farm are real troopers. I’m really thankful that they came.”

First-time Marburger exhibitor John Tuttle of Atlanta’s Re-Works summed it up: “Everything I had ever heard about Marburger Farm was true. There is more great merchandise and more talent at Marburger Farm than at any show I have ever seen.” Tuttle brought talent in tow by creating 150 lamps from re-purposed antiques such as old boot forms, hubcaps, musical instruments and architectural fragments. “Just one store buyer bought 18, another bought 14, all going to NM, AZ, CA and other western states.”

“Marburger Farm has evolved into a national and international crossroads for antiques and for talent,” says show co-owner Rick McConn. “We had our highest international

and national attendance. One shopper kept texting photos of merchandise at the show to a niece in Hope, AR. A text returned: ‘Where is the nearest airport?’ With a private plane and a local airport, she was here shopping that very afternoon. And she fit it all into the plane, except for two carved eagles that had to be shipped. Hope springs eternal.”

Co-owner Ashley Ferguson believes that one reason this show was so compelling for shoppers was the introduction of a special contract requiring all merchandise to be antique, vintage pre-1989 or re-purposed from antique pieces. “You don’t have to paw through piles of reproductions at Marburger Farm,” says Ferguson. “We had the show vetted by an appraiser from the “Antiques Roadshow” and he pronounced us ‘a clean show.’ Marburger dealers search all over the world for the antique, vintage and re-purposed pieces that bring authenticity into a home—and that makes a difference.”

The show also made a difference by hosting a benefit booth for the Houston affiliate of Susan G. Komen for the Cure, as well as for the Brookwood Community, a Texas non-profit group that empowers adults with special needs. Additionally, a portion of the show’s ticket proceeds benefited Susan G. Komen-Houston to help in the fight against breast cancer.

A similar survivor spirit is one reason that Marburger Farm thrives: Texas shoppers are resilient. Exhibitor Beverly Williams of Warren, TX sold a French cupboard to a woman from Bastrop, TX, scene of recent fires that destroyed over 400 homes. “With her,” reports Williams, “were two other women from Bastrop, all next-door neighbors and all had lost their homes in the fire. Here they were at Marburger Farm, shopping to rebuild and to replace antiques that had been handed down in their families. They bought all over the show and I sent them all home with gifts from my booth. It touched my heart to see their spirit.”

In that spirit, the Marburger Farm Antique Show invites you, wherever you live, to the April 3-7, 2012 show, deep in the heart of Texas--- where the bluebonnets are pretty darn resilient too.

The Spring Marburger Farm Antique Show opens Tuesday April 3 for Early Buying Admission from 10 am until 2 pm. Regular admission begins at 2 pm until 5 pm that day. Admission is good all week and parking is free. Shopping continues on Wednesday, Thursday and Friday from 9 am until 5 pm and on Saturday, April 7, from 9 am until 4 pm. For maps, photos, the show blog and information on tickets, groups, the Marburger Café, on-site shipping and special events, see www.roundtop-marburger.com

November Calendar

Nov HarvestFest	Magnolia TX
Nov Christmas Cards in the Park	Bridgeport TX
Nov Two-Day Holiday Shopping Frenzy	Bridgeport TX
Nov 1-8 Quilt Exhibit at Winedale	Round Top TX
Nov 1 Unity Theater presents "One Ranger"	Brenham TX
Nov 2 Caboose Watercolor Society Art Show	Big Spring TX
Nov 3-6 "Some Enchanted Evenings" Broadway Musical 1860-1960	Round Top TX
Nov 3-6 Rockport Film Festival	Rockport TX
Nov 3-6 First Monday Trade Days	Canton TX
Nov 4-6 Lyn Foley Lampwork Bead Jewelry Show	Round Top TX
Nov 4 Annual Hunter's Roundup	Uvalde TX
Nov 4-6 A Country Christmas Carol	Matagorda TX
Nov 4-20 Rockport Little Theater - Best Little Whorehouse in Texas	Rockport TX
Nov 4 Hunter's Welcome	Lampasas TX
Nov 4-5 Fourth Annual Art Walk	Kingsville TX
Nov 4 Christmas Cottage	Cameron TX
Nov 4-5 St Peter's Art Show & Sale	Brenham TX
Nov 4-6 Theatre Forum	Round Top TX
Nov 4-6 Annual Fall Festival of the Roses	Brenham TX
Nov 5-26 Fall Farmers Market	Wharton TX
Nov 5 UVAL Fall Art Festival	Uvalde TX
Nov 5 Las Tamaleras	Uvalde TX
Nov 5 Annual Fall Fair	Uvalde TX
Nov 5 Wine Tasting at the Club at Cocan	Uvalde TX
Nov 5 Wesley Morrison Benefit Car Show	Terrell TX
Nov 5 Smithville Music Festival	Smithville TX
Nov 5 Harvestfest	Schulenburg TX
Nov 5 Fall Wine Festival	Round Top TX
Nov 5 Harvestfest	Round Top TX
Nov 5 EMS Grand Slam Fishing Tournament	Rockport TX
Nov 5 Black Tie and Blue Jeans Gala	Rockport TX
Nov 5 Main Street DownTown Garage Sale	Livingston TX

Nov 5 Fall Bazaar	Livingston TX
Nov 5 City Wide Garage Sale	Lampasas TX
Nov 5 Hillsboro Day at Trinity Landfill	Hillsboro TX
Nov 5 Deer Hunters BBQ	Hamilton TX
Nov 5 Market Days	Elgin TX
Nov 5 Town Wide Garage Sale	Comfort TX
Nov 5 Comfort Area Farmers Makret	Comfort TX
Nov 5-13 Milam Community Theater - A Few Good Men	Cameron TX
Nov 5 MOPS Craft Show	Brownwood TX
Nov 5 Family Day at the Lehnis Railroad Museum	Brownwood TX
Nov 5 TEEA Fall Bazaar	Bowie TX
Nov 5 Fly Without Wings Equine Center Fundraiser	Bowie TX
Nov 5 SWCID Fest	Big Spring TX
Nov 5 Arts & Crafts Show and Sale	Belton TX
Nov 5 Austin Town Festival Re-Enactment	Angleton TX
Nov 5 First Saturday Market Day	Bellville TX
Nov 5-6 Lindenau Fall Harvest Home Show	Cuero TX
Nov 5-6 Sami Arts & Crafts show	Belton TX
Nov 6-12 American West Safari & Workshop	Comfort TX
Nov 6 Greenleaf Cemetery Walk	Brownwood TX
Nov 6 2 Million Dogs Puppy Up Walk	Belton TX
Nov 7 Brown Bag in the Basement Film Series	Rockport TX
Nov 8 Rialto Rhythms Jam Session	Rockport TX
Nov 8 Eagle Lake Volunteer Fire Department Stew Supper	Eagle Lake TX
Nov 10 Shake Russell Concert	Matagorda TX
Nov 10-13 Turn of the Screw-Unity Theater	Brenham TX
Nov 11 Anvil Shoot	Hamilton TX
Nov 11-13 Lewis Auto Swap Meet	Canton TX
Nov 11 Holiday Arts & Crafts Show	Brownwood TX
Nov 11 Big Wide Grin in Concert	Rockport TX
Nov 11 Verteran's Day Celebration	Blanco, TX
Nov 12 River Rock Fest	Uvalde TX
Nov 12 Lamar Market Days	Rockport TX

Nov 12 The Singing Cadets of Texas A&M University	Round Top TX
Nov 12 Ann See Roy Book Signing	Wharton TX
Nov 12, 26 Adventures in Beach Combing	Matagorda TX
Nov 12 Matagorda Scouting Days	Maragorda TX
Nov 12 Trade Days	Nocona TX
Nov 12 Annual Motorcycle Toy Run	Matagorda TX
Nov 12 23rd Annual Heritage Syrup Festival	Henderson TX
Nov 12 Third Annual Riviera Beautification Cookoff	Kingsville TX
Nov 12 Singing Water Vineyards Second Annual Freedom Celebration	Comfort TX
Nov 12-13 Canton Gun Show	Canton TX
Nov 12 Wild Run for a Child 5K	Brownwood TX
Nov 12 Lexington Market Days	Lexington TX
Nov 12 Ten Thousand Villages Fair Trade Market	Bowie TX
Nov 12 Veteran's Day Parade & Chili Bean Dinner	Blanco TX
Nov 13 Holiday Arts & Crafts Show	Schulenburg TX
Nov 13-Dec 21 Christmas Tree Forest	Big Spring TX
Nov 12-13 Second Monday Trade Days	Bowie, TX
Nov 15 Wind Symphony & Concert	Kingsville TX
Nov 16-20 Raggedy Ann & Andy	Brenham TX
Nov 17 Christmas Around the Square	Matagorda TX
Nov 17 Festival of Trees	Matagorda TX
Nov 17 Elgin Business Expo	Elgin TX
Nov 17 Country Music Opry	Cuero TX
Nov 18 Mike Stern at the Clarion	Clute TX
Nov 18-20 Trade Days	Livingston TX
Nov 18 Holiday Style Show	Canyon TX
Nov 18 Christmas Tree Lighting	Canyon TX
Nov 19 Market Day on the Square	Matagorda TX
Nov 19 Fulton Market Days	Rockport TX
Nov 19 Guided Wetland Kayak Trip	Matagorda TX
Nov 19 Symphony Orchestra Concert	Kingsville TX
Nov 19-20 The Clover Market Arts & Crafts Show	Kingsville TX
Nov 19 Annual Turkey Trot	Uvalde TX

Nov 19 All for One Rally and Music Festival	Kingsville TX
Nov 19 Children's Living History Day Fair	Terrell TX
Nov 19 Hallettsville Market Days	Hallettsville TX
Nov 19-20 Holiday Home Tour & Trunk Show	Brenham TX
Nov 19-20 Poinsetta Celebration	Brenham TX
Nov 19 Belton Market Days	Belton, TX
Nov 19 Blanco Market Days	Blanco TX
Nov 19 Stars in the Park	Blanco TX
Nov 20 The Sweethearts in Carharts	Blanco TX
Nov 20 Christmas Merry Marketplace Art & Crafts	Giddings, TX
Nov 21 Holiday Gift Idea Exchange	Cameron TX
Nov 21-Jan 1 Cuero's Christmas in the Park	Cuero TX
Nov 22 Wharton Chamber of Commerce Holiday Parade	Wharton TX
Nov 22 Lighting Ceremony	Livingston TX
Nov 24 Feast of Sharing	Wharton TX
Nov 24 Western Swin & Gospel Music Jamboree	Sealy TX
Nov 25-26 Sami Arts & Crafts Show	Belton TX
Nov 25-26 Cuero Holiday Open House	Cuero TX
Nov 26 Bybe Square Open House	Round Top TX
Nov 26 Annual Christmas on the Square in Leakey	Uvalde TX
Nov 26-27 Its a Concan Christmas	Uvalde TX
Nov 26 Yule Trail	Luling TX
Nov 26 Christmas Arts & Crafts Show	Luling TX
Nov 26 Festival of Lights	Hallettsville TX
Nov 26 Christmas in Comfort	Comfort TX
Nov 26 Bluegrass Concert & Jam Session	Bellville TX
Nov 26 Brenham Farmer's Market	Brenham TX
Nov 30-Dec 4 Unity Theater-The Best Christmas Pageant Ever	Brenham TX

Be a Part of Rural Texas Tourism

The Rural Texas Tourism Center in Giddings, Texas



Are you the representative of a small Texas town, event or tourist attraction? You might want to read on to find out more about the Rural Texas Tourism Center and our goal of discovering and promoting rural Texas.

The RTTC was founded in 2009 with the purpose of increasing tourism in rural Texas. Everyone knows and goes to the big cities, but they never realize the hidden gems that lie just off the main highway; those historic buildings, amazing bits of history, incredible family restaurants and fun events that just the locals have information about. The RTTC's purpose is to bring all those small Texas towns together under one wooden roof, to gather all the information and send it out to let everyone know about the delights that can be found just down a few backroads.

What does the RTTC have to offer?

The RTTC offers qualifying towns and destinations both an online and physical presence. Our growing website offers each Partner several pages of content on which they can list important information for our visitors to see. The RTTC headquarters in Giddings, located downtown at the intersection of US Hwy 77 and US Hwy 290, is a Texas visitors center located within one of our historic attractions, The Union Station Transportation Museum. Here our Partners can have any printed brochures or advertisements on display and available for the public.

The RTTC offers Partners exposure at locally sponsored events, on our events calendar and in our monthly newsletter.

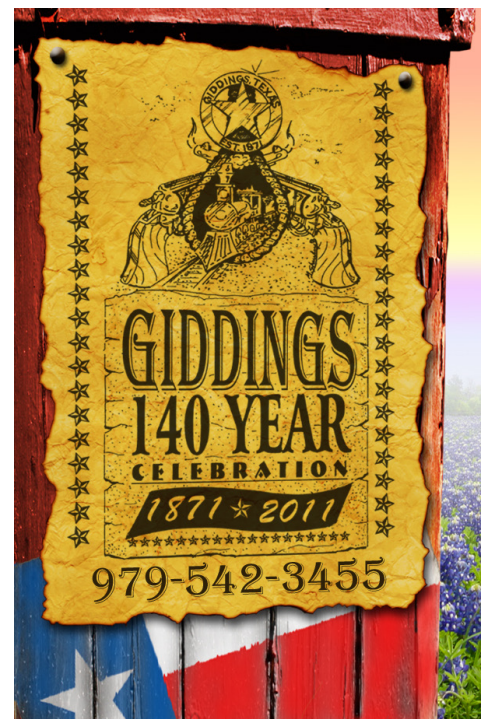
What does it take to be a Partner?

To be a Partner at the RTTC your town must have a population of 20 thousand or less. If you are representing a specific event, festival, historic destination, local restaurant or other "tourist destination" at a town of 20 thousand or less you can be a Partner too.

If you're not a qualifying Partner but still want to support rural Texas tourism, you can be involved by being a Participant or Sponsor.

To find out more about the RTTC and our opportunities, please go to our website:

www.ruraltexastourism.org
Email: contact@ruraltexastourism.org
or call (979) 542-3455
Giddings Chamber of Commerce



OCTOBER 29, 2011

Landmark Square

www.GiddingsTx.com

**Giddings 140 Year
CELEBRATION**

Pancake Breakfast - Parade - Food

Arts & Crafts - Kid's Events

Biergarten - Gunfighters - Fun Run

Museum Tours - Western Authors

Cake Contest - Quilt Show