

- They're heeere! Hairy and scary as they might look, these Texas native arachnids are rather harmless. That is, unless you're a cricket or beetle. https://texashillcountry.com/texas-brown-tarantula-mating-season/?goal=0_3853bcd0da-db83a6f9b0-192083123&mc_cid=db83a6f9b0&mc_eid=1cea58b678

<https://www.facebook.com/BalconesCanyonlands/posts/2545980565413093>

- It's a lightning bug, it's a firefly, it's a glow worm! Actually, it's a bioluminescence beetle. And here's how you can encourage colonization of these magical creatures in your very own backyard. <https://www.nwf.org/Home/Magazines/National-Wildlife/2017/June-July/Conservation/Firefly-Decline>

<https://www.facebook.com/BalconesCanyonlands/posts/2496871080324042>

- Any snake charmers in the house? A "cobra-like" snake was recently spotted in a Texas state park. But not to fear, it's a hognose, and it's only mildly venomous, and sometimes stinky. <https://texashillcountry.com/snake-brazos-bend-state-park/>

<https://www.facebook.com/BalconesCanyonlands/posts/2496872363657247>

- Wily song dogs just living the flexible life. #cayoteflexiblelifestyle #songdog <https://blog.nature.org/science/2019/02/13/the-howling-why-youre-hearing-coyotes-this-month/>

<https://www.facebook.com/BalconesCanyonlands/posts/2342698805741271>

- "Tails" of romance: listen to hummingbirds's distinctive tail sounds used to attract mates <insert revolving heart emoji> <https://www.audubon.org/news/hummingbirds-shake-their-tail-feathers-generate-high-pitched-sounds>

<https://www.facebook.com/BalconesCanyonlands/posts/2342696509074834>

- In 1995 Texas declared the nine-banded armadillo the official state small mammal, noting "...The armadillo possesses many remarkable and unique traits, some of which parallel the attributes that distinguish a true Texan, such as a deep respect and need for the land, the ability to change and adapt, and a fierce undying love for freedom."

And there's something else that makes the "little armored one" remarkable: it wasn't always so little. A relative of the Glyptodon, it once grew to the size of a VW Beetle <insert 'eek' emoji> <https://allthatsinteresting.com/glyptodon> #armadillo #spanish #LittleArmoredOne #armadillofact #glyptodon

<https://www.facebook.com/BalconesCanyonlands/posts/2243460312331788>

- The Year of the Bird is coming to end, but our feathery friends never go out of style. Bird surveys and counts help keep them in the spotlight. Christmas bird counts are happening throughout Central Texas now, and there are other opportunities to participate in a census year-round: <https://travisaudubon.org/get-outdoors/bird-counts-and-surveys> <insert image of bird, or share <https://www.audubon.org/conservation/where-have-all-birds-gone>>. #yearofthebird #ChristmasBirdCount #birds #birding

<https://www.facebook.com/BalconesCanyonlands/photos/a.968112436533255/2243444419000044/?type=3&theater>

- Texas trees that make you sneeze. Surprise! It's not cedar. <https://preservationtree.com/blog/trees-that-are-making-you-sneeze-in-texas> #cedarfever #mountaincedar

<https://www.facebook.com/BalconesCanyonlands/posts/2243452855665867>

- There's an "upside" to cedar fever. Wait what? You read that right: the endangered golden cheek warbler relies on the mountain cedar to build its nest. <https://hikesa.org/mountain-cedar-friend-or-foe/> #goldencheekedwarbler #mountaincedar #ashejuniper

<https://www.facebook.com/BalconesCanyonlands/posts/2243456375665515>

- Found throughout North America, including East Texas, this amazing mammal can glide through the air for up to 150 feet or more in a single swoop, hence its name "flying squirrel." And if that's not impressive enough, a recent discovery revealed that it glows pink! <https://www.nationalgeographic.com/animals/2019/01/flying-squirrels-fluorescent-secretly-glow-pink/>

<https://www.facebook.com/BalconesCanyonlands/posts/2326521357359016>

- Do you know what to do if you encounter a mountain lion? Hint: Don't run. <https://blog.nwf.org/2019/02/get-outside-and-enjoy-wildlife-from-a-distance/>

<https://www.facebook.com/BalconesCanyonlands/posts/2326541404023678>

- "A predator's bonanza" <insert "wow" emoji>
<https://blog.nature.org/science/2018/12/31/why-youre-seeing-more-hawks-at-your-birdfeeder/>

<https://www.facebook.com/BalconesCanyonlands/posts/2326547137356438>

- Ah, Spring is here! And with it comes the Golden Cheeked Warblers. Here's how to spot one. https://www.allaboutbirds.org/guide/Golden-cheeked_Warbler/id

<https://www.facebook.com/BalconesCanyonlands/posts/2366232680054550>

- Hummingbirds need fresh water too! Read these tips on how to make a hummer-friendly space. <https://www.thespruce.com/top-hummingbird-nectar-mistakes-385961>

<https://www.facebook.com/BalconesCanyonlands/posts/2366233580054460>

- <insert music notes>Bluebonnets, bluebonnets, with your coats so blue... <insert music notes>

Fun fact: Texas has five state flowers. And they're not all blue.

<https://www.southernliving.com/garden/flowers/state-flower-texas-bluebonnet>

<https://www.facebook.com/BalconesCanyonlands/posts/2366239443387207>

- The Alligator Gar, or "Gar Gator," is one of four known gar species that live in Texas. It can grow up to ten feet long and weigh up to 300 pounds! As frightening as this prehistoric fish looks, with its long gator-like snout and a mouth brimming with sharp protruding teeth, it is actually quite docile. The gar also helps to keep Texas' aquatic ecosystems healthy. Read more about this gentle giant, and learn how to spot one. <https://tpwd.texas.gov/fishboat/fish/management/alligator-gar/>

<https://www.facebook.com/BalconesCanyonlands/posts/2428878357123315>

- 2019 is the "Year of the Pig," which may take on new meaning for some Austin city residents. There's currently an estimated 2 million wild pigs roaming the state of Texas. These feral hogs can run up to 30 mph, can jump over 3 ft. fences, and are known to cause significant damage to croplands, pasturelands, and even urban gardens and greenscapes. Possibly due to urban sprawl and floods, Austin residents have recently been seeing more of them in their neighborhoods. <https://www.kut.org/post/austin-feral-hogs-may-be-closer-you-think>

<https://www.facebook.com/BalconesCanyonlands/posts/2428876557123495>