

PAINT FREDERICKSBURG TEXAS

A Guide for Plein Air Painters

By

Chuck Mauldin, Barbara Mauldin,
Edyth O'Neill, and Steve Talley

© S. Talley

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This project is the work of Fredericksburg painters:

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Steve Talley

*Thanks to Michael Chesley Johnson for leading the way
with his publication of Paint Sedona.*

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Willkommen!

Fredericksburg is the crown jewel of the Texas Hill Country. It is one of the most popular tourist destinations in the state, known for great scenery and a spectacular two-mile downtown historic district full of shops, restaurants, and galleries. A place where Texan hospitality and German traditions thrive, something special is going on almost every weekend. Check out www.visitfredericksburgtx.com for a wealth of information on everything Fredericksburg.

Fredericksburg is a flourishing art destination. People come here to view art, buy art, study art and also to make art, inspired by the picturesque Hill Country surroundings. Having so much to offer, it is no surprise that Fredericksburg is a destination for plein air painters, artists who paint outdoors from life.

This book seeks to fulfill the need to assemble a list of places – public places – for plein air artists to paint. The sites have been organized into two groups: those within the city and those further out in the rural areas. Maps on the next page show approximate locations. The farthest site is about 45 minutes from Fredericksburg; most are much closer.

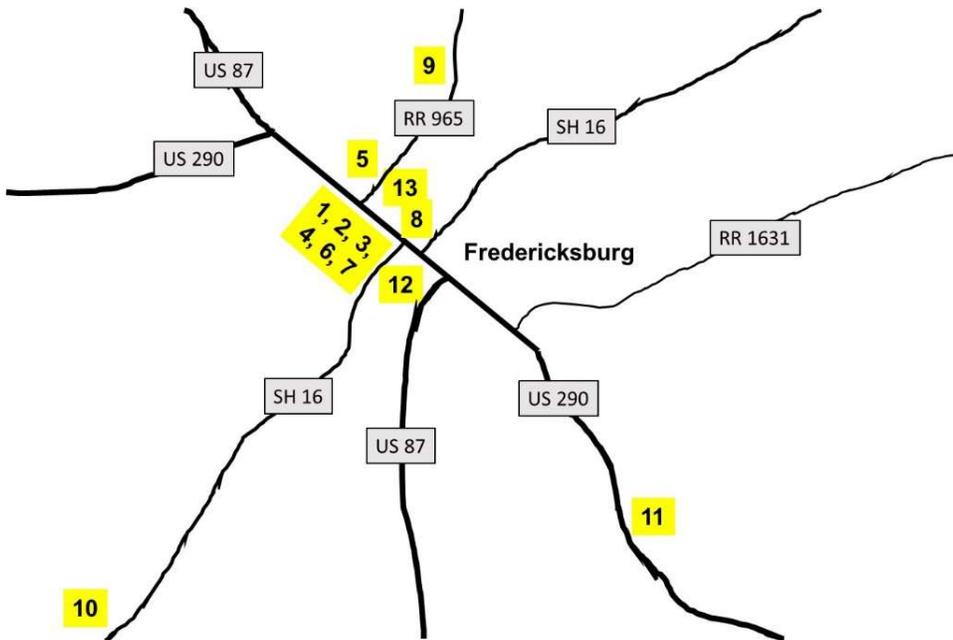
SOME LISTINGS SHOW A SUMMARY OF INFORMATION AT THE TOP OF THE PAGE, AS FOLLOWS:

- **Address** – just enter it into your smart phone to find the place. If you like maps, there are excellent ones available at the Visitor Center, 302 E. Austin St.
- **Features** – the major subject matter you will find there, such as landscape, buildings, river, etc.
- **Restroom** – this varies. Note that there are public restrooms in Fredericksburg. See page 4.
- **Accessibility** – a very-rough indication of how far from your vehicle you may need to go for a “good” painting spot (recognizing that “good” is in the eye of the painter!).
 - **Best** means you can paint from your car.
 - **Good** means you may need to walk a short distance.
 - **OK** means be ready to hike “a football field.” Note that only Enchanted Rock State Park offers the opportunity for significant hikes.
- **Hours** – check the internet to confirm these typical times.
- **Fee** – this varies, most are free.

DISCLAIMER

This book is designed to provide information on publically accessible places for plein air painters to go to paint and/or take photographs. The use of the information contained in this book shall be at the reader’s risk and solely at the discretion of the reader. The authors make no warranties, representations, or guarantees in connection with the information in this book. Under no circumstances are the authors liable for any costs, direct or incidental, or consequential damages resulting from any use or application of the information contained in this book.

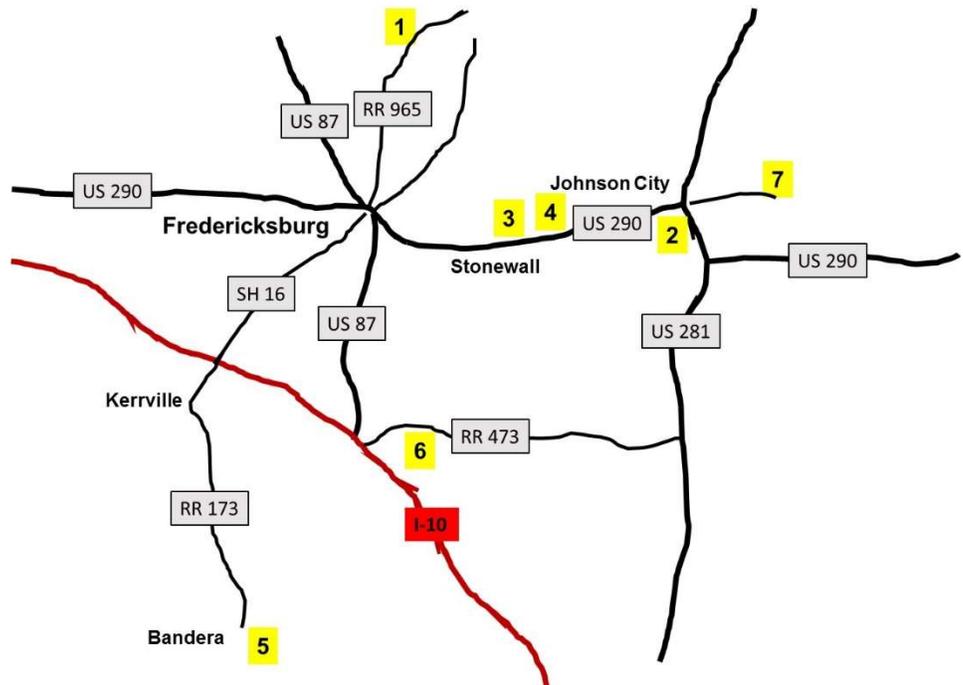
Locations Within the City



- 1 Episcopal Chapel
- 2 Frantzen Park
- 3 Pioneer Memorial Library
- 4 Adam Krieger Home
- 5 Peter Tatsch House
- 6 Old St. Mary's Church
- 7 Pioneer Museum
- 8 Marktplatz - Vereins Kirche
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Locations Beyond the City

- 1 Enchanted Rock Natural Area
- 2 Johnson Settlement
- 3 Stonewall Rest Area
- 4 Sauer-Beckmann Farm
- 5 Bandera City Park
- 6 James Kiehl River Bend Park
- 7 Pedernales Falls State Park



The Rural Way

Roughly 95% of all land in Texas is privately owned. Hence, as you travel around in the Hill Country, taking in all the sights that make the rural areas so scenic - those remarkable old German homesteads, the colorful wildflowers, the creeks, hillsides, and livestock – be aware that all that great property is off limits to artists, unless permission is granted by the landowner. Texans have earned a reputation as a very friendly bunch, but that does not apply to trespassers, regardless of their benevolent motives. And the landowner does not have to post a No Trespassing sign to mean it.

Moreover, be aware that even the county roads in Gillespie County are not as public as you might expect. The road bed itself is public, but many do not have the customary servitudes that would allow a vehicle to pull over and a painter to find room to set up (taking photos from the road is ok). Orange street signs indicate *private* roads.

Likewise, *navigable* waterways are state owned, meaning the water itself is public, but not the banks. Small creeks, well, you can guess the situation there.

So, plein air painters, try out the public areas described here. They are not that bad! And if you must paint on somebody's property, then by all means get their permission.



“Little Rock” Oil 11 x 14 : © Chuck Mauldin

One of Chuck Mauldin’s paintings from
Enchanted Rock State Park – a great place to go! (see page 26)

Art Supplies

In Fredericksburg

Biedermann's Ace Hardware
1102 E Main Street
830-997-7611

WalMart (very limited)
1435 E Main Street
830-997-2633

In Kerrville

Hometown Crafts
841 Junction Hwy
830-896-5944

Studio B inside Biedermann's Ace Hardware is stocking art supplies due to the number of artists in the area. They have an acceptable inventory and this continues to be a service in progress.

Hometown Crafts has a larger inventory. It is a 26 mile drive, one way, from downtown Fredericksburg to its location in Kerrville.

Public Restrooms

THERE ARE THREE PUBLIC RESTROOM SITES DOWNTOWN:

1. Marktplatz (intersection of Main and Adams) on the Adams Street side.
2. Visitor's Center at 302 E. Austin Street between Washington and Lincoln Streets.
3. Visitor's Center 325 W. Main in the Pioneer Museum complex. Corner of Main and Milam.

Painting in the City



"Frantzen Park" Oil 11 x 14: © Chuck Mauldin

Episcopal Chapel

601 West Creek Street

The former Walter family home, now the gateway to the St. Barnabas Episcopal Church campus, is one of the oldest buildings in Fredericksburg. The farm fields, barn, and log cabin are gone; but the house, more than 160 years old, remains, along with the well and grape arbor, where Peter and Anna Margarethe Walter placed them.

St. Barnabas has celebrated many milestones since a few Episcopalians in Fredericksburg began worshipping together in 1946. The first family, President Lyndon B. Johnson and his wife Lady Bird, and their two daughters, Lynda and Luci, attended services here when they were at the Texas White House in nearby Stonewall during the 1960's. Lady Bird loved St. Barnabas and she especially loved the little chapel.

When visiting and painting this site, be mindful that the tiny chapel building is open every day around the clock for individual prayer. Permission is not needed to park and paint from the street as long as you do not interfere with traffic. If you wish to paint from another view point you may ask at the church office for permission.



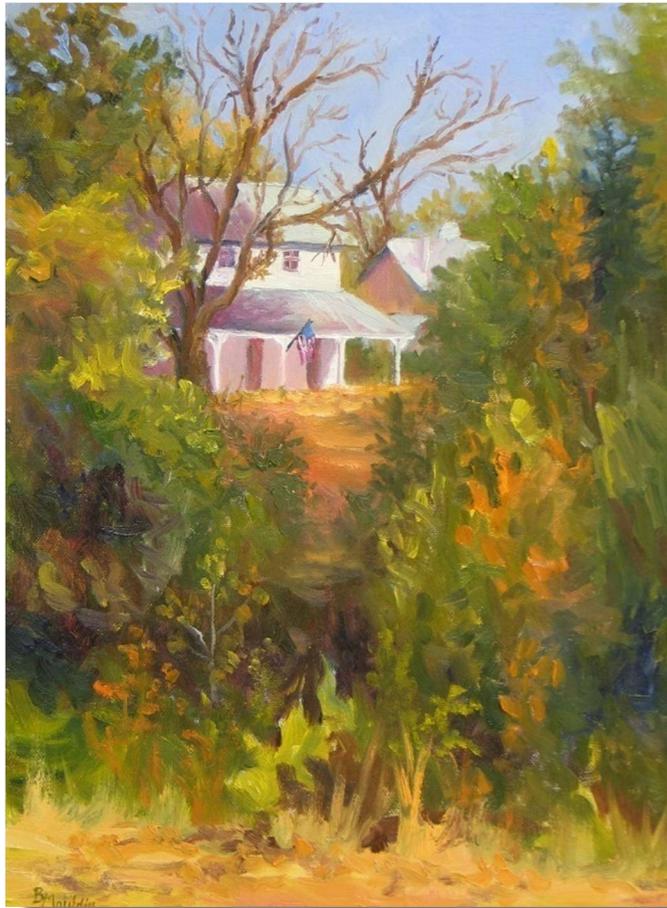
Episcopal Chapel in Afternoon Sun

Frantzen Park

Address: 400 South Orange Street
Features: Trees, creek, houses
Restroom: No
Accessibility: Best
Hours: 8 AM – 4:30 PM, 7 days
Fee: Free

This is a small, quiet park with picnic tables and mainly open, mowed ground. A discerning painter may find a painting based on the remaining large oaks or the high bank on the far side of the creek. There are also houses along the street that may inspire. Challenge yourself!

This park was originally named Orange Street Park. It was donated to the city by Alex and Laura Frantzen in 1956. There has been limited development in the park as it is in a flood plain.



“Frantzen Park” Oil 16 x 12: © Barbara Mauldin

Pioneer Memorial Library

115 West Main Street

Originally the Gillespie County Courthouse, this building was designed by noted architect Alfred Giles. Giles designed three structures within Fredericksburg, and a fourth structure at nearby Morris Ranch. When a new courthouse was built in 1939, the old courthouse became the Fredericksburg Memorial Library and was added to the National Register of Historic Places in 1971.

Morning sun shines on the front of the building and dapples the fountain on the grounds. There is usually ample parking and public restrooms are across the street in Marktplatz on the Adams Street side.



Pioneer Memorial Library

Adam Krieger Home

512 West Creek Street

The first part of this dwelling (on the left) was built in 1851 as the home of Adam and Eva Krieger. To this early one room section of traditional fachwerk were added three more rooms with rock walls in 1855 and 1862. The later ornamental trim dates to the Victorian era. Afternoon sun lights the front of the house.



Adam Krieger Home in Early Afternoon

Peter Tatsch House

210 North Bowie Street



Built of local stone by John Peter Tatsch in 1856, this is one of the most widely known historic homes in Fredericksburg. It is said that the fireplace could cook a whole side of beef. Morning light may be the best choice for this one.

Peter Tasch House - Front View



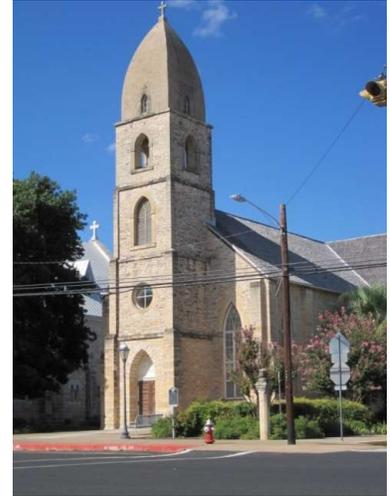
Peter Tasch House - Side View

Old St. Mary's Church...Marienkirche

302 West San Antonio Street

Construction of this church was begun in 1860 by the parishioners. The Catholic Church is built in cruciform, typical of early Christian churches. The twelve Gothic arched windows commemorate the twelve apostles. The afternoon sun lights the front of the church.

The dome is a striking subject silhouetted against an early evening sky. This chapel is used 24 hours a day, 7 days a week for prayer and adoration by church members and others religiously inclined. Please do not enter the interior of the chapel unless your intention is prayer and adoration.



Marienkirche

Pioneer Museum

Address: 325 West Main Street
Features: Architecture
Restroom: Yes
Accessibility: Good
Hours: Mon – Sat, 10am – 5pm
Fee: \$10

The Museum is owned and operated by the Gillespie County Historical Society. The complex contains 9 old buildings plus interesting exhibits and some audio kiosks. For a painter, the buildings show interesting shapes, angles, textures and roof lines. There are also pieces of old farm equipment and windmills and such on the grounds.



Walton-Smith Log Cabin



Kammlah Barn

Pioneer Museum



Kammlah Homestead
Front View



Addition to the
Kammlah Homestead



Kammlah Homestead
West Side



Kammlah Homestead
East Side



Fassel-Roeder House



Smokehouse

Marktplatz - Vereins Kirche

Location:	Across from the Courthouse and Pioneer Library, 100 West Main Street
Features:	Three large pavilions, large playground, open space with benches, and gardens with benches (on north side). Vereins Kirche.
Restrooms:	Yes. Located on the North Adams Street (east) side of the square
Accessibility:	Good. Handicap Accessible.
Hours:	None
Fee:	Free, unless there is a festival, limiting access to paying attendees.

Marktplatz (Market Square) has been at the center of Fredericksburg since the city's founding in 1846. The area was still heavily forested when the town's Vereins Kirche (People's Church) was built in the center of Main Street in 1847. The octagonal building served as a community church, meeting place, school, and refuge from possible Indian attacks.

The Vereins Kirche, demolished in 1897, was reconstructed at its present location (using a cornerstone from the original building) in Marktplatz in 1934-35 as a pioneer memorial, serving as the county's first museum and library. Interesting historical information and photographs are inside, if you have the time. Marktplatz has served as a gathering place for special community activities and has remained a focal point of the city of Fredericksburg.



The Vereins Kirche can be painted from the gardens on the Austin Street side of the square. Morning light is nice, and there is ample shade for the artist. In summer, crepe myrtles are in bloom as well as many flowering plants in the foreground. There is a water fountain next to the playground, as well as next to the restrooms.

Street parking is available on Austin Street (closest to the gardens), North Adams, and Main Street. Because Main Street parking is so precious, try the back side of Marktplatz first (Austin Street). It is quieter, there is less traffic, and parking places are usually available there.

"Vereins Kirche" Oil 8 x 6: © Barbara Mauldin

Cross Mountain

Address:	On North Milam (RR 965) a little over a mile from Main Street, you will make a left turn into Cross Mountain Park.
Features:	Landscape, vistas
Restroom:	No
Accessibility:	Good-OK
Hours:	7 days - daytime
Fee:	Free

Cross Mountain is a 16-acre park, consisting essentially of an historic marl and limestone hill with an elevation of 1951 feet. It was used as an Indian lookout prior to early settlers. In 1847 during the settling of Fredericksburg, a timber cross was found on the hilltop. Early Fredericksburg pioneers gave this hill the name "Kreuzberg" or Cross Mountain. In 1946 the permanent lighted cross was raised, which can be found at the end of the trail on top of the hill.



The hillside is rugged terrain – nothing mowed here! – with rocks, cactus, cedars and live oaks. Vistas, including the distant rooftops of town buildings, are an option for painting. It always seems windier on Cross Mountain than in town.



"Cross Mountain Trail" Oil 9 x 12 by Chuck Mauldin

Cross Mountain



The Peak of Cross Mountain



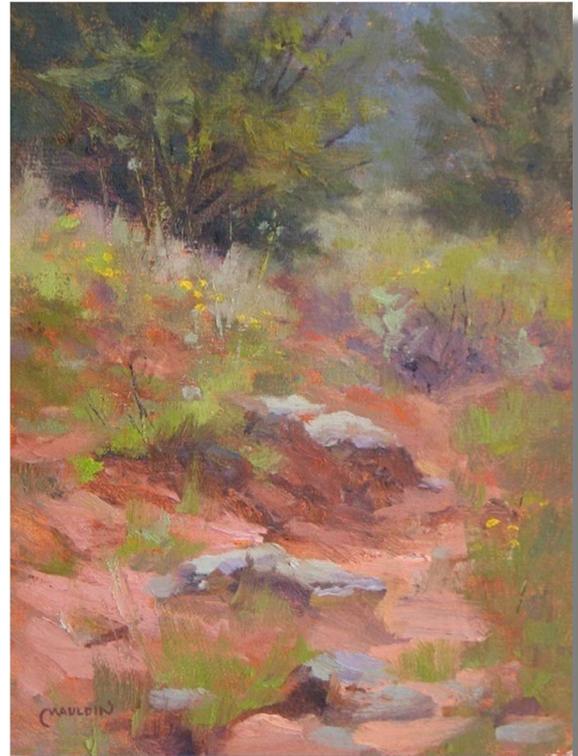
Looking North from a Lower Viewpoint on Cross Mountain

Lady Bird Park

Address: 3 miles south on Hwy 16 South
Features: Landscape, creek, and hungry ducks and geese
Restroom: Yes
Accessibility: Good-OK
Hours: 7AM to 10PM Daily
Fee: Free

This 150-acre park, whose full name is Lady Bird Johnson Municipal Park, is mainly known for its youth sports facilities, large picnic pavilions, and an RV park. The casual visitor may not notice the Nature Trail, which is the feature of most interest to the plein air painter. You will find the entrance to the trail on the left, immediately after driving through the stone entrance gate past the park headquarters building (no need to stop there).

Beautiful, large trees and Live Oak Creek offer subject matter that can be painted from or around the nearest, first pavilion. Those willing and able to hike the trail will find more rustic scenery, like cedars, live oaks, cactus, rocks, and red dirt. The trail officially starts nearer to the stone gate – follow the signs. The trail connects with the large concrete slab that is next to the pavilion, at the bottom near the creek. The trail also proceeds across the creek via a small bridge. Decent views of the creek and its tall bank are present along this part of the trail.



"Along the Nature Trail" Oil 12 x 9
© Chuck Mauldin

Lady Bird Park



Live Oak Creek



Creek Bank near Pavilion

Fort Martin Scott

Address: 1606 East Main Street
Features: Large Oak Trees, Historical Architecture
Restroom: Yes, at Texas Ranger Heritage Center Pavilion
Accessibility: OK
Hours: 9 AM to 5 PM, Closed Monday and Tuesday
Fee: Free (donation suggested)

Fort Martin Scott was established in the 1840's and was the first United States Army Post on the western frontier of Texas. It is owned and operated by the City of Fredericksburg. From downtown travel east on Main Street (Highway 290) about 2.5 miles. Turn left at Heritage Hills Drive into the parking lot of the Texas Ranger Heritage Center. Park on the left side near the Ranger Tower. From the parking lot you can walk to the fort entrance.

The fort consists of about 6 historical buildings and a dozen or so large oak trees and some wagons. The grounds are well kept and a docent volunteer is there Friday through Sunday. Although the hours are 9 AM to 5 PM, you may want to paint later or earlier in the day when shadows are longer. You can call the number on the web site (www.ftmartinsscott.org) and arrange for this but only at the convenience of the fort volunteer. Also, check the web site for events. Reenactments are occasionally held at the fort and offer a good opportunity for photos of re-enactors in period clothing. An entrance fee is usually charged on those days.

We do not recommend painting in the interior of any of the buildings as they are historical and any accidental paint spillage could be disastrous. Feel free to wander anywhere on the grounds and you are encouraged to make a donation where the volunteer is housed (at the guard house).

Parking Lot



Fort Entrance



The Guard House
Where You May Make a Donation

Fort Martin Scott



Behind the Guard House



View toward Main Street
from the Guard House, looking east



Looking Northwesterly



One of Six Historical Buildings

Train Depot

Corner of East Live Oak and Lincoln Streets

The first train ran here in 1913 after difficult track construction through rough terrain. The Fredericksburg and Northern Railway operated until 1942. The old depot still stands. A large sheltering tree provides quiet shadows for the venerable building.

A nearby rail car is an amiable companion for the depot. The permanently parked antique train car was built in 1894 by Pullman for the Quanah, Acme and Pacific railroad. Today, the interior appointments make the car a popular Bed and Breakfast. Theodore Roosevelt is said to have used this car on one of his trips to the 6666 Ranch in North Texas. The Four Sixes Ranch brand is iconic in Texas History.

This is private property, so paint from the street.



The Old Train Depot

West Schubert Street "Duck Crossing"

300 block of West Schubert between North Milam and North Orange



This spot on Town Creek is known to the locals as the "duck crossing". Immediately beside this low water crossing are several buildings often painted by Fredericksburg artists. This area is worthy of attention from several view points, but be aware it is subject to significant flooding after a rain. Turn around, don't drown.



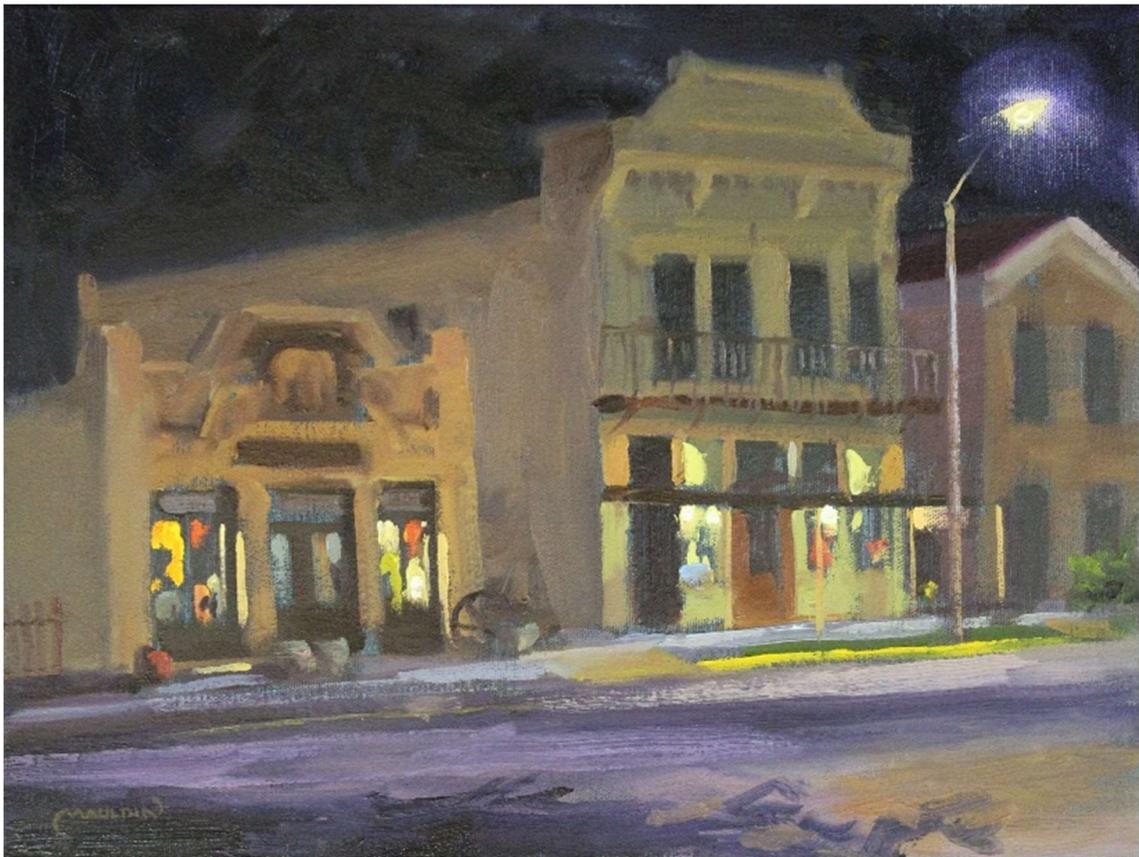
Looking East on Town Creek

West Schubert Street "Duck Crossing"



Main Street Nocturnes

Main Street in Fredericksburg is amazing! - the focal point for fun activities and memorable experiences. Bustling year round with tourists and locals – and, unfortunately, the accompanying road traffic – it is not the best place to paint during the day. However, night is a different matter! It can be a friendly place to paint those wonderful, historic buildings with interesting all-night lighting and without all the parked cars. The lit sidewalks enable painting in some light, without the need for a miner's light or other means typically used for nocturne painting. Cars are mostly gone, so you can paint right by your vehicle (and later brag about how you got a parking place on Main Street!) It's an especially good option in the middle of summer to avoid the brutal daytime heat, or for those stout folks who spent the day at the wineries and still have energy to paint.



“Night in Old Fredericksburg” Oil 12 x 16: © Chuck Mauldin

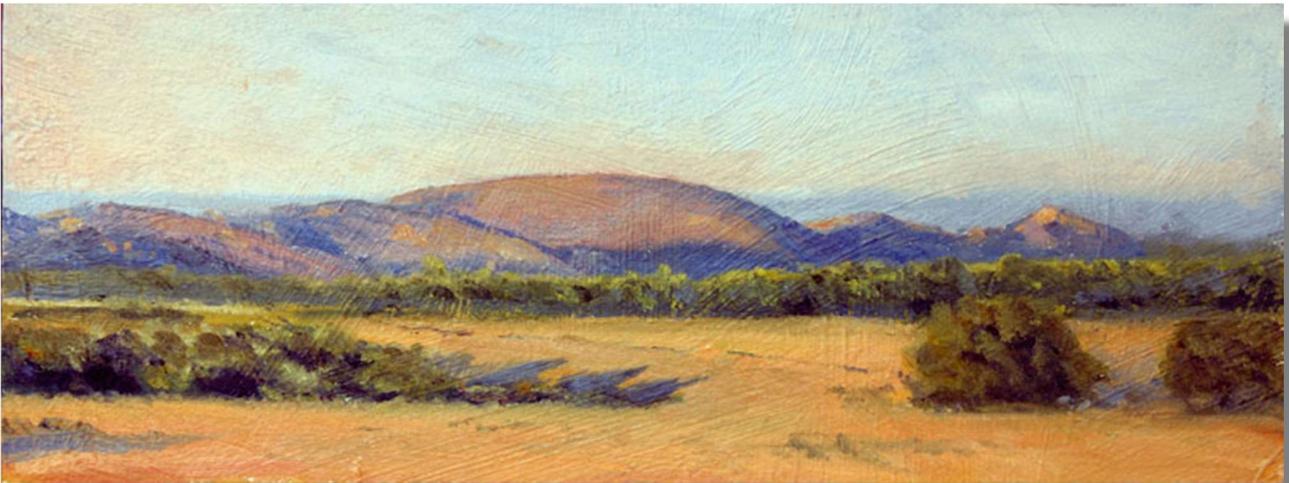
Painting Beyond the City



"Near Willow City" Oil 9 x 12: © C.S. Talley

Enchanted Rock Natural Area

Address: 16710 Ranch Rd. 965
Features: Granite Domes, Creek, Natural Flora
Restroom: Yes
Accessibility: Easy to Difficult
Hours: 8:30 am to 10:00 pm
Fee: \$7 Daily



"Enchanted Rock from the South" Oil 6 x 12: © C.S. Talley

Enchanted Rock State Natural Area (ERSNA) contains a wealth of natural subject matter for a plein air painter. The park has approximately 1,640 acres of land most of which you can access via a system of trails. This Natural Area actually warrants its own Plein Air Painter's Guide but for this publication only the highlights will be mentioned with suggestions of where to find more information.

Ranch Road 965 is the same as North Milam Street. Take Milam Street northbound. From the intersection of Main Street and Milam Street, ERSNA is about 16.7 miles. If you are visiting during the busy season (when the air temperatures are cooler) there is a brown sign with flashing lights just outside of the city on the road telling you if the park has reached its capacity and thus, closed. This saves you the drive just to find that you can't get into the park. So, go early and stay late during the busy season which is reported online to be September to May. However, we have often gone there mid-week on pleasant winter days and felt as if we were the only ones in the park. Be sure to take water and there are fountains to refill your bottles at the public restrooms.

First a word about what Enchanted Rock actually is. Geologically speaking, the park contains granite domes that have pushed their way up above ground level. There are five distinct "peaks", Enchanted Rock being the highest. The others are, Little Rock, Turkey Peak, Freshman Mountain, and Buzzard's Roost.

You can view the PDF maps provided by the Texas parks system [here](#) and [here](#). You can also do an internet search on "Enchanted Rock" and find links to these maps on the Texas parks website. The visitor center also has maps available in hardcopy format. Should you want to learn more about the park, the visitor center also sells books and publications.

Once you pay at the visitor center, drive to anywhere along the RED area to park. You can also park in the closer lot if the RED area is full. See the map excerpt below.



Anywhere in the area marked in RED one can find a place to paint with good views. The area is flat and easily accessible. At the northeast end of this area you will find a Gazebo. There and beyond are great views of Enchanted Rock and views westerly of Little Rock. If you have little time to explore and want to get down to painting it is this area we recommend. Morning, noon, or evening....you'll find something to paint.

Now, for those of you with more time you may want to explore some of the trails before hauling your gear. Branching out onto the trails will provide you with various views of the Rock and surrounding smaller domes. The easiest trail (and longest) is the LOOP TRAIL. Round trip is about 4 miles. It's fairly flat and wide with lots of great views. There are 3 primitive rest rooms along the Loop trail.

There are two other trails that pass between the various domes. Echo Canyon Trail is between Little Rock and Enchanted Rock. Turkey Pass Trail is between Enchanted Rock and Turkey Peak / Freshman Mountain. Both trails have steep and rugged spots. Turkey Pass Trail offers unique views of the eastern side of Enchanted Rock. The Summit Trail is a steep and clear path to the top of Enchanted Rock. Views from the tops of any of the domes are outstanding!

The peaks of Enchanted Rock, Little Rock, Freshman Mountain and Buzzard's Roost basically connect on a southwest to northeast line. View the PDF map and you'll see how the sun falls on the domes in both morning and evening light.

The steep side of Enchanted Rock faces north - northwest and is in shadow in the morning and illuminated by the afternoon sun. You can only see this side of the Rock by hiking a trail, not from the parking lot.

Sandy Creek is on the parking lot side of the Rock and offers very nice scenery with willow trees. As of September 2015, there is very little water in the creek, if any. Texas is in an extended drought. Nonetheless, the scenery from the creek bed is paint-worthy.

The landscape around Enchanted Rock is littered with various cactus and large and small boulders making for lots of opportunities to paint "a landscape still life."

Fall colors in the trees do happen, but the timing can be difficult to predict due to the changing weather patterns and our drought. The photo "Northwest side of Little Rock" was taken in late November 2014.

Enchanted Rock Natural Area



"Enchanted Rock - West End" Oil 8 x 10: © C.S. Talley



View from Hwy 965: Southerly Approach (no place to park - have a passenger take the photo!)
This is an Early Morning View

Enchanted Rock Natural Area



View of South Side of Enchanted Rock from the Gazebo : Morning View



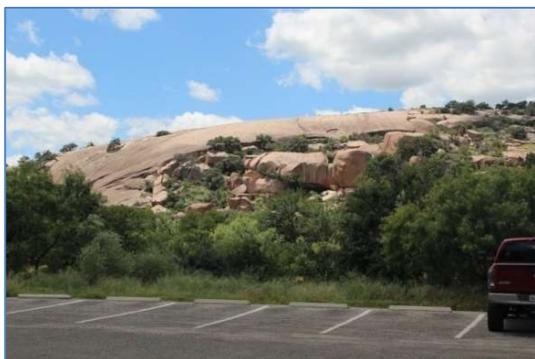
Sandy Creek When There Is Water



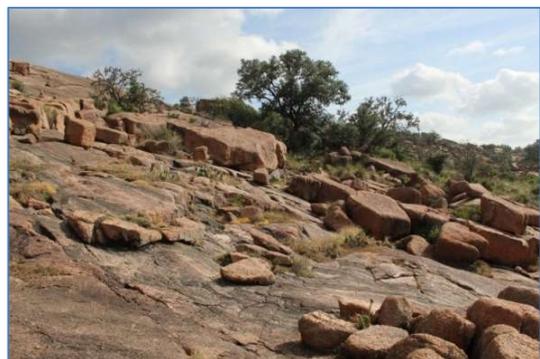
Various Cacti



Northwest Side of Little Rock
Long Hike Required

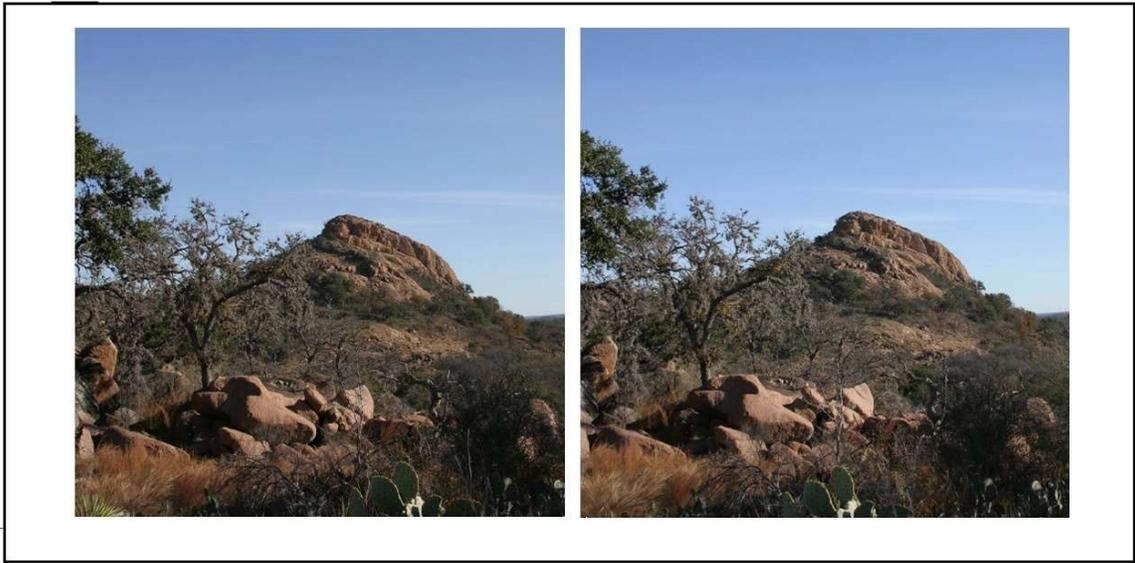


Little Rock from Parking Area



A Typical View While Hiking, A Relatively Short Distance from the Parking Lot.

Enchanted Rock Natural Area



A Stereo Photo of Turkey Peak
(search internet for "free-viewing 3D images")



Turkey Peak

Johnson Settlement

Address: Hwy 290, Johnson City, TX
Features: Historic farm buildings, Longhorns
Restroom: No. (available at the Visitor Center, 100 Ladybird Lane)
Accessibility: OK
Hours: Dawn to dusk, 7 days
Fee: Free

Johnson Settlement is a National Historic Park located in Johnson City, about 30 minutes from Fredericksburg. It is one of three LBJ National Park facilities within the city limits of Johnson City; the other two are the Visitor Center and his Boyhood Home (these are all connected via a long walking/biking trail). The final component of the National Park is the LBJ Ranch, which is located on Hwy 290 near Stonewall, north of the LBJ State Park – whew! Confused yet?

Entrance to Johnson Settlement is on the south side of Hwy 290 a few blocks west of the downtown traffic light (coming from Fredericksburg, you will come to the park before the light). The parking lot is along the highway, so you will need to walk in to get to the buildings.

Established in the mid - 1800's by Samuel Johnson, Sr., grandfather of President Lyndon B. Johnson, the property today consists of several original farm buildings, amid pastures grazed by Texas longhorn cattle. The buildings will likely be the main attraction for plein air painters: the rustic 1856 dog-trot cabin and the 1880 stone barns. The flat grounds are kept mowed.



“Johnson Settlement” Oil 6 x 8: © Chuck Mauldin

Johnson Settlement



Stonewall Rest Area

Address: Ranch Road 1, Stonewall, TX
Features: Landscape, river
Restroom: Yes
Accessibility: Best
Hours: 24/7
Fee: Free

The cool thing about this tiny roadside park, on the back road of Stonewall, is that it's surprisingly developed and nicely maintained – clean restrooms, pavilions with tables, and plenty of shade trees. So, what to paint? There are decent views of the Pedernales River, looking across, upstream, and downstream, although you may wish you could get closer (please don't cross the fence!). Also, don't miss taking a look at the other side of the road. The scenery there is rolling pastures with cows and distant barns. A quiet hideaway, with more potential than you might expect from a rest area.



“Pedernales at Stonewall” Oil 6 x 8: © Chuck Mauldin

To find it, take RR 1623 north from Hwy 290 in Stonewall, to the intersection with RR 1. Turn right onto RR 1 and go 0.3 miles to the rest area on the left.



Directly Across RR 1 - Late Evening

Stonewall Rest Area



Looking
East



Looking
West

Sauer-Beckmann Farm

Address: Hwy 290, east of Stonewall, TX
Features: Historic farm buildings, livestock
Restroom: Yes
Accessibility: OK
Hours: 8 AM – 4:30 PM, 7 days
Fee: Free (but consider donating if you like this place)

The Sauer-Beckmann Living History Farm is part of the LBJ State Park (not to be confused with the LBJ Ranch, which is a National Historic Park on the other side of the Pedernales River from the state park, accessed only by tour bus). The entrance to LBJ State Park is well marked, on the north side of Hwy 290, two miles east of Stonewall. Obtain a free permit from the



headquarters building before proceeding to the Living History farm. Once there, you will need to carry your gear in from the parking lot in order to set up around the buildings. If that's a problem, you can drop gear off along the road by the fence and paint from there.

The homestead is a living history farm, presented as it was in 1918. Interpreters wear period clothing, do the farm and household chores as they were done at that time, and conduct tours for the visitors. Painters will find farm houses and buildings, a

windmill and cistern, and a fantastic barn, along with sheep, milk cows, and plenty of chickens. And shade trees. It is a very friendly place to paint!

In addition to the farm itself, there is a creek running behind the farm (with trail) and a large picnic area at the end of the road. You might get views of the longhorns or bison herds from there.



"Blacksmith Cabin" Oil 6 x 8 by
Barbara Mauldin

Sauer-Beckman Farm



Main Barn



Blacksmith Cabin



Farm House

Bandera City Park

Address:	Hwy 173 at Maple Street, Bandera
Features:	Medina River access, noisy geese and ducks, cypress trees, some architecture
Restroom:	Yes. It is the unmarked building at the entrance.
Accessibility:	Best
Hours:	The park opens at 8AM and closes 30 minutes before sunset
Fees:	Weekday entry is free. From March through October, there are weekend entry fees (\$5.00 per person, age 12+). If it is a three-day weekend, weekend fees apply on the third day.

Bandera is a 45 minute drive from Fredericksburg, but there are plenty of photo ops as you make the trip – it is classic Hill Country landscape. The small town of Bandera has a western/cowboy flavor, with western storefronts and several restaurants. It is the county seat, so there is a nice courthouse you might want to paint.

Bandera City Park is 77 acres of woods and open areas nestled on the Medina River. If you approach Bandera from Kerrville or Comfort on Hwy 173, turn left at the first traffic light in Bandera. City Park is on the right at the edge of town, immediately before you cross the Medina River Bridge. The park allows you exceptional access to the cypress-lined river. There are lots of options for you: landscape of the river, tree portraits, meandering paths, landscapes with architecture ...there is something for everyone!

There are numerous picnic tables and two pavilions. Follow the road through the park to find your favorite area. You can set up next to your car or at a nearby picnic table. You can also hike a few yards to find a great spot along the river. From the pavilions you can paint some old houses nestled among trees across the street from the park. On summer holidays, you will share the park with families who come for swimming and outdoor cookouts. The stately cypress trees along the banks turn a fiery orange/red in the fall.



“Medina River” Oil 11 x 14: © Barbara Mauldin

Bandera City Park



James Kiehl River Bend Park

Address: 118 River Bend Road, Comfort, TX
Features: Landscape, river
Restroom: Yes. Permanent port-a-potties
Accessibility: Good; hiking available but not required
Hours: 7 AM to dusk, 7 days
Fee: Free

James Kiehl River Bend Park is a very nice, 25-acre park near Comfort that many folks do not know about. It offers a variety of grassland, woodland, and riparian habitats.

There are several connecting trails (1.5 total miles), with occasional benches. The Pecan Loop passes under native pecans, mesquites, and cedar elms, and follows over 500 feet of historic San Antonio and Aransas Pass (SA&AP) rail bed. The Prairie Trail winds through the recovering prairie and the River Loop leads down to the lower terrace and along the Guadalupe River where awesome bald cypress trees shade the path.

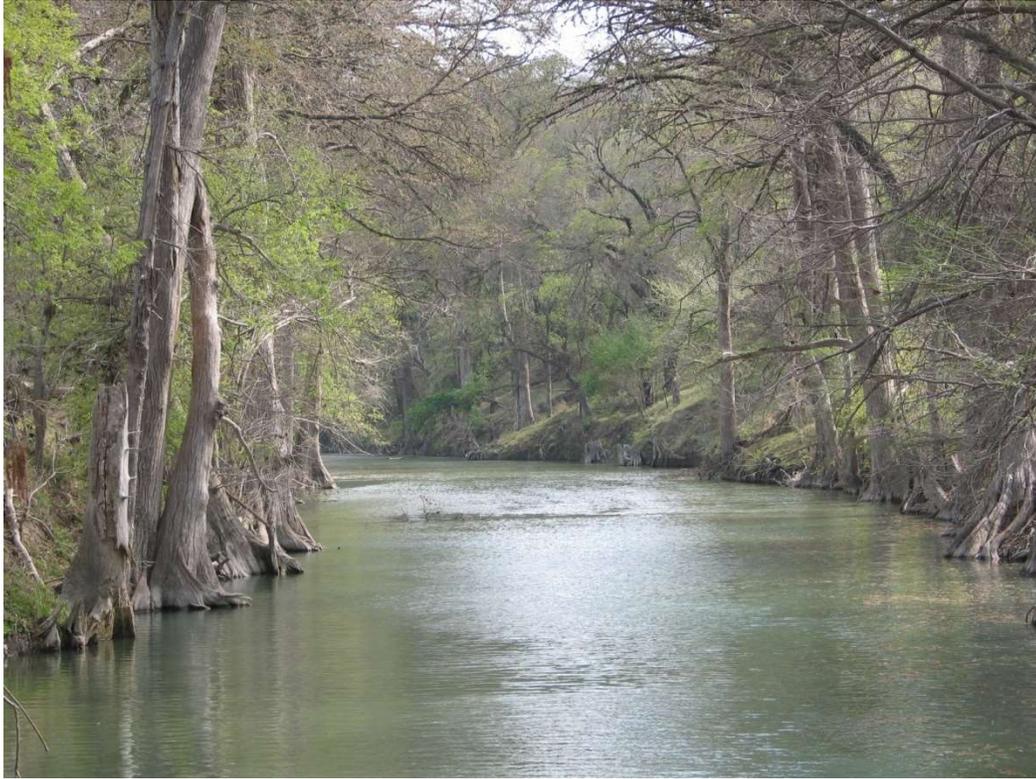
The park commemorates Army Spc. James Kiehl and Kendall County servicemen and women. James' story, benches and picnic tables are under the shade of native pecan trees. This area is ADA approved, including an accessible picnic table.

While not on park property, there is a neighboring scenic farm house that can be painted from the parking lot.



“River Bend Gate” Oil 9 x 12 by Chuck Mauldin

James Kiehl River Bend Park



View from the Bridge (Photo Opportunity Only)



View from the Park

Pedernales Falls State Park

Address: 2585 Park Road 6026, Johnson City, TX
Features: Landscape, river, waterfalls, large rock formations
Restroom: Yes
Accessibility: OK; hiking available
Hours: Office 8 am to 5pm, 7 days - day use until 10 pm
Fee: \$6 per person per day

Pedernales Falls is approximately 40 miles from Fredericksburg and is included here because of its public access and unique waterfalls. Drive east on Highway 290 (Main Street) to Johnson City (about 30 miles). At the intersection of Highway 281 turn right (south). In about 0.2 mile watch for a sign pointing left (east) directing you to Pedernales Falls. Turn left onto Farm to Market (FM) Road 2766 (also called Robinson Road) and proceed about 9 miles to the park entrance on the left side of the road. The visitor center is about a mile or two from the entrance. At the visitor center there is a view of the surrounding hill tops and valleys that may interest some painters.

The main attraction, of course, is the Falls. There are many trails and you can obtain a PDF map of the park roads and trails [here](#). To access the falls drive to the Pedernales Falls Trail System area which is the dead end of Park Road 6026. There is a parking area with a restroom at the end of the road. You must walk a wide trail for about 5 minutes before reaching the Falls. There are two viewing stations with steps leading down to the river when you can get up close and personal with the Falls and its geology. As of September 2015, there is very little water in the river due to an extended drought. However, the rocks which constitute the "falls" are a worthy subject.



"Pedernales Falls" Oil 6 x 8: © Chuck Mauldin

There are two other areas of interest: the "Swimming Area Trail" and the "Trammell's Crossing Trail". You can access the river at these locations which are downstream from the main falls. In these locations you will find bluffs.

The Spanish word "pedernal" means "flint" in English. The locals have a quirky way of pronouncing "pedernales".....it sounds something like.... perd-en-now-les.....but say it quickly. So, join the crowd....you'll sound local.

Pedernales Falls State Park

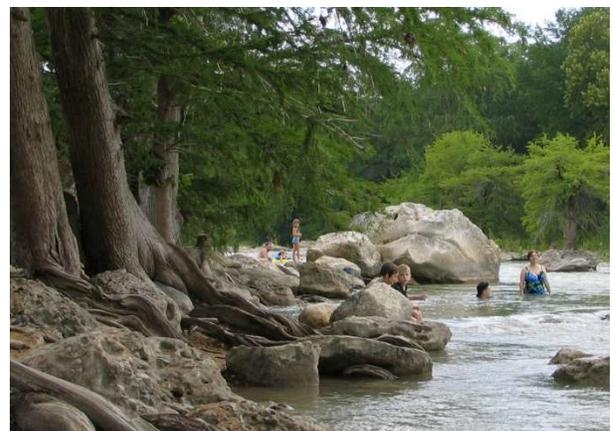


Wider View of the Falls

Here is a very rare view of the Pedernales River at flood stage. This is how the falls were created and how the rocks were sculpted and polished. Don't paint during flash flood warnings!



Downstream from the Falls



River at the Swimming Area Trail

Beyond Painting: Photo Opportunities



"Bluebonnets near Fredericksburg" Oil 9 x 12: © Edyth O'Neill

Want Some Reference Photos?

Here are some favorite country roads and highways that have landscape and/or architecture you might want to photograph. The Visitors' Center has a Gillespie County map that can help with these and other ideas for exploring. (Artwork in this chapter by Barbara Mauldin).

Loudon Road

Loudon Road is a scenic road that runs through ranches. It is located about 3.3 miles west of town off US 290 (toward Harper) – the paved road on the right immediately after the Live Oak Creek Bridge. It follows Live Oak Creek and Pecan Creek, and has numerous low water crossings. Exercise caution following heavy rainfall, and remember that the wet concrete surfaces can be slippery. Along this road you will find small groups of cattle, barns and ranch houses, windmills, bluffs along the creeks, hillsides, farm equipment, and the usual cacti and live oaks.



All the land along this road is private property, so you can't stop and paint without permission from the landowner. However, you can take photos. Much of the land is unfenced along the road, so be watchful for loose livestock.

Loudon Road was artist/illustrator John McClusky's favorite place to paint plein air. McClusky was a great teacher and encourager of young local artists years ago. In fact, he loved the road so much he had his ashes scattered along it after his death in 1994.

Loudon Road dead ends onto Pecan Creek Road. To return to Fredericksburg, turn right on Pecan Creek Road, and continue until you come to a T intersection with Old Mason Road. You can turn left and quickly come to Hwy 87 (then turn right on 87) or you can turn right and take the slower route. Near the end of this route, there are a few old homesteads, barns, and hayfields. Old Mason will dead end into Hwy 87; turn right to return to town.

US 290 West



There are several homesteads and barns, as well as herds of cattle, goats, and sheep along this major 4-lane highway. Many of the structures are located at the foot of a distant hill. Cars fly by at 70 mph, so be cautious as you pull over to take photos. Try to go in the early evening to get the golden glow. You can also see some spectacular sunsets out here!

Willow City Loop



This scenic paved road is well known for its vistas and spring wildflowers. You can reach it by heading north on Highway 16 (Llano St.). Proceed 13.3 miles, turn right on RR 1323; continue 2.8 miles to Willow City, turn left onto Willow City Loop. The Loop is about 13 miles long. All the land along the Loop is privately owned. Please, be respectful of landowners along the Loop and do not block their driveways, or drive, walk or sit in their meadows. You will have to be careful where you stop to take photographs; there are no shoulders. Occasionally there is a pullout.

As you drive along the Loop you will soon encounter rugged landscape with cliffs, meandering streams and panoramic views of distant hills. The landscape is beautiful year round, but it is stunning during the spring wildflower season – when the pastures and creek banks abound with bluebonnets, Indian paintbrush, white poppies and more! There are outcroppings of granite, cactus, mesquite, and live oaks. During the spring wildflower season the two-lane road is quite crowded on the weekends.

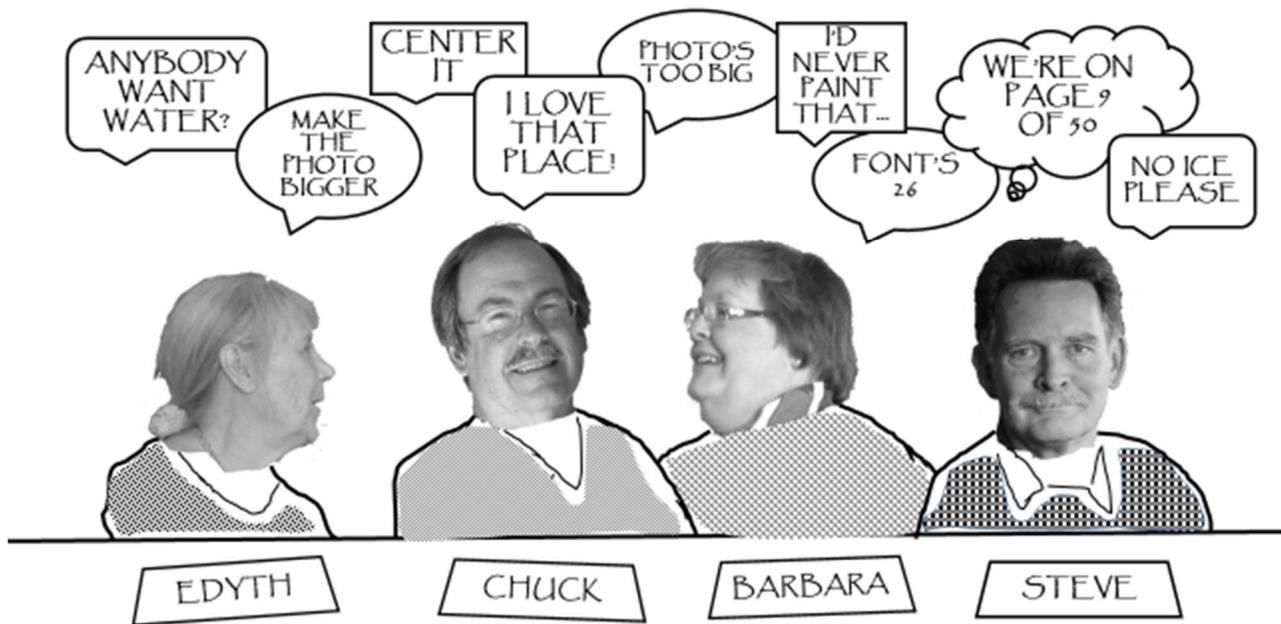
US Highway 87

Highway 87 South between Comfort and Fredericksburg has some landscape opportunities. The road varies between 2 and 4 lanes. There are shoulders. But they aren't always wide; the speed limit along this road is 70mph, so be careful. There is a roadside park beside Bear Creek that has possibilities.

If you go north on Hwy 87 toward Mason, you will pass through a lot of ranch land. There are some buildings (homes, barns) that show promise. In the spring there can be an abundance of wildflowers, though that depends on rainfall. You also cross the Llano River as you near the city of Mason. It is a wide river bottom with numerous meandering channels (all shallow) and can be accessed via a small boat ramp. Some small trees are scattered here and there along the bank.



About the Authors



"The Editing Session"

About the Authors

Edyth O'Neill

Now retired after more than forty years working in art related fields, Edyth O'Neill is enjoying the opportunity to paint in her native state of Texas as well as in New England as often as she can. Her favorite subjects are old houses and sailing vessels. Besides painting in her home studio, Edyth enjoys painting from the front seat of her minivan and carries a packed pochade box and a camera with her almost always. She has studied with Chuck Mauldin, Ron Rencher, Kay Franklin, Marion Loucks and others.

Chuck Mauldin

After a wonderful career as a chemist with Exxon, Chuck Mauldin returned to Texas in order to pursue his passion for art on a full-time basis. He is inspired by light falling on anything and strives to capture color and mood with a realistic yet painterly style. Workshops with Charles Sovek, Kevin Macpherson, George Strickland, Ted Goerschner, and others have played a significant role in his development as an artist. He has achieved Signature membership status in the Louisiana Watercolor Society and the Plein Air Artists of Colorado and is represented by Fredericksburg Art Gallery.

Barbara Mauldin

Barbara and her husband Chuck moved to Fredericksburg in 2005 after many years in Louisiana. Soon afterward she began painting seriously. Barbara focuses her attention on the Texas landscape. She enjoys plein air work, accepting the challenges of color, design, and the environment (critters and weather). Texas abounds with variety and inspiration; there is always another painting just around the corner! Barbara has studied with Kevin Macpherson, Ian Roberts, Jill Carver, and (of course!) Chuck Mauldin. She is represented by Fredericksburg Art Gallery.

C.S. (Steve) Talley

A resident of Fredericksburg since 2002 and a painter since 1989 Steve paints plein air throughout the western U.S. and Canada. He enjoyed careers in astronomy and software programming prior to retiring and becoming a full-time painter. He has studied with Ron Rencher, John Budicin, Foster Caddell, Marc Hanson, Kathryn Stats, Matt Smith and others. He is a member of the Oil Painters of America and his work is represented at Fredericksburg Art Gallery and ECHO, in Johnson City, Texas.