

# Bluebonnet Times

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*Written by Marty Pearson*

The Froggy Fall Festival and Luau started off with a welcoming ALOHA on Thursday, Nov. 15<sup>th</sup>. **“WELCOME”** Aloha Frogs on shepherd hooks were there to greet members as they entered the Clubroom where there were shells, frogs in their Hawaiian attire, and tropical flowers on the tables, fish nets on the walls, palm trees waving and a totem pole greeting guests. Thursday afternoon found the BBT's heading to Ron & Sally Clyburn's beautiful lake home 12 miles from the KOA for a Wine Tasting. Everyone brought a bottle of wine or favorite beverage to share. The view of the lake was lovely. Sally and Ron's "Special Friend" made beautifully-arranged cheese trays and dips in addition to the appetizers the hosts provided to make grazing a pure pleasure. Thank you "Special Friend" for the wonderful food. About 4:30 pm we went back to the park to prepare for dinner at the FARM HOUSE ON THE LAKE Restaurant located on the KOA's property. The food was delicious, and we had a great time. Alma Ellerbrock, Virginia Livingston and Alan Rochford went to the CRAFTY VILLAGERS PAINTING PARTY right after dinner which was being held in Onalaska where they each painted a delightful snowman with a jaunty Top Hat and Scarf. Each painting was a MASTERPIECE.

Friday morning, we caravanned to AUNIQUE RANCH in New Waverly, owned by Jeanne Schlenk and her son Ryan to learn about the beautiful Gypsy Horses she breeds. Gypsy Horses were developed hundreds of years ago by cross-breeding the Clydesdale, the Shire, the Fells Pony and the Dales Pony with their origins in the UK and Ireland. These horses are known for an abundance of hair and "feather" (hair that flows down on their legs and over the hooves) and very long manes and tails. The first registered horses were imported to the US in 1996. They are known for their sweet and loving nature. More than 60 of America's Gypsy Horse Champions reside at AUNIQUE RANCH. It was our pleasure to be able to watch these beautiful creatures in a natural setting where we were totally surprised and delighted when the mares and fillies were turned out in the pasture with us. We were able to get out of the wagons and experience them really "up close and personal". We were surrounded by soft muzzles nibbling at our clothes and investigating what we were doing. They are amazing. Jeanne told us about the history and parentage of many of them. We found out that their treat of choice is peppermint. We were all digging around in our pockets and purses to see if we had more special Treats for these gentle giants. They may have even been given a breath mint or two... Just sayin'.

We had 2 special guests that accompanied us on our Ranch Tour. Popper, the miniature goat, and Ranger the Ranch dog. Popper was the star of the show and was raised by Jeanne's son, Ryan. Popper truly believes he is one of the children. He made himself at home sitting in the chairs on the wagons and visiting with all of us. We also met "The Girls". Four Turkey Hens raised on the Ranch. Ranger's job is to board whatever Jeanne is driving and take care of her. We visited the Stallion paddocks and the pens where the mares in foal are kept until their due date.

The group we saw are all due in February. We enjoyed our special time with these amazing animals but it was time to head back to the main barn to go into Huntsville for Lunch at the City Hall Café. After a wonderful lunch everyone had the rest of the day free. Dessert and games were scheduled back at the Club House later.

Saturday morning, we met at the Clubroom for a Continental Breakfast. The Business Meeting got underway with our new President, Tim Bradbury, new VP, Ron Clyburn and new Secretary, Tricia Bradbury. After the meeting many members went into Livingston to Trade Days and other interesting points of interest. Saturday evening the Froggy Fall Luau commenced. The entrees were Pork Loin, provided by Pearson and Pearson and Fried Turkey provided by "Ye ole Turkey Fryer", Mike Ellerbrock and beautiful assistant, Ms. Alma Ellerbrock. The side dishes brought by members were stupendous.

It was also the special occasion of Bobby Pearson's 80<sup>th</sup> Birthday. Bobby's daughter, Melissa and husband Kris along with Granddaughters Paige and Klia came to join the celebration with a surprise visit from son, Randy and wife Cherie' from Colorado Springs. We also had BBT Guests Roy and Nancy Joost and Ken and Deb Long join us for dinner.

It was a scrumptious meal and the close to a wonderful campout and a fantastic FROGGY FALL FESTIVAL...



**Aunique Ranch – Gypsy Horses**  
New Waverly, TX

