

SPONSOR: This event is sponsored by the Selma Pathfinders, AVA 088, TX 026, a volkssport club promoting physical fitness and fun in a beautiful natural setting.

SANCTION: The event is sanctioned by the American Volkssport Association (AVA), a member of the International Federation of Popular Sports (IVV). The event counts toward acquisition of IVV Achievement Awards. Participants are reminded to bring their books. Participation insert cards will be available if you need books.

LOCATION: HCR 1, Box 156 Vanderpool, Texas. The start/finish point is at the Ranger Station located inside the gates of Lost Maples State Natural Area. After registering, there is a short drive to the picnic area to begin the walk. Lost Maples State Natural Area is on FM 187 5 miles north of Vanderpool, Texas. **From San Antonio**, go northwest on Hwy 16 to Bandera then Medina, west on FM 337 to FM 187, then turn right (north) and go 5 miles to the park on the left. **From Kerrville**, take Hwy 27 to Ingram, Hwy 39 through Hunt, then west of Hunt, turn left onto FM 187 and follow it to the park. Lost Maples will be on the right side of the road. (It is 48 miles from Kerrville to the park).

EVENT TIME: You may begin the event anytime between sunrise and 3 hours before sunset. The start/finish point is open from 8 A.M. until 5 P.M., January and February. During March through December, the start/finish point is open until 8 P.M. on weekends. **The park may be closed on some weekdays during the month of January for hunting. Access may also be limited during the turning of the leaves in the fall, due to the popularity of the park. Please call before proceeding to the park, (830) 966-3413.** This event is not closed however for inclement weather, so please prepare properly. If in doubt, consult with the park ranger.

REGISTRATION FEES & AWARD: There is no "A" award. The "B" awards are four patches, each depicting a scene during the four seasons and a 2½-inch-diameter patch, all fitting together to form a larger patch. The circular patch is a falling maple leaf in the changing colors of the seasons. The 5 patches can be used alone or fitted together. **All are available, but some are in limited supply.** The fee is \$3.00 for all participants. The fee is \$5.00 for credit plus one "B" award. Awards from other walks are \$2.50 each. There are no refunds after you begin the events. We encourage you to participate in the awards program to support this events.

TRAIL: The trail, following park roads and nature trails through the park, is somewhat rocky, but there is very little change in elevation. The trail rating is 2. An optional route using primitive trails with hilly terrain and significant elevation change is available and leads to several scenic overlooks. It is rated 4+. Although the optional trail is rugged, it is well worth the effort. Neither trail is suitable for strollers or wheelchairs. **Bring your walking stick and carry water! And remember, Texas weather can change quickly; so dress appropriately.**

REFRESHMENTS: Water and restrooms are available at the Ranger Station and at the picnic area. Only restrooms are available along the trail and near the checkpoints. You must carry your own water.

DISCLAIMER: The Selma Pathfinders, Texas Parks and Wildlife, and Lost Maples State Natural Area cannot be held responsible for any lost or stolen items, accidents or injuries. Reasonable effort has been made to make this event safe and enjoyable.

ELIGIBILITY: Everyone is welcome. Children under age 12 must be accompanied by an adult. Everyone must carry a start card. You may walk, jog, or run the trail at your own pace. Pets are welcome on the trail, but they must be kept on a leash.

An entrance fee of \$5 per adult will be charged for each person not having a Texas Parkland Passport or a Conservation Pass. Persons age 12 and under may enter at no charge. During October and November, fees are \$6 per person, but during Lone Star Legacy weekend, entry is free-of-charge. Fees are subject to change.

LODGING: Vehicle and primitive camping is available at the state park, 512-589-8900. And there may be lodging at: Fox Fire Cabins, 830-966-2200; Little Creek Lodge B&B, 830-966-3765; Utopia on the River, 830-966-2444; Tubbs Heritage House B&B, 830-966-3510; Bluebird Hills B&B, 830-966-2320; Cypress Lodge Motel, 830-966-3441; and Texas Stagecoach Inn, 830-966-6272. Call first.

FOR MORE INFORMATION:

Phyllis Eagan, P.O. Box 700946, SA, TX 78232 210-496-1402
Rose Foerster, 11913 Flametree Cove, San Antonio, TX 78213 . . 210-349-0338
Lost Maples Park, HCR 5, Box 301, Vanderpool, Texas 830-966-3413

ABOUT LOST MAPLES STATE NATURAL AREA:

Lost Maples State Natural Area covers 2174.2 scenic acres in Bandera and Real Counties, north of Vanderpool on the Sabinal River. Acquired by purchase from private owners in 1973-1974, the site was opened to the public on September 1, 1979. The annual visitation is approximately 200,000 visitors.

Archaeological evidence shows that this area was used by prehistoric peoples at various times. In historic times, which began with Spanish exploration and colonization efforts in the late 17th century, the Apache, Lipan Apache, and Comanche Indians ranged over the land and posed a threat to settlement well into the 19th century.

The park is an outstanding example of Edwards Plateau flora and fauna. It is a combination of steep, rugged limestone canyons, springs, plateau grasslands, wooded slopes, and clear streams. It features a large, isolated stand of uncommon Uvalde bigtooth maples, whose fall foliage can be spectacular. Generally, the foliage changes the last two weeks of October through the first two weeks of November. The park is extremely popular during the fall and is often crowded. Parking is limited to 250 cars, so for maximum enjoyment and serenity, we suggest visitors schedule trips during the weekdays, if possible.

Rare species of birds, such as the green kingfisher, can be seen year-round. The endangered black-capped vireo and golden-cheeked warbler nest and feed in the park in spring and early summer. Wild animals include gray fox, white-tailed deer, armadillo, raccoon, bobcat, rock squirrel, and javelina.

Elevation ranges from 1800 to 2250 feet.

Facilities provided include restrooms with showers, picnic sites, primitive camping areas, a comfort station, campsites with water and electricity, and a trailer dump station.

—from http://www.tpwd.state.tx.us/spdest/findadest/parks/lost_maples