



NEWSLETTER

MAY 2026

Geocaching News Around Texas



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2026 Challenge Survey Results

Thanks to everyone who
participated in our Texas
Challenge survey. We
appreciate the feedback!

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25 Years of Texas Challenge

More caches for the
commemorative 25 Years of
TXGA's Texas Challenge have
gone live. See the updated list
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MISSION STATEMENT

The Texas Geocaching Association (TXGA) is a volunteer organization. We strive to be the foremost advocate for Geocaching in Texas and to promote the family-oriented activity of geocaching through a central website, social media, workshops, events and information displays, while encouraging responsible stewardship of public lands. TXGA is committed to celebrating the diversity of our membership in all regions of Texas and beyond. From finders to hidiers, veteran to novice geocachers, our differences allow us to serve and support each other while building a dynamic geocaching environment in Texas and the greater community.

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South

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Southeast

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Alicia Mullins

(BigDaddy_BabyDoll)

Become a Member!

[Click here to join](#)

Story Board

Paul Nagel (txgo4fan)

This month's Story Board comes to you, courtesy of one of our newest inductees to the TXGA Hall of Fame, txgo4fan.



*Pictured with txgo4fan:
navystud, Team_Red_J, TXBumbleBee and Manofsteel73*

The first Earth Day, celebrated in 1970, took place after some notable environmental disasters. One such disaster was the Cuyahoga River catching on fire on June 22, 1969, in Cleveland, Ohio, from a factory allowing chemicals to leak into the river. A man tossed a cigarette butt into the river, and it started a fire on the surface of the water. The fire lasted only 30 minutes but helped spur the environmental movement. Because of this fire, President Richard Nixon created the Environmental Protection Agency, which started Earth Day. It also led to the U.S. Congress passing the Clean Water Act in 1972. Geocaching allows us to do a small part in keeping the environment clean with a CITO. Geocachers should consider CITO's important events as it provides an organized way to help clean the environment as well as protect wildlife.

I started doing CITO's in 2017, as Buddy598 often would ask why people would throw their trash out the windows while we were Geocaching.

Since that first CITO, we've been holding a monthly CITO for over 10 years. This also supports geocaching in the greater Houston area while cleaning up various parks where people just throw the trash on the ground instead of putting it in a garbage can.

Cacher of the Month Southeast Texas

TXGA: Tell us a little about yourself.

CTG: Howdy! My name is Dylan, but you might know me as CoolTurtleGamer or CTG. I'm 17 years old. I live just south of Katy, Texas, where I've decorated the map with what is soon to be over 750 active hides.

TXGA: How did you get started caching?

CTG: I was originally introduced to geocaching when I was a young Cub Scout. The game crossed my mind on a random day in August of 2021 when I was 12 years old, and COVID was still keeping a lot of us indoors. With a little help from my mom and a bicycle, I racked up 7 finds before noticing a red dot on my map just down the road from me. I somehow convinced my mom to go meet a bunch of internet strangers for dinner, and their warm welcome had me hooked!

TXGA: How did you come up with your caching name?

CTG: When I was nine years old, I got my mom to set up a Gmail account for me so I could write on Google Docs. Somehow, we settled on "thecoolturtle," which eventually translated into "CoolTurtleGamer," which I used as my username in online video games. I can't say I've always been proud of the name, but I've learned to embrace the turtle!

TXGA: What do you most enjoy about geocaching?

CTG: Nothing is more amazing than the people I've met through the game. I keep meeting the most fascinating, talented, and creative cachers. Despite almost always being the youngest person in the room, I've made great friends through the game. I've never laughed so hard and often as I have while caching with RamseyWarrior over the last few years.

TXGA: What are some highlights of your geocaching career so far?

CTG: On March 4th, I finished the Texas County Challenge, which is easily the accomplishment I'm most proud of. Almost all of the county trips were with my mom, and it's created some great memories and brought us closer together. I've also really enjoyed competing with SETX in the Texas Challenge the past few years. This was my first year as captain, and it was a lot of fun to lead such an awesome group of people.

TXGA: What else would you like to share?

CTG: Thank you so much to everyone who has given me any support or recognition, and to those who have made me feel welcome since day one. Thank you to my mom, who has kept me safe while managing to support me through many of the absurd challenges and experiences this game has to offer. Go SETX!



Cache of the Month

South Texas

As one of the lucky recipients of the 2026-2027 Virtual Rewards, thewildroseoftexas submitted this cache and it was quickly published. One can enjoy a nice walk or bike ride along a newly installed extension of the San Pedro Creek Trail. There is parking nearby. (Along the trail is a bonus earth cache GCBJBHT where you can learn all about the limestone here.) To log a find for the virtual, you must answer 2 questions and take a photo. I had a lot of fun on the trail, and the water was flowing with all the recent rains. The final location is a very cool art installation - hence the title for the cache. I highly recommend.

- Cheri Tummelson, TXGA South Region rep

GC Code: GCBJ6HX
Name: 👉 👍 👊 👏 Everybody Needs a Hand 🙌 🙏 🙇 🙄
Cache Type: Virtual
Region: South
County: Bexar
Cache Owner: thewildroseoftexas
Hidden: 02/03/2026
Favorite Pts: 3



So, you want to create an Earthcache?

Here are a few tips for placing Earthcaches from GeoawareUSA9.



1) When you review an EarthCache, what are the first things that immediately tell you it's ready for publication?

"If it's in an area that doesn't involve getting permission, on a topic that I haven't seen in the area, and the questions are all based on observations that support the lesson, this goes a long way. Also, if the owner has posted a reviewer note with the answers they anticipate cachers giving, as well as how they anticipate cachers giving them - I can't go out and visit every site, I cover the entire southern US, so this helps me better evaluate how the cache is supposed to work."

2) What are the most common mistakes creators make who have found EarthCaches but are new to building one?

"The guidelines have changed a lot over the years. Until the Geological Society of America (GSA) started getting more involved, the early EarthCaches were basically geology-flavored virtual caches: go to this location, read some information off a sign, and you're done. If someone has only found a few older Earthcaches, their first effort will often look more like these than what we need to see now, which is a specific lesson with logging tasks that are based on observations."

3) How do you personally distinguish between a good educational EarthCache and a great one?

"To me, the best EarthCaches aren't overly technical. They take technical concepts and break them down to a high school level so that finders don't need anything other than what's in the cache listing to grasp the concepts that the owner is trying to teach. It's also interesting to me when someone tries to think outside the box. A few months ago, I published a fun series TAZ427 did on the E.T. Highway in Nevada (GCBHW2R and two others) where the premise was aliens teaching interplanetary geology. That was different, and from the logs so far, people seem to be enjoying them."

4) What makes logging questions feel meaningful and engaging rather than repetitive or too simple?

"Good logging tasks don't stop at an observation, they are tied to the lesson and get into the "so what" of why you're asking for that observation. What does the fact that there is a bunch of sand or rounded pebbles here tell us? Why does it matter whether that particular layer of rock is thick or thin, or red or green? Why is there erosion at one point in this location but not another?

"It's also OK to have logging tasks that aren't geared towards a particular answer. We own a few Earthcaches where I thought we were going to get specific answers based on what we saw at the coordinates, but not everyone notices the same thing. We ended up learning more about the topic because people saw things we didn't.

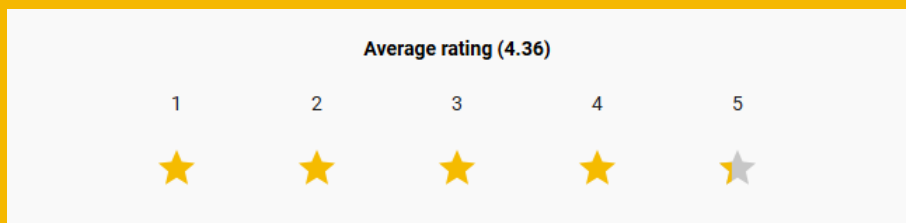
"One last point that's a bit of a tangent: EarthCaches are supposed to teach a lesson, and cachers should try their best to actually go through the lesson and not just whisk through the questions on their way to the next find. But on the other hand, logging an EarthCache should not be a pass/fail event. As long as it's clear the finder was there and made a good faith effort to complete the logging tasks, an EarthCache owner should not be deleting a find just because an answer was off. Part of owning that EarthCache is filling in the gaps, maybe asking a follow-up question to get them on track or letting the finder know what they were looking for."

5) When reviewing for uniqueness, what helps an EarthCache stand out from others nearby with similar topics?

"Before the guidelines were updated, it was OK to have an EarthCache based on a general topic: here is a giant granite or sandstone outcrop, here's how granite or sandstone forms. With the focus more on unique features, it's easier for cachers to think smaller: have an overall concept, put this particular location in context with the local geology, but try to focus specifically on what's at the coordinates, not what's visible in a large area around it. Also, just compare what EarthCaches already exist in the area to the one you're planning.

It's not necessarily a show-stopper to cover a similar topic in the same area. But cachers should be looking at the EarthCaches nearby and working to take a different angle. And since we reviewers are going to ask anyway, go ahead and include in the cache description what's unique about this particular location."

2026 Texas Challenge — Survey Recap



The 2026 Texas Challenge drew 91 survey responses, with attendees rating the Saturday main event an average of 4.36 out of 5 stars and 91% agreeing that Taylor and the surrounding area made a great host location. Most attendees traveled in by car (nearly 87%), and respondents represented every corner of Texas along with visitors from as far away as California, Washington, British Columbia, and Florida — a reflection of the reach of the Texas Geocaching Association community.

Across the written comments, one theme came up again and again: the people. Members highlighted the camaraderie of reconnecting with old friends and welcoming new ones, along with standouts like the CITO mural painting, the Inner Space Caverns tour, the Hall of Fame induction, and the Texas County Challenge Finisher's Reunion. First-timers felt especially embraced — as one attendee wrote:

"This was our very first time at an event like this. Everyone was so helpful and took us under their wings. We are already looking forward to next year."

Logistics earned praise too:

"Enjoyed having the convention center open for the entire weekend. Being able to sit down, have concessions, bathroom breaks, and ac were amazing."

A longtime cacher summed it up nicely:

"Well run Megas have problems almost no one knows about. I think this Mega would be considered a well run Mega."

Members also shared thoughtful feedback to help make next year even better. Several noted that some restaurant meet-and-greets were overwhelmed by the turnout, with one attendee suggesting "multiple spots per meal or shifts" to spread the crowd. A few flagged confusion around the Saturday team competition start and asked for clearer communication on packet pickup, lab cache publication, and event schedules.

Even amid the critiques, affection for the event came through clearly:

"Haven't been to a challenge event yet that I haven't enjoyed thoroughly. The vendors, the visitors, the fellow cachers; all of it is worth every mile I drive to attend!"

A huge thank you to everyone who responded, to the volunteers and sponsors who made it happen, and to the Central Texas region for hosting. See you next year!

COME CELEBRATE 25 YEARS OF TEXAS CHALLENGE!

*More info
to come!*

*More info
to come!*

Challenge
Competitions

Finishers'
Reunion

Waterlily
Exhibit

Concho Pearl
Cache Quest

Ice Cream
Social

St. Patrick's
Shenanigans

Lab
Adventures

Geocaching
Vendors

Geocaching
Seminars

GeoArt



25 Years of Texas Challenges

Did you know that the Texas Challenge is the longest running event of its kind and the longest running Mega event? TXGA will be celebrating our 25th Annual Texas Challenge in San Angelo, TX. To help commemorate this incredible milestone, TXGA is announcing a special caching project - *25 Years of Texas Challenges*. TXGA will be releasing a series of 25 Anniversary Caches. Each of these caches will celebrate one of our 25 Texas Challenges. In addition to the normal contents - each cache will contain a passport and a special punch that corresponds to that year's event. The first 25 people to complete their Passport will receive a commemorative coin that will be awarded at the 25th Texas Challenge in March 2027. Once you have completed your passport, send a picture of your passport to the following address for validation 25yrsOfChallenges@TexasGeocaching.com. Who knows - there may also be some other interesting prizes available along the way, so pay attention to the contents of the caches and cache pages! Are you ready to get your passport and go find those caches?

Check out [those already available](#) and [those becoming available this month!](#)

Here are the caches and their tentative publish dates.

1. [Fort Parker SP - 2003 \(GCBJXJ7\)](#) - (Available now)
2. [Huntsville SP - 2004 \(GCBJYQ5\)](#) - (Available June 2026)
3. [Cedar Hill SP - 2005 \(GCBJYQC\)](#) - (Available July 2026)
4. [Inks Lake SP - 2006 \(GCBJYQJ\)](#) - (Available August 2026)
5. [Brazos Bend SP - 2007 \(GCBJYQY\)](#) - (Available May 2026)
6. [Lake Mineral Wells SP - 2008 \(GCBJYRC\)](#) - (Available November 2026)
7. [Enchanted Rock SP - 2009 \(GCBJYRM\)](#) - (Available October 2026)
8. [San Angelo SP - 2010 \(GCBJYRX\)](#) - (Available March 2027)
9. [Huntsville SP - 2011 \(GCBJYT4\)](#) - (Available September 2026)
10. [Ray Roberts SP - 2012 \(GCBJYTD\)](#) - (Available December 2026)
11. [Port Aransas - 2013 \(GCBJYTQ\)](#) - (Available January 2027)
12. [Bastrop SP - 2014 \(GCBJYTZ\)](#) - (Available now)
13. [Lubbock - 2015 \(GCBJYV6\)](#) - (Available March 2027)
14. [Brenham - 2016 \(GCBJYVC\)](#) - (Available now)
15. [Tyler - 2017 \(GCBJYVK\)](#) - (Available now)
16. [Denton - 2018 \(GCBJYVT\)](#) - (Available June 2026)
17. [Seguin - 2019 \(GCBJYW2\)](#) - (Available now)
18. [Round Rock - 2020 \(GCBJYW5\)](#) - (Available now)
19. [Cisco - 2021 \(GCBJYWB\)](#) - (Available March 2027)
20. [Conroe - 2022 \(GCBJYWK\)](#) - (Available July 2026)
21. [Longview - 2023 \(GCBJYWT\)](#) - (Available now)
22. [Wichita Falls - 2024 \(GCBJYX3\)](#) - (Available March 2027)
23. [Floresville - 2025 \(GCBJYX7\)](#) - (Available August 2026)
24. [Taylor - 2026 \(GCBJYXI\)](#) - (Available now)
25. [West Texas Location - 2027 \(GCBJYXV\)](#) - (Available March 2027)



Save the date!

September 19, 2026

Host one near you!



SAVE THE DATE

2026 LONESTAR ROUNDUP

NOVEMBER 14, 2026

JACKSONVILLE, TX





MADE AT PIXTON.COM

More of myrthman's (Sean Rackley's) comics can be found at <https://myrthman.blogspot.com>.

check out



on

- Introduction
- **Getting Started**
- Configuring Your Profile
- Traditional Caches
- Events & CITOs
- Virtual Caches
- Earthcaches



- Multicaches
- Letterbox Hybrid Caches
- Puzzle Caches
- Challenge Caches
- Trackables & Collectibles
- Understanding GPS
- Exploring Your Profile Part 2

[Click here](#) to join the geocachers in the know by going to the TXGA Channel and clicking on "Subscribe".

Mark your
calendar!

Upcoming Geo-events by Region*

Click here for
a new interactive
map and event
list

Region	GC Code	Title	Type	Date
North	GCBJ336	PAG brings the CANDY GAME to Three Wide	Event	Sat, May 2, 2026, 2:00 PM
North	GCBKD1N	May the Fourth Be With You MaxMob* Event	Event	Mon, May 4, 2026, 6:00 PM
North	GCBN5EK	May the 4th be ODDly With you and PAG (and games)	Event	Mon, May 4, 2026, 6:30 PM
North	GCBK9X6	05*04*2026 DAWGS BBQ For the Fourth	Event	Mon, May 4, 2026, 7:00 PM
North	GCBMZHF	Sky (rocket) GAMES to the limit with PAG...	Event	Thu, May 7, 2026, 5:30 PM
North	GCBN3CZ	GeoMay8 Day with a view of The Tin Man!	Event	Fri, May 8, 2026, 7:00 PM
North	GCBMR0B	Kalamazoo, MI Visits Waxhachie, TX	Event	Sun, May 10, 2026, 9:00 AM
North	GCBNVW6	Welcome Back TerraViators	Event	Mon, May 11, 2026, 6:30 PM
North	GCBMZHY	Thursday night at Edmonds with PAG: Stackin Cups!	Event	Thu, May 14, 2026, 6:30 PM
North	GCBN0Y8	Dallas Bike Ride	Event	Sat, May 16, 2026, 7:00 AM
North	GCBNJ54	DAWGS get booked in County	Event	Mon, May 18, 2026, 6:30 PM
North	GCBNPPN	Tatted Up	Event	Mon, May 18, 2026, 8:45 PM
North	GCBNZJJ	Summer Pickle	Event	Wed, May 27, 2026, 6:00 PM
North	GCBMZJA	Breaking Meade with PAG: Hows your memory?	Event	Thu, May 28, 2026, 6:30 PM
North	GCBN19Y	2000-2009 music group trivia with PAG at the Oak!	Event	Sun, Jun 14, 2026, 6:30 PM
North	GCBN0ZB	PAG visits 903 Brewers:GAME nite-80's movie trivia	Event	Thu, Jun 18, 2026, 6:30 PM
North	GCBNFYX	Honoring 250 Years of America – Texoma Style	Event	Sat, Jul 4, 2026, 6:00 PM
Southeast	GCBMRNG	500 Milestone Flashmob	Event	Sat, May 2, 2026, 9:00 AM
Southeast	GCBNDY6	WCFF #185 - May the fourth be with you!	Event	Mon, May 4, 2026, 6:00 PM
Southeast	GCBN2RJ	FIRST MONDAY IN MID COUNTY MAY 2026	Event	Mon, May 4, 2026, 6:00 PM
Southeast	GCBNAE8	Club UFO - This is the May	Event	Wed, May 6, 2026, 11:00 AM
Southeast	GCBN86K	mmmmm donuts - CXXIII	Event	Sat, May 9, 2026, 7:00 AM
Southeast	GCBN854	Hey Buddy, Let's Clean Up Another Park - CXXIII	CITO	Sat, May 9, 2026, 8:00 AM
Southeast	GCBNANN	Breakfast with a Geocacher # 13	Event	Sun, May 10, 2026, 8:00 AM
Southeast	GCBN6NG	May 2026 CITO	CITO	Mon, May 11, 2026, 10:00 AM
Southeast	GCBN9B0	ABC Lunchtime - MOD	Event	Mon, May 11, 2026, 11:15 AM
Southeast	GCBNYT3	Brazos Valley Geocachers Lunch #1	Event	Tue, May 12, 2026, 11:45 AM
Southeast	GCBNWWA	SE Geofriends FTF 45	Event	Tue, May 12, 2026, 6:30 PM
Southeast	GCBNXWH	Club UFO: Kerfuffle	Event	Wed, May 13, 2026, 11:00 AM
Southeast	GCBNRRG	KAWSGE 51	Event	Wed, May 13, 2026, 6:30 PM
Southeast	GCBNMNC	W.A.L.K. - WoodLands Area Lunch Klub #54	Event	Tue, May 19, 2026, 11:30 AM
Southeast	GCBKZXF	May 20th Event	Event	Wed, May 20, 2026, 11:00 AM
Southeast	GCBKZY2	World Tessellation Day	Event	Wed, Jun 17, 2026, 11:00 AM
West	GCBNMX4	🍷 TTB's Birthday Bash 🍷	Event	Sat, May 9, 2026, 3:00 PM
West	GCBKJXJ	Webfoot Wanderings in Amarillo	Event	Sun, May 17, 2026, 8:30 AM
West	GCBM0V0	25th Annual Texas Challenge & Geocaching Festival	Mega	Sat, Mar 13, 2027, 8:00 AM
Central	GCBMPBA	GeoTex Geocachers Breakfast May 2026	Event	Sat, May 2, 2026, 8:30 AM
Central	GCBMWJH	Blue Switch Day Meet and Greet	Event	Sun, May 3, 2026, 5:00 PM
Central	GCBKABG	Geocaching 101	Event	Sat, May 9, 2026, 9:00 AM
Central	GCBMH00	Sounds of Central Texas	Event	Sat, May 9, 2026, 6:00 PM
Central	GCBNYP0	Beware the Ides of May 2026	Event	Fri, May 15, 2026, 1:00 PM
Central	GCBKAAP	Geocaching 101	Event	Sat, May 16, 2026, 9:00 AM
Central	GCBNHX4	Postmortem for Texas Challenge 2026	Event	Sat, May 16, 2026, 2:30 PM
Central	GCBFER0	Summer Solstice 2026	Event	Sun, Jun 21, 2026, 6:00 PM
South	GCBN85E	Mayday Musings	Event	Fri, May 1, 2026, 9:00 AM
South	GCBN6T5	A Blue Switch Day CITO	CITO	Sat, May 2, 2026, 1:00 PM
South	GCBNDGM	Post CITO Meet, Greet, Cool-Off	Event	Sat, May 2, 2026, 2:00 PM
South	GCBNEJJ	Sunday Afternoon Geochat	Event	Sun, May 3, 2026, 2:30 PM
South	GCBNEJ6	Early bird Geochat	Event	Mon, May 4, 2026, 6:00 AM
South	GCBNGJ0	Lunch Lunch Lunch Lunch Lunch	Event	Tue, May 5, 2026, 12:30 PM
South	GCBNK67	Lunch Lunch Lunch Lunch Lunch	Event	Wed, May 6, 2026, 11:30 AM
South	GCBNMGQ	GeoCache Chat	Event	Thu, May 7, 2026, 1:30 PM
South	GCBN85Q	May Musings 5-8-2026 Meet & Greet	Event	Fri, May 8, 2026, 9:00 AM