



atHome

with Ruth Story

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Happy Thanksgiving

Fall Foliage Close to Home!

Take a drive through some Bright fall foliage. It's closer than you might think!

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Great Wines under \$25

Wines for family gatherings or hostess gifts

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Hasselback Sweet Potatoes

A Swedish Thanksgiving favorite!

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Fall Foliage...

Only a Day Trip Away!

When one thinks of fall foliage, New Hampshire, Vermont, or another Northeastern state usually come to mind first. However, did you know we have our own patchwork of fall color right here in the Lone Star State?

Unlike those Northern states, Texas doesn't have vast displays of fall color, but rather pockets of it scattered about through the state. With a little planning, we don't even have to drive too far to find one of those pockets.

The Hill Country, just a couple of hours south, has more than its share of fall color. Beginning in Utopia and heading west, RR (Ranch Road) 1050 winds through the Hill Country, crossing the Frio River before intersecting with US 83 north of Concan. During late fall, this drive is dotted with blazing colors from sumacs, sycamores, chinaberries and cottonwoods.

The Devil's Backbone Scenic Drive is a stretch of RR 32 between Wimberly and Blanco. For over 20 miles, this drive snakes along a ridge that offers some of the best fall views of the Hill Country.

Often termed the most scenic drive in Texas, RR 337 from Camp Wood to Leakey climbs to some of the highest elevations in the Hill Country at over 2300 feet, and roadside lookouts offer great vistas of reds, greens, and golds.

Less than an hour from Fort Worth, Cleburne State Park gives us an opportunity to get into the fall spirit with guided hayrides through the fall foliage.

Going Lo-Tech

With technology advancing so quickly, it gets almost overwhelming at times, and we feel the need to take a step back...

Have you heard about the Chemex? The Chemex Coffeemaker was invented in 1941 by Dr., Peter Schlumbohm PhD. Made simply from non-porous, borosilicate glass and fastened with a wood collar and tie, it brews coffee without imparting any flavors of its own. The iconic Chemex has remained unchanged for 70+ years. Available in sizes ranging from 3 cups to 10, the price for the largest one is just over \$40. No plugs, no digital display, no timer, no tech. Just coffee so pure and good it can be stored in the fridge to drink later!



Do you have a favorite low-tech gadget that you can't live without? That you won't replace with hi-tech? (Or you tried and came back!) Please send us an email and tell us about it! We want to feature another return to lo-tech in our next newsletter!

Send to AskRuthStory@gmail.com.

Did you know...

When the Fort Worth zoo opened in 1909, it had one lion, two bear cubs, an alligator, a coyote, a peacock and a few rabbits. The City of Fort Worth owned and operated it until 1991, when the Fort Worth Zoological Association assumed management of the zoo under a contract with the city.

It is now home to over 5000 native and exotic Animals and has been named as one of the top 10 zoos in the United States!

A bit farther west, the majestic McKittrick Canyon, in the Guadalupe Mountains near El Paso, puts on a color show all its own. There are no fall festivals or lines of cars here; just peace and quiet and the opportunity to reflect on the changing seasons.



But the largest displays of fall foliage are found in East Texas, an easy day trip from DFW. One can spend a day or a weekend enjoying small town festivals that celebrate the changing season, and cruising the countryside to see color displays that leaf peekers have reported to area hotlines. Because Texas' displays are compact, the hotlines are especially important for locating the best foliage.

For more details about these and other fall foliage areas in Texas, visit these websites:

www.texasripper.com/outdoors/fall-foliage.html

www.easttexasguide.com

www.etta.com

www.tpwd.state.tx.us



Great Wines Under \$25

With the holiday season rapidly approaching, thoughts turn to hostess gifts and entertaining. A good bottle of wine is always appreciated, and when it comes to wine, expensive doesn't necessarily mean better.

There are lots of great wines out there that cost less than \$25 per bottle. Here are a few that made "best" lists:

Two Princes Riesling 2008 - \$14

2008 Neckenmarkt Blaufrankisch - \$13

2009 Leo Hillinger Hill Side - \$25

King Estate Acrobat Pinot Gris 2008 - \$12

2008 Tinhof Blaufrankisch Von Den Hugen - \$25

Veramonte Sauvignon Blanc Reserva 2008 - \$11

2006 Domaine de la Fruitiere Chardonnay - \$14

Kris Pinot Grigio 2008 - \$12

Quivira Dry Creek Valley Zinfandel 2010 - \$20

Cono Sur Pinot Noir 2009 - \$10

Bodegas Castano Monastrell 2008 - \$9

2009 D'Arenberg Footbolt Shiraz - \$20