



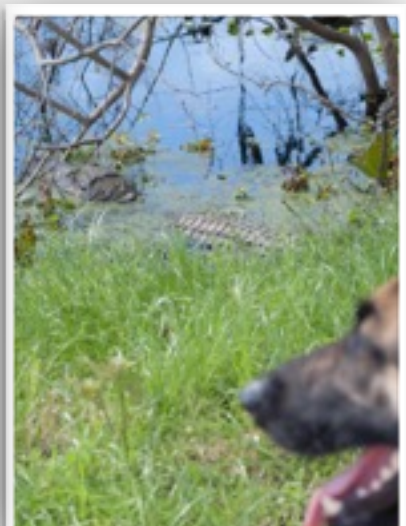
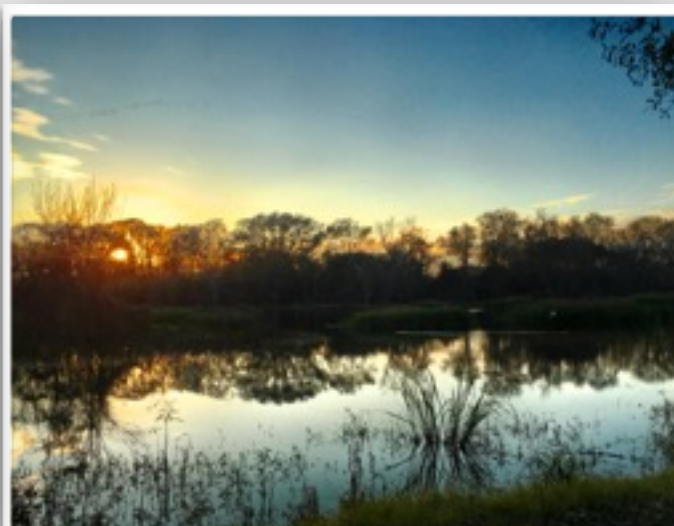
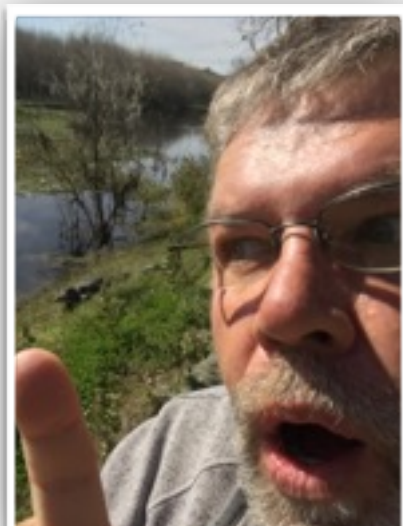
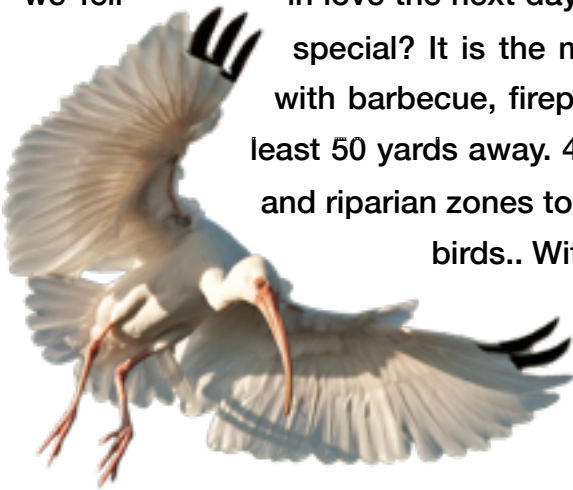
BRAZOS BEND STATE PARK

... UNSER BISLANG SCHÖNSTER CAMPINGPLATZ



Americans throw with superlatives, because everything here is "the greatest, the biggest, the largest, the only one in the world". Something describing with -good- is almost an insult. And so my expectation was more than relaxed when I was welcomed in a state parks office south of Houston with the following words: "Welcome to the best State Park Texas. Forget everything you have been seen and experienced so far! We are the number one! Nice that you are here. Can we help you?" Well, we fell

in love the next day to this park and booked the maximum: 14 days. And what is so special? It is the mixture of many things. There are huge shady camping spaces, with barbecue, fireplace and seating and the nearest neighbor (if one is there) is at least 50 yards away. 40 miles paved trails lead us through forests, swamps, the plains and riparian zones to see alligators, armadillos, deer, wild boar, ducks and many other birds.. Without any fence and wall. Quite close! Breathtaking!







Worth mentioning: we spent a few days on the Gulf of Mexico in the dunes before we went to Brazos Bend.





Everything is bigger in TEXAS: even Thunderstorms!



The Gulf Coast is unaffected in large parts and can be navigated by car. In most cases the hinterland is without dunes or dikes and not protected. Only 6 to 9 feet above the sea level. Larger floods or even hurricanes inundate then regularly huge parts of the country. Therefore most houses stand on stilts. Or: one has faith in God, does not believe in global warming or has a good insurance! The coast here is paved by countless refineries that process the extracted Gulf Oil. Unused rigs are "parked" in miles after miles in estuaries. Despite much stinking seaweed, shells and driftwood, we found on our hour-long beach runs neither oil nor tar lumps! but a lot of plastic bottles, ropes and styrofoam!



When you think of Texas, besides Oil and JR Ewing, you certainly think about cattle and of course their juicy steaks. This requires a cattle ranch and Cowboys. Such Ranch we visited. On the 750 acre large George Ranch south of Houston they showed us the life on a farm between 1824 and today. All buildings (six generations) have been preserved and bear witness to the development from poor and modest to really rich! Everything at your fingertips, with chickens, pigs, a still running Ford Model T, clotheslines and cowboys!



Particularly impressive: we were given a private tour by of a cowboy. He showed us how he works with Longhorn cattle, marks them with the branding iron or brings them to the medical bath. Too good that we have lived in the American South and in Texas for some time: His pronunciation was sure'nuff amazin '.



Y'ALL

AIN'T



The next day history again: In Houston, we visit the San Jacinto Battleground. Here 1836 Texas independence from Mexico was declared. The Mexican General Santa Anna and his army was defeated in 17 minutes from Sam Houston with his outnumbered volunteers.



San Jacinto Monument.

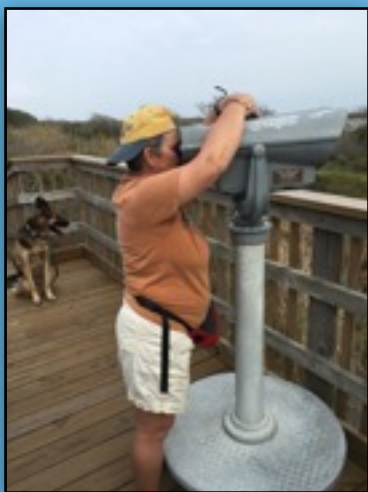
The USS Texas. A battleship that already was used the first and second World War. In the 2nd WW the Texas was the only US Navy ship that served both in the Pacific against Japan as well as in the Normandy during D-Day. It was the first US ship with radar technology and the first, that started an airplane.

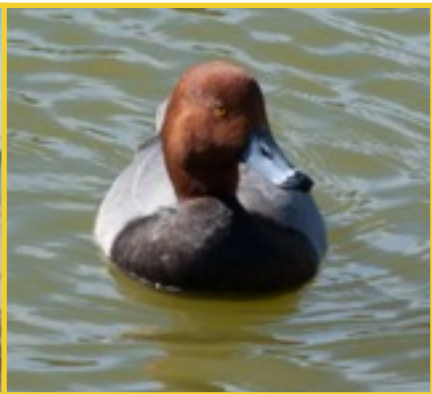


From Brazos Bend it draws us back to the coast. We picked the area around Corpus Christi. Despite the fifth largest port in the United States and numerous refineries this Gulf Coast is very scenic. The actual coastline is preceded by a string of islands with seemingly endless sandy beaches. But also the hinterland offers forests, salt marshes and innumerable waterways with everything the nature lover wants. This nature, abundance of fish and the very mild to warm winter temperatures ensure that not

only birds, but also tens of thousands of campers winter here. Especially Canadians and US citizens from the far north populate countless camping resort. These are totally comfortable and offer everything a camper wants. Many stay here 3 - 4 months. Since 95% of these "snowbirds" are well over 60 years old, corresponding are the programs and their preference: sewing, dancing, bowling, bridge, golf, water aerobics in the heated pool, Puzzle groups, horseshoe throwing, walking or cycling. We have come to a park to see how snow birding is. Everybody is extremely friendly and

interested to know, how two Germans with a dog spend the winter. So we know this 400 inhabitants Park after a few days. Whether we are the types that overwinter in such a park for a few months? Currently, probably not. We love the variety according to the motto: finger in the wind and there you go!







CORPUS CHRISTI, TEXAS



Fish Taco a la Rudy

Gulf Coast means culinary: fresh fish, shrimp and oysters. We take this opportunity to enjoy the catch from the sea in all its variations. Whether homemade at our motorhome, on the grill or in the pub around the corner: There is no better seafood!



Jumbo Shrimp PoBoy with sweet potato



Coconut Shrimps a la Johannes



How do you know, you are in Texas?

Spring flowers in January!

LOST AND FOUND

WAS SONST UNS SO BESCHÄFTIGTE



Because of the welding skills of a morons I could not extending my living room. The so called slide out was half extended as the drive shaft broke. So I could not get on the road to the next workshop - on the other hand, the wall was open and rain had now undisturbed access. Two mobile workshops denied me their help! So ==> Do It Yourself. Using a electric Multitool, 10 hours of work, another night, the total love of my Wife, helping members in an Alfa motorhome forum on the Internet and well invested \$ 25 for a significantly better welding seam at a nice tire dealers, we were able to continue the journey!

We will stay in Corpus Christi !!!

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So, that would be it for today. We are now
187 days on the road!

Until next time all the best

You 3 Gefekes

