

de Stolfe Journal

Candid

July 31, 2018 | 7.5



Journal Contents

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On The Cover

On the front and back covers of this issue are photos of the typical sunflowers that grow in the late summer all over the West every year. They are called wild sunflowers, or *helianthus annuus*.

We live in the 21st century! Anywhere you see a web link like this, click it to automatically go to the webpage that it references! (Try it now!)

www.tophandgraphics.com/rg/journals



de Stolfe Journal Candid

The de Stolfe Journal *Candid* is a publication made by Robert-George de Stolfe. The first issue was published in March 1986 as the de Stolfe Journal and published irregularly until 1998 (17 issues total). The *Candid* variety of the Journal started in July 2012, with a production now of over 60 regular and special issues. Archives of all issues—including the original ones (1980s-1990s)—are available on the website: www.tophandgraphics.com/rg/journals

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Robert-George de Stolfe

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Candid Comments



Producer, RG de Stolfe

Summer has been going and going and while we are technically in the very middle of the season of summer (with 5-6 weeks left), “summer” is nearly over! School has started (and waaaay too early for everyone involved! It should always start AFTER Labor Day!) and we are already thinking ahead to things fall. We are finally past the excessive heat of early summer with temps finally tempering to more typical ranges until we get to more cooler, or moderate, weather by late September. We are still a good ways off from any holidays to worry about and are starting to make plans for the next few months. This is the time of year where we start to get busy and usually get busier until after New Years. We also get back into a routine at least until Thanksgiving and usually enjoy the rest of the year.

I am a little late getting this issue out from when I wanted to get it out, and again, that is why I no longer label these issues by months. So, I just put dates of when I put out these issues. However, I am back dating this issue to the end of July so that I can still get out an issue in August sometime, for I have done a lot since I got most of this issue together. All of that will come out in an issue for August (and probably within a short time from now.) Some items in this issue are long overdue to include, along with some new stuff.

I hope you like this issue, and please feel free to respond with a text, a call, Facebook post, email, or whatever so that I know people are even seeing this issue and to get an idea what people think!

Enjoy!

A mural on a small storage building of the LHUCA campus of 4th Street and Avenue L in Lubbock. I was attending the First Friday Art Trail when I came across this and some other murals.



Word for Life

Go from Religion to a Relationship

Religion is a dangerous concept for it takes the Word of God and tries to stylize it! By doing that, it voids out the Word of Truth and turns it into empty, meaningless phrases. This is no more obvious than with a very commonly quoted scripture, Matthew 6:9-13. Most everyone knows it, but most quote it meaninglessly like some ritual to do then forget. Here is the scripture (NKJV):

- ⁹ Our Father in heaven,
Hallowed be Your name.
¹⁰ Your kingdom come.
Your will be done
On earth as it is in heaven.
¹¹ Give us this day our daily bread.
¹² And forgive us our debts,
As we forgive our debtors.
¹³ And do not lead us into temptation,
But deliver us from the evil one.
For Yours is the kingdom and the power
and the glory forever. Amen.

The Word says this is a model prayer for indeed it is, but not one to be quoted verbatim in mindless rituals as many do! The word model means that you use the structure and the format to create your own prayer that correctly lines up with the Word of God and is full of authority and power. Here is another way to say the same thing with greater clarity and power.

Great Heavenly Father, my God,
Your Name is holy and above all names.
Your Kingdom is established.
Your will is done above all else here on the earth
just as Your will is done in the heavenly places.
Please provide for us our daily needs.
And forgive us of our sins,
As we forgive others who have wronged us and sinned
against us.
Shield us from the temptations that try to overtake us,
And deliver us from the snares of the enemy.
For Your Kingdom and sovereign power and authority is
full of everlasting glory.
Amen and amen (so be it, it is done).



Jews praying at the Western Wall in Jerusalem, the city of David, the capitol of Israel

Strange Cats

Are you ready? I finally am including this topic! I present to you, strange cats! These photos show cats that make them appear like liquid. How do they get into some of these places? And even more so, how do they fit in these places??

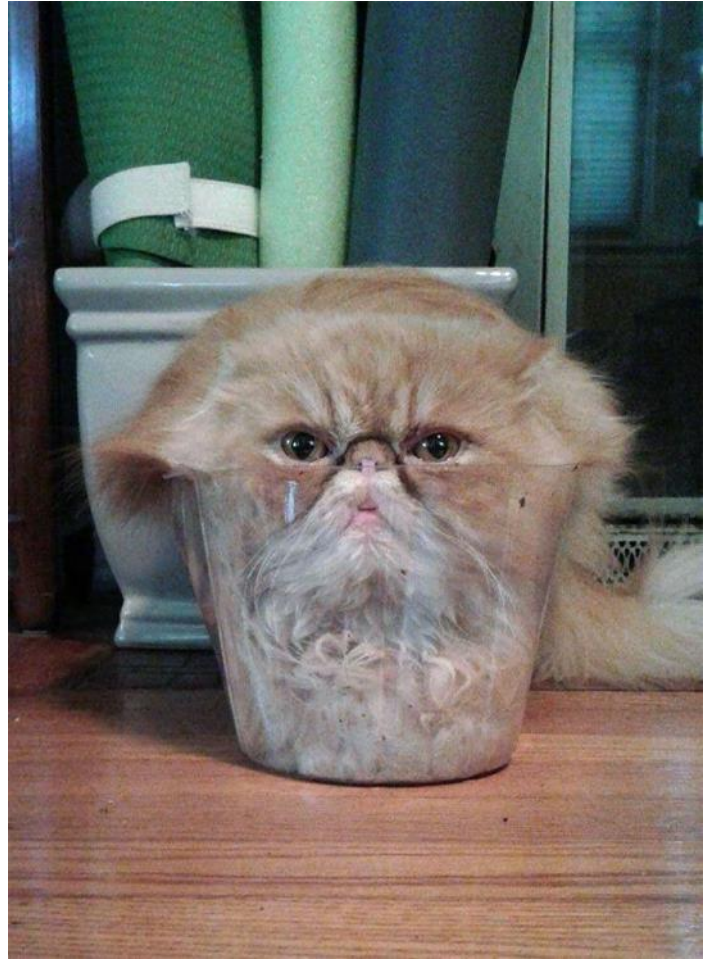


Be-do-be-dup-er-uh-zing-da-doh-rup

Strange Cats



There are two cats in there!



Strange Cats



surimistick:

at first i thought it was cappuccino

marrow-bone Source: donko.inouesayuki.com

541,348 notes Mar 12th, 2018



Is this cat melting??

Read More

- <http://sharetoday.net/15-photos-that-prove-cats-are-basically-made-of-liquid>

Crazy Cat Laws

Crazy Laws About Cats

While it is likely that these laws are probably not enforced (much) anymore, they are still active laws in each of the respective areas! For some of these laws, clearly a bee went up someone's nose for them to come up with these absurd ideas! Enjoy!

- ◆ Columbus, Georgia:
No “yowling” allowed by cats after 9:00 p.m.
- ◆ French Lick Springs, Indiana:
All black cats [must] wear bells on Friday the 13th.
- ◆ Lorinc, Hungary:
Cats can only be taken on to the street on leads [leashes].
- ◆ Madison, Wisconsin:
A divorcing couple cannot share joint custody of their pet and award full custody to the pet parent in possession of the kitty at the time of the initial separation.
- ◆ International Falls, Minnesota:
Cats are not allowed to chase dogs up telephone poles. [What??]
- ◆ Barber, North Carolina:
Fights between cats and dogs are strictly prohibited.
- ◆ Sterling, Colorado:
Pet cats are not allowed to run loose without a taillight.
- ◆ Berea, Ohio:
Same as Sterling, Colorado. Pet cats are not allowed to run loose without a taillight.
- ◆ Ventura County, California:
It is not legal for your cat to have sex unless he or she has a permit.
- ◆ Cresskill, New Jersey:
Cats must wear three bells to warn birds of their whereabouts.
- ◆ Duluth, Minnesota:
It is illegal for cats to fall asleep in a bakery.
- ◆ California:
There is a ban on all cat mating near schools, taverns, or places of worship. The cats won't get in trouble as long as they are at least 1,500 feet away.
- ◆ Zion, Illinois:
It is illegal for any person to light a cigar and give it to a cat. [There is also a similar law about giving alcohol to cats.]
- ◆ Topeka, Kansas:
Pet owners may not own more than five cats at a time. [Actually, this seems pretty reasonable.]
- ◆ Reed City, Michigan:
Residents may not keep a pet bird and a pet cat on the same premises.
- ◆ Virginia:
Dogcatchers are prohibited from “bothering cats” while they are looking for dogs.
- ◆ Montgomery County, Maryland:
Any cat owner who lets their cat wander onto somebody else's property, and doesn't have that person's permission faces the possibility of a \$100 fine if the person files a complaint. [Multiple complaint fines go up.]
- ◆ Maine:
Thurston v Carter 92 A. 295 case (1914) ruled that cats were considered to be domestic animals which were covered by statutes protecting domesticated animals.
- ◆ Pennsylvania:
Commonwealth vs Massini 188 1. 2d 816 in the Superior court (1963) ruled that cats are not considered a “domestic animal” by definition and have no intrinsic value in the eyes of the law.
- ◆ Augusta, Georgia:
Cats need a business license to perform.
- ◆ Various laws:
Cats are considered to be the legal property of owners as valued property with monetary worth and emotional worth.
- ◆ Texas:
Cats have protection from human abusers, but most cases involved some sort of mental disorder of the human.

Read More

- <http://kittentoob.com/cat-news/20-strangest-cat-laws-world>

Mon Jardin Sur Le Balcon

These next several pages show my balcony garden from when I first put it out and incrementally as it grew to the time of this issue.

This photo is from **April 21**. I had five containers of various flowers with one container being four varieties of pepper plants. In addition, I had three solar lights.

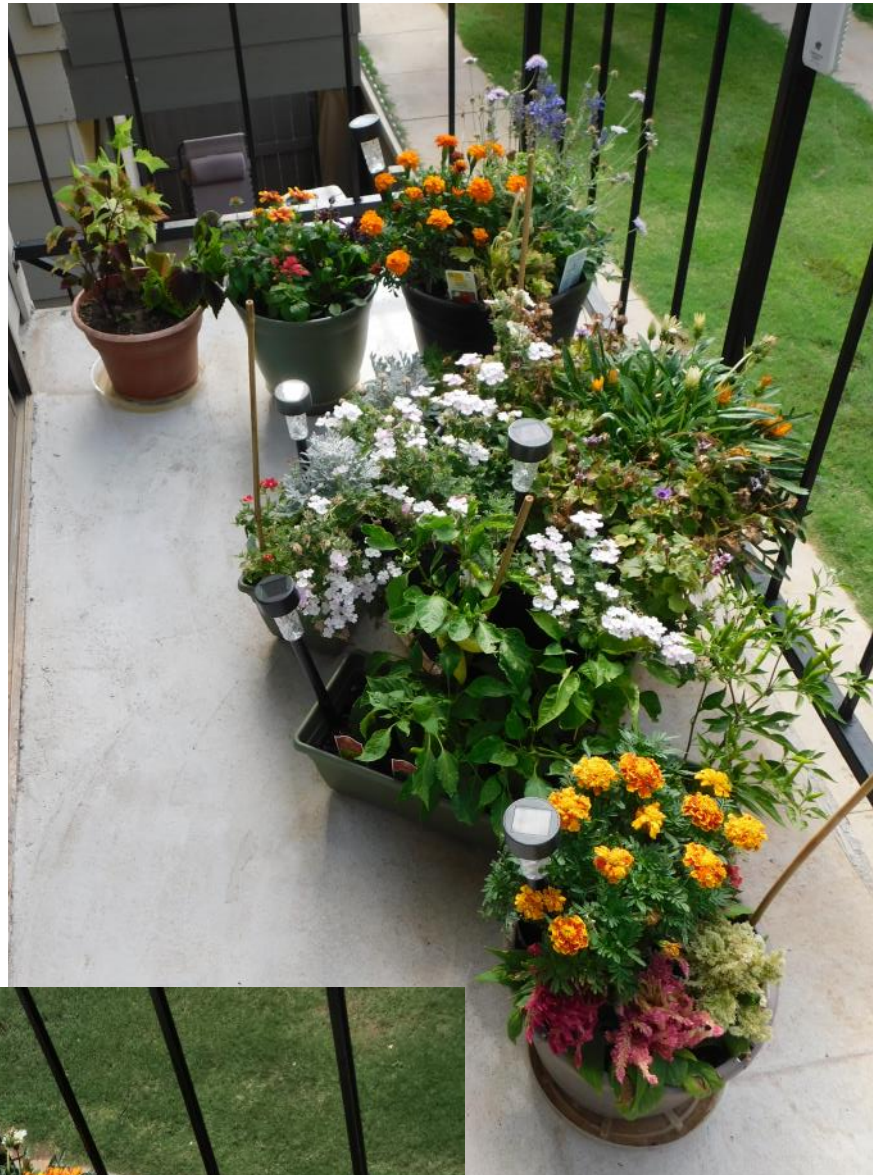


This photo is from **May 8**. I added one more pot of flowers, and have five of the solar lights.



Mon Jardin Sur Le Balcon

This photo is from **June 9**. I added yet another pot of flowers, and still have five solar lights.



This photo is from **June 11**. Still pretty much the same.

Mon Jardin Sur Le Balcon

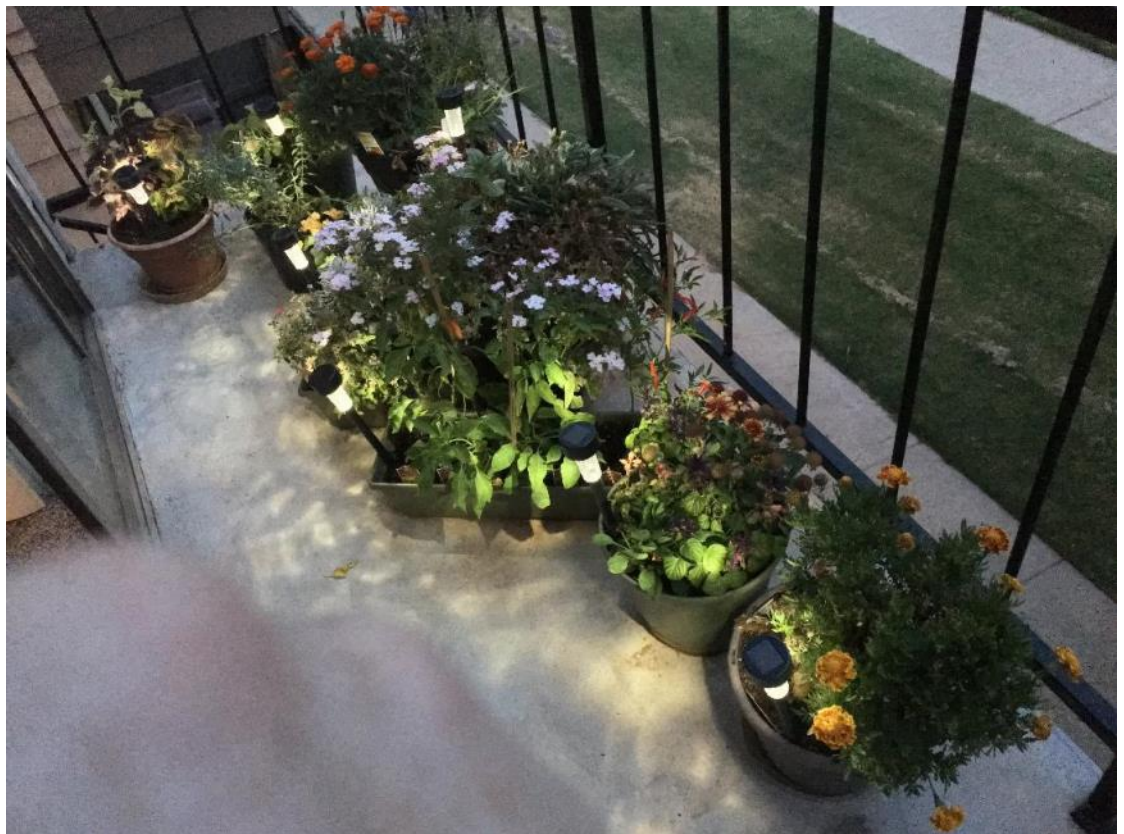
This photo is from **July 1**. Here's what it looks like at night. I now have seven of the solar lights. (They look really cool at night!) Also, it is hard to see, but there's now eight pots of plants.

(Gotta love the auto exposure features of the iPad camera! Even in darkness, you can get a photo like this!)



This photo is from **July 6**. I ended up getting another two clearance plants that I still need to plant besides the eight pots shown here. Also, I still have the seven solar lights.

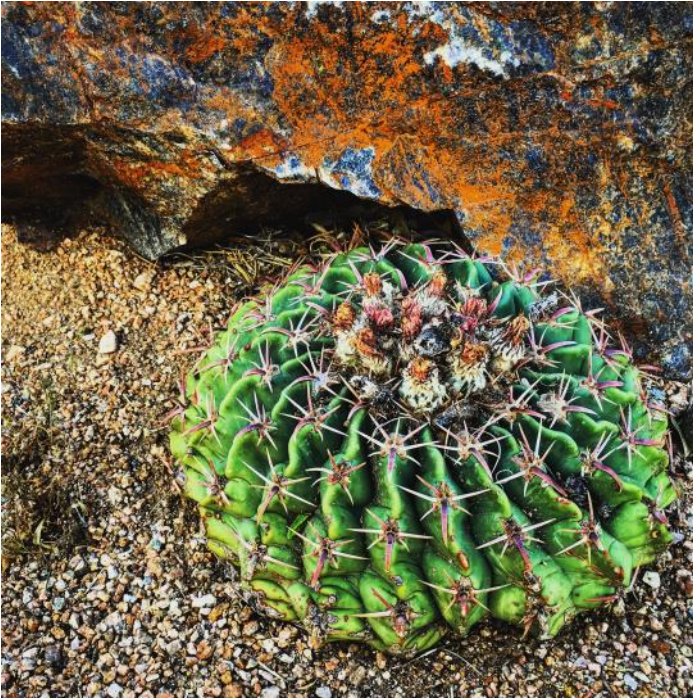
After July 6. The plants were still the same, but I added more lights for a total of 11! (Looks really cool at night!)



RG's Instagram Photos

I am adding photos to my Instagram account all the time. Here are a few from the past couple of months.

www.instagram.com/rgdestolfe



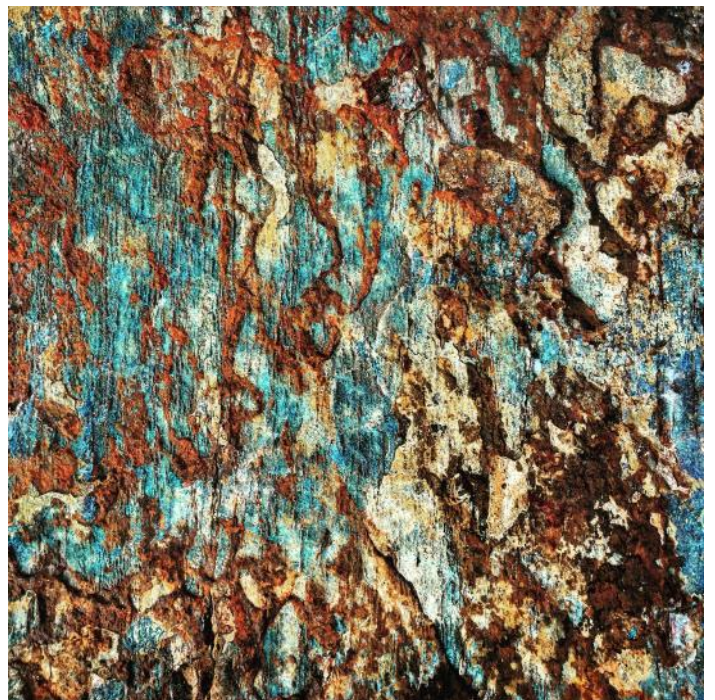
Sharp 2



Ouch!



Reach for the sky



Big rock

RG's Instagram Photos



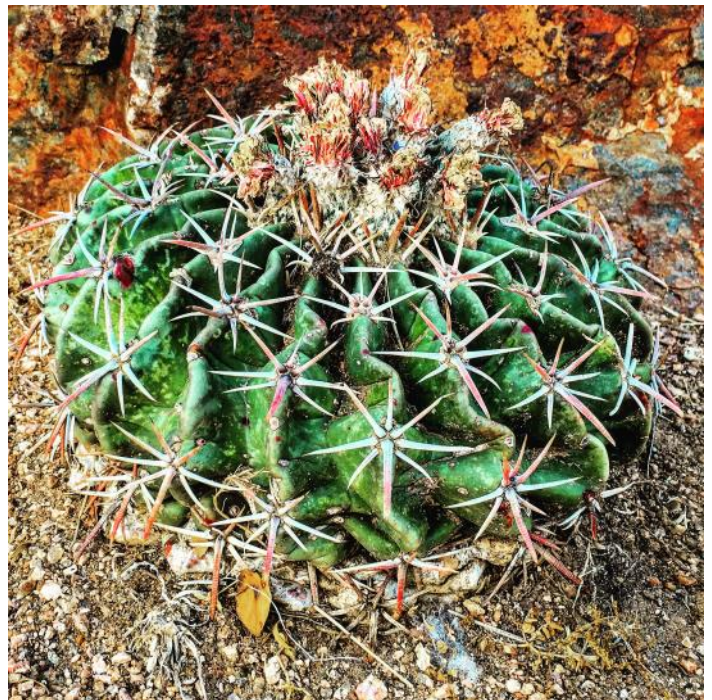
Ocotillo flower.



Yellow flower (Prickly pear rose)



Prickly Pear Rose



Starburst

RG's Instagram Photos



Prickly pear



Cactus Rose



Cholla rose



White poppy. (Icelandic poppy)

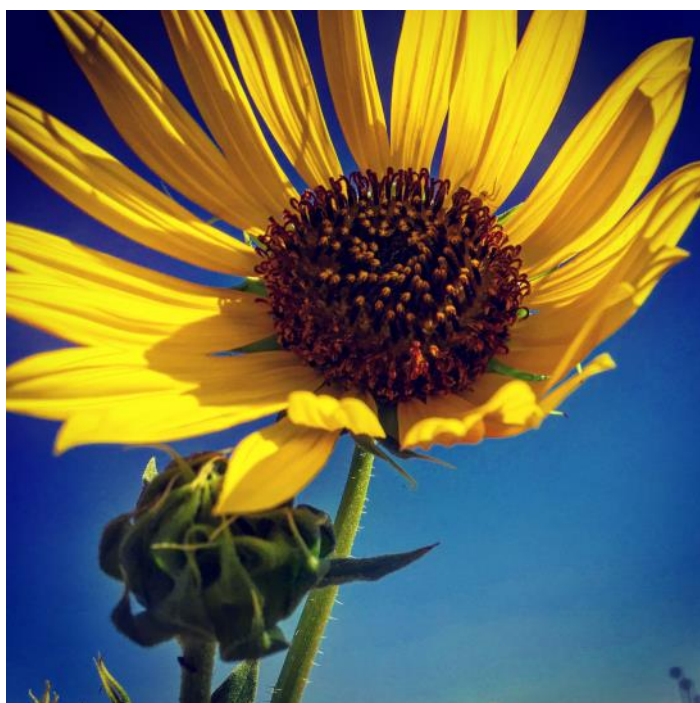
RG's Instagram Photos



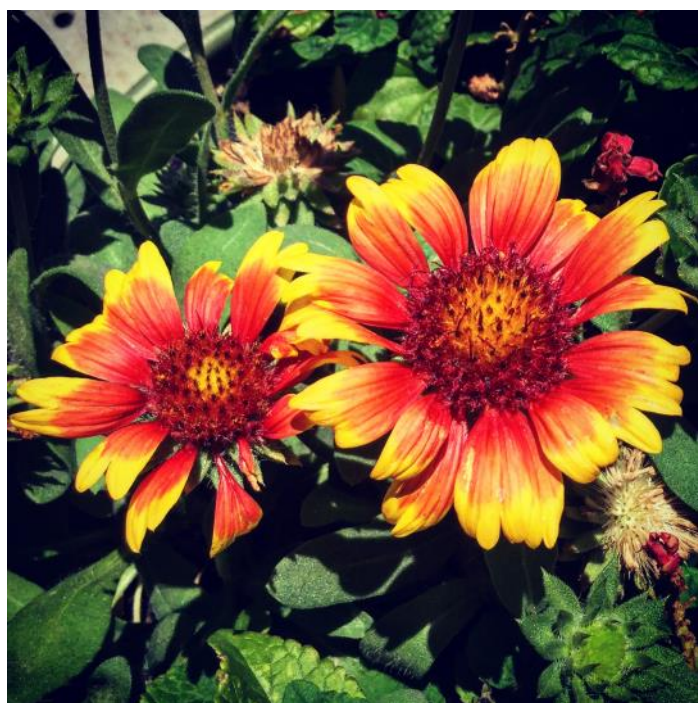
Texas Sage (and bee)
[These are small flowers with a normal sized bee.]



Flowering Tree. (Vitex, Chaste tree, Texas Lilac)



Summertime! (Wild Sunflower, Helianthus annuus)



Indian blanket flower (Gaillardia)

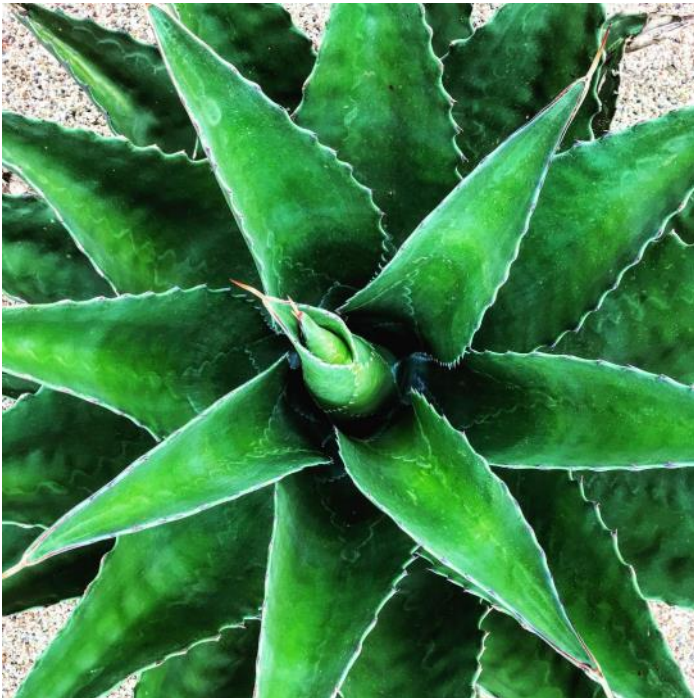
RG's Instagram Photos



Desert willow



Russian sage



Cactus1



Cactus2

More About YouTube

If you have not discovered it after 13+ years, YouTube is an online video platform. (YouTube was founded in February of 2005.) Anyone can create a channel of their own and post almost anything. Most people post original content they have created, now that most every electronic item has video capability. Most people record video and do varying levels of editing, from the very basic to expert style video construction.

As for me, I both watch YouTube videos, and I have my own channel where I post edited video constructions. At the moment, I have 17 videos of varying types and lengths from the past three years. (Plus, I have a few other videos I've made for other reasons that are on other channels.) For most of my videos, I record using my iPad and edit them using a simple editor, Microsoft Movie Maker (which is no longer supported by MS). I have no real purpose for making the videos except that they are fun!

Here is a screenshot of my videos on my YouTube channel.



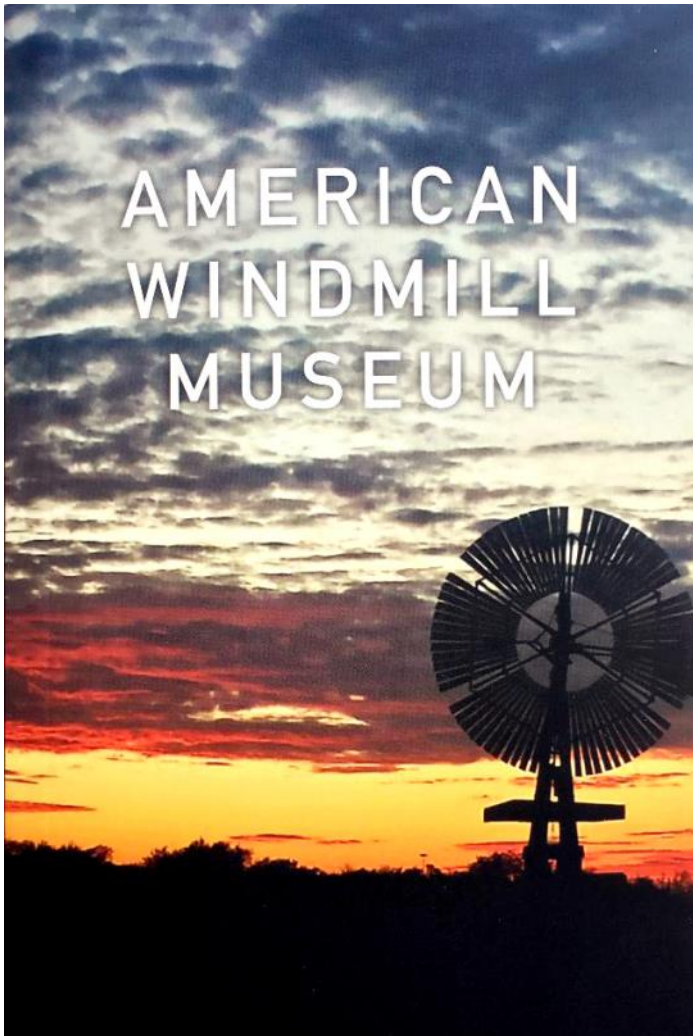
A Few of RG's favorite YouTube Channels

- [Townsend](#)—18th century products and cooking
- [The Barbershop](#) with Matt Horner & Keith Wilson (podcasts)
- [Langfocus](#)—Study of international languages
- [Cowboy Kent Rollins](#)—Cowboy cooking
- [It's a Southern Thing](#)—Southern culture humor
- [Southern Women Channel](#)—Southern culture humor
- [Simon's Cat](#)—Animated cat cartoons, based in London
- [Chad Prather](#)—Southern comedian and speaker
- [Farmer Derek Klingenberg](#)—Farmer and comedian
- [Kieron The Barber](#)—British barber based in London
- [The Try Channel](#)—Irish people try stuff

A screenshot of a YouTube channel page. At the top, there are navigation tabs: VIDEOS, PLAYLISTS, CHANNELS, DISCUSSION, and ABOUT, along with a search icon. Below the tabs is a grid of 15 video thumbnails. Each thumbnail includes a video player preview, a duration timer in the bottom right corner, and a title with view count and upload date below it. The videos shown include: 'iOS auto video for September 3, 2017' (1:03, 8 views), 'Last Weekend' (1:12, 4 views), 'Auto iPhone video for September 3, 2017' (1:03, 2 views), 'RG video entry - OUTTAKES' (5:12, 10 views), 'RG Video Entry - Extended' (3:22, 4 views), 'RG Video Entry' (1:58, 57 views), 'Hebrew Cemetery Cleanup 2017' (13:08, 25 views), 'Random Thoughts' (9:50, 22 views), 'Squirrel Party Remix' (2:47, 16 views), 'Carribean Blue Slide Music Video' (4:15, 10 views), 'Agarama' (6:50, 31 views), 'Squirrel Party' (0:42, 31 views), 'Symposium Synopsis' (3:47, 39 views), 'VideoMe' (5:12, 29 views), and 'Golden Aspens of Colorado' (4:35, 20 views).

Goings On

New Book Published



There is a new little book recently published. It is called *American Windmill Museum* and it is a souvenir book published by the museum of the same name. The museum was previously called the American Wind Power Center, but during the process of putting together the book, it officially



changed its name to the American Windmill Museum. They had contacted me in April 2017 to help them get the contents of the book put together since they were extremely busy with running the museum. So, from April to November, I continuously worked on the content, structure, and various other features all while I was living in Leadville for six months last summer. A little of the writing is mine, along with researched content, a few photos, and a special feature: a flip book animation of two types of windmills. You can get this book in person or from their online store:

www.windmill.com



Grand Opening

The first Duluth Trading Company store in Texas officially opened on May 10, 2018. This is the 36th store overall. The Lubbock store had the soft opening a week before on May 3rd. During the grand opening, they had two lumberjack demo shows despite the 100°+ temps! The Lubbock mayor came for the ribbon cutting (of a plaid ribbon) just before the doors opened to let people come in.

<https://www.duluthtrading.com/store/dtc-shared/about-duluth-trading-company/all-locations-store-finder/lubbock-tx/2510-w-loop-289.aspx>

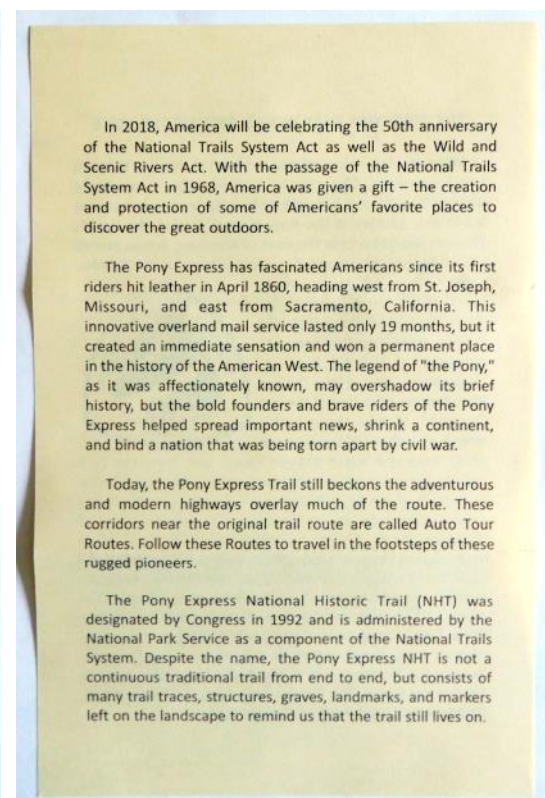
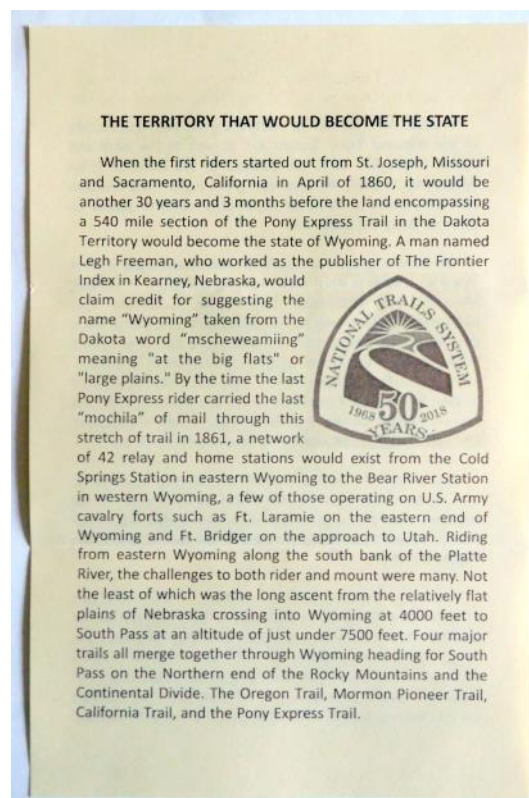
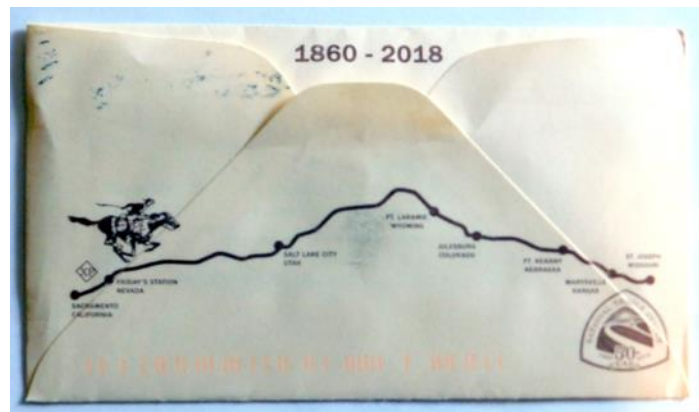
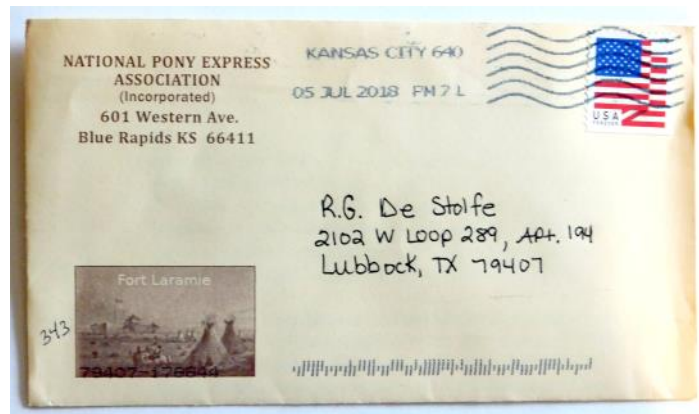


Goings On

Annual Ride

The Pony Express was a mail system that started on April 3, 1860 and only continued through October 26, 1861. It started out as the Leavenworth and Pike's Peak Express Company in 1859, then became the Central Overland California and Pikes Peak Express Company to officially deliver the United States mail. The mail went by horse and rider across a trail between Sacramento, California and Saint Joseph, Missouri with many stations along the way. One rider went west from St. Joseph and another rider went east from Sacramento. Eventually, the telegraph and the Civil War would end the mail route, but the legacy lives on much longer than its actual existence!

Fast forward to today and there exists an organization called the National Pony Express Association that recreates the process by having its members ride stretches of the route through all eight of the states every year. There are hundreds of riders and horses that are part of this organization, incorporated in 1978. For a small fee, anyone can have a letter, either a form or personal letter, sent by "pony express" during this ride. The original route took ten days and the ride is done in ten days, riding day and night, sun, moon, or rain. (within reasonable safe conditions.) All of the letters are packed in a mochila and locked. The mochila also has a pinger to allow people online to track the progress. Once the route is done and arrived at the terminus, the letters are taken to the post office to mail to the respective locations. I went with the general form letter and sent a letter to myself, to mom, and to dad.



Goings On



Here is a southern classic called a pecan twirl. However, these are scandalous because there is not a speck of pecan in them! These do not have pecans in them! That is just wrong!

My balcony garden mainly has flowers of varying types. However, I do have some pepper plants. If you have followed me over the past few years, then you know that I have chosen some variety of pepper to grow the past two summers. In 2016, I had jalapeños. In 2017, I had cayenne peppers. Now in 2018, I bought four varieties of peppers. Here is my first harvest of three varieties:
-Hungarian Wax (yellowish)
-Anaheim (red or green)
-Super Chili (tiny ones-hot!)
The fourth one not yet harvested is called Fooled Ya, a heatless jalapeño.



Goings On

Fun Evening Fundraiser

On June 10, I decided to attend a fundraiser. This fundraiser was an activity based fundraiser at a local social/art place. Most larger towns have a business that specializes in a social/painting/ceramics type of environment for leisure creative activities, especially for non art people. This particular one is mainly for adults. So, a particular local charity I financially donate to had this event as a fundraiser, and I decided to participate in it to do something fun. A small part of the class fee goes to the class, while the majority of the fee is the fundraiser donation. There were maybe 20 of us with an instructor giving step by step instructions for painting a predetermined subject, in this case a rooster. The business itself does a variety of painted subjects for a variety of different types of classes and has no relation to the charity, but is simply a venue.

The canvas was 16"x20" and the paints were acrylic. The instructor simply started with a blank canvas like with everyone else and explained step by step the process she used to create the rooster in the demo painting (see the Facebook post above.) Most of the other participants simply copied what the instructor was explaining, and they looked very much like the instructor's painting. Mine, on the other hand, was much different! Because I am already an artist with a BFA, I simply took the basic subject and just did whatever I wanted! I changed it a few times but resulted with a more rustic, expressionist painting with richer, darker colors. I call this my French rooster.

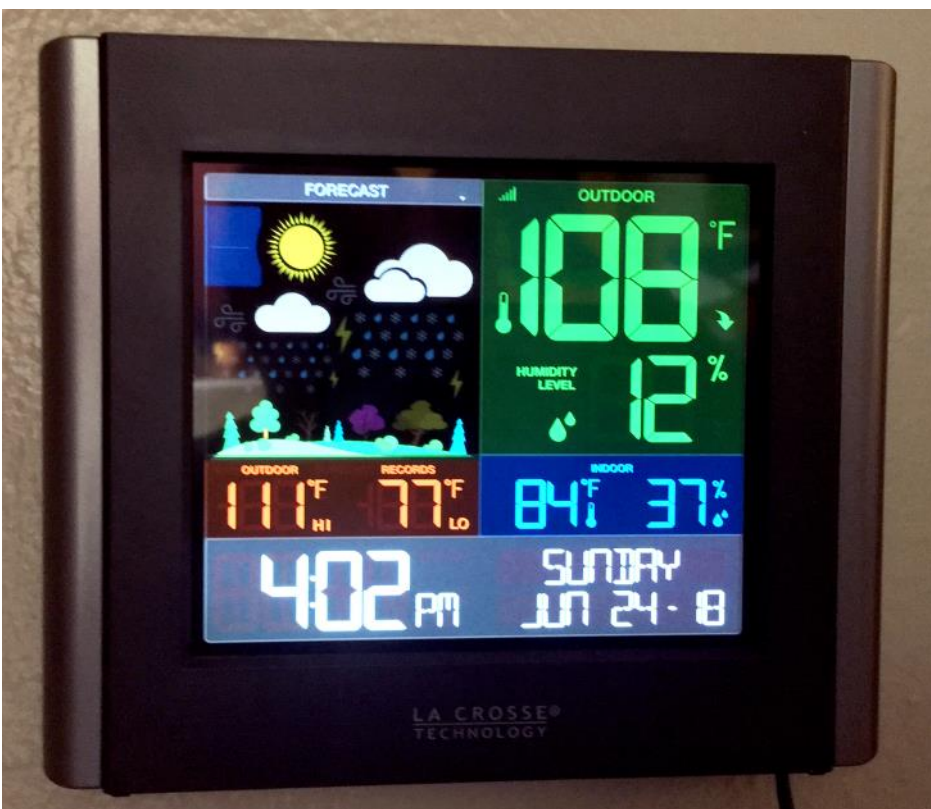


Goings On

My vehicle is a 2006 Chevy Impala. I got the car when it was about 10 years old. It was well less than 100,000 miles. Well, about two years later, I finally hit the six digit mark on April 25, 2018! Here's the before and after photos of the odometer!

(And no, I was not driving when I hit the mileage. Look at the speedometer! And yes, I was in a safe spot when I took the photos!)

[odo-: hodos, journey. -meter: metron, measure]



Here's what my weather station showed on June 24 at about 4 PM. As you can see by the daily high, it got up to 111°! Also, that is some very low humidity, even for West Texas!

Goings On

Winning with Instagram

There is a YouTube channel I've been watching for about two years now called James Townsend & Son, or now just Townsends. They are a company based in Indiana that makes and sells reproduction products representing the 1700s and early 1800s. The variety of products is quite vast. Besides their store of products, they also keep a resource of information about a wide variety of topics relating to the colonial period of the United States. (Now understand, that means anything from the very late 1600s through the early 1800s.) Part of that disseminating of information is by doing live stream videos on Fridays to answer questions and present interesting topics, items, and guests, which they have been doing now every Friday for about nine months. Prior to the live videos, they made and posted short prerecorded videos of varying topics, which they also still do. For the past six months or so, they do a contest where people can post on their Instagram pages photos of anything 18th century (1700s). They would then find and pick a winner every week and announce it during their live streams. For the Friday live stream of June 29, they chose my photo I posted as the winner! (see right)



These are Jumbles, an 18th century almond cookie.

Screen shot of the live stream video showing my photo as the winner of the Instagram contest. The prize is a \$20 gift certificate to their store.



Boredom Happens!

Do you know what happens when a graphic artist is bored? They take parts of historic paintings and superimpose them onto Google Street View, that's

what! I'll include some of my favorite ones. These are only a few!

[See more on the Bored Panda website.](#)

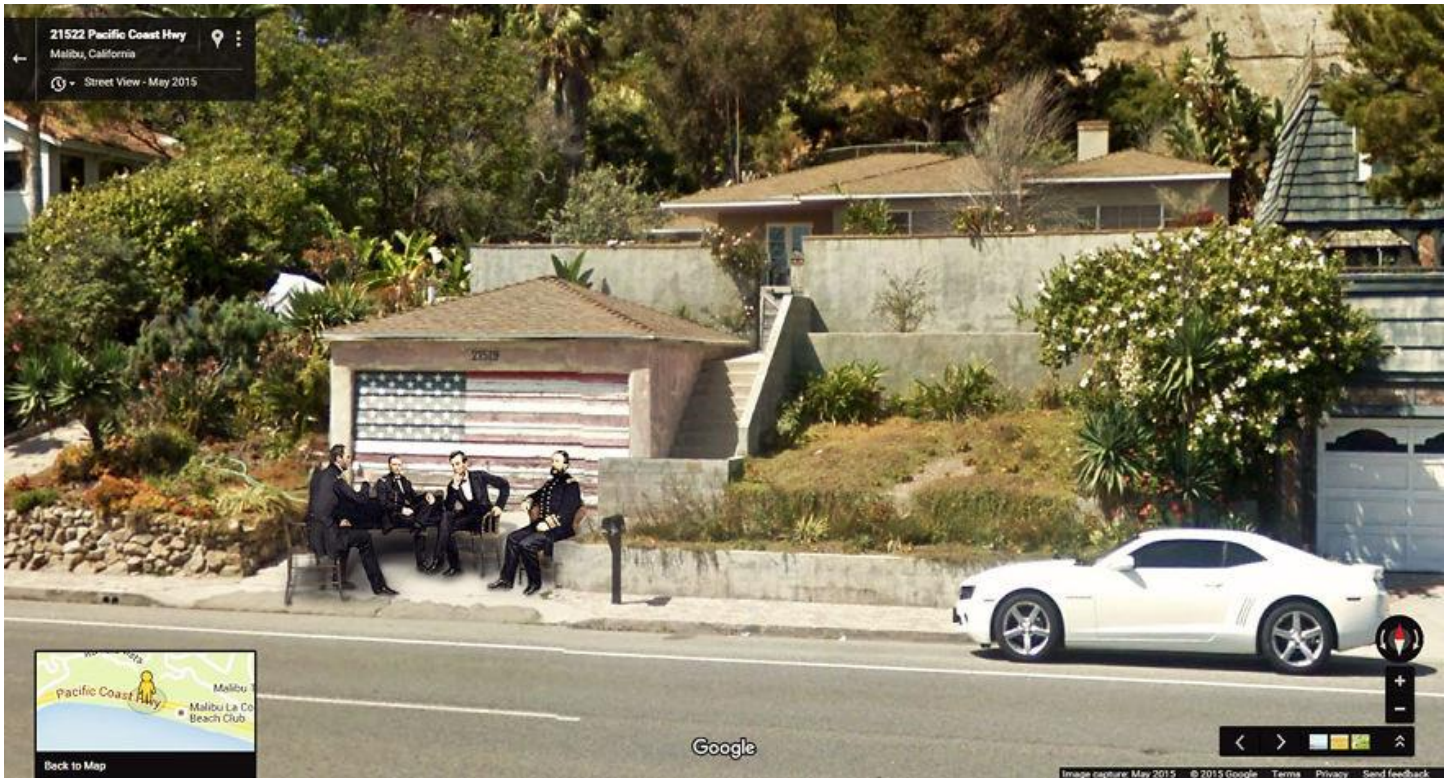


Elizabeth, New Jersey, US



Gent, Vlaanderen, Belgium

Boredom Happens!



Malibu, California, US



Los Angeles, California, US

Boredom Happens!



Terrace, British Columbia, Canada



Toronto, Ontario, Canada

Boredom Happens!



Malibu, California, US



Goldsboro, North Carolina, US

Teaching Art Classes

After I got back from working in Leadville in November 2017, I was seeking out new employment since I was finished with my summer employment at the Temple Israel Museum. One option I looked into as a cold contact was how I could establish some art classes at the Lubbock Garden and Arts Center. I've know for a number of years that they had public classes for art (along with other facilities of the city of Lubbock teaching various other subjects), but I never thought much about them. Well, one day, I finally inquired to them about it and set up a time to meet with them. Long story short, they liked the general ideas I had of classes I could offer, and I soon created a schedule of classes that would start in the spring 2018 (basically starting in February). Since then, I am teaching classes for the summer 2018, and now just submitted my classes for the fall 2018. The classes each term have become more defined and more modular. So, what are these classes, you ask? Here are the classes for the summer term.

Art Foundations 1

Learn the basics of understanding and making art. Students will study the Elements of Design and will make a drawing to give structure to these fundamentals.

Art Foundations 2

Learn more of the basics of understanding and making art. Students will study the Principles of Design and will make a drawing to practice these fundamentals.

Abstract Series: Impressionism

This class is part of a series about abstract art. Students will learn about Impressionism, Postimpressionism, and Fauvism and will create a piece of art based on some aspect of these styles.

Abstract Series: Cubism & Futurism

This class is part of a series about abstract art. Students will learn about Cubism and Futurism and will create a piece of art based on the Cubist style.

Abstract Series: De Stijl & Art Concret

This class is part of a series about abstract art. Students will learn about De Stijl and Art Concret and will create a piece of art based on Mondrian's technical requirements.

Abstract Series: Abstract Expressionism

This class is part of a series about abstract art. Students will learn about Abstract Expressionism and will create a piece of art based on Jackson Pollock's style of drip painting.

Abstract Series: Kinetic & Op Art

This class is part of a series about abstract art. Students will learn about Kinetic Art (along with Op Art) and will create a mobile in the style of Alexander Calder.

Abstract Series: Pop Art

This class is part of a series about abstract art. Students will learn about Pop Art and will create a piece of art based on the soup can painting style of Andy Warhol.



This class was about Abstract Expressionism of the 1940s and 1950s in the United States. The students learned about artists like Jackson Pollock and created a painting based on his drip style. I made this project modeled after Pollock's "Blue Poles" painting with limited colors of blues, whites, and creams.

Language

Spanish-Mexican And Indian Names with Their Pronunciation and Signification.

ACEQUIA (a-sa-kia).

ANIMAS. Souls.

APISHAPA (apish-a-paw). An Indian name.

BARELA. Proper name, after whom a settlement was named.

BIJOU (bizh-u). Jewel.

BLANCO. White.

CAÑON (can-yon).

CAÑADA DEL BURRO (can-ya-da del boo-ro). Donkey cañon.

CARNERO (car-nar-o). Sheep; wether.

CHAMA (cha-mah). Indian name.

CHICOSA (che-co-sa). Abounding in “chico“, an indigenous shrub.

CHIHUAHUA (she-wa-wa).

CHILETILLE (chilee-tee-ya). Chili is red pepper.

COCHETOPA. Indian name.

CONEJOS (co-na-hos). Rabbits.

COSTILLA (cos-tee-ya). Rib.

CRESTONES. Crests—three prominent peaks.

CUCHARAS (cu-cha-ra). Spoons.

CULEBRA (cu-la-bra). A snake.

CUMBRES (cum-breez).

DOLORES. Griefs.

EL MORO. From El Moro in Spain.

FLORIDA (flo-ree-da). Flowery.

GUADALUPE (wha-da-loo-pe). Proper name, for a river in Spain.

HUERFANO (whar-fa-no). Orphan.

HERMOSILLA (er-mo-seya). Beauty.

HERMOSA (er-moso). Beautiful.

IGNACIO. Ignatius.

LA GARITA (la ga-ree-ta). Sentry box.

LA JIYNTA (la hon-ta). Shrubbery, brush.

LA JARA (la hah-ra).

LA PLATA. Silver.

LA VETA (la va-ta). The lode, or lead.

LOMA. Small table lands on both sides of a river.

LOS MADRILES (ma-dree-les).

LUCERO (la-say-ro). The Morning Star, proper name, after whom a settlement was named.

MANASSA. Scripture name; a Mormon colony.

MANITOU (man-i-too).

MARIPOSA. Butterfly.

MONERO (mo-na-ro).

MOSCO. A pass, named for the finder.

NAVAJO (nav-a ho). Indian name.

NUTRIA (nu-tre-ah). Beaver.

NUTRITA (nu-tre-ta). Little beaver.

OJO (o-ho). Spring.

OJO CALIENTE (o-ho cal-i-en-te). Hot springs.

OJO NAPESTA. Indian name.

PAGOSA (pah-go-sa). Indian for boiling spring.

PLACITA. A small plaza.

PIEDRA (pe-a-dra). Rock.

PIÑON (pin-yon).

PINOS (pa-nos). Pines.

PONCHO (pon-ko). An Indian name

PUEBLO. Ancient Indian village.

PUEBLO DE TAOS (pueblo de tows).

RINCONES. Corners: name of a plaza.

RIO ALTO. High river.

ROSITA (ro-sie-ta). Rosy; little rose.

SALLADO (sa-ya-do). Salt.

SAGUACHE (sa-watch). Indian name.

SAN ACACIO. Name of saint.

SAN ANTONIO. St. Anthony.

SAN CHRISTOBAL. St. Christobal.

SAN ISIDRO (san is-ee-dro).

SAN JOSE (san o-za). St. Joseph.

SAN JUAN (san whan). St. John.

SAN LUIS. St. Louis.

SAN MIGUEL (san mig-ill). St. Michael.

SAN RAFAEL (san ra-phale). St. Raphael.

SANGRE DE CRISTO. Mountain range. Blood of Christ.

SANTA CLARA. St. Clare.

SANTA FÉ (san-ta fay).

SAPINERO (sapi-na-ro).

SIERRA MOJEDA (sierra mo-ya-da).

TIJERAS (te-hay-ass).

TOMICHI (to-mee-chee). Indian name.

TRINCHERA (trin-chiy-ra). French for intrenchment; site of former Indian fight.

TRINIDAD. Trinity.

UNCOMPAGRE (un-com-pah-gree). Indian name.

VALLECITO (va-ye-ce-to). Little valley.

VALLEJO (vall-a-ho).

VERNAL. Verdant; like summer.

VIGIL (ve-heel). Proper name; for who a settlement was named.

WAHATOYA (wa-ha-toy-a). Indian. Two breasts; twins.

Upcoming Issues

Here are some topics I plan to feature in future issues, not necessarily the very next issue, but in some future issue.

The Spade Ranch

West of Lubbock a few miles on the way to Levelland is the unassuming entrance to the old Spade Ranch. Since the ranch is historic, there is a Texas historical sign out by the entrance. The National Ranching Heritage Center has a structure from this ranch called the Renderbrook-Spade Blacksmith Shop (dated to 1917). I stopped on my way back from Levelland to get these photos.

Read more:

<https://tshaonline.org/handbook/online/articles/aps04>



Appalachia

In the early days of Texas, there were no Texans other than the native Mexicans living in the area. Many of the people who would be called Texan came from somewhere else. A large number came from Appalachia, which is basically the Appalachian mountains areas, or Blue Ridge Mountains.



Garden Flowers

As the summer starts to wind down, I'll show you the flowers that have been growing in my garden.



Jumbliah

These cookies are called Jumbles. You saw about how I won a contest with them. The next issue will include what I got with the gift certificate!

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Salt Glaze Workshop from 1999

In July 1999, I was living in Flagstaff, Arizona. I was attending Northern Arizona University. I was almost done with my BS in Arts Management degree (which I would get in August.) One of the classes I took during the Summer II Term was a Salt Glaze Ceramics Workshop (a very short class with a specialized topic, that lasted just over two weeks). Part of the requirement of the class was to take daily notes, a ceramics journal, of what I did during that short class. So, here are those notes starting Tuesday, July 6 to Monday, July 19, 1999. The class itself ended a day or two later.

Tuesday, July 6, 1999

I was actually able to get to class by just after 7 AM. We went over the syllabus and talked about the kilns and clay and slips. A group of us started to make a clay body for wheel throwing. I decided to also use this batch for hand building as well. This batch we made came out really good: 150+ lbs fire clay, 15 lbs red art, 3 scoops ball clay, 3 scoop fine sand. I made 2 pots. I threw one (after some practice) where the base was round and square on top. I also made a pinch pot with a peach pit for the side impressions.

Wednesday, July 7, 1999

I got to class by 7 AM today. I started out throwing a pot but got really pissed off with the cracking and such. I decided that for most of the work I would hand build. I will try to have examples of all types of ceramics: pinch pot, coil, slab, wheel throw, and sculpture. I'm also thinking about making a sort of big cow skull, not sure how yet. We started loading the first batch of pots for a salt fire. We had four shelves and a half shelf and we got most of the work in too. My first two pots are in this load. We will probably do a soda fire tomorrow and go back and forth over the next week and a half. I made a coil pot and pinch pot. The pinch pot has shell impressions and the coil has three abstract cow heads on the sides. Tomorrow, I am going to make some small pinch pots, engobe the two pots from today and start figuring out my skull. I also want to throw some small pieces as well. Tomorrow, I will bring some doughnuts.

[Always a good idea!]

[A salt fire is a regular high fire kiln, usually made of bricks located outside, that uses gas like a regular high fire gas kiln. The main difference is that the kiln is dedicated for salt fire. The salt is rock salt, NaCl, much like table salt. The result is a nice orange peel sort of effect on the pottery. A soda fire is almost identical to the salt fire except that instead of salt, they use sodium carbonate, Na₂CO₃. (Do not confuse this with sodium bicarbonate, NaHCO₃, which is used in kitchen baking.) The effect here is sort of like a "roasted" piece of pottery with a much finer orange peel effect.]

Thursday, July 8, 1999

Today I put some engobe/slip on pots. On the pinch pot I put salt slip orange on the inside and copper grape dripped on edge. On the coil pot, I rubbed copper grape on the inside and put pearly yellow on the skulls. I made three pinch pots then started working on the center piece for the fountain. The center piece is a coil with pinchpots for the cups. I still need to work on a tray and some sort of top. After lunch, I made two plates which, along with the pinchpots, have leaf impressions. The salt kiln was red hot this morning and, after some problems, was steadily increasing. [Red hot simply means that the pottery was glowing a reddish color. At full temp, the pottery will reach a yellowish color.] Sometime tonight, we should be adding the salt which I understand is added in three doses. [The "doses" are three big newspaper burritos of the rock salt.] I checked back later, and the kiln was just about up to temp at 10 PM.

Friday, July 9, 1999

I found out the kiln was salted at about 1:30 AM and is now cooling. We should be able to unload about 1-2 PM. I made two small pinch pots this morning and started slipping the ones from yesterday. The one plate with the leaves still embedded got a coat of pearly yellow. So did the other pots that had leaves still embedded. The other plate got a rubbing of salt slip orange as well as the one "torn pot" the other pots/plates with the yellow also got a rubbing/brushing of the orange. My steer head pot went in the soda firing yesterday. The plate with the rubbing also got a coat of Marlene's temmoku with bentonite glaze.

Sunday, July 11, 1999

Two pieces were finished a few days ago from the salt firing and came out pretty well. The peach pit pinch pot gave a nice yellow/brown salt glaze and was located about the front top. The thrown pot [square] gave a more green/gray salt glaze but did get a big crack on the bottom. It was in about the same place. My steer head coil pot came out of the soda fire today. It too has coil cracks on the bottom. I had some slip on the inside and on the heads. Overall, the soda glaze is a blue/gray. Also, it has a dark brown glaze underneath. I don't know where in the kiln it was. I made another thrown pot and attempted two others. I then switched to handbuilding. I made a pinch pot and the tray for the fountain. While scraping for a thrown plate, made these "scrape offs" which I let set then used for decoration on the thrown pot. I again used the peach pit for the pinch pot. The tray for the water fountain was a slab bottom and pressed sides-square-then everything was smoothed out. I will need to make more clay soon. I also want to make a "signature stamp". Soon, I'll start figuring out how I want to make the cow skull. Also, I need to make the top for the fountain.

Monday, July 12, 1999

I came a little late today, but immediately got started with slipping two of my small pinch pots for the soda fire. I coated them with salt slip white then on one put pearly yellow and on the other pearly blue. The "torn" pot I decided to put into the wood fire (Naborigama) after putting a shino glaze on the top of the slip already on it. [The Naborigama is a Japanese style wood fire kiln arranged as chambers. A similar kiln, the Anagama, is next to it and were the kilns we used during my trips in the summer of 1994, 1995, and 1996.] After, I made a batch of clay, 50 lbs of Lincoln fire clay and three scoops of ball clay and 1.5 scoops of fire sand. This made a nice tannish clay that seemed good to work with. I cleaned up the pots from yesterday then worked on my fountain for the rest of the time. I cleaned up the center piece, then made the top for it, basically a cone shape with a pinch pot as a pool on top. The whole piece is in three parts. Tomorrow, I plan to start making the steer head basically with slabs. I'm also going to make several more thrown pieces of some sort. So far, the fountain and steer head are the only two big things I have in mind.

Tuesday, July 13, 1999

We loaded another soda and unloaded the salt. These pieces came out great! I also started working on my steer head. I worked on this the whole time. I started with a slab and cut it out using my plastic steer head as a template. Then I made two pinchpots for eyes, put a center "column", put two top braces, and two small pinch pots for nostrils. Then, I started putting the top slabs and filler slabs as necessary. Then I made horn slabs and top then put more emphasis on the horn "connection" as well as put eyelids over the eyes. It came out really cool. [Actually, it came out really goofy and looked nothing like a cow head!]

Wednesday, July 14, 1999

Today, was a day of inspiration. It was cold and rainy*. I found a bunch of river rocks out back and washed them off. I then took the two types of clay I had and pressed them together on the slab roller. I took the clay and molded them over the rocks then made a base out of a slab strip rolled into a cylinder. I then removed the rock and then cleaned up the edges. I did twelve of these "trays" or "bowls" and even used a white and brown clay mix. I also used a large mold to make a big tray.

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Salt Glaze Workshop from 1999

Thursday, July 15, 1999

I made two more of the small heads using the same method as with the big head. We also unloaded the soda kiln and cleaned the shelves and such, then loaded it again. Actually, today I made the large tray not yesterday. [I think I wrote Wednesday's and Thursday's entry on Thursday, hence the correction.]

Friday, July 16, 1999

I came by in the evening to see what was going on. Don Bendel came by later and was talking about the wood kiln and how they were firing it. Stacey also came by. [Don Bendel was the head of the ceramics department and the one who I took the summer classes with in 1994, 1995, and 1996. He established the new ceramics studios with the wood fire kilns. I don't recall who Stacey was.]

Saturday, July 17, 1999

I came by late evening to see what was fired. Half of my rock trays came out of the soda kiln. They didn't look too bad! They actually, for the most part, came out really good. The one mound came out really good too. The other mound, I'll get refired since it was put in upside down. [The "mounds" were a series of upside down pinchpots with heavy texturing on the outside.]

Sunday, July 18, 1999

I came in the early afternoon to see what loads of work came out and the big salt was unloaded. [Big salt was the largest salt kiln.] The other half of my rock trays came out along with the center and top of the fountain and the refire of the one pot (the mound). My large platter tray broke, I think when the big jar exploded nearby [another person's work]. Also, a little rock tray broke, I think for the same reason. Overall, though, this batch came out really nice.

Monday, July 19, 1999

Basically, we cleaned the place [the studio, mixing room, storage areas, and the areas around the kiln] and put things away. The kilns, large salt and soda, will get unloaded tomorrow since they are still hot. My large steer head won't get fired I guess, because of space. So, it'll get bisqued, then fired in the fall. There is not much else to do today. Tomorrow, we'll critique, do some more cleanup, and unload the kilns.

[I think the journal had to be turned in on Tuesday for grading, which is why it ended with Monday. There was another part to the journal. I had to include recipes of glazes and clay mixtures. In addition, I included a firing cone list with temps, called pyrometric cones. In total, I counted 31 pieces of work I made during that two week workshop. Some of that work, I continued making variations of in future ceramics classes.]

*Flagstaff, Arizona where the campus is located is at an elevation of 7000 feet. Summers there can alternate between being warm and being cold with rain, sometimes both the same day!



These are pyrometric cones. Pyro means fire and metric basically means to measure. So these cones measure fire, specifically the temperature of the fire. They are numbered and will start to melt a very specific temperatures. With high fire firings (like wood, salt, and similar), a series of cones are placed together to show the progression of the temperature. Once the last one or two cones start to bend, you are basically done with the firing and can turn off the heat source (or stop adding wood).



These are glaze rings. They are wet snakes of clay formed into a ring and placed where the peek hole is in the kiln. After the salt or soda is added and finishes its evaporation, some time passes and this ring is taken out with a metal rod and checked to see how the glaze looks upon cooling,

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*Above: pinchpot with peach pit impressions.
Below: pinchpot with shell impressions*



Coil pot with the three steer heads.



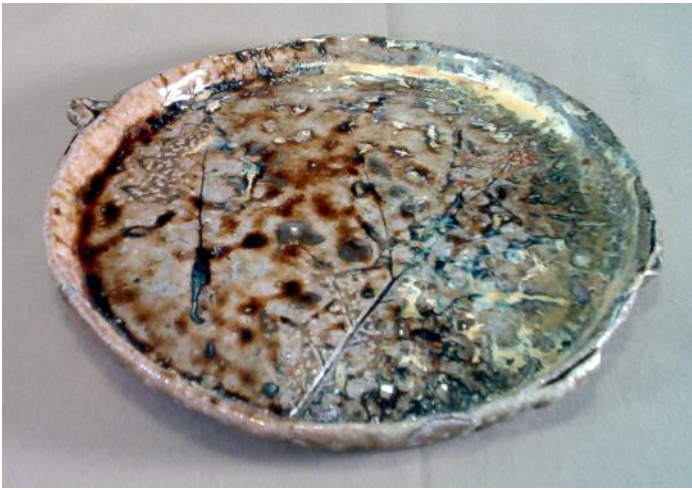
*“Torn” pot fired in the Naborigama kiln.
(This is an example of a very “dry” wood firing, meaning
that there is hardly any ash glaze or coloring.)*



The goofy steer head that was fired later in the year.

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Salt Glaze Workshop from 1999



These four pieces all had the leaf impressions on the plates or the sides. The leaves were oak and maple.

These are two of the twelve rock trays I made where the clay slab was formed around a river rock.





Wild Sunflower, *helianthus annuus*