

15.Special ■ Bluebonnets 2026



de Stolfe Journal



Contents

15.Special ■ Bluebonnets 2026

(Page numbers correspond to the PDF page numbers.)

- 2** Contents & On The Cover
- 3** Comments by RG
- 4, 23** Bluebonnet Facts
- 5** Late 2000s
- 6-8** 2010
- 9** 2020
- 10-11** 2021
- 12** 2022
- 13** 2023
- 14** 2024
- 15-23** 2025
- 24-33** 2026
- 34** Other Locations Not Visited
- 35** Final Thought
- 35** Fine Print



de Stolfe Journal



On The Cover



I was driving down a road looking for bluebonnets when I came across this old homestead. It had a long destroyed house, except for a still standing fireplace and chimney, and this old dilapidated barn. There were scattered bluebonnets on the land in this area.



We live in the 2020s, not the 1920s! Wherever a web link is like below, click it to go to the webpage it references! (Click it now!)

www.destolfe.com



Comments By RG

Blues Spotting

If you want to see more photos of bluebonnets than you can possibly stand, this is the special issue for you!

Welcome to my comprehensive bluebonnet special issue of the de Stolfe Journal! In this issue, I combine all of the times I have seen bluebonnets and especially have reported about bluebonnets into one compact package. This has been after I moved to Texas and have lived here for several years. Lubbock and the Panhandle of Texas does not generally grow bluebonnets. So, I had not seen them in person until I travelled into the interior

of Texas a few years later. Prior to that, I had only seen photos of them online or from the official state photographer of Texas (1997*), Wyman Meinzer, who had photographed bluebonnets for decades, among many, many other subjects.

*By Texas Governor George W. Bush.

So, I'll make this intro short and sweet so you can get to it!

Enjoy!

RG



ginkgo biloba



Bluebonnet Facts

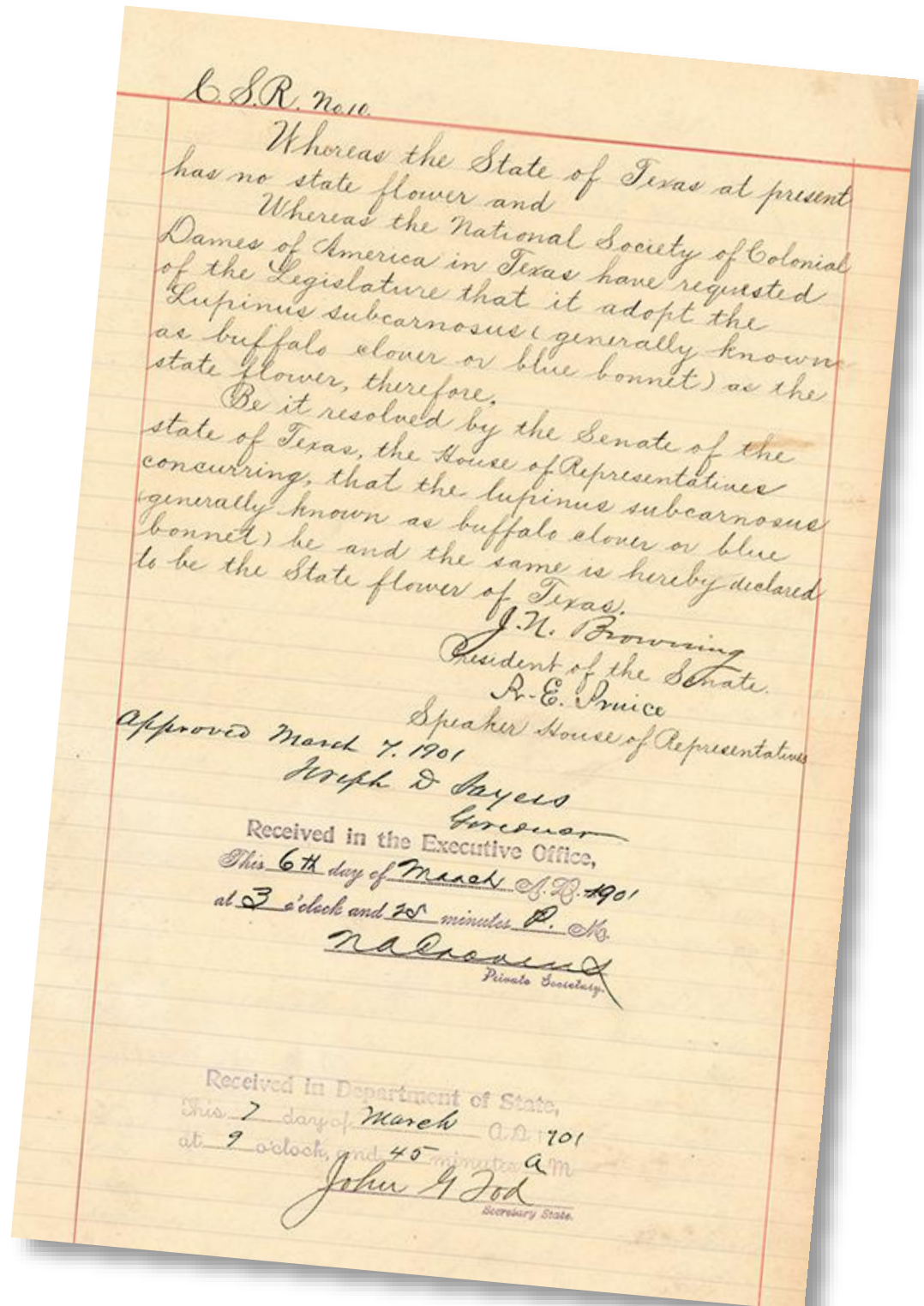
Official Declaration Of The Bluebonnet As Texas State Flower

Whereas the State of Texas at present has no state flower and
Whereas the National Society of Colonial Dames of America in Texas have requested of the legislature that it adopt the lupinus subcarnosus (generally known as buffalo clover or blue bonnet) as the state flower, therefore,
Be it resolved by the Senate of the state of Texas, the House of Representatives concurring, that the lupinus subcarnosus (generally known as buffalo clover or blue bonnet) be and the same is hereby declared to be the State flower of Texas.
J.N. Browning
President of the Senate
R.E. Prince
Speaker House of Representatives

Approved March 7, 1901
Joseph D. Sayers
Governor

The above declaration only designated the Lupinus subcarnosus, which includes the Lupinus texensis and the Lupinus harvardii ("Big Bend" bluebonnet), but not any other variety.

In 1971, the Texas Legislature adopted HCR 44, 62nd R.S., to also include all other varieties of bluebonnet along with the Lupinus texensis as the official state flower.

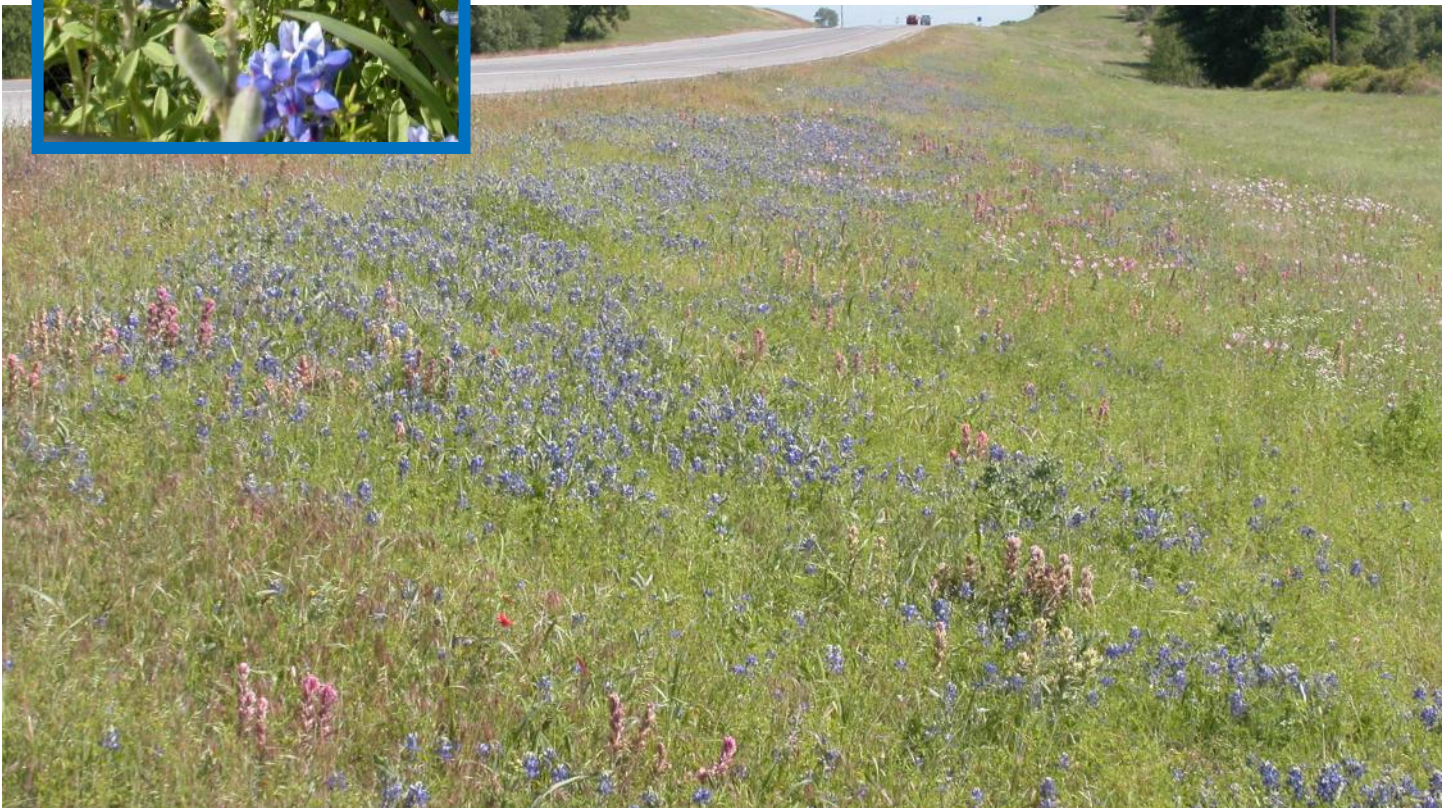


See more from the Texas Legislature: <https://lrl.texas.gov/whatsNew/client/index.cfm/2024/6/12/Bluebonnets-and-the-Texas-Legislature-Exhibit>

Bluebonnets—2000s

My First Recorded Seeing of Bluebonnets

In the late 2000s, I would occasionally visit friends who lived in Cisco, Texas. One of those years in the spring, likely in late April sometime between 2007 and 2009, I was able to see the wild bluebonnets. That was the first time I got to see them in person since moving to Texas, and really ever at all. They were growing on the sides of the road along with various other wildflowers.



Bluebonnets—2010

The Case of Mistaken Identity!

In mid March 2010, I was on my way to College Station to attend the annual TAM meeting. I stayed with my friends in Cisco and drove Highway 6 down through Waco to College Station. Between Dublin and Hico, I came across a really pretty stand of small purple flowers that I until 2026 I had mistakenly thought were early bluebonnets!

When I looked at the photos of them in putting together this special issue, I realized that something looked weird about them. I was right! I knew that I had seen them before, and

it turned out that they were a beautiful stand of wild grape hyacinths! I knew that they looked different from the bluebonnets I had seen in recent years. In 2020, I bought two pots of the grape hyacinths, also called muscari, to put in my garden. That is where I recognized them.

Anyway, these flowers were by County Road 526 near the Bedrock Ranch entrance. While not bluebonnets, they are nearly the same color and are very pretty nonetheless!



Grape hyacinth



Bluebonnet



These flowers were found along Highway 6 and CR 526.



Bluebonnets—2010

The Case of Mistaken Identity!



These are not in fact early bluebonnets like I thought, but rather are a broad patch of grape hyacinth! They are nonetheless still very pretty!



Grape hyacinths come in a variety of blue tones, along with other colors like pinks, white, and yellow.



Bluebonnets—2010

The Case of Mistaken Identity!

Here are a few times where I used these photos from 2010 erroneously referring to them as Bluebonnets when they were actually grape hyacinth!



Early bluebonnets taken on March 19, 2010 in the north Hill Country area of Texas. Note: It's illegal to pick them from the side of the road, but you can grow them on your own property from seeds.

de Stolfe Journal Candid. April 2013 issue, Page 1.

Turns out that there is no actual law making it illegal to pick bluebonnets! However, you should still make certain that you are not picking any on private property!



de Stolfe Journal Candid. February 2015 issue. Page 10.

Bluebonnets

The Bluebonnet is the state flower for Texas, five varieties of them. The flowers are of the Lupine family, and I'm not quite sure why they are called blue when they actually are a purple of sorts. I took these photos of early Bluebonnets in the Texas Hill Country in mid March 2010 on my way back from a meeting in College Station.



de Stolfe Journal Candid. February-March 2014 issue. Page 9.

Bluebonnets—2020

Bluebonnets During The Lockdowns

Fast forward to 2020 when I would see bluebonnets again in person. I was living in Snyder at the time. Now, late winter and early spring of 2020 was the start of the “scary times” as you very well remember! By early April, I found out that Mom had died and we were going to immediately leave to Florida. However, we delayed until the end of

April for other things to get arranged. In those weeks, the field in front of my apartment and a field about a block away were filled with various small wildflowers. Scattered among them were a few very small bluebonnets. After I got back to Snyder in mid June, the bluebonnets and the other wildflowers were basically bloomed out.



Original



Instagram



Original



Instagram



Bluebonnets—2021

Bluebonnets After The Deep Freeze

The bluebonnets in Snyder in the spring of 2021 was almost a repeat of that in 2020 but with a few differences. We had that crazy deep freeze in mid February that lasted for about 10 days causing all kinds of havoc. But, the flowers everywhere that spring bloomed beautifully, especially the knock out rose bushes! We did another trip back to Florida in March, and I needed to stay in Colorado until early May. Once back, there were still a few stragglers of bluebonnets left in that one field near my apartment. The rest of them had gone to forming seed pods.

Another thing new for me was to buy potted bluebonnets. Even before I moved back to Lubbock, I was in Lubbock one time and went to the HEB there that was still fairly new. Out front by the entrance was a whole rack of potted bluebonnets! That was the first time I had ever seen them for sale! So of course, I bought one! (HEB sells many of their plants for good prices.)



Lady bug



Bluebonnets—2021

Bluebonnets After The Deep Freeze



Potted bluebonnet from HEB with buds still forming.

Well, yes, the idea is that I could plant them. But, I don't really think you can transplant bluebonnets as they seem very picky about their growing arrangements! Any of the potted bluebonnets I have ever bought have eventually dried up and died, and never grew back.



Fresh Flowers Again

After I got back from Florida and Colorado in June last year, I had decided that I wanted to have fresh flowers on my table on a regular basis because of Mom's death. For June and July, I sort of did. But then, financial leanness (read: broke, broke, broke!) did not give me the means to get fresh flowers again for the rest of the year and well into 2021. However, just recently, I was able to get some fresh flowers again and to welcome spring, and to fulfill the purpose from last year. I finally got over to the new HEB in Lubbock and looked at the fairly large florist section they have. I picked out two bunches of cut flowers: the purple chrysanthemums and a bunch of carnations featuring six colors. I also got one unexpected item, a planted Texas Bluebonnet!

The plant grew fairly quickly in my sunny window, and I counted 8 budded stems! The nice thing is that I can plant these after they bloom and I'll get them every year.



lupinus texensis

de Stolfe Journal. Winter 2021 issue. Page 8.

Bluebonnets—2022

Potted Bluebonnets

In June of 2021, I moved from Snyder back to Lubbock. Therefore, my exposure to seeing wild bluebonnets ended. I did not go anywhere where wild bluebonnets grew in the spring of 2022, 2023, nor 2024. However, I did once again buy the potted bluebonnets from HEB in 2022 and in 2023.

There is sort of a saying in Texas where “you can’t plant bluebonnets” because of how finicky they are to soil changes. Of the years I have bought potted bluebonnets, they grew for a while but eventually dried up and died. And Lubbock was not exactly the right climate for growing the variety of bluebonnets that HEB sold.



Bluebonnets—2023

More Potted Bluebonnets

My bluebonnet experience and interaction was exactly the same in 2023 as in 2022. I bought some pots of bluebonnets from HEB once they got them and had them for a while until they eventually dried up and died after a few weeks.



Texas Bluebonnets

HEB opened in Lubbock in late 2020. By Spring of 2021, they had Texas bluebonnets for sale in their garden section. I have bought these plants for the last three years. Texas bluebonnets are basically a type of lupine found specifically in Texas which recognizes four specific varieties as the official state flower.



de Stolfe Journal. Early Spring 2023 issue. Page 6.



Bluebonnets—2024

None To Be Found!

In a strange turn of events, HEB did not get a shipment of potted bluebonnets to the Lubbock store in 2024! If they had gotten any, I would have bought one or two or three! In addition, I did not go anywhere during the spring to where any grew. So instead, here are some other flowers I saw that spring.



Prickly pear cactus roses



Amaryllis bulbs that bloomed into a variety of colors.

Bluebonnets—2025

Bluebonnets Revitalization!

I moved from Lubbock to Granbury in February 2025. there was still the second half of winter before spring would show up. But what I did not realize was that Granbury

was in a good area to see wild bluebonnets, especially along the sides of roads. Once I realized this, I got excited to see where I would find the flowers growing.

Ultimately, from late March to early May, I would find various places where beautiful bluebonnets grew. Each of these areas shown separately into their own

sections. I included this in the Spring 2025 issue. Here is a slightly modified and expanded version of that feature. *(I did buy a potted plant from HEB, but no photo.)*

25-1

House on Red Bird Lane

This was the first location I found that was full of bluebonnets in the front yard of a house! The growth was thick and was a showstopper! This rather set my expectation of what I hoped to find in other places. (Saturday, March 29, 2025)



Bluebonnets—2025

25-2

Patch on Liberty Road

This location was a small patch by a mailbox next to the road. (Sunday, March 30, 2025)



I saw the very last blooms of bluebonnets flowering on May 31, 2025! These blooms lasted for about another week before they were mowed. (I did not get any photos of them later.) These were the ones near a mailbox in group #2 of bluebonnets as shown in the last issue. This was two months later from that other photo!



Texas Bluebonnet

de Stolf Journal. Early Summer 2025 issue. Page 29.

Bluebonnets—2025

25-3

House on West Bridge Street

This location was another house a few blocks from the downtown square. The bluebonnets were thick

in this front yard along with a few other flowers in other areas of the yard. (Monday, April 7, 2025)



Bee



Among the bluebonnets were these pink flowers. Bluebonnets are basically lupines, and lupines come in a wide variety of colors.

Bluebonnets—2025

25-4

Loop 567 And Weatherford Highway

This location was in the shoulders of the local highway where the bluebonnets and other wildflowers were sprawling!
(Friday, April 11, 2025.)

It was out in this dense patch of bluebonnets on a warmish day that I could really smell that strong scent of bluebonnets!



Bluebonnets—2025

25-4

Loop 567 And Weatherford Highway



Bluebonnets—2025

25-5

Along Cleveland Road

A few straggler bluebonnets were near my place of work.



25-6

Pearl Street And Loop 567

Near downtown Granbury, there was a single bundle of bluebonnets surrounded by flat grass! It was a very nice mound of bluebonnets though!



Bluebonnets—2025

25-7

By The “City of DeCordova” Sign, Highway 377

These were the only few bluebonnets I saw among a whole slew of various other wildflowers. They were outside of town along Highway 377 on the way to Benbrook by the “City of DeCordova” sign going west.



Bluebonnets—2025

The Hood County News promoted in their newspaper about a bluebonnets photo contest. The bluebonnets were apparently blooming later than in past years and so the contest was extended to

nearly the end of April. From late March for several weeks, the bluebonnets were nice! Here were my three submissions. I never hear any more about my submissions and have no idea who won.



Hood County News
hcnews.com



RG de Stolfe

Granbury, Texas.

Where was your photo taken?

Granbury, Texas.

This is from the 25-1 location.



RG de Stolfe

Granbury

Where was your photo taken?

Granbury

This is from the 25-6 location.



RG de Stolfe

Granbury

Where was your photo taken?

Granbury

This is from the 25-3 location.

Bluebonnets—2025



Bluebonnets are simply one color of a variety of lupine, with other colors including white, yellow, pink, red, bicolors, and variations. The bluebonnet is the official state flower established in 1901, and Texas recognizes six varieties of them:

- *lupinus subcarnosus,*
- *lupinus texensis,*
- *lupinus havardii,*
- *lupinus concinnus,*
- *lupinus perennis, and*
- *lupinus plattensis.*

There is also a maroon bluebonnet associated with Texas A&M, called an Aggie bluebonnet.

Bluebonnets—2026

26-1

Along Davis Road

As I was driving down Davis Road looking for bluebonnets, I came across this old homestead that had scattered bluebonnets near the road. Needless to say, I got photos of the old structures along with photos of the bluebonnets! (March 19, 2026)

(Also to note, I did not bother to buy a potted bluebonnet from HEB this year! Did think about it.)



Bluebonnets—2026

26-1

Along Davis Road



Bluebonnets—2026

26-2

Two Houses On Meadowlark Lane

Last year, I first discovered a bunch of bluebonnets at a house in a neighborhood. One day, I was driving down another road a few streets away in the same neighborhood to find another house packed full of bluebonnets! So of course, I had to stop! (March 23, 2026)



Bluebonnets—2026

26-2

Two Houses On Meadowlark Lane



Bluebonnets—2026

26-2

Two Houses On Meadowlark Lane



Bluebonnets—2026

26-3

House on Red Bird Lane

This location is the same house I first saw the bluebonnets last year. I wanted to make sure to go back and see how they looked this year. (March 23, 2026)



Among the bluebonnets was this single pink flower near the street. This same pink color was there last year at this house.



Bluebonnets—2026

26-4

Corner of Davis Road and Acton Highway

Down the road on the corner from the old homestead was a small group and a few surrounding scattered bluebonnets.
(March 23, 2026)



26-5

Small Patch on Cleveland Road

Like last year, there was one little spot of bluebonnets and other wildflowers on Cleveland Road near the shop.
(April 10, 2026)



Bluebonnets—2026

26-6

On Liberty Road By A Mailbox

Also like in 2025, I revisited the patch of bluebonnets by a mailbox on Liberty Road. (April 10, 2026)



Bluebonnets—2026

26-7

On Loop 567 And Weatherford Highway

Here is another spot I visited last year. It was a beautiful, extended shoulder of wildflowers on Loop 567 across the street from Casey's. (April 12, 2026)



This location had a good mix of bluebonnets with Indian paintbrush, along with a few other scattered wildflowers.

Bluebonnets—2026

26-8

House On West Bridge Street

I went back this year to the house on W Bridge Street near the downtown square. However, I waited too long to get there and

most of the bluebonnets had already bloomed out and were seeding. There were a few stragglers left. (April 29, 2026)



26-9

By Mailbox On Liberty Road—2nd Visit

So while not technically another spot, I went back to the mailbox patch on Liberty Road like I did last year. There were a few last stragglers of bluebonnets, but most of them went to seeding. Since bluebonnets are related to beans, or legumes, I snatched a few pods to get some seeds, as shown here. (May 1, 2026)



WARNING
While bluebonnets are indeed related to beans, they are toxic if ingested, even if they are relatively harmless in handling the plants themselves.

Bluebonnets—2026

26-0

Some Notes of Other Locations Not Stopped To See

For work, we were travelling between Granbury and Arlington, and I saw several patches of bluebonnets. I was not driving and being on I-20, it would not have been safe to stop anyway! This photo was on March 12, 2026.



In late March, we were travelling from Granbury to Houston for a job. There were several of us driving, and so I could not really stop to get any photos of the bluebonnets and wildflowers along the way. But to note, I saw many beautiful patches of

bluebonnets and other wild flowers along the sides of some back roads and on part of I-35. However, once we got past the Waco area, the patches of flowers were less and less, especially as we got near Houston.

Waco

If you took Highway 6 from Eastland and kept going, you would eventually get to Waco (and which continues on to Bryan and College Station and ends near Galveston south of Houston). This very scenic route goes through much of the Texas Hill Country and is really pretty in the spring during the blooming of the bluebonnets.

de Stolfe Journal. December 2019 issue. Page 21.

While it ended up being too late for me this year, the town of Ennis, located south of Dallas, is known as the bluebonnet capital of Texas and has designated "bluebonnet trails" that visitors can see. The end of April was the official end of the season, and I was considering to visit a few

days later in May. Since Ennis is about two hours away from Granbury, I ultimately decided to skip going this year with intentions to go in late March or early April next year as I am able.

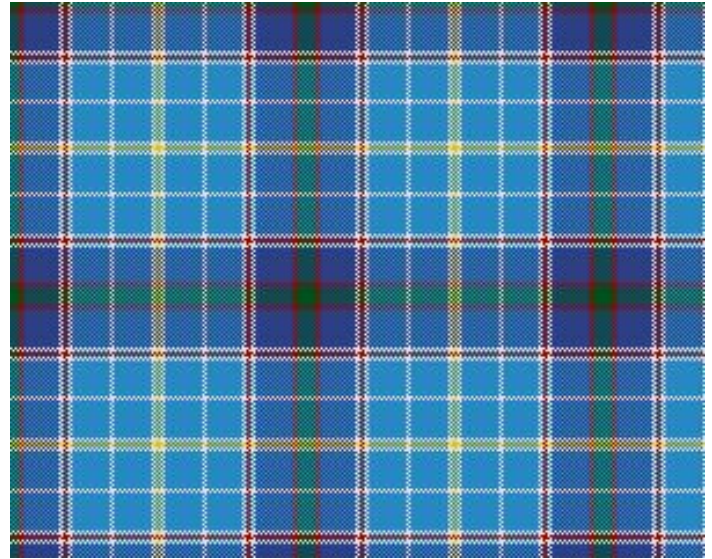
ENNIS GARDEN CLUB PRESENTS
ENNIS TX
2026 BLUEBONNET
TRAILS and FESTIVAL



ENNIS
TEXAS

The bluebonnet spirit of Texas

Final Thought



*Texas State Tartan: Texas Bluebonnet Tartan, 1989.
Recorded with the Scottish Register of Tartans (SRT) in
1983 with the designer as June MacRoberts (1922-1999).
www.tartanregister.gov.uk/tartanDetails?ref=4098*

*Texas A&M University Aggie bluebonnet, or
maroonbonnet, developed by Dr. Jerry Parsons.*



Robert-George de Stolfe
PO Box 31 ■ Granbury, Texas 76048
806.470.5867 ■ rgdestolfe@yahoo.com

The de Stolfe Journal 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* version of the Journal started with the July 2012 issue through the December 2018 issue. The publication went back to the original name starting in 2019. This publication is published solely as a digital format. Archives of all issues, including the original ones from the 1980s and 1990s, are available online at www.destolfe.com.

Owner/Editor/Publisher: Robert-George de Stolfe
Layout & Graphics: Robert-George de Stolfe

All content, unless specifically attributed to another source, is original content by Robert-George de Stolfe, except in the cases where the content is in the public domain not needing attribution or from a source where the original source cannot be rightfully determined. These sources might or might not be specifically attributed.

The reader of this content has right to download and view the content for personal enjoyment. However, if one wants to use the content for any other purposes beyond the reasonable fair use laws, permission must be requested in writing and approved by Robert-George de Stolfe.

Copyright © 2026, Robert-George de Stolfe