



WHEN A CITY GIRL *goes country*

By Annette Bridges

Bluebonnets

If you are a Texas rancher, there are two joys that come with spring. Healthy, adorable calves and stunning, gorgeous fields of bluebonnets. I suspect it would not be an exaggeration to say that most Texans will take a drive every spring in search of these blue beauties.

It just so happens that our wedding anniversary is at the end of March, and often this is in the peak of bluebonnet season.

Many years, our celebratory trip has kept us in Texas so this almost always meant traveling on roads where we could admire the shades of blue in ditches and fields along our way.

Normally, we do something extraordinary and extravagant when celebrating our “nickel” anniversaries, but for our 40th anniversary, we felt the need to stay closer to home so we looked for a Texas location.

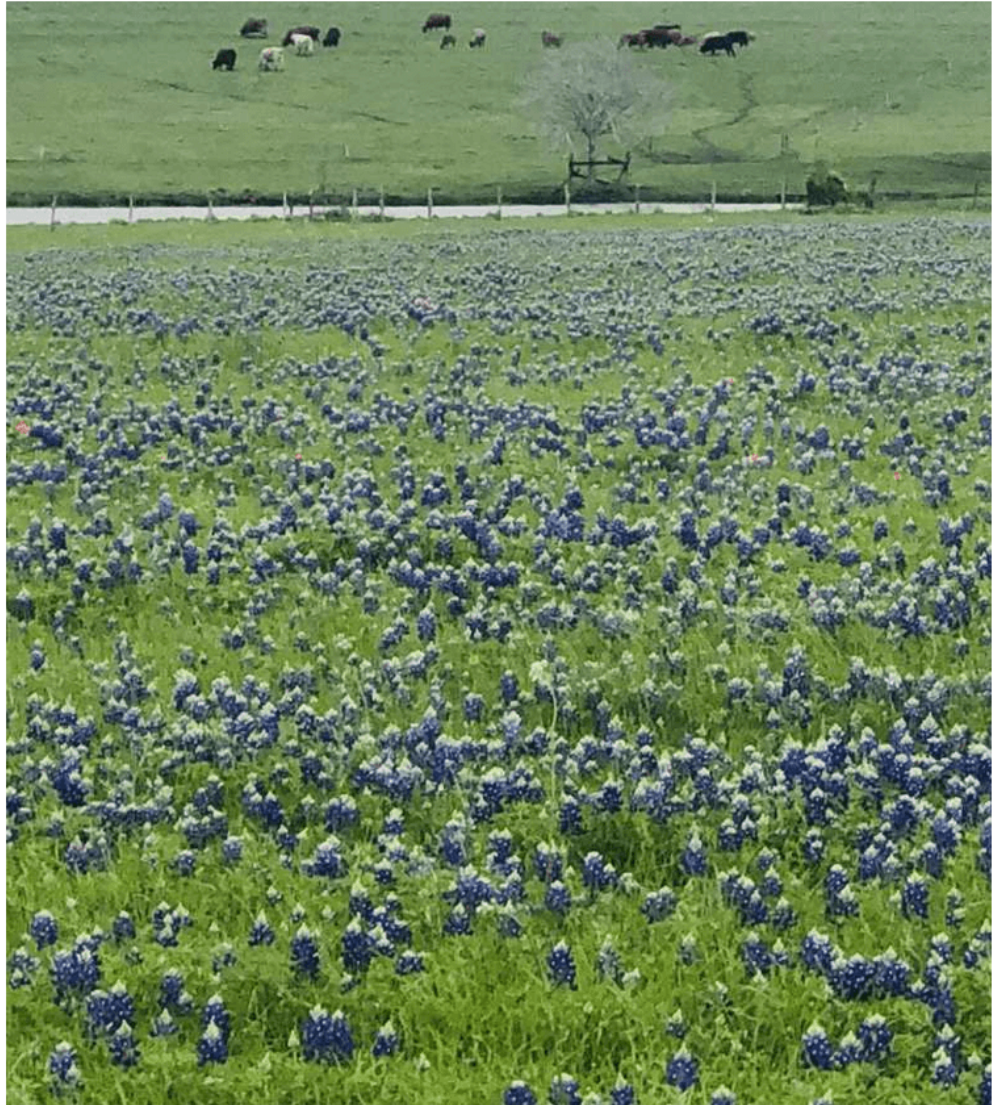
We set out for a Texas beach town we had never been to before. Going to places not yet explored is one of our favorite things to do. Besides heading to a new vacation spot, we decided to also traverse roads we had never been on. For us, the journey is equally as important as our destination.

Highway 77 did not disappoint. In addition to the most gorgeous and biggest fields of bluebonnets we had ever seen, there were also some stunning courthouses. We enjoy and appreciate historic buildings that have stood the test of time, and oh my goodness, those fields of blue.

My curiosity about this native Texas wildflower led me to learn that bluebonnets are very distasteful to cows and horses so they have no interest whatsoever in eating them. However, buffalo, sheep and goats will graze on them, as will deer if they are desperate.

Most of our past encounters have been small roadside clusters and patches of bluebonnets. Never had we seen a pasture full of blues as far as the eye could see. Naturally, when we came upon this unusual scene we stopped to pose by this stunning backdrop.

I remember many years ago when my



The bluebonnets in full bloom along Highway 77 in south central Texas. (Photo courtesy Annette Bridges)

mother-in-law threw out seed in the ditches around our ranch. Sadly, none came up. Indian Paintbrush wildflowers are more common in our area, and those patches of red are certainly lovely, too.

Do bluebonnets grow in your neck of the woods? If anyone has any tips for how to

get bluebonnets growing in our area of north Texas, I would love to hear from you. I have a hankering to give my mother-in-law's ambition another go.

In the meantime, we will continue our annual spring trek in search of another array of stunning, glorious blues. 