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week before the morn-
ing slaughter, my wife
found an opossum curled
up in one of the nesting
boxes. Talk about getting

tains – as before. At
the same time, she has
adopted a couple of post-
apocalyptic habits. She
sleeps in a manger in one

secreted in places that
only she can locate.
My wife says our
chicken business is on
pause – at least until

There will be a zero toler-
ance policy in the barn-
yard and woe be unto any
transgressors, roosters
included.

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Women's outdoor retreat coming to river region

The first-ever Women Who Wander Outdoor Retreat is still two months away, but the community is already buzzing with the sense of female empowerment for which it was founded. No matter how women have stumbled across the event, the region is seeing an incredible willingness to get on board even as final event details are still being finalized.

There's a sense among registrants that the journey is just as much fun as the final destination and, while event planners are working hard to create an incredible retreat, it's quite clear that attendees are willing to help before they even arrive, making the event their own and ensuring it's going to be something truly special.

While Women Who Wander has been a long time coming, it seems fated that it's happening now and could not have come together at a more opportune moment. Women Who Wander started as fireside chat 10 years ago amongst current founders, Jamie Holmes, Rachel Kellner and a group of friends. They talked about how outdoor activities and skills like fishing and hunting can be intimidating to women in a co-ed setting, and how great it could be to provide an opportunity for women to learn some new skills without pressure. They could think of no better backdrop for such an event than the Frio River, but logistics and time constraints kept them from turning that wishful thinking to fruition.

However, in late 2018 the stars aligned, the right people walked into a cabin at Frio Country Resort, the group had access to the right tools (and a good bottle of wine) and the idea started to grow. While



Shannon Beasley of Shannon Beasley Realty, Texas Game Warden Rachel Kellner, Frio Country Resort owner Jamie Holmes and manager Cassandra Perry, and Texas Hill Country River Region director Annabell McNew.

the concept of an outdoor women's retreat is not unique and many events around Texas have served as inspiration, there was a persistent feeling among the organizers that this event could be so much more than a weekend getaway.

As the conversation

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continued, Jamie, now the owner of Frio Country Resort, Cassandra Perry, manager at Frio Country Resort, Rachel, a Texas Game Warden, Shannon Beasley, of

Shannon Beasley Realty in Castroville, and Annabell McNew, executive director of Texas Hill Country River Region realized that while outdoor skills were an important element of the retreat, they also wanted to focus on wellness and escaping from busy, everyday life to make a true connection with the outdoors and other women. Spending time outdoors, a good old fashioned girls' night and learning a new skill are each empowering in their own right, but everyone is so excited to see what happens when the three are combined for this one-of-a-kind retreat.

The team has worked tirelessly to curate an assortment of classes, activities, speakers, and experiences that will have something for every woman. The synergy between instructors, outfitters, brands from all over the state,

local business owners and of course – wandering women has been phenomenal.

Women are signing up in groups of girlfriends, cousins, mother/daughter duos, or alone and have all expressed the desire to make new friends when they arrive. In anticipation of March 29, there's already a strong sense of community among them.

Attendance has grown and is now being capped at 600 women with support from approximately 100 instructors and volunteers. What started as a small benefit retreat with a few outdoor activities on the Frio River, has grown into something that will live well beyond this one weekend. Women Who Wander has truly become a movement, and everyone is looking forward to seeing each other at the final destination.

Wander with us. Register at WomenWhoWanderTexas.com.

ANNABELL MCNEW is executive director of the Texas Hill Country River Region.

aware
ially

own unique personality,
their own talents, and each
is looking to me to make

Sometimes life takes
us on a journey that we
did not anticipate. I never

am single. And I also did
not imagine that I would
be so happy teaching

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