

## BOOK NOTICE

S. CHRISTOPHER CARAN AND ELAINE DAVENPORT. 2016. **Discovering Westcave: The Natural & Human History of a Hill Country Nature Preserve.** (ISBN-13: 978-1-62349-459-9, flexbound). Texas A&M University Press, John H. Lindsey Building, Lewis Street, 4354 TAMU, College Station, Texas 77843-4354, U.S.A. (**Orders:** [www.tamupress.com](http://www.tamupress.com), 1-800-826-8911). \$24.95, 256 pp., 66 color and 13 b/w photographs and illustrations, 6 maps, 15 figures, bibliography, index, 6" × 9¼".

*From the publisher:* In the heart of the Texas Hill Country lies an astonishing place called Westcave Preserve, a 76-acre nature preserve and environmental education facility in western Travis County, near Austin, that provides a sanctuary for the flora and fauna of surprisingly diverse ecosystems.

Westcave has been connecting children and families to nature since 1976, when the nonprofit Westcave Preserve Corporation was established to restore and protect a popular but rapidly deteriorating picnic spot that encompassed a fern-covered grotto, an ancient rock shelter, and a spectacular forty-foot waterfall.

In *Discovering Westcave*, Chris Caran and Elaine Davenport take readers on a walk through the beautiful preserve, which includes a 3,000-square-foot learning center, unveiling the evolutionary past of its stunning natural features and acknowledging the many people who have been a part of Westcave's long history. The aim of this guidebook is not only to share the natural and human history of this refuge, soon to be surrounded by one of the fastest-growing urban areas in the country, but also to inspire through environmental learning a continued respect and appreciation for the natural world.

**S. Christopher Caran** is a research and consulting geologist, currently working for the Texas Water Development Board. **Elaine Davenport** is a writer and journalist who is a Westcave Preserve docent and Texas Master Naturalist.

I've been to Westcave Preserve, and this beautiful book makes me want to visit again to discover and enjoy this spectacular natural area in the Texas Hill Country. The appendices include checklists of biological entities: a) Plant Communities; b) Plants; c) Common Mosses; d) Invertebrates other than Butterflies; e) Butterflies; f) Fishes; g) Amphibians and Reptiles; h) Birds; i) Mammals. This is ready-made for the explorer and naturalist in all of us.—*Barney Lipscomb, Botanical Research Institute of Texas, Fort Worth, Texas, U.S.A.*