

S. Christopher Caran & Elaine Davenport

# DISCOVERING WESTCAVE

*The Natural  
& Human History  
of a Hill Country  
Nature Preserve*

In the heart of the Texas Hill Country lies an astonishing place called the 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 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 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, but also to inspire through environmental learning a continued respect and appreciation for the natural world.



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*Kathie and Ed Cox Jr. Books on Conservation Leadership, sponsored by The Meadows Center for Water and Environment, Texas State University*

\$24.95 flexbound. 256 pp. 66 color, 13 b&w photos. 6 maps. 15 figures. Bib. Index.  
Also available in ebook edition.



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