

AGGIELIFE

THE BATTALION

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KEEPING IT COOL

Students find classic, alternative ways to beat the heat this summer

By Elizabeth Webb
THE BATTALION

Now that the rain has finally ended and the hot, sunny days have returned, one thing is on people's mind: how to stay cool. And what better way to stay cool than to submerge in a pool of water? Although finding watering holes in College Station can be difficult, they do exist.

For starters, the vast majority of A&M students who live in apartments have a pool at their disposal for at least part of the day. This is perhaps the cheapest and most convenient method of finding a way to beat the heat. The only obstacle is mustering the courage to brave the watchful eyes of neighbors.

For those not fortunate enough to live in a complex with a pool, there are several public pools in the area, including the city pools. These consist of Adamson Lagoon, a small water park off Anderson, Southwood pool and the Natatorium, both off Rock Prairie Road, and Thomas Pool on James Parkway. All of these pools cost \$2 to enter except for Adamson Lagoon, which costs \$3.

If hordes of small children are not troublesome, these pools — particularly Adamson Lagoon with a huge system of waterslides — could entertain for hours, as Megan Singer, a junior chemical engineering major and lifeguard at several of these pools, points out.

"Usually there are only little kids and a few high schoolers sometimes, but if you don't mind Adamson would be a lot of fun," Singer said. "I would say that Adamson would be the best because it has the most to offer."

Of course, all A&M students have access to the pool at the Student Recreation Center, where there are always people lounging around, tanning or swimming laps.

Pools can become a little tiresome day after day, and a little variation in leisure time may be desired. For those yearning for a little more excitement, there are two lakes nearby — Lake Somerville and Lake Bryan.



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For the few fortunate people who own a boat or jet-ski, both lake offers unlimited opportunities for fun. With waterskiing, wakeboarding and rafting, the possibilities are endless. But for most people, boats and jet skis are hard to come by. For those

people, there also is swimming, sunbathing, picnic areas or just sitting back and relaxing. Of course, there is fishing on the bank of the lake says junior business administration major Joseph Medina.

"I like fishing on the weekends after school gets out," Medina said. "It's a really good chance to relax after a week of classes. I like (Lake) Somerville better though because it's cleaner and bigger than Lake Bryan."

"I have family here, so sometimes I go out with my cousins and fish. It's a lot of fun because after you go fishing, you can jump in the water and cool off."

If College Station has no cool spots that are appealing, there is always the option of taking a road trip to a water park, beaches or other lakes. For people who want extreme water adventures there is Hurricane Harbor in Dallas, Schlitterbahn in New Braunfels, beaches in Corpus Christi, Galveston and South Padre, Lake Travis and Barton Springs in Austin and the Guadalupe River, which runs through San Marcos and New Braunfels.

Ramiro Lopez, a junior rangeland ecology and management major, enjoys trips to the Guadalupe River on weekends.

"Floating on the Guadalupe River was really fun, but even more relaxing than fun," Lopez said. "When I went, some friends and I rode on tubes and also tied a tube with a bottom to one of our tubes so we could put the ice chest of cold beverages on it, which is the popular thing to do. Floating the river makes an awesome weekend trip, and it's not that far out of the way."

Lopez also pointed out there are several other things to do besides just float in tubes.

"You can rent your own tube, a kayak or even a canoe and take anywhere from a one to eight hour trip down the river," Lopez said.

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