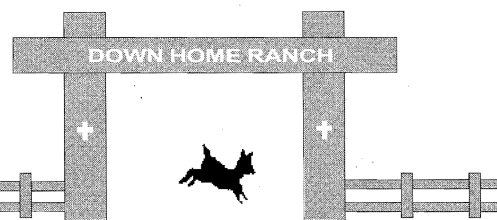


# THE SPIRIT OF DOWN HOME RANCH



March 2003

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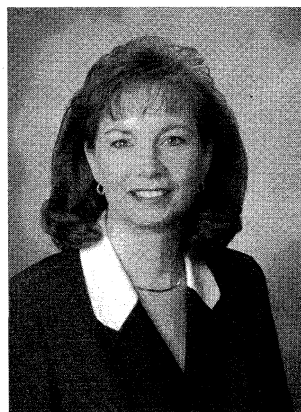
## New Development Director for Ranch

LeAnn Powers joined the DHR staff February 1 in the position of Director of Development.

LeAnn and husband Steve are longtime supporters and volunteers at the Ranch. Daughters Stephanie and Nikki have both served as camp counselors at *Ranch Camp*.

LeAnn brings 14 years of experience in fund-raising, most recently as Director of Stewardship and Development for the Catholic Diocese of Austin.

LeAnn's position is underwritten by a grant from the RKG Foundation of Austin.



LeAnn has a strong commitment to stewardship and will work hard to translate her enthusiasm into increased sustainable support for the Ranch. We are happy and proud to have LeAnn join the DHR team.

## Poinsettias...in March?

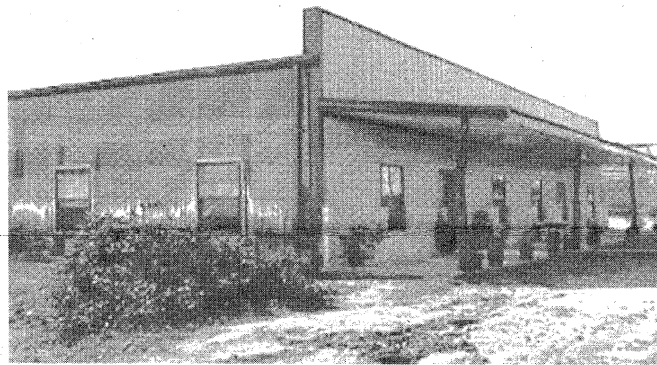
There are two reasons why it makes sense for your church or business to get in your orders for Christmas poinsettias early.

One, we're offering last year's prices to all "Early Bird Orders"—all orders received before September 1. Two, for the last two years we have sold out early and had to turn churches and others away.

This year we'll have 10,000 poinsettias to sell, but believe us, they'll go fast.

Prior to 9/1 they will be \$6.29 each for purchases of 30 or more—which includes free delivery—and are a great fund-raiser for adult or youth groups, choirs, bands, and other organizations. They are "church quality" and we receive many compliments on them.

Call for order forms or get them on-line at [www.downhomeranch.org](http://www.downhomeranch.org).



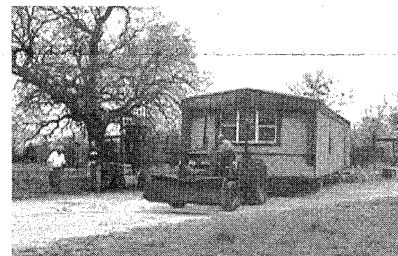
## Out With the Old and In With the New!

The beautiful 7,000 sq. ft. Garden Center pictured above contains offices, a large classroom, break room, restroom, gift shop, and retail garden center.

The rear of the building is a 3,500 sq. ft. warehouse, used for potting and transplanting, woodworking, tool storage, equipment repair, and many other uses. The Garden Center is a godsend—allowing us to unite most Ranch operations under one roof, improving communications and internal *esprit de corps*.

The Garden Center was made possible through a grant from an anonymous West Texas foundation.

The old 700 square foot mobile home (known as "Mustard Seed") that served as home to the Hortons, office, and Ranch Camp headquarters has been decommissioned after 12 years of service. It served well.



## Work on Resident Homes Resumes

When we got the Meadows and Justin Paul grants to build three residences, we knew it would be a challenge to get them done within budget. So, it was not a great surprise when we finished Gabriel House, but paused on the other two to generate more support.

We are now back at work on them and hope to open the second house in May and the third later in the summer—at a cost of about \$55 a sq. ft., a bargain. But we still need help: donors and volunteers, please come forth.

## director's chair

This May will be an unusual one for me in several ways.

May is our family's month for birthdays. In our clan—the Hortons, Welches, Heards and Vasquezes—there are 15 souls, and in May seven of us have birthdays.

Mine's the last, on the 24th. I keep threatening to change it because by the time we trudge through the month and get to the 24th everybody is birthdayed out. Yikes! Another birthday. Another cake. Yech.

But this year will be number 65 for me. I'm officially becoming a senior citizen.

But more important, Kelly will graduate from Taylor High in May. I'm mindful each morning now, as we wait by the front entry for the bus, that time grows short. My little girl is growing up.

Normally by now she'd be driving herself to school, but with Down syndrome, that isn't something she can do.

Nor will she go off to college, or start a career at a new Austin high tech firm. Her persistent dream of a husband and children remains unlikely—although I've jested to her that I'll find her a husband by the time she is 28.

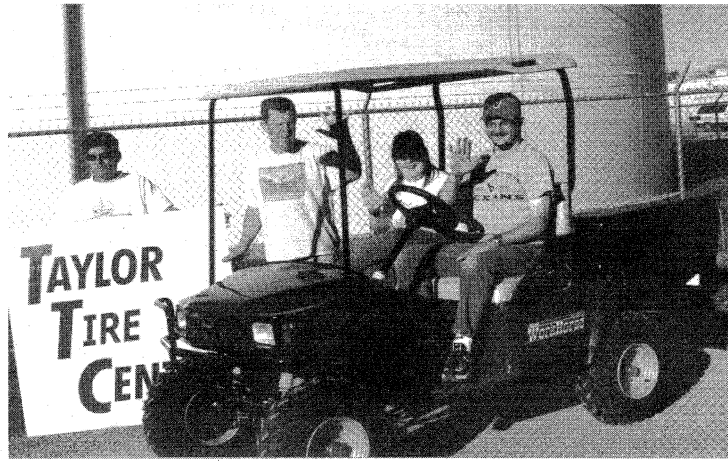
That extra chromosome sure makes a difference.

On the plus side, she'll become a *bona fide* Rancher, joining Mike, Robert, and Daniel in the work of Down Home Ranch.

Kelly has done well joining the guys in Gabriel House. She enjoys the camaraderie of her household "brothers," with much teasing back and forth.

Her education and training will begin in earnest soon, as she joins the guys in learning and doing a host of new things.

School is not over yet, sweetie!



*The E-Z-Go Workhorse is a great working cargo-cart that will be quickly put to use once the raffle is over. Daniel, Robert, Kelly and Mike are all learning to safely drive the Ranch's golf cart and will be able to use the Workhorse too.*

### You Could Win, And We Will Win

Taylor Tire Center has been a good friend to the Ranch for many years. Now they are proving it again.

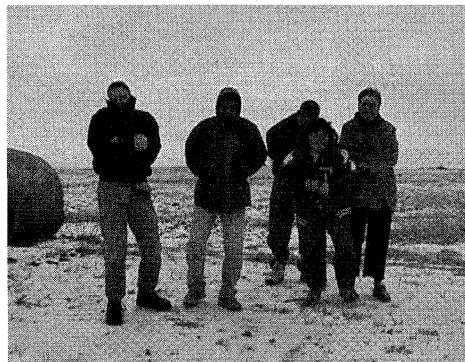
The Center is helping us raffle off two E-Z-Go Workhorses, a rugged golf cart with a cargo bed. E-Z-Go has given Taylor Tire a great price for the two carts.

But, we need to sell 1,100 tickets, with the winner getting one of two Workhorses, the other going to Down Home Ranch! Daniel, Mike and Robert will put the E-Z-Go cart to good use at the Tree Farm. Those five and ten gallon containers get heavy!

Call us for your winning ticket. And if you'd like to help even more, how about selling 10 tickets to your friends? Now that spring is almost upon us we are really going to need the new E-Z-Go. Please call us at 888-926-2253.

### Wish List: Can You Help Us Get One Of These Items?

- Parts for JD 450 track loader
- Commercial riding mower
- Road base (delivered)
- Dump truck (functional)
- Drill press, band saw
- Good fridge, for seed storage
- Barn wood, old cedar wood
- Guitar (Daniel wants to learn)
- Cutting torch, bottles
- Garden tools: rakes, hoes, etc.
- Fishing equipment
- Golf cart
- Tickets to games, events
- Guinea hens
- A canoe or a paddleboat
- Flags: Texas, US, elsewhere
- Bike rack
- Chipper/shredder



*The Gabriel House gang—Mike, Daniel, Robert, Kelly and Judy— on February 25, 2003 when a winter storm closed down Austin and Central Texas, including Down Home Ranch. It was 22° with a 8° wind chill.*

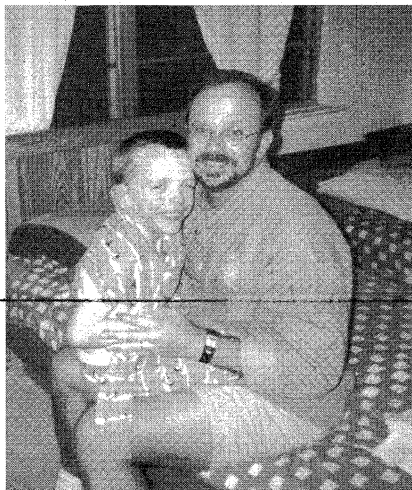
## calendar

May 1	Host Elgin Chamber of Commerce Luncheon
May 3 & 10	Berry picking Days
May 4	Board of Directors Meeting
May 17	Dedicate Garden Center & Workhorse Raffle
May 30	Kelly Horton graduates from Taylor High
May	Martha House: Grand Opening
June 15-20	Ranch Camp: Session I
June 22-27	Ranch Camp: Session II
June 29 - July 4	Ranch Camp: Session III
September	Barnabas/Walker House: Grand Opening
Sept 27	Board Member Kevin Morse's Race Triathlon
Oct. 4	Yam Bake X
November	Deliver 51,400 trees
December	Deliver 10,000 poinsettias
Dec. 22 - Jan 2	Christmas Break

## Kevin Morse: New Board Member and Ranch's Own "Iron Man"

The Down Home Ranch Board of Directors has a new board member in Kevin Morse of Austin.

Kevin and his wife Catherine are



*Robbie and Kevin saying "cheese!"*

parents to Robbie, a ten-year old boy who suffered a closed head injury as an infant.

The Morses have been active supporters of the Ranch for several years. Kevin is an environmental attorney, working for Travis County.

Kevin intends for his tenure on the Board to be marked by creative activism. To that end, he is making the Ranch the beneficiary of his training and participation in a big "Iron Man" event—the Ultramax Triathlon, to be held Sept. 27 at Lake of the Ozarks, Missouri. He will swim 2.4 miles, bike 112 miles and run 26.2 miles—all to benefit Down Home Ranchers!

The Morses will bear the costs of Kevin's training and participation, but he is seeking sponsors to support his efforts. All proceeds will directly benefit Down Home Ranch.

Needless to say, we'll all be there to cheer our champion in September! Kevin believes he can accomplish the run, bike ride, and 2.5 swim in 15 hours.

Contact the Ranch for information on how to sign up as a sponsor.

## Inn Keepers Begins in Earnest at Ranch

Church retreats, business meetings, family reunions, weddings, receptions and travelers are all invited to enjoy the warm, welcoming atmosphere and beautiful countryside at Down Home Ranch, while using our modern facilities.

Our air-conditioned facilities include two bunkhouses that each sleep 28; two rustic cedar cabins; the Pavilion, with room for up to 84 to meet and eat, and a large full-service kitchen; the Camp Center, a 3-bedroom house with big deck facing the above ground pool; and 6 RV spaces, with water, dumps and electricity.

### Ranch Camp 2003

Summer I ..... June 15-20 (Adults)

Summer II ..... June 22-27 (Youth)

Summer III ..... June 29 - July 4 (All ages)

For information and applications: On-line at [www.downhomeranch.org](http://www.downhomeranch.org), call 888-926-2253, e-mail [camps@downhomeranch.org](mailto:camps@downhomeranch.org)

**Volunteer nurses, cooks,  
kitchen aides and counselors  
are needed for Ranch Camp**

### Leave a Legacy

Please think of Down Home Ranch as you consider your will and how your estate will be gifted. We will put all "Legacy Gifts" into our Endowment. Gifts of cash, stock, real property, valuables and other items can provide a lifetime of support for our Ranchers.



Leave A Legacy™

## Spring Plants and Gifts Now Available in Garden Shop

The new Garden Center is alive with spring plants—from pecan trees and Crepe Myrtles to petunias, herbs and vegetables. We also have chimes, candles, jewelry and other items.

Hours are 8:30 to 4:30 Monday through Saturday. It's a short, pleasant drive to the Ranch, so come, visit, and buy your potting soil and tomato plants.

## judy's views

January 2nd we moved.

"Mustard Seed," as the old mobile home was known, served as office, camp, home, and corporate headquarters for 12 years.

Was it adequate? Heavens no! Our tiny gas stove was so slow we had to put water on for the supper spaghetti at ten a.m. during camp.

The nurse slept on a cot in Jerry's office. When it rained we huddled on the deck or in the tiny living room, forsaking leaky tents.

Over the years things got worse. We memorized where the holes were in the floor under the carpet, dancing deftly around them.

Mice made their presence known, occasionally surprising with a personal visit. And each heavy rain or wind resulted in a progressive exfoliation of roof tin and exterior siding.

But the last straw came when the phone rang, I answered it, and before the calling party could say a word a huge wooly spider dropped abruptly from the ceiling, inches from my face.

I shrieked and flung the phone on the desk as I fell backward. The caller was gone when I returned, and I still wonder who it was.

Yet today, walking into our new offices, *sans* wildlife, it's as natural as if we'd been doing it forever.

We may think the quality of the facilities doesn't make a big difference—that the main thing is the heart we put into our work. But the truth is, it does.

For one thing, we're all under one roof now and communication is far better. Computers are being net-worked, file cabinets are accessible, and we have work spaces for the specific jobs we do, and (finally!) a place for everything.

Most important, *we can do a better job for those we serve.*

For that, we thank the foundation (which wishes to remain anonymous) that funded this great new building.



The new workroom in the Garden Center is a great place to stuff envelopes, tell bad jokes and practice singing for *The Chorus*.

### Our *Thanks* to . . .

- **Alcoa**—Bicycles, buckets and a low-mileage Astro Van
- **3M**—phone system equipment
- **LCRA Employees**—\$2,000 donation to build fishing dock
- **Steve Powers**—volunteering and being a master scrounger
- **Stephanie Powers**—and pals from A&M's Traditions Council for work on Martha House
- **St. Stephen's Episcopal HS**—500 volunteer hours for 2002
- **Grandpa Charlie West**—for the good used golf cart
- **David & Cindy Bednar**—John Deere track loader
- **Len & Ruth Henry**, and **Lonnie & Marcia Green**—RVers who spent a week or more volunteering at the Ranch
- **St. Mary's Catholic Center at A&M**—10 students gave up spring break to do back-breaking but soul-satisfying work at the Ranch.

## Volunteer Opportunities

*Some things take an hour or two, some longer, but all are vital:*

- Teach our residents: reading, cooking, woodworking, typing
- Build raised gardening beds
- Build a chicken coop
- Paint and stain
- Take a Rancher to an event
- Help out in greenhouses
- Help clear pecan bottom-land
- Help on Martha House
- Build cabinets for kitchens
- Pick berries in early May
- Make jelly in early May
- Be a nurse, cook, helper at camp
- Help build a fishing dock

## Changes

- **Carroll Fultz**, founding Board member, served ten years and is now enjoying retirement.
- **Jim Crosby**, has moved to the Advisory Board
- **Mickey Harris** turned over the reins of the greenhouses to **Teri Daughtry**, who has become full-time staff
- **LeAnn Powers** has become Director of Development
- **Kevin Morse** has joined the Board of Directors
- **Wadsworth**, beloved hound, who wandered up the road in 1995, died February 3, 2003 after enjoying a hearty lunch.

## Board of Directors

Mike Paulsen, Pres. ... Round Rock  
 Judy Horton ..... Elgin  
 Kevin Morse ..... Austin  
 Ashley Sanchez ..... Cedar Park  
 Dr. Madeline Sutherland ..... Austin  
 Robert Wenske ..... Elgin

## Advisory Board

Dr. Emily Vargas-Baron .... Wash.DC  
 Dr. Laurence Becker, Ph.D. .... Austin  
 Gen. Rbt. Bernstein, M.D. .... Austin  
 Ralph Comer, MD ..... Austin  
 Jim Crosby ..... Austin  
 Marquita Dubach, AMI ..... Austin  
 Richard Halpin ..... Austin  
 Bishop John McCarthy ..... Austin  
 The Rev. Don Legge, AIA ..... Salado  
 Col. Don Rettberg ..... Austin  
 Joanna Redfield Vaughn ..... Austin

## Staff

Jerry W. Horton, Ph.D, Director  
 Judy Horton, Program Director  
 LeAnn Powers, Development Dir.  
 Jackie Chellberg, Bookkeeper  
 Teri Daughtry, Grower

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