

A stylized, handwritten-style 'Ch' in a light blue color, enclosed within a solid blue square.

CATHRYN A. HOYT
WRITER & PHOTOGRAPHER





CONTENTS

Style

Social Media & Website

Clients & Skills

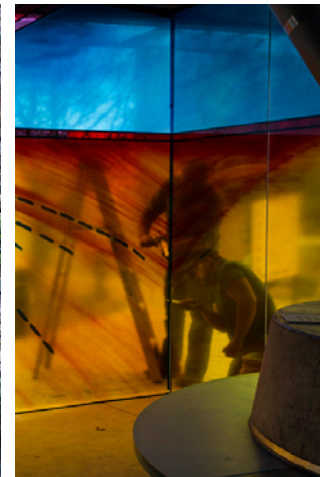
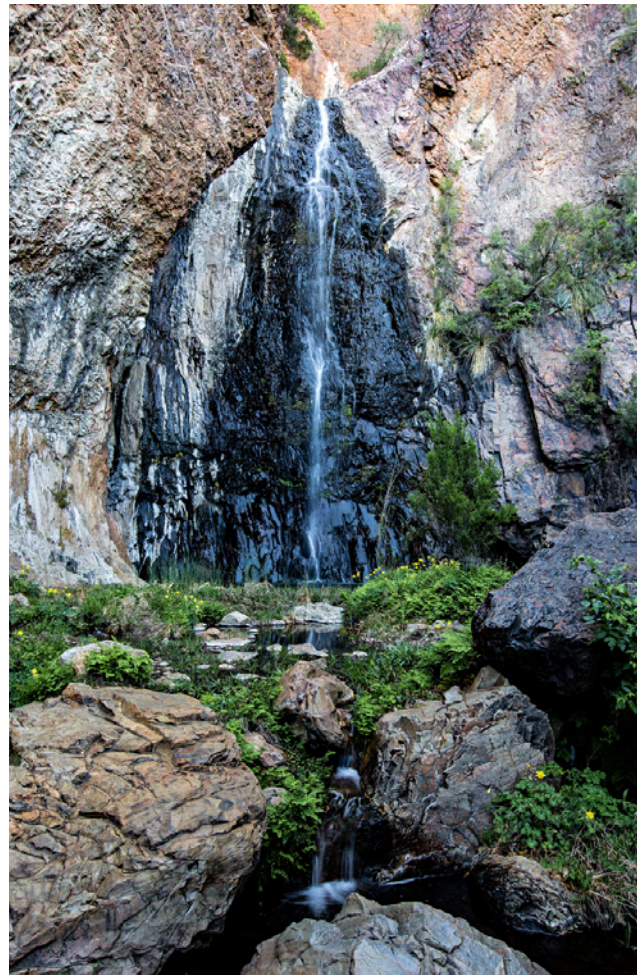
Writing Sample

About

Education & Experience

Working with Cathryn

Contact



Style

Cathryn A. Hoyt is an award-winning writer and photographer with over 30 years of experience connecting people with their natural and cultural heritage.

Through vivid photography and lively prose, she reveals the intersection of nature, history, and place.

Social Media & Website

Website

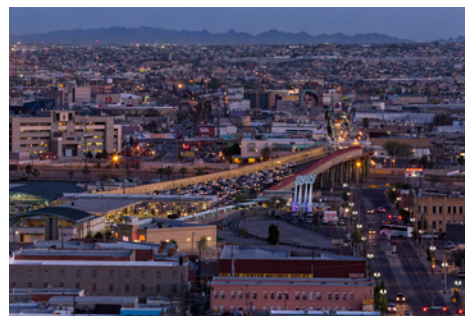
www.cathrynahoyt.com

Instagram

www.instagram.com/cathrynahoyt/

Facebook

www.facebook.com/cathrynahoyt/



Clients

Hispanic Texas: A Historical Guide, H. Simons & C. Hoyt, 1992. University of Texas Press.
(Winner of four regional literary awards)

Chihuahuan Desert Research Institute

Texas Highways Magazine

Matador Network

Native Plant Society of Texas

Bighorn Magazine

Texas Gardener Magazine

Texas Parks and Wildlife

Texas Wildlife Magazine

Marfa Public Radio (Nature Notes Series)

U.S. Fish and Wildlife

Skills

Photography

Landscape

Nature

Travel

Writing

Narrative Nonfiction

Travel Guide

Photo Essay

Listicle

Personal Essay



Writing Sample

Color In Motion: The National Butterfly Center in Mission

Published in *Texas Highways Magazine*, October, 2015.

I'll confess. I'm addicted to butterflies.

The mere thought of Silver-banded Hairstreaks, Red-bordered Pixies, White Peacocks, and Zebra Heliconians sets my heart racing.

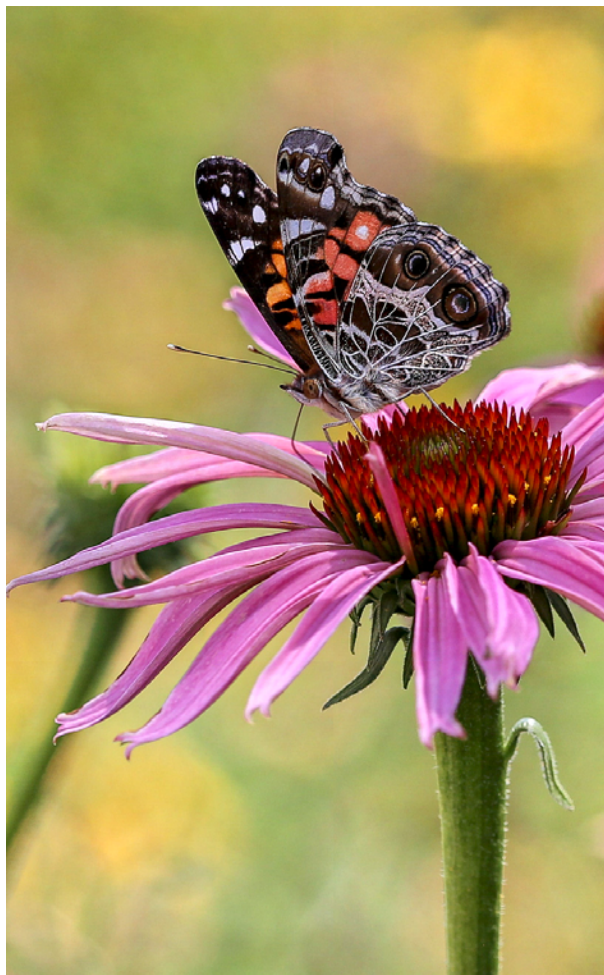
So I recently packed my camera and binoculars and headed for the National Butterfly Center in Mission. This 100-acre butterfly paradise lies in the Lower Rio Grande Valley, where 325 types of butterflies—an astonishing 72 percent of all butterfly species seen in Texas and more than half of those known in the United States—have been documented. At the National Butterfly Center, more than 100 species of native plants in 30 acres of gardens attract butterflies, birds, and even a bobcat or two.

Jeffrey Glassberg, founder of the North American Butterfly Association, first began to dream of a national butterfly center during a visit to the Valley in the mid-1990s, when he was astounded by the number and diversity of the butterflies he saw. The project began to take shape in 2002, when local developer Mike Rhodes gave the association 82 acres of land near Mission, most of which had been previously used for growing onions. Additional donations of land and

money followed, helping to secure more land and build a visitor's center, greenhouses, walking trails, and education facilities. Over the next several years, staff and volunteers converted the old onion fields into an oasis of native plants. The center officially opened in 2004.

Upon my arrival, I walked from the parking lot to the Visitors Pavilion, watching and photographing clouds of butterflies as they sipped nectar from clumps of flowering shrubs known as blue mistflower. Inside the pavilion, I took in the interpretive exhibits and considered various guidebooks and butterfly trinkets at the gift shop until I spotted a whiteboard marked with "recent sightings." The possibility of seeing a Two-barred Flasher or a Julia Heliconian lured me back outside and to the purpose of my trip: seeing butterflies.

In the Welcome Garden, the brilliant red, orange, and yellow flowers of a Mexican Flame Vine attracted Queens, darting skippers, longtails, and Gulf Fritillaries—common but still exhilarating sightings in this part of Texas. In hopes of spotting some rarer species, I continued to Hackberry Alley, where dozens of orange, cream, and



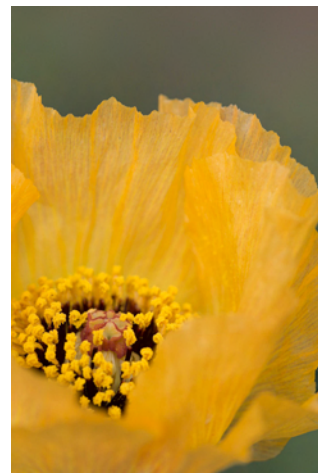
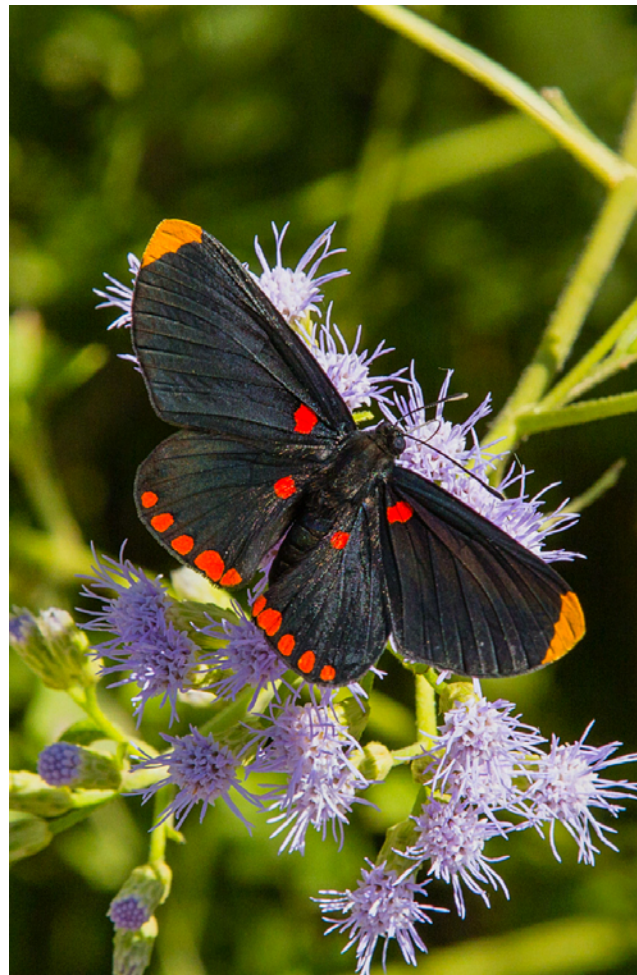
brown Tawny Emperors soared along the tree-lined path, landing occasionally to spread their wings and bask in the sun.

In dappled shade, orange slices dangling at eye level were crowded with butterflies. Nearby, logs smeared with a mixture of over-ripe bananas, stale beer, and brown sugar enticed still more. As I ambled along, Emperors took flight from the bait logs, a Zebra Heliconian glided by, and birds rustled in the trees and brush, softly calling to each other. Heaven!

A shout went up from a group of serious butterfly-watchers nearby: "Quick! There are six or seven Pixies over here!" The crowd rushed to a blue mistflower. I eagerly joined in, my camera poised. Looking like a kindergartner's bright finger painting, the Red-bordered Pixies shined glossy black, their wing tips dipped in brilliant yellow. Vibrant red spots lined their wing borders. The Lower Rio Grande Valley is the only place in the United States where you can see these gorgeous little butterflies.

As I photographed the Pixies, Grounds Manager Max Muñoz joined me. “That blue mistflower—or crucita as it’s known in South Texas—is a great butterfly plant,” he told me, explaining that it’s a significant nectar source and that 69 species have been spotted on a single crucita here. “We plant trees near nectar plants so that the butterflies have a place to roost at night or to shelter during a rainstorm,” he continued. Pointing to one of the flower beds—a thicket of tangled shrubs, trees, and twisting vines—he emphasized that each plant has a purpose: “Some people think our native plants are messy or ugly, so we’re using them in formal gardens to show people how beautiful they are and what can be done at home.” Plans eventually call for more than 40 gardens, each featuring nectar plants for butterflies and host plants for caterpillars. “If you’re looking for Monarchs,” Muñoz said, “you’ll be able to head to a garden planted with the 14 types of milkweed plants that attract them.”

I can hardly imagine the butterfly bounty being any richer. After Muñoz wandered off to meet a Boy Scout troop—one of hundreds of youth groups that visit the center each year—I returned to my search, mesmerized when a tiny, green butterfly with a silvery-white stripe flitted between lantana flowers. A Silver-banded Hairstreak! A larger, bluish-white and orange butterfly floated by on the breeze. My first White Peacock! I sighed happily and scanned the shrubbery for my next find.



About

Cathryn grew up around the world but now calls the tiny town of Fort Davis, Texas, home. Her passion for history, nature, and travel come from her family who believed in gardens, long road trips, and letting children explore.

Cathryn has excavated shipwrecks in Bermuda, sunken cities in Jamaica, and worked for the Office of the State Archeologist in Austin, Texas. She eventually went back to school to study the impact of climate change on desert landscapes. She taught cultural geography, biogeography, and physical geography at Texas A&M University and the University of Texas at Austin before moving to west Texas to run the Chihuahuan Desert Research Institute for 12 years.

Cathryn is a storyteller. She enjoys combining visual imagery and the written word to help her audience look at common things in uncommon ways.

Since 2013, she has pursued her passion as a freelance writer and photographer. Her interests take her throughout the western United States although she'll confess to a particular fondness for the stories and places of Texas, New Mexico, Utah, Oregon, and Arizona. Cathryn is always on the lookout for the unusual and unrecognized and the backstory that brings them to life.



Education & Experience

Education

Ph.D. Geography 2000
University of Texas at Austin

M.A. Nautical Archeology 1985
Texas A&M University, College Station, TX

B.A. Anthropology 1980
University of Arizona, Tucson, AZ

MatadorU 2015–16
Fundamentals of Travel Writing
Fundamentals of Travel Photography
Advanced Travel Photography

Previous Positions

Executive & Research Director 2001–2013
Chihuahuan Desert Research Institute
Fort Davis, TX

Geography Lecturer 2000–2001
University of Texas at Austin

Geography Lecturer 1999–2000
Texas A&M University, College Station, TX

Archeologist 1989–1995
Office of the State Archeologist, Austin, TX

Nautical Archeologist 1984–1988
Institute of Maritime History and Archeology
Somerset, Bermuda



Working with Cathryn

Cathryn is ready to tell *your* story. Using high-quality images and authentic, dynamic writing she'll help you tell the world what you do and why it's important.

Who she works with:

- Tourism boards
- Science and education publishers
- Press trip organizers
- Destination marketers
- Nonprofits
- Individuals

What she can do for you:

- Produce engaging articles and stunning photo essays
- Write guest blogs
- Create photo books tailored to meet your needs
- Promote your work on her social media outlets
- Develop a portfolio of images for your marketing efforts
- Provide stock images for natural history publications

Strengths:

- Ecotourism
- Plants, animals, and places of the American Southwest
- Discovering the backstory





Contact

EMAIL

cathrynahoyt@gmail.com

WEBSITE

www.cathrynahoyt.com

CELL PHONE

432.249.0670

ADDRESS

PO Box 215
Fort Davis, TX 79734