

RURAL TEXAS TOURISM LLC

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Fabulous Fayetteville Sizzles with Magical Music and Amazing Photo Art in February



As winter continues to drive down the beaten path of Texas, the small community of Fayetteville continues to embrace the weather with artistry via music and photography. Reservations are being accepted as ARTS (Arts for Rural Texas) present the one and only Darden Smith. He will be performing a benefit concert for ARTS at the Country Place Hotel in Fayetteville beginning at 7:00 pm on Thursday, February 26. Earlier in the day, he will be performing at local schools.

For those of you who may not have a clue who this incredible musician is, Darden is a nationally known singer/songwriter who is nationally known and Austin-based.

He has spun off fourteen acclaimed albums in his almost three decade career and continues to write and tour across the United States and Europe. Mr. Smith writes and tours and explores new and innovative ways to use the craft of songwriting in education, entrepreneurship studies, and service. Recording since 1986 from Austin, to New York and Nashville, from London to Los Angeles, Darden Smith's albums weave together rock, pop, country, folk and Americana influences with the musical roots of his home state of Texas. He has long transcended traditional singer-songwriter boundaries, and the evolving nature of his work since 2000 reflects his consistent creative excellence.

Darden Smith founded [The Be An Artist Program](#) nearly a decade ago. His seminars encourage students to explore their own creativity and interests. He has reached more than 15,000 students across the United States and Western Europe. And his [SongwritingWith](#) collaborations find him teaming with, among others, U.S. soldiers transitioning to civilian life after combat in Iraq and Afghanistan, homeless youth in New Jersey and HIV-affected villagers in Africa. Darden also adapts his programs for corporate retreats and conflict-resolution workshops. His creativity sessions for Fortune 500 companies use songwriting to inspire new ways to listen, collaborate and learn in the traditional work environment, truly a very talented artist in his own right. As this concert has limited seating, reservations are necessary for the Darden Smith ARTS Concert Event at the Country Place Hotel (right across from the square) by contacting ARTS at www.artsforruraltexas.org or 979-378-2113.

ARTS is also delighted to open *Biophilia: Love of Life* photography by Jeanette Bergen beginning on February 28th with an artists' reception from 5 pm through 7 pm and running through April 4th. Ms. Bergen explores relationships and the emotional connections that we make with one another and the world around us in her work. She seeks to tell authentic stories in her photography and one's that make you feel connected, whether documenting Spirit of Place or the sparkle in a child's eye.

Fayetteville is located on Highway 159 a short distance from La Grange and zip code 78940 for GPS users—"Great weekend getaway with dining, shopping, and lodging available for all."

Cathy Chaloupka

Rural Texas Tourism, LLC