

RURAL TEXAS TOURISM LLC

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Antique Lovers Hit the Trail to the Original Round Top Antiques Fair April 3-6
(And it's Showcased in April Issue of Texas Monthly Magazine!)



Billed as *the* nationwide antiques show for decades, the Original Round Top Antiques Fair, to be held from Wednesday, April 3 thru Saturday, April 6 now claims more to that tradition. The April issue of the *Texas Monthly Magazine* reminds everyone (especially those die-hard Texas antiquers) of this ever popular Texas Megashow culture that has evolved. “Better known as the Big Red Barn, it still showcases the early American Furniture and Texana that Hazel Ledbetter and her friends were so intent on preserving, as well as a notable assemblage of art, glassware, textiles, firearms, and unusual accessories including European finery,” states Jordan Breal of *Texas Monthly*. Preservation is the key word. These inspiring pieces have been nurtured and preserved for those future generations of “antiquers”—whether new or primed in their commitment of shopping for that perfect piece. The first-timer to the show leaves in awe of the fineries in art and furniture. The buyers enjoy visiting and answering questions for those that may not “have a clue”. It’s a win-win for all.

With its four shows in one, The Original Round Top Antiques Fair is a not-to-be-missed event managed by Susan Franks. The Big Red Barn Event Center features the Big Red Barn itself, with

Americana, European, and eclectic dealers, the Big Red Barn Tent, which is an overflow from the Big Red Barn but also reflects the newest trends towards Industrial furnishings and mid-century modern and the Continental Tent, showing off its English and European collections. Carmine Dance Hall, located only a few miles away in the community of Carmine, offers collections of assorted antiques for the home, including early linens, jewelry, fine sterling silver flatware and hollow ware, and country furniture. This year, Franks is bringing in several more new dealers added yet more to that incredible experience

The Continental Tent will have antiques and art from around the world including for the first time, The Nicoll's, who will be offering fresh acquisitions. From Newcastle, Maine they travel the East Coast selling their European antiques. Their collection will include a number of paintings from listed artists, furniture, and smalls.

The Big Red Barn Tent offers a more casual atmosphere for dealers with early American antiques, early accessories, collectibles and even some of the latest trends in industrial décor. New to the Big Red Barn Tent this spring will be Diana Higgins and Bill Hanlon originally from Connecticut and now living in Mexico. Their collection will include New England antique baskets, early clocks, and several hooked rugs.

The Big Red Barn is (as always) full with traditional antiques from across the country and even some early English furnishings. Newcomers Ronn and Maretta Lindsey of Beaver Creek Antiques, Glasgow, Kentucky will offer “mostly primitive furniture, early stoneware and a wonderful Brides Chest dated 1848. Returning dealers typically bring their freshest antiques to The Big Red Barn. Jennifer Marlow of Mineola, Texas has an early Pennsylvania jelly cupboard in original red milk paint, a New Hampshire dry sink with its tin lining and drain board, showing original white paint and a double tin sconce, also from Pennsylvania.

The Carmine Dance Hall, just over the hill, is again filled to capacity with dealers in the air conditioned building. Among the newcomers there will be Diane and Robert Potter, bringing their collection of traditional country antiques, early industrial and repurposed iron objects from their Comfort, Texas shop.

Mary Emmerling (the popular author on topics of home décor and antiques) will be there signing her latest books, including *Art of the Skull* and *Art of the Heart* where in each volume she shows the variety of objects made as jewelry and household things modeled after those images.

The Big Red Barn Event Center with The Original Round Top Antiques Fair, including the Big Red Barn, the Continental Tent, and the Big Red Barn Tent, is located five miles north of Round Top Square. Carmine Dance Hall is 2 blocks North of Hwy. 290, in downtown Carmine. The Spring Antiques Fair is open April 3-6 at all four venues. Hours: Wednesday, April 3 from 9 am -7 pm, Thursday (April 4) and Friday (April 5) 9 am-6 pm, and Saturday 9 am – 4. Admission is a nominal \$10, good all four days and all four venues—a price that can't be beat. Call 512-237-4747 or go to www.RoundTopTexasAntiques.com, email at info@RoundTopTexasAntiques.com.

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