

LIFE & ARTS

Gardening Author Doug Tallarmy doesn't fight Mother Nature **3c**

Country Music Week!

Cowgirl-chic style

At the ACMs, don't be confused by terms like 'denim and diamonds'

By Susan Huston

Special to the Star-Telegram

The Academy of Country Music Awards are in town this weekend, and Western fashions are sure to be much on display. Of course, regardless of whether you're heading off to an ACM pre-party or just dressing up to watch the show, year-round, "denim and diamonds"-style galas and boot-scootin' outings often require a touch of "cowgirl chic" style.

If you're not sure anything in your closet is hip enough for a spontaneous skedaddle over to Arlington's AT&T Stadium to hang with the ACM crowd — or any other occasion in the company of men wearing boots and Stetsons — we're here to steer (pun intended) you toward a modern collection of cowgirl fashion finds.

For starters, denim is always part of this scene and never goes out of fashion. Whether you wear the latest jean with lots of distressing, tears and fraying or a denim jacket with cute details and stitching, this old standby is a workhorse. (Just don't overdo it with a head-to-toe get-up — in the fashion world, More on STYLE, 5C

50th annual Academy of Country Music Awards
Live broadcast from AT&T Stadium, Arlington
■ 7 p.m. Sunday
■ KTVT/Channel 11
■ For information on tickets and events, visit www.acmcountry.com.

Country Music Week!

Monday: Movies for fans of C&W tunes

Tuesday: Country power couples' lasting love

Wednesday: A recipe from Trisha Yearwood's latest cookbook

Thursday: DFW's place in country music

Friday: Your guide to the ACMs in Arlington

Today: Deciphering the "denim and diamonds" dress code

Sunday: Celebrating the Stetson's 150th anniversary

Inside: Where to shop



Tooled leather like this is designed to get noticed.
\$329, Sid Richardson Museum Store.

Star-Telegram/Rodger Mallison



Star-Telegram/Rodger Mallison
Model: Whitney Williams, styling: Susan Huston, assistant: Ashley Garcia, hair/makeup styling: Whitney Williams, Legacy Salon & Day Spa, Mansfield.

Bohemian bliss

Forget about #throwback Thursday. This look is more than a '70s show. It's today's way to show off some of that cowgirl sass any day of the week.

Floral tunic, \$108, Free People. Cocojameson lace high-low long vest, \$36.95; Buckle, BlankNYC high-waist distressed shorts, \$78, Nordstrom. Leatherrock brass and leather belt, \$120, and Valerie Allen rose druzy pendant necklace, \$89; both from Coyote Urban Boutique. Handcrafted inverted buffalo and brass earrings, \$78, Sid Richardson Museum Store. Liberty Black distressed stud and leather bootie, \$250, Leddy's Ranch at Sundance. Raging Bull leather hat, \$85, Overland.



Bill Paxton visits the grave of his ancestor Benjamin Sharp. **TLC**

Paxton digs genealogical discoveries on TV show

■ The Fort Worth actor traces his roots on *Who Do You Think You Are?*

There's an element of risk when investigating one's family history. Just ask actor Bill Paxton.

The Fort Worth native did some genealogical detective work with help from *Who Do You Think You Are?*, the TV series in which celebrities trace their roots.

Who Do You Think You Are?
■ 9 p.m. In an episode that premieres at 9 p.m. Sunday on TLC.

Paxton looks into the life of Benjamin Sharp, a great-great-great grandfather he had known nothing about, and learns about a man who led an extraordinary life in the late 1700s and early 1800s.

But the warts-and-all investigation also turns up one detail that makes Paxton very uncomfortable.

Benjamin Sharp was still a teenager when he served with the Virginia militia during the American Revolutionary War. He fought in the Battle of Kings Mountain in South Carolina, a key Southern campaign victory for the Americans. He went on to have a long, successful life as a land owner and public servant.

"I'm very proud to learn I have an ancestor that had such bravery," Paxton says in the episode after reading Sharp's firsthand account of the bloody 1780 battle.

But later the other shoe drops.

The actor is deeply troubled when he learns that

More on PAXTON, 4C

Urban-landscape similarities present challenges

■ Add variety to personalize your plantings.

I've been out in unfamiliar neighborhoods recently, helping my wife in her bid for re-election to a local office in a North Texas city. I might have seen every street and alley in her district, some of them several times. (My truck's old GPS



Neil Sperry

thought we were in cornfields most of one afternoon — apparently, those particular streets are

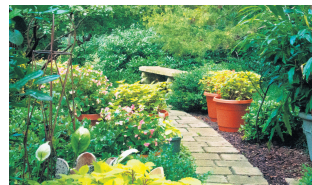
younger than my truck.) Time spent on this task has given me a firsthand view and a better understanding of some of the specific problems people face when they try to design landscapes in their small urban lots.

Chalky soil

Much of the past week has

been spent placing signs in yards of people who had requested them (as opposed to along roadsides). I found that some of those people are living atop thin slivers of topsoil — like 1/4-inch — and the hardest, stake-breaking chalk imaginable.

No wonder I get so mad. More on SPERRY, 3C



An abundance of shade trees requires careful thought in landscaping. **Special to the Star-Telegram/Neil Sperry**

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