

# Frozen Assets

A statewide (lick) survey of Texans' (slurp) favorite ice creams (yum!)

Summer and ice cream. Like Abbott and Costello and peanut butter and jelly, it's a classic American combination. After all, the 285 million of us annually consume the equivalent of almost 17 pounds of ice cream apiece, much of it during these months of triple-digit heat waves and long, lazy nights.

It's the time of year when few people can resist a scoop of ice cream, as our writers can attest. We asked each of them to gather a posse of hungry kids and adults and spend some time exploring the state's ice cream parlors. They returned with reports of precious family recipes, shocking blue goo, and vanillas that could never be called boring. Here's the cream of the crop.

## Wild About Harry's ~ Dallas

On any given summer day, a line of customers stretches out the door past the giant hot dog sculpture at Wild About Harry's on Knox Street, the original location of a three-store chain that specializes in pure beef hot dogs and wickedly rich frozen custard. Since 1996, founder Harry Coley has been whipping it up—custard contains more egg yolks and less air than regular ice cream—guided by a recipe passed down to him by his mom.

**Daily flavors:** Eight. The perennial standards (vanilla, chocolate, and coffee), coconut, and four others selected from a rotating menu of 40 flavors. When one sells out, Coley substitutes another, so visitors who order, say, green tea in the morning might find Kahlua in its place in the afternoon.

**Most popular:** The standards, plus peppermint, a pink and refreshing minty blast with bits of crunchy candy stirred in.

**The kids' report:** Ten-year-old Ginny latched on to a cup of peppermint, while her 13-year-old brother, Alec, favored peanut butter. "It tastes like a Snickers bar," he said. Their six-year-old friend, ice cream purist Estee, stuck with a classic, declaring "I like vanilla!"

**The big kids' report:** Ginny and Alec's mom, Mary, was torn between her desire for peanut butter and German chocolate cake, a rich chocolate laced with coconut and chopped pecans. Dad Allen chose coconut, which features chewy shreds of coconut stirred in. I preferred the Kahlua. It's creamy and rich, but not too rich. —*Sophia Dembling*

Estee (from left), Alec, and Ginny dig in to their favorite ice cream scoops at Wild About Harry's in Dallas, while their new mustard-laden friend hams it up.

EVANS CAGLAGE