

**2011 Membership Directory & Buyers Guide**  
**Greater Houston Restaurant Association**



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# Staff

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A Texas Restaurant Association Chapter 

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# Associate Listings



# Montana born & Texas raised




Donnette Hansen graduated from Trinity University in San Antonio, then made the move to NYC for a year in the New York Restaurant School. "Good culinary training was critical to my goal of owning a restaurant," says Hansen. That dream became a reality when she acquired the Rainbow Lodge in 1988.

She immediately went to work turning the restaurant into one of Houston's finest featuring Gulf Coast Seafood and Regional Wild Game. Hansen's passion for good food and outstanding wines has helped her stay focused and develop a loyal following. In the summer of 2006, after 30 years on Buffalo Bayou, Hansen relocated Rainbow Lodge to White Oak Bayou. "I had the unique opportunity to acquire a 100 year old log cabin restaurant inside Loop 610. You don't get any more "Lodgy" than that! It felt like home the day I walked in, The Heights is such a fabulous area and the neighbors and local businesses have been so friendly and supportive!"

Hansen's love of fly fishing inspired one of the most notable additions to the Rainbow Lodge. In 1993, she commissioned Vermont artist Bill Herrick to carve a 20 foot Trout Stream Bar. Named the "Tied Fly Bar", it depicts life in a real trout stream including rainbow trout, leaves, fallen logs and even a bottle cap, all carved from a single Basswood tree.

After 22 years, Hansen still enjoys tending the gardens at Rainbow Lodge and writing menus with her team. "I couldn't do any of this without my friend and long time GM, Tim Neely. I am truly blessed to be surrounded by such talented people".

A photograph of the interior of the Rainbow Lodge restaurant. The room features a large stone fireplace with a fire burning. On the mantel, there are taxidermy specimens of a deer and a ram, along with vases of sunflowers. The walls are made of log wood, and a dining table with chairs is visible in the foreground.

*"I had the unique opportunity to acquire a 100 year old log cabin restaurant inside Loop 610. You don't get any more "Lodgy" than that!"*