



# LAKE S

## ON ELDRIDGE NORTH

Volume 4, Issue 4

April 2005  
Official Newsletter

## *Angels on LOEN*



Angels on LOEN is a community service group within the LOEN Ladies Club. Join over 20 ladies in helping to bring our neighborhood closer together through acts of service! If you would like to learn more, email Jeanne Markham at [jamarkham@hotmail.com](mailto:jamarkham@hotmail.com).

## **New Boundaries, New Principal, New Start**

Positive change is on the way at Kirk Elementary next year. Along with our new boundaries that decrease enrollment by about 250 students, we will also be getting a new Principal. The Principal that has been at Kirk since it opened in 2000 has been transferred to Copeland Elementary beginning April 1<sup>st</sup> and we will be getting a new Principal. The new Principal will be announced at the Cy-fair ISD board meeting on April 11, 2005. This person will begin the transition immediately.

## **Swim Team News**

Swim team registration is April 3<sup>rd</sup> from 3 – 5pm and April 7<sup>th</sup> from 6:30 – 8:30pm. Our swim season is April 25<sup>th</sup> thru July 3<sup>rd</sup>. The parent meeting will be held April 25 with practice starting on April 26<sup>th</sup>. There are swim team social gatherings and pizza parties every Friday throughout the season. This is a great way to get to know the other swimmers and families in the neighborhood. We will have poster drawings and fun activities for everyone. Time Trials is a very important event and, according to NWAL rules, every swimmer needs to be timed prior to our first meet. Please try to be at time trials or make arrangements with the Coach.

Many thanks to our swim team board members for all their hard work throughout the off season. Please feel free to ask any board member questions you may have. A special thanks to Rosa Clay for her dedication to LOEST Fundraising.

Mary Beth Taylor  
Kent Vinall  
Open Position  
Peter Gross  
Renee Dye  
Kindra Rokhsaz  
Jillian Barkley

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Vice President Team Rep Elect  
Secretary/Computer  
Treasurer  
Clerk of Course / Computer  
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Member at Large

### **Meet Schedule**

May 21 <sup>st</sup>	Home vs Windsong
May 28	Away vs Canyon Gate
June 4 <sup>th</sup>	Away vs Bear Creek
June 11 <sup>th</sup>	Home vs Concord Bridge
June 18 <sup>th</sup>	Away Vs Enchanted Valley
June 25 <sup>th</sup>	Divisionals
July 3 <sup>rd</sup>	Post Season Invitationals

**View the Lakes on Eldridge North  
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# Lakes on Eldridge North

## IMPORTANT NUMBERS

VanMor Properties, Inc. ....	281-493-0668
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Dorinda Obst (Dori), Administrative Assistant	
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Newsletter Publisher	
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Adver./Donna Sommer .....dsommer@PEELinc.com, 832-237-4684	

## NEWSLETTER COMMITTEE

Jillian Barkley..... 713-856-5912 (LOEN)

**GOT NEWS???** *Deadline for submitting articles for the Lakes On Eldridge North Newsletter is the 15th of each month.. Submissions are subject to space limitations and editorial approval. E-mail your information to Jillian Barkley, [jbarkley@houston.rr.com](mailto:jbarkley@houston.rr.com), not VanMor.*

**PERSONAL CLASSIFIED ADS:** *Deadline for submitting personal classified ads is the 10<sup>th</sup> of each month for publication in the following month's newsletter. Please contact Jillian Barkley, 713-856-5912, [jbarkley@houston.rr.com](mailto:jbarkley@houston.rr.com).*

**ADS:** *Deadline for submitting ads is the 10<sup>th</sup> of each month for publication in the following month's newsletter. Please contact Donna Sommer, 832-237-4684, [dsommer@PEELinc.com](mailto:dsommer@PEELinc.com) for information on advertising.*

## Vanmor Properties, Inc. Contacts

Manager - Kate Loeffler  
Administrative Assistant - Dorinda Obst (Dori)  
1505 Highway 6 South, Suite 110; Houston, Texas 77077  
Phone - 281-493-0668 • Facsimile - 281-493-5654

## LOEN Ladies Club

**Angels on LOEN-** Angels on LOEN is a community service group within the LOEN Ladies Club. We are on call to provide short term assistance to our neighbors in need. You can call and ask for help or nominate someone you know. Do you have a newborn and would like some meals provided? Has a death or illness in the family forced you to leave town suddenly and you need help getting the paper, walking the dog, watering the plants? Could you use a meal when you return? If you're laid up and could use some help with carpool or picking up groceries, we would love to help. When you call to request or nominate, please provide any dietary restrictions and contact information for the recipient. We'll take it from there! Contact angel coordinator Jeanne Markham at 713 291-9676.

**Book Club-** Meeting 04/04/05 at 7pm. Location: Home of Sara Watts, 6010 Mesa Brook Lane, Saratoga Springs. Please contact Anne Glendinning with questions 832-667-7298 [anne.c.glendinning@shell.com](mailto:anne.c.glendinning@shell.com).

**Bunco-** Meeting 04/11/05 at 7pm- 9pm at the home of Julie Kerr. Please RSVP to [Juliekerr@sbcglobal.net](mailto:Juliekerr@sbcglobal.net).

**Children's Play Groups-** If you are interested in getting your children together for Playgroups with mom in LOEN, we have created some great playgroups. Please give us a call or email with your information so we can contact you. Playgroups have been divided by our children's age, but siblings are always welcome. Julie Kerr ( Playgroup Coordinator) 713-896-1713 [Juliekerr@sbcglobal.net](mailto:Juliekerr@sbcglobal.net). Joy Baker (0 up to 1 year) 281-701-8511 [joy\\_a\\_baker@yahoo.com](mailto:joy_a_baker@yahoo.com). Roxann Beutnagel (13 mo through 3yrs) 832-243-0377 [rthome@houston.rr.com](mailto:rthome@houston.rr.com). Jenny Baldwin (3yrs and up) 713-849-2733 [jbaldwin9@houston.rr.com](mailto:jbaldwin9@houston.rr.com) and Michol Ecklund (Weekend Playgroup) 713-983-0705 [michol\\_ecklund@hotmail.com](mailto:michol_ecklund@hotmail.com).

**Couples Dinner Club-** Meeting 04/16/05 at Vie Topia. RSVP by April 11<sup>th</sup>-Becky Vogel 713-856-6130.

**Lunch Bunch-** Meeting 04/06/05 at 11:45 AM. Location: Ashland House Tea Room, 7611 Westview Drive (off Wirt Road). Car Pool Available. RSVP to [kvogel2263@aol.com](mailto:kvogel2263@aol.com)

**\*\* Ladies Club General Meeting-** April 26th 7-9 PM, Bear Creek Community Center.

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On March 7, 1901, *Lupinus subcarneus* (also known as **Buffalo clover**) became the only species of bluebonnet recognized as the state flower of Texas. However, *Lupinus texensis* (**Texas bluebonnet**) emerged as the favorite of most Texans. Their deep blue blossoms

can be seen from March through May in most areas of Texas. So, in 1971, the Texas Legislature made any variety of bluebonnet the state flower. *Lupinus texensis* remains as the iconic Texas bluebonnet. Including *L. subcarneus*, *L. texensis*, *L. condensus*, *L. platensis* and *L. havardii*.



**Ann Knoche**  
[annpk@heritagetexas.com](mailto:annpk@heritagetexas.com)

**281.493.3880**  
Ext. 1911 Ext. 1904



**Maureen Clemons**  
[mclemons@heritagetexas.com](mailto:mclemons@heritagetexas.com)

## The Bluebonnet Trail

# Lakes on Eldridge North

## Master Gardener Spring Plant Sale "The Garden of Good and Evil"

By Karen Breneman

Green, gray, blue-green, and blue-gray leaves nod in the light breeze. Hummingbirds, butterflies, song birds, dragonflies and damselflies flit from branch to branch and flower to flower. The garden is alive with color and movement, but, underneath all this beauty, something quite different is happening. The nodding leaf has a hole. The flower is missing part of its petals. A bare stem now stands where only yesterday, it was covered with leaves. A grape leaf is rolled when it should be open. A plant is missing from the border. A new green spreading plant is taking over the corner of the garden.

Gardens are living, breathing entities that change not only with the seasons, but within the seasons. Some plants are "thugs" and overgrow wanted plants. Other plants are not suited to the environment and cannot survive. Butterflies need host and nectar plants. Birds require plants for food and shelter. Dragonflies and damselflies, other insects, and birds must have water to drink and to breed. The interactions among all the creatures create changes in the plant community.

A healthy garden is one that adapts to the changes created by life. Plants in the right place survive the changes. Plants native to an area are ones that have adjusted over time to natural change. Adapted plants are non-native plants that do well in an area. Exotic plants are from another place; generally, from another continent. These plants tend to be ones that do not do well and require extraordinary

measures to keep them alive. Or, conversely, do too well and overgrow the native plant material. In these instances, the plants are invasive exotic plants, and more of these plants each year are being placed on restricted growth and import status. In other words, many exotic plants are illegal to import or grow in Texas. The exotic Chinese Tallow tree has recently received this designation.

Diverse native plant species encourage "good guys" to help maintain the overall health of the garden. Over 30,000 different species of insects have been identified in Texas. Between 95 and 98% of these insects are beneficial or non-harmful species. The remaining less than 5% of all insects are designated as pests or possible pests. Insects are an essential part of life. Without the beneficial insects, man, as a species, could not survive. There would be no food, material for clothing or shelter. The world as we know it would not exist.

The few pest species, when in large numbers, can cause extensive crop damage and could cause devastation; therefore, it is essential to identify the pests and remove them before they cause extensive damage. The predator species of insects, birds, amphibians, soil organisms, and a few mammals all help to maintain the proper balance. Wise use of resources can reduce damage, yet maintain a healthy environment.

(Continued on Page 5)



Javier P.  
Senior Research Technician,  
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## Master Gardener - (Continued from Page 5)

Learn more about native and adapted species of plants, how to plant and care for them and how to identify and control the most common pest insects. Plan to attend the Annual Spring Master Gardener Plant Sale and Symposium at the Harris County Cooperative Extension Center on Bear Creek drive on Saturday April 23, 2005.

The Symposium begins at 8 am with a presentation by Linda Knowles, Texas Master Naturalist and Native Plant Society member, talking about the plants available at the sale and the butterflies and birds they attract. The sale opens at 9 am for you to shop. Return to the auditorium at 10 am to hear me (Karen Breneman, Master Gardener, Texas Master naturalist and author) talk about "Common Garden Insects-Friend or Foe" and at 11 am Dr. Carol Brouwer, Cooperative Extension Agent, will give pointers on proper planting and care of your purchases.

Mark your Calendar Saturday April 23, 2005!!

## Business Classified Ads

**Business Classifieds** are \$45.00. Please contact Donna Sommer, [djsommer@aol.com](mailto:djsommer@aol.com), 832-237-4684.

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# Lakes on Eldridge North

## The Bluebonnet Stencilers of Texas

The Bluebonnet Stencilers of Texas, a non-profit group serving all of Houston, meet each first Monday of the month from 6:30-9 PM at the Tracy Gee Community Center, 3599 Westcenter (One block east of Sam Houston Toll Road West). This chapter is actively seeking new members in the Houston area. Membership is open to anyone who is interested in stenciling and the related arts of faux finishing and decorative painting. For more information concerning meetings, call Joanne Wafer at 281-376-1466 or Moliede Null at 281-991-5870.

## Pride of Texas Decorative Artists

The Pride of Texas Decorative Artists (a division of National Tole Society) would like to invite all decorative artists to our monthly meeting on the 2nd Thursday of the month at 6:30 PM. We meet at Bear Creek Community Center off Patterson Road in Bear Creek Park. Our monthly "make it & take it" programs are taught by local artists. Please join us for fun and new ideas. For more information, call Peggy McElroy 281-565-0480.

## Wine Club Update

The new contact information will be Cliff and Sherri Buster  
Ph. - 713-849-5393; E-mail - [LOENwineclub@houston.rr.com](mailto:LOENwineclub@houston.rr.com)

## Classifieds

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# Lakes on Eldridge North

## Thyme Out for Gardening: Encouraging Wildlife, Part II

In February, we started talking about gardening for wildlife. If you've ever read anything on the subject, you might have heard the terms "wildscaping" and/or "habitat gardening" used to describe the process of designing a garden that is attractive to wildlife. Wildscaping is the term used by Texas Parks & Wildlife in its programs and publications that encourage wildlife gardening. Wildscapes are landscapes that focus on creating small habitats to provide food, water, shelter, and nesting sites for wildlife, emphasizing the use of native vegetation while providing a livable outdoor environment for humans. Wildscaping isn't my favorite term to use for this type of gardening, however, because it tends to conjure up images of an unmanageable jungle-yard, something that tends to be frowned upon by homeowner associations. I prefer the term "habitat gardening" because wildlife friendly gardens don't need to be truly wild or out of control; there are wildlife friendly plants to suit any style of landscape you prefer, whether it's cottage, natural, formal, tropical, or eclectic.

A wildlife-friendly or habitat garden also doesn't need to be large to be effective. Although many people turn their entire landscape into a habitat garden, the garden can be as small as a grouping of container plants or a small flower bed as long as it contains features to satisfy the food, water, and shelter requirements. Now that we have a better understanding of what habitat gardening is all about, let's talk about why you might want to create wildlife habitats in your landscape.

As I mentioned in the first part of this series, I love having wildlife in the neighborhood and feel that the presence of nature improves our quality of life. I also feel that habitat gardening is simply the right thing to do. As suburban growth increases, native wildlife habitats are being lost at an alarming rate; if we want to continue to enjoy songbirds, colorful butterflies, summer cricket and frog choruses, and the other wonders of nature, we must try and replace what's being lost. Recent studies indicate that a series of connected or even "hopscoched" habitats such as might be created in neighborhood yards, green belts, and parks can be effective in maintaining migratory and local wildlife populations.

Habitat gardens benefit wildlife, and they will also benefit the children in your life. As more schools include classroom gardens in their curriculum, studies are demonstrating that the environment enhances and improves all aspects of learning. Children who have the opportunity to garden and observe the natural world develop a sense of discovery, improve their participation and attitude, and develop an appreciation for the environment and an understanding of complex environmental issues. Nature gardening helps children's brain development by stimulating their senses and promoting inquiry skills and may even improve language development. Gardening and nature study have been found to be calming for children with attention issues.

(Continued on Page 9)

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# Lakes on Eldridge North

**Thyme Out** - (Continued from Page 8)

And if the above reasons aren't enough to encourage you to install a habitat garden, how about this: a well-designed habitat garden is easier on the environment and on your budget because it requires less water, less fertilizer and fewer pesticides than the average landscape! So are you ready to try your hand at gardening for wildlife? Next month we'll talk about specific habitat requirements, wildlife friendly plants, and resources for even more information.

**April Gardening Notes:** Spring is in full swing here in Houston. The garden centers are overflowing with plants for your landscape so if there are plants you want to add to your garden, plant them this month before it gets too hot (for both the plants and the gardeners). If you're too busy this month, then there will still be time in the next couple of months to plant heat loving annuals such as basil, cosmos, vincas and zinnias.

Fertilize your lawn and flower beds if you haven't done so already, and be sure your beds have a three inch layer of compost or mulch. Remember to avoid piling mulch up around tree trunks and plant stems. Repot your container plants if necessary and start paying close attention to their water needs. Fertilize container plants regularly to replace the nutrients that leach out of the container as the plants are watered.

The Rodeo may be over, but there's still some two-steppin' to be done – for fire ants, that is. If fire ants are a problem in your yard, April

and May are the best Spring months to use your control treatments. Broadcast a bait product over your entire yard, and use a different mound treatment for any ant colonies found in high traffic areas or next to your foundation. Remember to follow all package directions. If you want more information on fire ants and their control, visit <http://fireant.tamu.edu>.

Don't miss the Master Gardener Spring Plant Sale on Saturday, April 23<sup>rd</sup>. Please see the related article by Karen Breneman for more details. This is an extremely popular sale so get in line early for the best selections. Be sure to attend the symposiums and pick up some valuable gardening information.

On April 30, the Texas Cooperative Extension Service will hold its annual WaterSmart gardening workshop at the Pasadena Convention Center. This all-day workshop features local gardening experts who will teach you how to create an attractive landscape that can survive Houston's water conditions. Call 281-855-5600 for registration information. Until next month, happy gardening!

*By Lisa M. Rawl, Harris County  
Master Gardener  
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# Lakes on Eldridge North

## Understanding Value Vs. Growth Investing

Kurt L. Box and Paul Palmer

Everyone hears over and over, from Morningstar and other sources, about value versus growth investing. The problem, and reality is, that most investors simply don't understand the difference between the two philosophies. Notice that I did not say between the two different kinds of stocks. Why? Well, because stocks can float between the two categories based on certain fundamentals. In this article, we'll articulate the differences between value and growth investing.

### Value Defined

Value investing is the strategy of selecting stocks that trade for less than their intrinsic value. Value investors actively seek stocks from companies with sound financial statements that they believe the market has undervalued. As such, value investors are not one hundred percent believers in the "efficient market hypothesis," which maintains that the current market price of a stock reflects all the currently "knowable" information about a company and, so, is the most reasonable and rational price for that stock at that given point in time. In fact, one of Warren Buffett's (Benjamin Graham's student and one of the most famous value investors of all time) sayings is that "in the short run the stock market is a voting machine, but in the long run it is a weighing machine." Value investors tend to put more weight on their judgments about the extent to which they think a stock is mispriced in the stock market. If a stock is under priced, it is a good buy; if it is over priced, it is a sell. Oftentimes value investors seek to buy stocks

that are depressed because their companies are going through periods of difficulty. They would then ride their prices upward, if and when such companies recover from those difficulties, selling them when their fair value is reached.

According to most sources, investing for value typically means purchasing stocks that are trading at relatively low price-to-earnings (P/E), price-to-book (P/B), and price-to-sales ratios (P/S) and have relatively high dividend yields (dividend yield is calculated by dividing the company's annual dividend payment per share by its current share price). In fact, according to Morningstar and their "style box" definitions, "Value is defined based on low valuations (low price ratios and high dividend yields) and slow growth (low growth rates for earnings, sales, book value, and cash flow)."

### Growth Defined

Investing for "growth" results in just the opposite – stocks trading at high P/E, P/B and P/S ratios and relatively low (or no) dividend yields. A growth strategy is an investor who seeks out stocks with what they deem good growth potential. In most cases a growth stock is defined as a company whose earnings are expected to grow at an above-average rate compared to its industry or the overall market. Again, according to Morningstar, "Growth is defined based on fast growth (high growth rates for earnings, sales, book value, and cash

*(Continued on Page 11)*



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# Lakes on Eldridge North

## Understanding Value - (Continued from Page 10)

flow) and high valuations (high price ratios and low dividend yields). Most of these portfolios focus on companies in rapidly expanding industries."

### General Commentary

Although, in general, value stock portfolios tend to hold up better during stock market downturns, this in large part depends on the specific makeup of the investor's portfolio. For example, if the stock is considered a value stock and has typical value stock fundamentals because the company is producing a product that is fast becoming obsolete or because the company is having serious financial issues, then a recession could put that company out of business. On the other hand, a value stock that has become a value stock simply because it is not growing revenues at a 20% compounded rate per year (although it is producing strong free cash flow) and is overlooked by greedy investors, can be a great holding during downturns. There were many of these stocks available in the late 1990's (however, it is notable that there are far fewer available today). For anyone who truly wants to understand value investing and how to make money in the stock market, we recommend two books by Benjamin Graham (the father of value investing); *Securities Analyses: The Classic 1940 Edition* and *The Intelligent Investor Revised Addition* (with commentary by Jason Zweig).

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Spring is here, and, with the nicer weather, we need to be reminded of a few prevention tips that could save us a lot of frustration and time. As we have this nicer weather, we start to go out and about more often, and we start to do yard maintenance again

As you go about your daily tasks, please be mindful of the following safety tips.

### At Home:

1. Keep doors and windows locked when not at home.
2. Keep garage door closed at all times, even when outside working in the yard. It is very easy to become distracted and not notice someone walking into your open garage.
3. Do not keep yard equipment lying in the yard when not in use or you are not present.
4. Make a list of all serial numbers on all home electronics, yard equipment, etc., and keep it in a safe place (i.e. bank deposit box, safe)
5. Engrave all personal property with a personal identification number. Engravers are available through the police department's crime prevention unit.

### Vehicle:

1. Avoid taking valuables with you if you know you will have to leave them in your vehicle (while going to the park, stores, etc.)
2. Keep all valuables out of plain sight in your vehicle.
3. Secure all doors and windows on your vehicle including sun-roofs.

Whether you are home or out, always be observant of any suspicious persons or vehicles, and, if you do notice anything suspicious, call the Harris County Sheriffs Department as quickly as possible at 713-221-6000. If you are having or witness an emergency, call 911.

## Fluoride Level Change

The fluoride level in our drinking water has changed to from 0.2 ppm to 0.4 ppm. The ideal amount is 0.7ppm for older children and 0.3 ppm for infants. Contact your pediatrician or dentist to see if fluoride supplementation is necessary.

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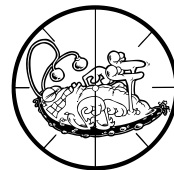
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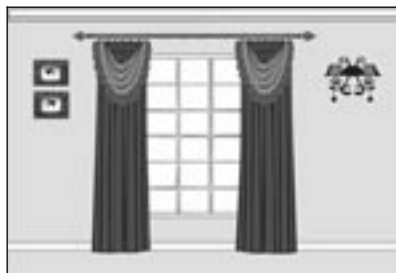
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The following young people are interested in making a little extra money. If you would like to be included, removed, or updated in the next issue, please contact Jillian Barkley, 832-243-0000 or e-mail [jbarkley@houston.rr.com](mailto:jbarkley@houston.rr.com) (LOEN) All information must be received by the 10<sup>th</sup> of the month.

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Katie, 16 .....	713-896-7941(LOEN)
Patrick, 14 .....	713-937-0727(LOE)
Ryan, 14 .....	713-896-794(LOEN)
Kelechi, 13 .....	713-856-9495(LOE)
Benny, 12 .....	713-476-3750(LOE)
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