

The RANCH REVIEW

August 2008 Volume II, Issue VIII

News for the Residents of Avery Ranch

Austin CVB Launches All New, Tech-Savvy AustinTexas.org

State-of-the-Art Website Features Interactive Trip Planning and User-Friendly Navigation for Industry Professionals

AUSTIN, TX - The Austin Convention and Visitors Bureau (Austin CVB) unveils its all-new, interactive website today at www.AustinTexas.org. The new site serves as the ultimate online destination for business and leisure travelers seeking information on Austin.

The redesigned site reflects the Bureau's efforts to move the city into an increasingly internet-based world of travel and tourism and fortifies the city's reputation as a high-tech hub. [AustinTexas.org](http://www.AustinTexas.org) is one of the nation's most advanced destination websites, designed to bring Austin's vibrant, 24-hour attitude to life with experiential videos, avatar guides and a timeline tool that allows users to build their perfect day in the Live Music Capital of the World®. Local musicians provide the soundtrack as users discover that with outdoor attractions, a rich history and an active population of sports enthusiasts, artists and politicians, music isn't the only thing playing in Austin.

"This new site raises the bar for online destination marketing," says Bob Lander, President and CEO of Austin CVB. "With interactive videos, personal timelines and extensive information readily available, the site is sure to enhance both the business and leisure traveler's experience."

Avatars of local personalities guide visitors through a wide variety of experiences including shopping, dining, arts and culture. Aided by video and audio narratives, users can experience the Austin City Limits Music Festival or a cycling trip on the Barton Creek Green Belt. Dine on smoky barbecue at The County Line

or indulge in sophisticated regional cuisine at Jeffrey's. Dance the night away at Carnival, the biggest festival of its kind outside of Rio, or relax with a soothing massage at Milk & Honey day spa. Each featured experience can be added to a virtual timeline and shared with friends.

Along with these interactive features, [AustinTexas.org](http://www.AustinTexas.org) incorporates information that is pertinent to the different audiences that utilize CVB services, including leisure visitors; meeting planners; tour guides and travel agents; film industry professionals; music industry contacts; members of the media and sports event producers. Users can always search for accommodations, things to do and special events through global modules and universal navigation on each page. The trip building tool is also accessible on each page, allowing visitors to quickly access attractions or activities they may have bookmarked on their timeline.

"Austin is known for our live music scene, but that's just the beginning" says Jennifer Walker, Austin CVB's Director of Marketing Communications. "With miles of hike and bike trails, unique boutiques and can't miss restaurants, Austin is a diverse, one-of-a-kind destination that you just have to experience to understand. We wanted to encourage users to find out what a day in Austin might truly be like – and the new site allows us to do just that." Walker adds, "The new [AustinTexas.org](http://www.AustinTexas.org) showcases each of our city's unique attributes, providing users with the ability to see Austin as never before."



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Provided by:

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Avery Ranch 2008 STATISTICS (RESALE ONLY)

| | Beds | Full Baths | SQ FT | List Price | LP/SQ FT | Sales Price | SP/SQ FT | Days On Mkt. |
|----------------|-------------|-------------------|--------------|-------------------|-----------------|--------------------|-----------------|---------------------|
| High | 5 | 4 | 4,391 | \$719,900 | \$165.17 | \$696,222 | \$158.56 | 369 |
| Low | 2 | 2 | 1,375 | \$165,000 | \$88.21 | \$165,000 | \$88.21 | 3 |
| Average | 3 | 2 | 2,358 | \$272,463 | \$115.34 | \$261,618 | \$111.17 | 71 |

Avery Ranch 2007 STATISTICS (RESALE ONLY)

| | Beds | Full Baths | SQ FT | List Price | LP/SQ FT | Sales Price | SP/SQ FT | Days On Mkt. |
|----------------|-------------|-------------------|--------------|-------------------|-----------------|--------------------|-----------------|---------------------|
| High | 6 | 5 | 5,311 | \$819,900 | \$180.82 | \$735,000 | \$164.91 | 313 |
| Low | 2 | 2 | 1,356 | \$170,000 | \$78.40 | \$162,000 | \$78.10 | 0 |
| Average | 3 | 2 | 2,508 | \$286,087 | \$113.29 | \$275,152 | \$109.39 | 66 |

Year to date as of June 30th, 2008 ----- 250 properties on the market

- **96 Properties for Sale**
- **31 Properties Under Contract/Pending Closing**
- **123 Properties Sold/Closed**

Source: Austin Multiple Listing



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NatureWatch

by Jim and Lynne Weber

Dazzling Dragonflies

With their large, multi-faceted eyes, two pairs of strong, transparent wings, and an elongated body, the dragonfly is an ancient insect that inspires myth and lore in many world cultures. For Native Americans, their form can represent swiftness and energy, pure water, and even symbolize renewal after a time of great hardship.

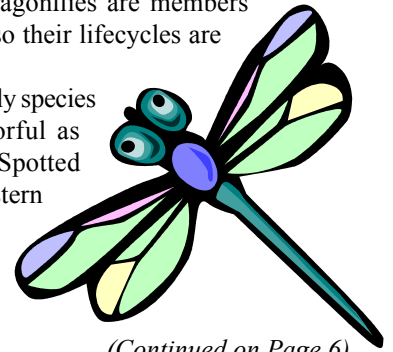
Usually found around lakes, ponds, streams, and wetlands, dragonflies typically eat mosquitoes, midges, and other small insects such as flies, bees, and even some butterflies. They capture their prey by claspng them with their spike-studded legs, and their prey cannot use their usual form of escape by diving away, since dragonflies always attack from underneath! Normally, dragonflies do not bite or sting humans, but if you grasp one by the abdomen, it will bite in order to escape.

The lifecycle of a dragonfly consists of three stages: egg, nymph, and adult. The female will lay her eggs directly on aquatic plants or merely drop them in water. Once hatched, these nymphs begin their life living underwater, eating other aquatic creatures. Nymphs of larger dragonflies will even eat the nymphs of smaller species! This nymphal stage can last as long as four years in some species, but most overwinter in ponds and marshes and emerge in the spring as adults. Once fully grown, the nymph will crawl out of the water

on the stem of a plant, break through its' skin (called the exuvia) and enlarge its' body and wings by pumping fluids into them.

Mature dragonflies are known for their aerial acrobatics, capable of hovering and rapid acceleration, and can both hunt and mate on the wing. They need to make the most of their time as aerial predators, since adults live only up to two months. Adult dragonflies are often confused with damselflies, but they are two distinct insect species. When at rest, damselflies often hold their wings together or slightly open above their body, whereas dragonflies hold their wings fully open horizontally or slightly down and forward. Additionally, the eyes on a damselfly are separated, while the eyes of most dragonflies touch. Both damselflies and dragonflies are members of the scientific order Odonata, so their lifecycles are very similar.

The common names for dragonfly species that occur in Texas are as colorful as the insects themselves – Twin-Spotted Spiketail, Roseate Skimmer, Eastern Pondhawk, Black Saddlebags, Blue-Faced Meadowhawk, Halloween Pennant, and Jade Clubtail to name a few. To



(Continued on Page 6)

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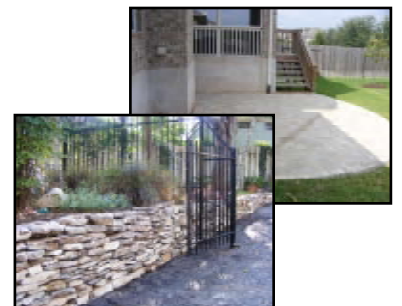
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Interested in submitting an article? You can do so by emailing averyranch@peelinc.com or by going to <http://www.peelinc.com/articleSubmit.php>. All news must be received by the 9th of the month prior to the issue. So if you are involved with a school group, scouts, sports etc – please submit your articles for the Ranch Review. Personal news for the Stork Report, Teenage Job Seekers, special celebrations and military service are also welcome.



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Nature Watch- (Continued from Page 4)

some extent, the presence of dragonflies may be taken as an indicator of ecosystem quality. Local populations and diversity may be strongly affected by changes in water flow, turbidity, and in aquatic or waterside vegetation. Not surprisingly, the greatest number of species are found at sites with natural water flows, high water quality, native plants, and a variety of microhabitats.

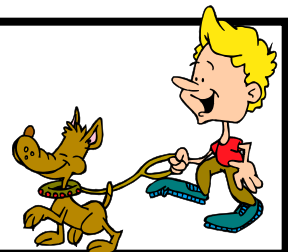


When you see dragonflies this summer, admire their maneuverability, enjoy their jewel-like colors, appreciate their mosquito-eating, and be thankful that we no longer have the "giant dragonflies" from the Jurassic & Cretaceous geologic periods, when their wingspans were up to six times larger than those we have today!

Send your nature-related questions to naturewatch@austin.rr.com and we'll do our best to answer them.

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August Events at the Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center

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This informal course includes six classes that cover most aspects of native plant gardening. Taught by experts at the Wildflower center, it is ideal for those who want to improve their gardening skills or earn a certificate in native plant gardening. Sign up for one three-hour class--\$45--or the entire sequence at a 15 percent discount. Wildflower Center members and university employees pay \$184 for the six classes or \$36 per class. All others pay \$230 for the course. Learn more at www.wildflower.org/gonativeu.

Bonsai Exhibit

Bonsai done with Texas natives, including persimmon, yaupon, cedar elm and ebony, on display through August 31. There is a special Bonsai Workshop Saturday, August 30, where you can learn how to raise and care for native bonsai and what species lend themselves well to bonsai. Sign up at www.wildflower.org

Sales Tax Holidays

No tax on apparel up to \$100. Don't miss it. Friday, Saturday and Sunday, August 15, 16 and 17

Pre-Fall Seed Sale

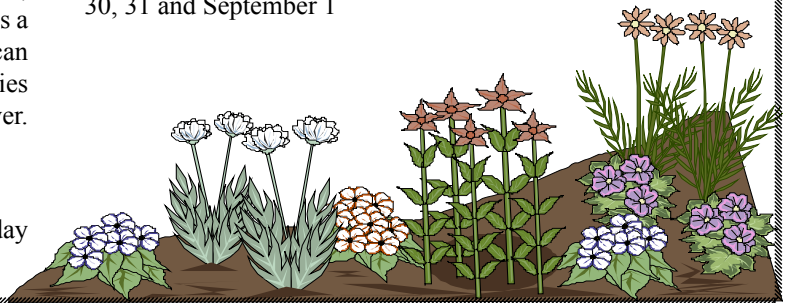
Save 20 percent on wildflower seed purchases in the store. Discount does not apply to phone or internet purchases. Saturday and Sunday, August 23 and 24

Bruce Tinch Art & Photography Exhibit

"A Place of Dreams"—Caddo Lake, Lady Bird Johnson's childhood playground is captured in paint and photography by this renowned artist. In the McDermott Learning Center. August 30 through October 12.

Labor Day Weekend Specials

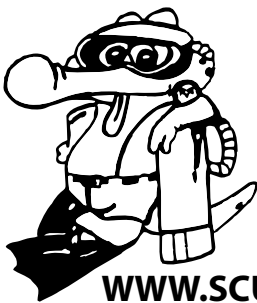
Sidewalk sale bargains. Saturday, Sunday and Monday, August 30, 31 and September 1



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Send Us Your Event Pictures!!

Do you have a picture of an event that you would like to run in the Lakewood Leader? Send it to us and we will publish it in the next issue. Email the picture to averyranch@peelinc.com. Be sure to include the text that you would like to have as the caption. Pictures will appear in color online at www.PEELinc.com.



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Submitted by Bill Sleep

We live in the best place in the USA to be a kayaker. Lake Austin & Travis are in our backyards and Lady Bird Lake, the San Marcos, Colorado and Guadalupe rivers are also close - within two hours there is even more unexplored territory. The Texas Parks & Wildlife has created numerous "Texas Paddling Trails" for you to explore across the state.

You can kayak for fun and sun, to enjoy nature, for cardiovascular and muscular fitness, to catch fresh and saltwater fish or even to become a competitive paddler.

Kayaking is experiencing exponential growth and participation has tripled since 1998. Boats have become more stable and less expensive. You can choose from sit-on-tops, sit-inside, touring boats and inflatables that come in plastic, wood or kevlar. Choose a single kayak or a double that is big enough for a friend and even a child or dog.

Best yet, kayak skills are easy to learn with a little instruction. There is no need to paddle 2 miles in a zig-zag pattern when 1 mile is in order. (Remember surviving your first summer camp canoe experience.)

As is the case with learning golf or tennis skills, basic paddling skills training will make you efficient and the sport more enjoyable. It's also important to understand how to select the right boat, accessories and equipment, how to efficiently load and transport the boat and the importance of safety.

Once your skills have improved, there are many new places to paddle and different ways to use your paddling skills. For instance, you can join Canyon of the Eagles kayak tour on Lake Buchanan or register for a recreational canoe race like the Great Castell Kayak race on the Llano.

Kayak wave surfing on the gulf is another popular alternative.

Or you can just kickback and enjoy an adventure on Lake Austin without burning fossil fuels - your choice - stayfit and have fun.

For more info: contact Bill Sleep at ctocoach@msn.com or 626-9300 - finisher of numerous adventure races as well as the 260 Mile Texas Water Safari - "Worlds Toughest Canoe Race."



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Pet Corner

Natural Watch Dog

Submitted by Luis Escobar

I spoke with a man yesterday who has a "great watchdog". His dog lets him know when his neighbor is outside, when the kids down the street come home from school or are outside playing, when there is a squirrel on the lawn, when the mail arrives, when the neighbors get a UPS delivery, when a bird lands, a cat is out, when someone walks their dog, and on and on. WOW was I impressed. I couldn't help wondering how many times this guy was getting up to check on these alerts from his dog. I'm guessing a lot as he knew exactly what his dog was barking at. I got tired just thinking about having to check on all that activity.

I almost asked him how he would know if there was something that really needed his attention. To my thinking this wasn't a watch dog, but a nuisance barker. Can dogs learn the difference? Thankfully the answer is YES! Rover can learn to distinguish the difference, as long as we know the difference.

Rover is not a barker. I wish I could say that about the other dogs in our neighborhood. There are two yorkies behind us who go ballistic when anyone walks by. There is Rover's friend Emma the mixed up mutt next door who tries to tell the yorkies to shut up. There's Charlie the lab down the street who barks at every dog that walks by his house. You can follow us around the block, just by listening to the barking.

These dogs are all barking inappropriately. In other words this is nuisance barking. Birds, squirrels, leaves, cats, lizards or other dogs and

people are not things we need Rover telling us about. Fires, someone breaking in, or unexpected things are what we want to be notified about.

As I said, Rover is not a barker. He'll look towards the sound of other dogs barking but he doesn't join in. The times he did join in we corrected him. We consistently let him know that we didn't need to know if the Yorkies saw someone or even if he saw someone. It was none of his business, but if he wanted to watch he could do so quietly. Now he basically ignores the cacophony of the "watch dogs". But he will alert us to unusual events.

One night I was having trouble sleeping and got up and went outside in the middle of the night. Rover didn't hear me go out but he did hear me come back in. He gave a couple of warning barks and started growling when he heard the front door open. The door opening in the middle of the night was unusual. He woke Cathy, alerting her to my sneaking back in. Even though he ratted me out he still got lots of praise for raising the alarm.

Dogs will naturally alert you to the things out of the ordinary. They WILL warn about unusual events, even if they are corrected for barking at the wrong things.

If Rover is a nuisance barker the chances are that over time we'll just tune him out. It's like the boy who cried wolf. When the wolf really comes we won't believe him.

Nuisance barking CAN be corrected but it's important to address the cause(s) and not just the symptom(s). Dogs bark for various

reasons such as calling the pack, trying to scare someone or something, because they are afraid, or because they're bored. It's often stressful not only to us and our neighbors, but to the dogs as well.

This is especially true with issues of separation anxiety.

Do you have a neighbor whose dog is creating a nuisance with his constant barking? How you approach this might be difficult. You might ask if their dog is ok because it seems to be upset a lot. If it only barks when the owners aren't home they might not even know it's barking. Ask about the dog with concern instead of confrontation and you may have a better chance of getting the owner to understand there's a problem.

Once the inappropriate barking is under control you'll have a natural watchdog. One who alerts you to something out of the ordinary, and one who's warning you can trust. Once we can trust Rover's warning we'll know when we have to really check on things and it won't be because the kids down the street are outside playing. The results?

Happy Dogs = Happy Families and Happy Neighbors.



Pet Corner

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The challenge is to fill every row across, every column down, and every 3x3 box with the digits 1 through 9. Each 1 through 9 digit must appear only once in each row across, each column down, and each 3x3 box.

| | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|--|
| | 5 | | 7 | 8 | | 9 | | |
| | | | | 1 | | | | |
| 9 | | 6 | | | 3 | | | |
| | | | 2 | | | 8 | | |
| 3 | 7 | | | | 5 | | | |
| | | | | | 4 | | 1 | |
| 7 | | 2 | | | | | | |
| 8 | 6 | | 5 | | | | 2 | |
| | | | 1 | | | 4 | | |

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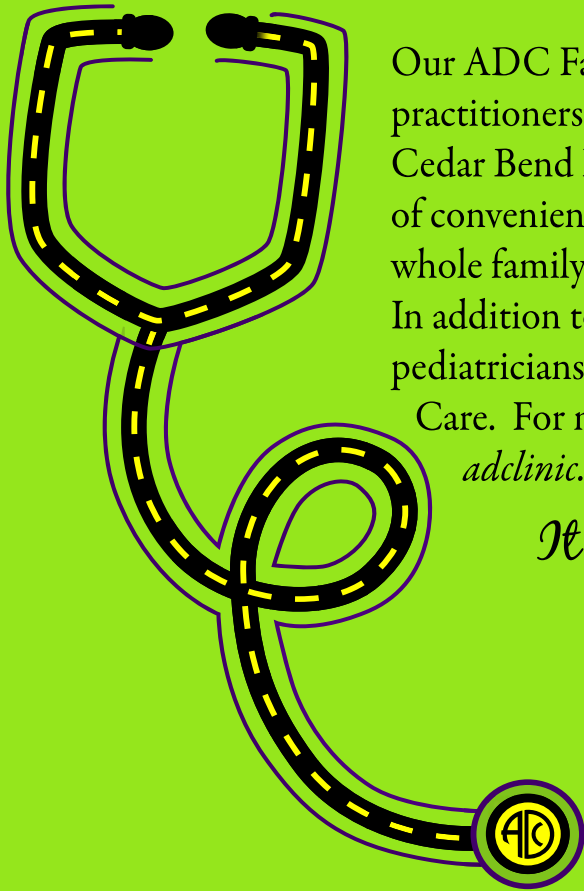
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