

# THE RIVER REVIEW

December 2008

News For The Residents of River Place

Volume 2, Issue 12

## NatureWatch

by Jim and Lynne Weber

### Fantastic Fossils

From the Latin *fossus*, literally meaning “having been dug up”, fossils are the preserved remains or traces of animals, plants, and other organisms from the remote past. The study of fossils is called paleontology, a science that helps us understand how and when fossils were formed, as well as the evolutionary relationships between organisms, and has greatly contributed to our understanding of ancient plants and animals and the natural world in which they lived.

Fossilization is an exceptionally rare occurrence, because most components of formerly living things tend to decompose relatively quickly following death. In order for an organism to be fossilized, the remains normally need to be covered by sediment as soon as possible. Exceptions to this condition are if an organism becomes frozen, desiccated (exposed to extreme dryness), or comes to rest in an oxygen-free environment. There are several different types of fossils and fossilization processes, but due to the combined effect of decomposition and simple mathematical



chance, fossilization tends to favor organisms with hard body parts, those that were widespread, and those that lived for a long time. The rocks of the Edwards plateau consist primarily of Lower Cretaceous or Comanche series limestones and chinks, formed over 100 million years ago, many of which are very fossiliferous. Part of the Mesozoic or “middle-life” geologic era, outcrops of these rocks and their associated fossils can be found along many streams, roads, and highways of Central Texas. These fossils are usually abundant and varied, with the most common form being invertebrates, or animals without a backbone or spinal column. This includes cephalopods (marine invertebrates with well-defined head and eyes and tentacles around the mouth such as squid, octopus, nautilus, and ammonites), pelecypods (bi-valved aquatic invertebrates such as clams and oysters), gastropods (terrestrial or aquatic invertebrates with a single-valved, coiled shell such as snails), and echinoids (bottom-dwelling, unattached marine

*(Continued on Page 2)*

## North Austin Women's Connection Luncheon

### Tuesday December 9th

You're invited! Buffet lunch, meet friends and enjoy our guest speaker Kim Brunssen. Kim will show us how to decorate for the holidays and more! River Place Country Club from 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. Cost is \$17 payable at the door. Please make your reservation by Thursday December 4 by calling Nancy at (512) 608-6686 or email Nancy at [adandyduo@austin.rr.com](mailto:adandyduo@austin.rr.com).

### Tuesday January 13th

River Place Country Club from 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m.. Dillard's Estee Lauder makeup artist will perform live makeovers and give tips on skin care. Child care available for ages 18 months to 10 years old. Cost is \$17 payable at the door. For information or reservations call Nancy at 512 608-6686 or email her at [adandyduo@austin.rr.com](mailto:adandyduo@austin.rr.com).

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Hudson Bend Fire and EMS	
Emergencies.....	512-266-1775
Information.....	512-266-2533

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Canyon Ridge Middle School.....	512-424-7500
Laura Welch Bush Elementary.....	512-435-4750
Steiner Ranch Elementary.....	512-434-7100

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Texas Gas Service	
Custom Service.....	1-800-700-2443
Emergencies.....	512-370-8609
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Repairs.....	512-485-5080
IESI (Trash).....	512-282-3508

### OTHER NUMBERS

River Place Postal Office.....	512-345-9739
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### NEWSLETTER PUBLISHER

Peel, Inc.....	512-263-9181
Article Submissions.....	<a href="mailto:riverreview@peelinc.com">riverreview@peelinc.com</a>
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## Newsletter Article Submissions

Interested in submitting an article? You can do so by emailing [riverreview@PEELinc.com](mailto:riverreview@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 River Review. Personal news for the Stork Report, Teenage Job Seekers, special celebrations and military service are also welcome.

### Nature Watch- (Continued from Cover Page)

invertebrates with an exoskeleton of plates covered by movable spines such as sea urchins).

While Texas does not have a state fossil, it does have a fossil for its state stone, which is petrified palm wood. This wood is the petrified remains of trees that grew on the Gulf Coastal Plain around 30 million years ago. At that time the shore of the Gulf of Mexico was further north than it is now, which explains why the wood is usually found in the more northern areas of the state, as well as in Louisiana and Mississippi. Of all the petrified wood found in Texas, petrified palm wood is the most common. Formed when a palm tree died and was buried by sediments, minerals in the groundwater permeated the wood, replacing the original organic matter and turning the wood to stone. The main mineral that remains is silica, but trace elements in the silica impart a variety of colors to the petrified wood.

Simply put, the conditions under which fossilization takes place are quite rare, and it is highly unlikely that any given organism will leave behind a fossil. So when you come across a fossil as you explore Central Texas, it gives you even more reason to celebrate their mystique and rare beauty!

Send your nature-related questions to [naturewatch@austin.rr.com](mailto:naturewatch@austin.rr.com) and we'll do our best to answer them.

## Errands a Go-Go

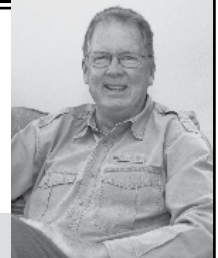
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## Cedar Park Youth League

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We are looking for 11U advanced baseball players for the Saints, a CPYL Select Baseball Team for the Spring of 2009. Our emphasis is on baseball fundamentals, player skills and creating an environment conducive to development. We are adding new players to our roster and will be holding private tryouts on Saturday, December 6th from 9am to 11am at the Cedar Park Youth League baseball fields.

If you are interested in trying out or want more information, please contact Ross Goolsby at 512-947-4785 or e-mail at [rossgoolsby@sbcglobal.net](mailto:rossgoolsby@sbcglobal.net).

## Give the Gift of Membership

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## What are your Kids Doing after school?

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Junior Programs are offered after school every day February through May.

Our programs include: Golf, Tennis, Tap, Tumbling, Ballet, Hip Hop & Karate!

\*Membership is Not Required to Trial After School Programs\*

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Please call Raquel Hebben, the Membership Director if you would like to receive information regarding Membership or Spring Junior Programs.

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## BUSINESS SECTION

### Creating Strong Vibrant Communities

It's a fact of our global economy that consumers are drawn to the internet because of convenience. Why it is important to "Think Local Business First?"

1. Local businesses are often collectively our largest local employer. The largest growth of jobs is from small business owners.
2. When one dollar is spent at a local business, economists indicate it is circulated four to seven additional times in the local economy.
3. Every dollar spent locally generates up to 75% more tax revenue to our community and State.
4. Local businesses are often the largest financial supporters of neighborhood school programs, local charities and youth sports activities.
5. Strong local businesses help maintain property values and contribute to the character of our community by offering a diverse selection of goods and services.
6. Local businesses are most often the first job for our children and also the first introduction into the "real world" of economics.
7. Small businesses often innovate quicker and thus grow faster and can have a greater impact on our community.

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### Three Business Networking Groups in the Area

Are you looking to grow your business in 2009? If so, you might be interested in a few of the business networking groups in the area. There are a few to choose from:

#### Steiner Ranch Referrals BNI Group

Meetings are on Thursday mornings from 8:00 to 9:30 at Cups and Cones in Steiner Ranch. Visitors are welcome! If you are interested in visiting a meeting please contact Elicia Rudberg at Elicia@AustinRelocationResource.com for more information or visit www.BNIAustin.com.

#### Four Points BNI

Meetings are on Wednesday at lunch from 11:30 to 1:00 at the River Place Country Club. Visitors are welcome! If you are interested in visiting a meeting please contact Amy Oehler at Amy@Lending360.net or visit www.BNIAustin.com.

#### A Business Referral Group Made Fun

Networking Northwest Austin is expanding its member base of businesses in our area. NWNWA members build close business and personal relationships. We believe in business by referrals and having a limited member base (not duplicating professions), so you will not see your competitors here. We have a caring, positive, involved group of people who not only want to build their business, but also want to build the strength of our networking group. NWNWA meets on the 2nd and 4th Tuesday at Waterloo Ice House, 360 & FM 2222 from 7:00 am – 8:30. And a fun happy hour once per month at a beautiful location. Come to a breakfast or call Dorothy Scarborough – President dscarborough5@austin.rr.com, 512-589-3678.

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# RIVER REVIEW

## Trail of Lights, Environmental Ambassadors

This year the Solid Waste Services Department is partnering with the Parks and Recreation Department to make the 2008 Trail of Lights a 'Zero Waste' (or pretty darn close) event. The trail will run December 14th through December 23rd. As part of the city's effort to reduce the waste at the Trail of Lights, volunteers are needed to serve as "Environmental Ambassadors" at the Trail of Lights. The primary role of the Environmental Ambassadors is to let the Trail of Lights guests know where recycling is available at the event. Volunteers will be stationed throughout the Trail of Lights to assist attendees in recycling.

Date: December 14th – December 23rd

Time: 5:15 pm to 10:15 pm

Location: Zilker Park's Trail of Lights

Registration: Rebecca Hays at [rebecca.hays@ci.austin.tx.us](mailto:rebecca.hays@ci.austin.tx.us) or 974-7720 or Zakiya Larry at 512-974-6421 or Zakiya.Larry@ci.austin.tx.us.

### Please note that:

\*Groups must provide one adult volunteer for every five volunteers ages 15-17.

\*Volunteers are hosts for the evening and their organization's name will be displayed at the Trail of Lights from 5:15 to 10:15 p.m.

\*Groups need to arrive by 5:15 and leave at 10:15 p.m. on their designated night to work.

\*Organizations will provide one liaison to work with Solid Waste Services and Parks and Recreation to assist with any communications.

\*Each volunteer will be provided with training and the necessary information to complete their volunteer assignment.

If you think this is something your group might be interested in, please send an email to [Zakiya.Larry@ci.austin.tx.us](mailto:Zakiya.Larry@ci.austin.tx.us) and include the following information:

- Group Name
- Number of Participants
- Age Range of Participants
- Point of Contact for the Group (please include: name, email, and phone number)
- Dates Available- Dates for volunteering will be issued on a first come first serve basis so please respond as soon as possible to get your preferred time slot. \*\*please note that the following time slots have been filled thus far: Thursday, December 18.

To find out more about the Trail of Lights please go to: <http://www.ci.austin.tx.us/to/>. For more information about how the City of Austin is working towards Zero Waste please link to: <http://www.ci.austin.tx.us/sws/0waste.htm>

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## Greetings FROM GREEN SANTA!

As early as this may seem, plans are already underway for this year's Operation Green Santa. Green Santa is the holiday new toy and food drive sponsored by the ladies auxiliary and will be distributed to families in need within the fire department's service area.

The response last year from homeowners was truly impressive and very much appreciated. We hope our endeavor can be put on your calendar and that homeowners will again make a difference in this program.

Non-perishable food items and new, unwrapped gifts for children, ages infant to 17, can be dropped off at the fire station in Steiner Ranch. Deadline for all donations is Monday, Dec. 8.

For further information, please call Jeanne at 203-0062 or 266-2602

Thank you for your continue support.

Jeanne Jarvis, President  
HB Fire Dept. Ladies Auxiliary



## Begin 2009 with THE YELLO DYNO ♥ SAFETY Workshop & Pizza Party

1. Does your child know to tell you if an older person asks him/her to keep a secret?
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3. Does your child know HOW and WHAT to yell in a dangerous situation?

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Saturday, January 17, 2009; 10:00 – 12:30

This workshop is for children 5 – 9 yrs old

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Town Square Community Center in Steiner Ranch

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Contact Laura Waldo for questions and registration.

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## The Heart Rescue in Bee Cave has Rescued Pets for Adoption!

*Submitted by Heather Pennington*

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## Happy Pets Make For Happy Holidays

*By Cammie Teliha, DVM*

The fall holiday season is a wonderful time for fun, food, family and friends all of which can be overwhelming for you family pets. The extra activities of the season can dramatically change the household routines, sights, and smells around the home. Therefore, it is import to consider these holiday activities from your pet's perspective and safe guard your furry friends to ensure that everyone in your family enjoys a happy and healthy holiday season.

First it is important to understand the hazards that our pets face as the holidays approaches. The following are some basic hazards that each pet can face during the holidays:

- Rich, fatty foods can be very dangerous to both cats and dogs. Many holiday foods such as turkey, smoked ham, garlic, onions and chocolate can cause GI upset, vomiting, diarrhea and even death.
- All bones, especially turkey bones, can cause intestinal tears and obstruct the digestive tract.
- Even grapes and raisins can be dangerous for dogs and can lead to kidney failure.
- Caffeine and alcohol can be toxic and should never be given to our pets, no matter how funny Uncle Pete thinks it might be.
- Cooking aids like aluminum foil, string and holiday decorations can all be very enticing for any pet, but each can be very dangerous and potentially deadly if ingested.

In addition to these specific hazards, the fact that the family routine can change dramatically can be very stressful to any pet. As parties occur, or when family and guests spend the night, pets can be overwhelmed with the noises and interactions which often leads to unwanted behaviors such as aggression, soiling and possibly running away.

With all these hazards to contended with my recommendation is to develop a simple and direct plan that everyone, both young and old, family and guest, can quickly understand and support.

### **HOLIDAY GAME PLAN:**

Post the Rules: How often have you heard your guest say "Oh, just one bite won't hurt"? The problem is if everyone offers your pet a little nibble there is no way to know what might have caused your pet to get sick. Preventative safety measures are the best strategies. By simply letting everyone know the rules your pet well be safer and there won't be any confusion about your expectations from both family and friends.

No Table Scraps: With so many holiday health hazards involving food and diet, this simple recommendation will ensure a healthy and well fed pet throughout the holiday season. Discourage family members and guests from indulging your pets with inappropriate treats.

*(Continued on Page 10)*





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# RIVER REVIEW

## Happy Pets- (Continued from Page 8)

Food that is high in sodium and fats, such as peanuts, chips, poultry skin and other meats can cause an inflammation of the pancreas which can lead to pancreatitis, a potentially life threaten condition. Always try to maintain the same feeding schedule as the rest of the year and if Uncle Pete just can't resist, have a small amount of veterinary approved pet treats on hand.

**Tidy Tidy Tidy:** This means everything from food to decorations. I know that this is easier said than done, but if everyone knows the game plan you will be more successful than you might expect. Decorations might not seem like a good meal, but the holiday season can seem like a buffet smorgasbord to some pets. Keeping the house neat with decorations out of reach will discourage bad behavior and help you keep track of the ornaments that go missing. Keep leftover foods out of reach and in tightly closed containers and make sure garbage cans are secure and all trash bags and places in trash can. It only takes a couple of minutes for a pet to tear up a trash bag and devour whatever is inside.

**Time Out:** When animals are stressed they can often become unpredictable and behave erratically. This is never good for a party. Be mindful of how scared you cat might get with a house full of strangers or how hyper Fido can be when all of the cousins are over. Providing a quiet out of the way spot for your pet to relax and get

away from all of the holiday activities can go a long way to ensuring a comfortable get together for everyone. Consider a pet time out when you sit down to eat. This will serve double duty by limiting the temptations for everyone. Cats are especially well served if they can hideaway in a back bedroom until everyone has gone home.

**Be Prepared:** This is especially true during the holidays. Always have your pet fully vaccinated and maintain your records for easy access. If your pet bites a guest the first question the ER will ask is "Is the animal vaccinated for rabies." If you can answer yes and provided current documentation you will greatly reduce all medical concerns and your potential financial obligations. Also, keep your veterinary hospital and the emergency veterinary clinic numbers handy. Your veterinarian can provide you with the closest emergency clinic information, this is especially important during the holidays when many animal hospital are not open.

The holiday season should be fun for everyone, including you family pet. By putting together and Holiday Game Plan you can ensure the health and safety of your pet and you guests. Remember to share you plan with all of your family and friends, maintain your pets regular diet and schedule, keep hazards away and be prepared and ready to take action of your pet becomes sick. By following these simple guidelines you can ensure that your pet will be healthy and happy for the holidays.



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## Public Input Helps Shape LCRA's Long-term Water Supply Planning

By James Kowis, LCRA, manager of water supply planning



Citizens told LCRA these values related to water supply were the most important.

1. Clean water, protection of environment
2. Recreation and lifestyle
3. Availability
4. High quality water supply
5. Management of growth
6. Affordability
7. Jobs and economic growth

On behalf of LCRA, I want to thank everyone who participated in the community conversations about water supply this summer. Your input has helped shape the types of water supplies that LCRA will study in our effort to plan for our grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

More than 220 people attended three community conversations about water supply held in Burnet, Wharton and Austin. These were unique opportunities for neighbors to sit down together and discuss their values about water supply and wishes for future generations. Also, nearly 500 interested stakeholders participated in the process through our Web site.

In all, participants suggested 189 water supply options and gave more than 150 values that they hold regarding water supply. LCRA staff has compiled and analyzed the public input. The three water supply options mentioned most often were conservation, desalination and reuse. The values that were mentioned most often were clean water, protection of the environment, recreation and lifestyle, and availability.

I gave a report to the LCRA Board of Directors about the public input this month. We reviewed the list of water supply options that LCRA will study in our long-term plan, the Water Supply Resource Plan. To review a copy of this list or to learn more about the

planning process, please visit our Web site at [www.lcra.org/watersupply](http://www.lcra.org/watersupply).

LCRA is preparing the Water Supply Resource Plan so we will have a roadmap for how to meet needs for water in the future. The plan will show how much water is available and when and where it can be provided in the future.

Today, LCRA's customers rely on the Highland Lakes and water rights that allow water to be taken from the lower Colorado River. All of LCRA's water supplies

provide ample water for today's needs -- even during times of drought. As our population and businesses grow, we will need to pursue additional water supplies. That's why LCRA is pursuing this planning effort now, so we can support vibrant, healthy and growing communities for our grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

We truly appreciate everyone's participation and input. Your ideas have contributed greatly to the process. We will have a draft Water Supply Resource Plan prepared by spring 2009 and will ask for your review and feedback.

James Kowis is the manager of water supply planning for LCRA. He has worked on water planning issues throughout the state during his 30-year career in public service.

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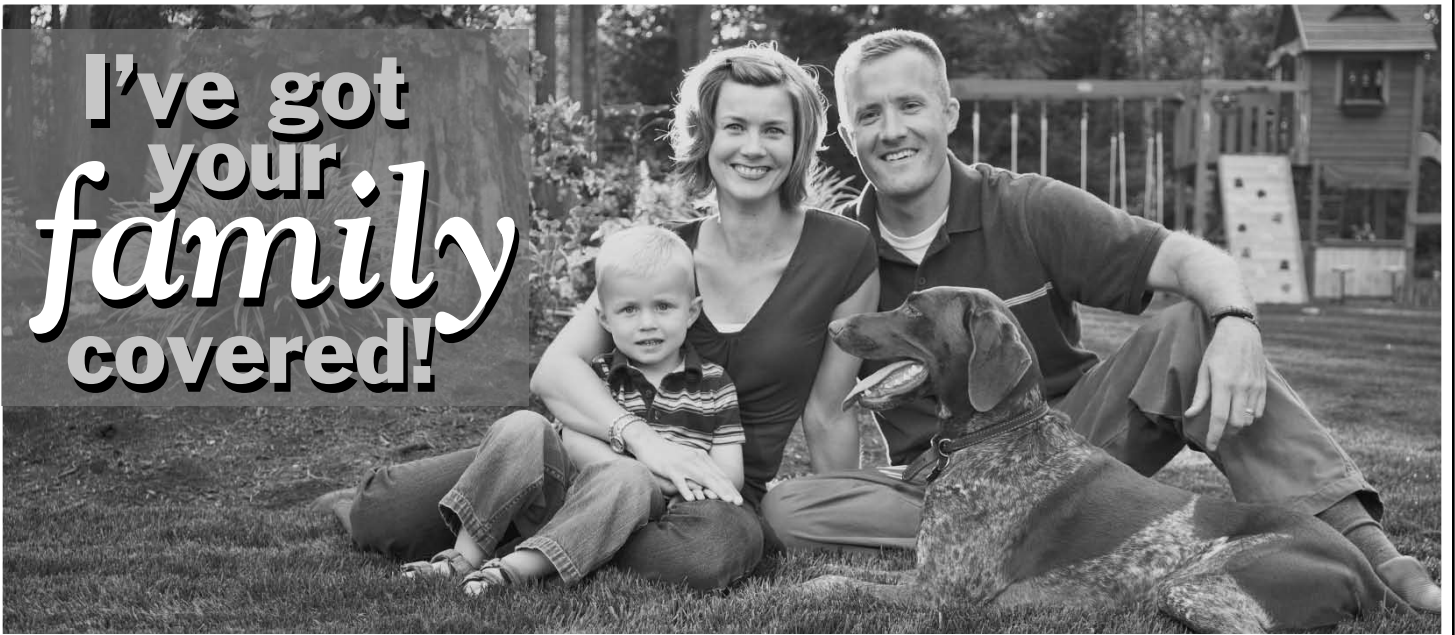
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